

# MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

"New Chapter"

*Celebrating Thirty Years*

*"Proud of our history and  
committed to our future"*



Circa 1926

[www.mitchamhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.mitchamhistoricalsociety.org.au)

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21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015

BHKC Stormwater Project.

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## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUBMISSION: SUPPORT FOR NO DAM OPTION D**

Mitcham Historical Society has serious concerns over any proposal to build a flood control dam in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park or Ellison's Gully, locations that contain **significant cultural, historic and environmental sites**. The building of an Extreme Consequence concrete dam in these historic valleys is totally unacceptable to Mitcham Historical Society.

**The proposed dam(s) would not prevent homes from flooding in short duration rain events and would have limited effect in long duration rain events up to a 1 in 50 ARI (2005 flood). Option D has been identified in the *Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Management Plan Part B Report-September 2014* as a solution that provides effective flood mitigation in all rain events, up to and including a 1 in 100 year ARI.**

There have been no environmental impact assessments undertaken in these valleys and there are serious environmental implications to the threatened varieties of flora, fauna and fish species if either of these dams is constructed. No Kaurna cultural heritage survey has been undertaken.

Brownhill Creek Recreation Park was set aside in 1841 and proclaimed in 1858, making it one of the oldest parks in Australia. The Park has been officially designated as a **Heritage Site** and is classified as a **Natural Monument** by the IUCN. It contains traditional Kaurna heritage sites, colonial heritage sites, as well as important plant rehabilitation sites. Mitcham Village was originally established in 1840 because of its proximity to Brownhill Creek Valley and the historical sites in the valley are vital links with the history of the entire Mitcham area. The park provides a unique rural landscape less than 10km from the city centre and is a major tourist attraction to the area. The National Trust have listed six Stone Pines in the Park as trees of State and National Significance and placed Brownhill Creek Recreation Park on their 'At Risk Register'.

Mitcham Historical Society hosts regular heritage walks into Ellison's Gully and strongly advocates for the protection of the heritage values in this valley. I have attached a guide entitled 'Into the Hidden Valleys of Brownhill Creek and Ellison's Gully'.



Channel capacity upgrades, strict planning guidelines to present and future development, creek maintenance and a community flood awareness program are imperative. A more enlightened, viable alternative to the proposed dam(s) should be supported by all five catchment councils and the SMA. WSUD principles need to be embraced and innovative approaches to managing stormwater as a valuable resource encouraged.

**Mitcham Historical Society supports the project preferred No Dam Option D, identified as the recommended option in the *Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Management Plan Part B Report-September 2014*. Option D has the lowest estimated capital cost, lowest estimated ongoing maintenance costs, provides the required 1 in 100 year ARI level of flood protection, restores Brownhill Creek, satisfies the project councils' endorsed position to give preference to a feasible no dam solution and **preserves existing sites of heritage significance**.**

Mitcham Historical Society jointly released a media statement on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, 'Environment and Heritage Groups Support the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project Preferred Option D for Upper Brownhill Creek Flood Mitigation'. This Media Release is attached.

We request that the views and concerns of the Mitcham Historical Society are fully documented in the public consultation process and that Option D is adopted as the chosen method for flood mitigation in upper Brownhill Creek. Our environment, heritage and the greater good of the community are dependent on this outcome.

We, as custodians of our current environment, have a duty to make intelligent decisions for the benefit of future generations to come. **The history that we have all around us, exists only from the protection and preservation by others before us.**

Yours faithfully



JULIE HOGAN  
CHAIRPERSON,  
**MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**