

A Summary Of Our Case Against The Dam

Our attempt to save the unique environment and heritage of Brownhill Creek, gifted to the people of South Australia in 1841 by Governor Grey for present and future generations, is not motivated by narrow self interest but by a broader concern for a precious community resource, balanced with an effective Stormwater Plan to protect people against flooding.

The 2006 Master Plan, which focused on two huge dams upstream from Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, has now been found to be a failure. Modelling by Worley Parsons showed that out of 7000 properties at risk of flooding in a 1 in 100 year event, the Master Plan left 3400 still at risk of flooding, largely in Unley and West Torrens! The monstrous dams gave no protection against intense rainfall on the plains, which make up 80% of the catchment for Stormwater. This catchment comprises the Keswick Creek catchment (Parklands, Glen Osmond and Keswick Creeks) and the urban Brownhill Creek catchment.

The current Draft Stormwater Management Plan by Worley Parsons addresses this flooding due to urban rainfall by upgrading urban channels and carrying out other urban infrastructure works. Now expenditure is focused where it can be more effective with 93% of the project cost (\$123 million out of \$133million) to be spent on flood mitigation works below the dam site.

The proposed 12 metre dam (at the spillway, but with side walls up to 15 metres high) is now only a small part of the project, but its construction and presence will be devastating to the Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. The Park contains one of the last original creek lines in the Adelaide Hills and is listed as a Natural Monument by the IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The dam site is designated as a heritage site in the 2003 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Park Management Plan and its Kaurna and Colonial heritage have been documented. If the dam is built, the Park will be ruined forever.

Why continue with this fixation on a dam in Brownhill Creek when it is both unnecessary and environmentally destructive? We ask the 5 catchment councils not to rush the decision, but to take the necessary time to find the most effective alternative to the dam. This will provide a win/win for the environment and downstream residents.

No Dam in Brownhill Creek Action Group.