



# Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project Funding crucial for \$142 million flood plan to protect Adelaide homes



## Background

**Brown Hill, Keswick, Glen Osmond and Parklands Creeks are major stormwater drainage watercourses that run through metropolitan Adelaide.**

Together they drain a catchment area of 69 square kilometres extending from the Adelaide Hills in the east to Adelaide Airport in the west. The combined catchment area is contained within the local government areas of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens which is home to more than 200,000 residents.

The creeks have a history of flooding events and a low standard of flood protection, and therefore local homes and properties continue to be put at serious flood risk.

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 (SMP) to improve the standard of flood protection for homes, businesses and public facilities across the catchment.

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**'Implementing an effective stormwater management strategy is therefore crucial to improve the standard of flood protection for homes, businesses and public facilities across the region.'**

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## Current situation

Currently, a flood in the catchment with an Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) of up to 100 years (i.e. equivalent to a 1% chance of occurring in any year) would affect over 2,000 properties and cause an estimated \$130 million in damages.

Furthermore, this damage cost does not account for the trauma suffered by people affected by flooding, as well as other intangible costs such as lost productivity and isolation. The addition of intangible costs could result in total community damages of over \$250 million.

The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project has developed an SMP in accordance with the Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines of the Stormwater Management Authority of South Australia.

## Proposal

The SMP details construction of a number of flood mitigation works across the catchment, as well as non-infrastructure measures to help reduce the impact of major flooding for more than 2,000 properties in a one in 100 year storm event. For details on these planned works, visit [www.bhkcstormwater.com.au](http://www.bhkcstormwater.com.au)



The SMP also identifies important environmental and community benefits, including:

- Improved quality of stormwater discharge into marine receiving waters;
- Beneficial re-use of stormwater, particularly for greening of urban open space areas;
- Creek rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity; and
- Improved recreational amenity in open space areas traversed by watercourses.

The Plan presents urban renewal opportunities such that communities will be able to better use the land corridors through which stormwater is designed to be conveyed (i.e. linear parks, bike and walking trails, wetlands etc).

An SMP for the catchment was approved by the Stormwater Management Authority in February 2013, noting that additional investigations were required regarding specific flood mitigation works for the upper Brown Hill Creek part of the catchment (Adelaide Hills to Anzac Highway).

Those additional investigations were subsequently undertaken and, following unanimous agreement amongst the project's five catchment councils in late 2015, the final SMP will be submitted to the Stormwater Management Authority for approval in March 2016.

What could happen if nothing is done?

The potential adverse impacts of ignoring the region's high flood risk and doing nothing are significant.

In addition to damage to thousands of homes and commercial properties, a major flood event could seriously impact Adelaide Airport and interstate rail freight lines which are located in the catchment floodplain. Disruption to these facilities would lead to significant adverse economic impacts for South Australia.

Ashford Hospital, one of the state's major health facilities, is also in a vulnerable location on the floodplain within the Brown Hill Keswick Creek catchment area.

To that end, key stakeholders including Adelaide Airport Limited, Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited and the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission have indicated their in-principle support for the project.

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## Requirements

The overriding objective of the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project’s SMP is to significantly reduce the flooding risk to thousands of homes and businesses across metropolitan Adelaide.

To achieve this, funding assistance is urgently required to implement the proposed flood mitigation works in the SMP.

The SMP outlines a total project cost of approximately \$142 million. It is envisaged this will be evenly shared between the three spheres of government – local, State and Federal.

The five catchment councils have already agreed on their apportionments for the local government share of the cost. The total is too much for local government to shoulder.

In the past, large-scale flood mitigation projects around Australia have been given funding support by the Australian Government. The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project is now at a stage where the required compelling and rigorous justification has been developed to enable both State and Federal Governments to consider special funding for construction.

Ultimately, funding support from the State and Federal Government is critical for the project’s Stormwater Management Plan to be fully implemented to mitigate flood risks and protect homes and properties across the catchment.

For more information about the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project  
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