

## ***A Deputation to Unley Council***

Good Evening Mayor Clyne, elected members and staff of the City of Unley. And good evening to the gallery.

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to make a deputation to council. I do so with respect and in a spirit of co-operation.

**The message for tonight is that the proposed dam is a liability to the 2011 Brownhill Keswick Creek Draft Stormwater Management Plan. It is totally unacceptable and unnecessary.**

I represent a community group who **are** committed to stopping this proposed dam in BHC Valley. Our attempt to save the valley's unique environment and heritage is not motivated by narrow self interest. We aim to balance the preservation of this precious community resource with an effective stormwater plan to protect against flooding.

**Our No Dam in BHC Petition, which I am tabling tonight, demonstrates that the proposed dam is not a NIMBY residents issue, nor merely a local issue, but a widespread community concern.**

The data analysis sheet (handout 1) shows that out of 5697 signatories, 44% **were** from Mitcham, **but** 10% were from Unley and 8% were from the other 3 catchment councils. Almost 30% were from other metropolitan suburbs. Tourists who bring vital dollars into our economy made up 9%.

These people use and value BHC Recreation Park, set aside by Governor Grey for the people of South Australia in 1841, for present and future generations. They also want to protect the valley as a whole, which contains one of the last original creek lines in the Adelaide Hills as well as significant environmental and heritage sites (detailed in the 2003 BHC Recreation Park Management Plan). These signatories **are** valid stake holders in any decision which effects BHC Valley.

The peak conservation body for South Australia, Conservation Council SA, is opposing the dam and the Kurna Heritage Board will step in to protect the sensitive aboriginal sites at risk.

It is clear that this will be a large, highly engineered structure involving concrete and not a small earth dam blending into the environment. Its impact will be devastating and it must be stopped.

**However,**

**Stopping the dam does not mean stopping the project.**

We acknowledge that there is a flooding problem across the catchment, including in the City of Unley.

We support 93% of the costed works, \$122m out of \$133m and back the implementation of these works as soon as possible. The dam at \$10.3m is only a minor flood mitigation component of the scheme (handout 2) and can be replaced.

It is important to realize that 80% of the physical catchment for stormwater is made up of the Keswick Creek Catchment (Parklands, Glen Osmond and Keswick Creeks 37square km) and the urban Brownhill Creek Catchment at 18 square km . Above the dam site is only 14 square km or 20% of the physical catchment and as this area is pervious, its contribution to the inflow of stormwater is probably as low as 10%.

Handout 3 will give you an idea of the scale of the catchment and the scope of works which do not include the dam.

The dam provides no flood mitigation benefits for Adelaide and Burnside Council Residents. The benefits provided by the dam for Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens Council residents, can be matched with expanded channel and bypass works in Mitcham and Unley, including a diversion culvert using the rail corridor. Worley Parsons is currently assessing this option and according to the project director, Michael Salkeld, “ the engineering feasibility of the system looks promising”.

The dam provides no benefit for the 6 hour 1 in 100 ARI rain event in the Keswick Creek Catchment, no benefit for the 90 minute 1 in 100 ARI short duration rain event and is designed to let through a flow rate close to the 2005 flood(via a 1.5m diameter pipe). The alternative to the dam provides flood protection in both short duration rain events and all long term rain events.

The community message, across council areas is clear.

**Do not create a permanent environmental problem in Brownhill Creek in order to solve a flood mitigation problem, if there is an alternative that is just as effective, is cost comparable and only causes temporary disruption.**

**It is time to drop this unacceptable and unnecessary dam from the project and finally sign off on a stormwater plan that we all agree on.**

**We call on Unley Council to:**

- 1. Visit the proposed dam site as our guests in order to see first hand how this dam will impact on BHC valley.**
- 2. Negotiate to have the proposed dam permanently dropped from the plan. And**
- 3. Support the best alternative to the proposed dam.**

Thank you.

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Please visit our website:  
**[www.brownhillcreek.org](http://www.brownhillcreek.org)**