

26 April 2012

Mr Barry J Grear, AO
Presiding Member
Stormwater Management Authority
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Dear Mr Grear

On December 14, 2011, the Conservation Council of South Australia provided comments on the Brownhill Keswick Creek Draft Stormwater Management Plan. In our submission we drew attention to our concerns about the proposed construction of a 12 metre spillway dam in the Upper Brown Hill Creek catchment.

We understand that the five catchment councils are meeting to decide on a recommendation regarding the Draft Stormwater Management Plan and in particular, whether the proposed dam in Brown Hill Creek is to be included.

As the peak conservation body for South Australia, the Conservation Council of South Australia (Conservation Council SA) wishes to re-iterate its opposition to the proposed dam in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park.

It seems inconceivable that this particular site within the recreation park could have been chosen. The environmental, heritage, recreational and aesthetic values of this park are documented in the Park Management Plan and as one of our states oldest parks, it should be preserved.

This site has significance to the Kurna community and to the wider South Australian Community. We understand that the *No Dam in Brownhill Creek Action Group* has prepared a petition of 6320 signatures, demonstrating widespread concern for this proposal.

It is our view that natural watercourse systems are best left in their natural state. The key objective in the Park Management Plan for hydrology, is in fact to "restore and maintain natural hydrology as far as possible". Conservation Council SA believes that alternatives should include the following:

- Revegetation of the upper rural catchment. Forested areas increase infiltration and the take-up of rainfall, thereby preventing run-off and reducing the risk of flooding.
- Construction of a series of stormwater detention ponds that increase natural habitat within the urban environment in the form of vegetated wetlands. These would purify the stormwater as well as store it temporarily, provide opportunity for aquifer storage and recovery, improve the aesthetic values of the urban area and be of educational value.
- Protection of homes vulnerable to flooding with levee banks and channel maintenance outside the Brown Hill Creek Recreational Park.
- Tightening of planning laws to stop building, densification and further encroachment to waterways in flood prone areas.

The Conservation Council SA opposes the building of a dam in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and supports available alternatives.

I would ask that you provide a copy of this correspondence to all members of the Stormwater Management Board.

Yours sincerely

Tim Kelly
Chief Executive

CC. - Members of the Stormwater Management Board (via Presiding Member)

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood and CEO Mr Peter Smith, Adelaide City Council
Mayor Lachlan Clyne and CEO Mr Peter Tsokas, City of Unley
Mayor David Parkin and CEO Mr Paul Deb, City of Burnside
Mayor John Trainer and CEO Mr Terry Buss, City of West Torrens
Mayor Michael Picton, and CEO Mr Matt Pears, City of Mitcham