

COPY



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Government
of South Australia

14WRM0792

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP
Member for Waite
PO Box 275
TORRENS PARK SA 5062


Dear Mr Hamilton-Smith

I refer to our recent meeting regarding the Brown Hill and Keswick Creek Stormwater project. I write to provide you with a summary of the project and an update of its current status.

The Brown Hill Creek and Keswick Creek catchment is at significant risk of flood. The catchment covers land within the councils of Mitcham, Burnside, Unley, Adelaide and West Torrens (the Councils). I again empathise that, as per the Stormwater Management Agreement made between the State and Local Governments, the Councils are jointly responsible for the development of the Brown Hill and Keswick Creek Stormwater project.

Schedule 1A of the *Local Government Act 1999* defines the responsibilities of the State and Local Governments and provides governance arrangements for stormwater management on the catchment basis throughout South Australia. The Act clearly sets out that stormwater management plans are prepared by councils.

In February 2013, the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) approved a stormwater management plan for Brown Hill and Keswick Creek, which is made up of two parts:

- Part A contains the agreed works that the Councils will proceed for the lower reaches of the catchment area; and
- Part B sets out the ongoing investigation to determine the most effective solution for the upper reaches of Brown Hill Creek, which runs through the City of Unley and the City of Mitcham.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Level 9, Chesser House, 91-97 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000 | GPO Box 1047 Adelaide SA 5001 DX 138
Tel 08 8463 5680 | Fax 08 8463 5681 | Email minister.hunter@sa.gov.au | www.premier.sa.gov.au



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A working group of the Councils considered eight options for the project, and their preferred option is for capacity upgrades in sections of Brown Hill Creek in the Mitcham and Unley Councils.

A report released by the Councils on 9 September 2014 indicates that this option would provide an effective flood mitigation option, represents the lowest capital cost and represents the lowest maintenance cost when compared to the other seven options. This option also avoids the need to build a detention dam or bypass culverts.

The Bureau of Meteorology has provided revised rainfall data that indicates that a flood control dam does not present a feasible solution for the Part B works. Further investigation using the data shows that the best solution is upgrading the existing creek at critical sections along the length of Brown Hill Creek. This would involve widening the creek channel through some residential areas.

Before any decision is jointly made by the Councils, residents will have an opportunity to have their views considered throughout a consultation period in early 2015.

Once a preferred option for the Part B works has been agreed upon by the Councils, the Councils will put forward an updated stormwater management plan to the SMA for approval. The SMA will then determine the provision of funding for the project from the Stormwater Management Fund.

The State Government provides \$4 million (indexed with CPI since 2006) per year for 30 years to the Stormwater Management Fund.

The SMA cannot consider its funding contribution until the Councils present an agreed stormwater management plan.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.



IAN HUNTER MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray

14/01/2015