

Dam Liability

The proposed dam in Brownhill Creek Valley has now become a liability to the project rather than a PR selling point.

The flood mitigation 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. The dam provides no benefit in short duration rain events 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 protection in all rain events.

The scale, cost and impact of the dam have been understated. ANCOLD guidelines and a previous GHD engineering report show that this dam will be classified as an Extreme Hazard dam. It is sited directly above a caravan park and residential area. This will be a large, highly engineered structure involving concrete. It will not be a small earth dam blending into the environment.

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, when 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 sign off on a stormwater project that we all agree on.

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