



MEDIA RELEASE November 25, 2013
ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS OF UNLEY AND MITCHAM RESIDENTS

Some Unley residents are concerned about the effects of culvert construction in their streets, in particular possible damage to street trees and disruption. The No Dam in Brownhill Creek Community Action Group takes these concerns seriously and supports Unley residents in protecting street trees and minimising any culvert construction as a result of a No Dam option.

- The No Dam group has never supported Option 3 (Worley Parsons *Bypass Culvert Feasibility Assessment*, p.19), which proposed a culvert along Jervois, Grove, Northgate and Wood Streets to Malcolm Street in Millwood. To our knowledge this culvert **is no longer being considered**.
- The No Dam option 3A, which we have supported, replaces the Grove Street culvert (1260m in Unley) with a culvert from Hampton Street along the **railway** to the corner of Malcolm and Vardon Streets (860m in Unley). Worley Parsons found that 'existing trees along the railway corridor are not expected to be significantly impacted' (*Bypass Culvert Feasibility Assessment*, p.36). We believe that the rail corridor option minimises the environmental impact and provides only temporary disruption to residents, reducing the size of the Malcolm Street culvert from 1.8m wide to 1.5m wide (*Bypass Culvert Feasibility Assessment*, pp. 25-26).
- Worley Parsons showed in the 2012 Stormwater Management Plan that a bypass culvert is needed from Malcolm to Victoria Streets to provide **flood protection for Unley residents from short duration storms in the urban catchment**, even if a dam is constructed in upper Brownhill Creek. A dam cannot protect against rain falling below it! The No Dam culvert, Option 3A, would join into this bypass culvert at Vardon Street.
- In a further refinement (Option 3B), our group has been calling for the **elimination of the Malcolm Street culvert** as part of a No Dam option and the **downsizing of the Vardon to Victoria Street culvert**. We believe this should be possible, given revised hydrology.
- It is worth noting that the desalination north-south connector pipeline passed through the eastern suburbs, including Brownhill Creek Road, causing minimal disruption and leaving no lasting effects. Initial concerns by residents proved to be unfounded, with localised disruption **only lasting weeks**, given good management of the project with short sections of construction.
- By comparison, the construction of a dam at site 1 (Seven Pines) or site 2 (Ellison's Gully) would impact on Mitcham residents, the Brownhill Creek Tourist Park and surrounding areas for **two years**. The dam site would be excavated and blasted back to base rock with 200,000 tonnes of excavations trucked out and construction materials trucked in. Massive 20 tonne trucks would be constantly rumbling past suburban homes and the caravan park to gain access to and from the valley. This would be an extreme hazard concrete dam due to its size and proximity to population. Its construction would cause long lasting disruption and permanent destruction to the **officially documented** environment and heritage values of this precious open space.

It is important that Mitcham and Unley communities continue to work together to address each other's concerns and achieve an outcome that minimises disruption for residents, protects street trees and the environment, preserves heritage and provides effective flood mitigation.

Ron Bellchambers 0427718106
Spokesperson for the No Dam in Brownhill Creek Community Action Group
www.brownhillcreek.org email: brownhillcreek@gmail.com