



NEWS RELEASE

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FLOOD PLAN WINS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A final stormwater management plan to help mitigate flood risks across the Brown Hill Keswick Creek catchment is nearing completion following strong public support to upgrade the capacity of upper Brown Hill Creek.

Results of community consultation conducted by the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project – a collaboration between Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens councils – indicate that 85% of respondents support the project's preferred "Option D" for proposed stormwater management works in upper Brown Hill Creek.

Option D includes upgrading the capacity of the creek at critical sections over the full length of upper Brown Hill Creek, as well as upgrading specific choke points such as bridges.

The six-week community consultation process – which was held between May 13 and June 23 – attracted 818 public respondents. Although support for the project's preferred Option D was evenly divided amongst respondents who own properties likely to be impacted, overall 696 of the 818 respondents indicated their support for Option D.

Terry Buss, Project Chair of the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, welcomed the community's feedback.

"This is a major step forward for the project as we draw closer to finalising an effective stormwater management plan to improve the standard of flood protection for homes and properties across the catchment," said Mr Buss.

"It is pleasing that 85% of all public respondents support the project's preferred Option D for stormwater management works, which will not only mitigate flood risks but benefit upper Brown Hill Creek in terms of its environment and biodiversity."

The community consultation process focused on the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project's "Part B Report" – released in September last year – which comprises eight flood mitigation options for upper Brown Hill Creek.

All eight options within the Part B Report involve increasing the capacity of upper Brown Hill Creek in critical sections by widening the creek bed and/or modifying creek banks, as well as creek rehabilitation works to assist high stormwater flows and reduce the risk of flooding by selectively removing invasive vegetation and other obstructions.

The "Creek Capacity Upgrade (Option D)" has been identified as the preferred option as it is the most cost effective way of achieving the necessary flood mitigation, and does not require the construction of a dam in upper Brown Hill Creek or high flow bypass culverts through suburban streets, which would be required in the other seven options.

Of the other seven options, Options B1 and B2 involve a dam but no culverts, Options A1 and A2 involve a dam and culverts, and Options C1, C2 and C3 involve culverts but no dam.

Mr Buss said the community consultation provided extensive opportunities for the public to learn more about and comment on the proposed flood mitigation measures for upper Brown Hill Creek, including four open days.

“We now look forward to the five catchment councils formally receiving the community consultation report in August and to decide on proposed Part B works for upper Brown Hill Creek within two months,” he said.

“A final recommendation on Part B works will then be made to the Stormwater Management Authority, which we anticipate will occur by October.”

About the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project

The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project is a collaboration between Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens councils to develop and implement an effective stormwater management plan to improve the standard of flood protection for homes, businesses and public facilities across the catchment.

The project has developed a Stormwater Management Plan, approved by the Stormwater Management Authority in February 2013, which includes two key sections: “Part A” works comprising about 80% of the program which have already commenced, and “Part B” works for upper Brown Hill Creek that are the subject of current investigations.

For more information about the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, visit www.bhkcstormwater.com.au.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact

Terry Buss, Project Chair, Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, on 8416 6208 or tbuss@wtcc.sa.gov.au, or

Michael Salkeld, Project Director, Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, on 8372 5473 or msalkeld@unley.sa.gov.au

ISSUED BY HUGHES PUBLIC RELATIONS: Please contact

Kieran Hall on 0422 147 151 or kieran@hughespr.com.au