



UPDATE: 11TH MARCH, 2014

**BROWN HILL KESWICK CREEK
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- The five catchment councils (Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens) are working collaboratively and are now close to finalising the Stormwater Management Plan. A 2012 SMP was approved by the State Government in March 2013 and a *necessary* investigation into the final part of that plan (Part B works in upper Brownhill Creek) is currently being undertaken.
- The *necessary* delay in completing the plan of Part B works, is due to the emergence of new and more accurate channel capacity data, rainfall data and hydrology, requiring updated modelling and flood mapping. Indications are that the number of homes at risk of over floor flooding has reduced significantly. Old figures should not be relied upon or quoted.
- As a result of these new findings, the five councils have *unanimously* agreed to place a “priority on investigating a creek upgrade solution for the upper reaches of Brownhill Creek” (above Forestville Reserve). *The creek upgrade solution, on current information, is feasible, the cheapest option and is more broadly accepted by the community.* It is likely that this option will replace the unpopular, destructive and increasingly expensive dam in Brownhill Creek Valley / Wirraparinga and also replace large hi-flow diversion culverts in Unley. The Project Steering Committee will submit a report on the creek upgrade solution to all five councils in May 2014 prior to informing and seeking feedback from the community.
- It is important to note that this *necessary* delay in Part B works has allowed West Torrens to redesign elements of the Part A works in the Keswick Creek and lower Brownhill Creek catchment. This has resulted in improved flood mitigation and amenity for residents in West Torrens.

- Given that the five councils are now close to resolving all of the difficulties associated with this complex Stormwater Management Plan, it would be politically unwise and counter productive for the State Government to step in and attempt to override the Local Government process.
- **It is important that State Government Ministers, Members of Parliament and their advisors seek current information, rather than relying on outdated and inaccurate misconceptions. The proposed dam in Brownhill Creek Valley / Wirraparinga is a case in point.**
- A report by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC) has established that this Extreme Hazard concrete dam is likely to double in cost from original estimates. *Given the availability of feasible and cost effective alternatives, the community is justifiably opposed to the dam.* Over 10,000 signatories have physically signed the No Dam petition and the following organisations have called for it to be dropped from the plan: Conservation Council SA, National Trust of South Australia, the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association (KNCHA), Nature Foundation SA, The Friends of Brownhill Creek and Mitcham Historical Society. The permanent destruction of environment and heritage, in the heart of one of our state's oldest parks (Brownhill Creek Recreation Park - 1841), is totally unacceptable to the community. The prospect of two years of disruption to residents inside and outside of the valley during construction of the dam is also proving to be unacceptable.
- To Summarise: A sensible approach would be to realise that the proposed dam is just one component (approximately \$20M) in a project approaching \$200M. This unnecessary and unacceptable component can be replaced with a feasible and cost effective alternative and the five councils have committed to "pursue a feasible no dam solution". The creek upgrade solution looks set to provide the required breakthrough and a completed plan is within sight. An informed State Government should support the significant progress being made by the five councils and help to secure essential State and Federal funding.

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