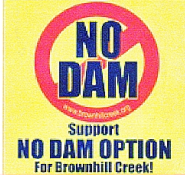


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**No Dam  
for  
Mitcham**



**News  
Page**

By  
Ron Bellchambers

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Concerns are being raised by some Unley residents 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 culverts in Jervois, Grove, Northgate and Wood Streets. These culverts are **not** being considered by anyone.

The No Dam option 3A, which we have supported, does not involve the above route and would reduce the size of the Malcolm Street culvert from 1.8mx1.8m to 1.5mx1.5m (*Bypass Culvert Feasibility Assessment*, pp. 25-26). Please note that the Malcolm Street culvert was proposed along with a dam. Our Group has been recently calling for the elimination of the Malcolm Street culvert as part of a No Dam option 3B and believes that this should be possible, given revised hydrology.

The No Dam option 3B involves an additional 860m of 1.5mx1.5m culvert in the Unley council area, primarily using the rail corridor. 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 provides the least environmental impact and minimal, temporary disruption to residents. It also provides necessary flood protection for Unley residents, resulting from flash flooding in the urban catchment (a dam provides no protection for intense short duration flooding). The No Dam culvert would join into the proposed Vardon to Victoria Street culvert, which would be constructed even with a dam.

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. The construction of a dam at site 1 (Seven Pines) or site 2 (Ellison's Gully) would impact on Mitcham residents, the caravan park and surrounding areas for up to two years. The dam site would be excavated and blasted back to base rock with up to 200,000 tonnes of fill trucked in and material trucked out. Massive 20 tonne trucks would be constantly rumbling past suburban homes and the caravan park to gain access to the valley. The construction of this extreme hazard concrete dam would cause long lasting disruption and permanent destruction to the environment and heritage 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.