

Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project

Project Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome

This newsletter focusses on the 5 projects being delivered in Upper Brown Hill Creek. These locations are funded with support from the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund and Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, and will be constructed over the summer months of 2025/26 and 2026/27. Residents and local communities will see immediate flood protection benefits and these important projects bring us one step closer to achieving whole of catchment flood protection.

In This Edition

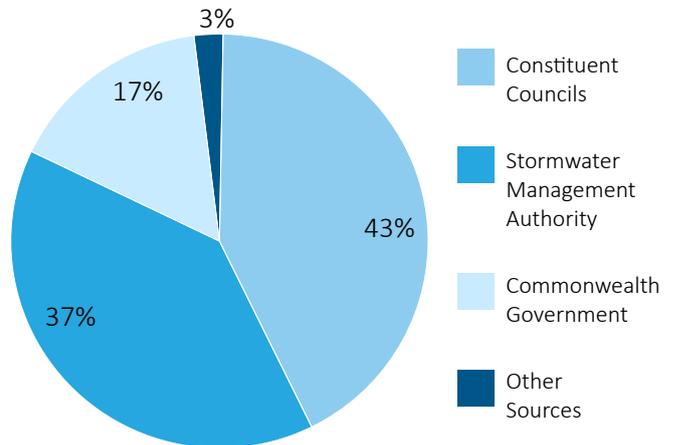
- Financial Summary
- Summary of Completed Works
- 2025/26 Maintenance Budget
- Focus on Safety
- Upper Brown Hill Creek
 - Area 1: Wilberforce Walk, Forestville
 - Area 1: Forestville Reserve
 - Area 2: Orphanage Park, Millswood
 - Area 5: Cross Road to Hampton Street, Hawthorn
 - Area 6: Betty Long Gardens, Torrens Park

Financial Summary

Capital Funding Summary as at 31 October 2025

- \$34.2m from the 5 Constituent Councils – the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens.
- \$29.9m from the Stormwater Management Authority.
- \$13.4m from the Commonwealth Government, being portion of a total \$21.6m commitment provided under 3 grant programs.
- \$2.8m from other sources including property owner contributions to projects and smaller State Government grant programs.

Capital Funding Contributors



2025/26 Operating Summary as at 31 October 2025

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance \$
Income	\$577,908	\$494,504	\$83,404
Expenses	\$297,322	\$354,885	(\$57,563)
Net Surplus	\$280,586	\$139,619	\$140,967
Depreciation	\$96,562	\$206,698	(\$110,136)



In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, the Board recently approved:

- the review of 2024/25 financials against budget, undertaken in compliance with Regulation 10; and
- the quarter 1 review of the 2025/26 budget, prepared in compliance with Regulation 9.

Strategic Management Plans have been reviewed and updated, where required, including the Long-Term Financial Plan, Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan, Strategic Plan, Business Plan, and Business Continuity Plan.

The Board has also recently undertaken a review of its Risk Management Policy and Strategic and Operational Risk Register.

Summary of Completed Works

Maintenance Responsibility

Stage	Sub-project	Responsibility for Maintenance
Flood Detention	Ridge Park Flood Control Dam	City of Unley
	Glenside Flood Detention Basin	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan. City of Burnside – all non-stormwater assets on site.
	Pakapakanthi Wetland and Kurangga Creek Works	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan. City of Adelaide – all existing and non-stormwater assets on site.
LBHC	LBHC Packages 1A – 1D Airport to Harvey Ave, including Watson & Harvey Ave crossings	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan. City of West Torrens – road components of the project and safety fencing.
	LBHC – Package 4 Daly Street Bridge	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan. City of West Torrens – road components of the project.
UBHC	UBHC Area 1 Everard Park	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan (culvert). City of Unley – ground level shared use path improvements.
	UBHC Area 1C Forestville- Leah St to Ethel St	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan within Council drainage corridor. City of Unley – all existing and non-stormwater assets on site. Private Property Owner – all assets located on site (new and existing).
	UBHC Diversion- DPTI Culvert	DPTI
	UBHC Hawthorn Reserve	BHKCSB – stormwater infrastructure delivered under the plan. City of Mitcham – all existing and non-stormwater assets on site.

Responsibility for clearing blockages within the creek always rests with the property owner.

2025/26 Maintenance Budget YTD

Annual Maintenance Actual vs Budget to 31 October 2025

YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance \$
\$30,976	\$118,680	(\$87,704)

¹ The first Glenside GPT clean for FY26 was undertaken in October and the invoice was received in November so it is not included in these figures

² Wetland maintenance is being provided under a services agreement in accordance with a defined maintenance schedule with scope for one-off requirements on an as-needs basis.

Focus on Safety



The Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board places utmost importance on the health and safety of our employees, our consultants and the communities within which we operate. Our extensive health and safety management systems ensure we partner with likeminded organisations and are subject to regular review and improvement.



136,000

total site hours
delivering works



0

notifiable
incidents

0

lost time
injuries



Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 1: Wilberforce Walk, Forestville



Existing Conditions

Brown Hill Creek runs alongside Wilberforce Walk, an established shared use path network recently upgraded by City of Unley, and in its current form the channel and road crossings are of insufficient capacity to accommodate major flows.

The condition of the existing watercourse has been significantly altered from its natural condition, with a concrete low flow channel and steep banks that are prone to erosion. Where Brown Hill Creek passes beneath Second Avenue there are currently no footpaths, resulting pedestrian safety concerns.

An arborist assessment revealed a diverse range of tree species, both native and introduced, including trees that are located within the watercourse corridor that will require removal and a Significant Red Gum that needs to be protected and retained. An ecological assessment identified a predominance of invasive weeds – 53 species of weeds were identified, including declared and environmental weeds.

There is an urgent need to upgrade this section of Brown Hill Creek to improve flow capacity and public safety, while enhancing the tree canopy and understory with native species that provide habitat and biodiversity outcomes.

Description of Proposed Works

The delivery approach seeks to achieve the required flow capacity while ensuring protection of the Significant Red Gum and maximizing opportunities for planting new large native trees to enhance the tree canopy along Wilberforce Walk.

For the channel bank adjacent to the Significant Red Gum a stacked rock wall treatment will be constructed to ensure that the structural root zone of the tree is not impacted by the works. For the other sections of channel bank, a vertical concrete block wall will be used to minimize the width of Wilberforce Walk that is required for the open channel and to maximize the area between the channel and shared path for the establishment of new trees and plantings.

While some trees are required to be removed for the upgrades, most of these are weed and exotic species, and on completion of the channel works an extensive revegetation program will be undertaken to plant new trees, shrubs and groundcovers along the creek corridor but outside of the main channel.

A new 1,200mm high 'open style' safety fence will be installed along the top of the channel wall in Wilberforce Walk and the existing cobble base of Brown Hill Creek will be retained and replenished with new stones.

The new culvert crossings at First Avenue and Second Avenue will include the relocation of some existing utility services and new footpaths on both sides of the roads.

Once the works are completed this upgraded section of watercourse will convey the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (or 1-in-100 year) design flow as defined in the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan.

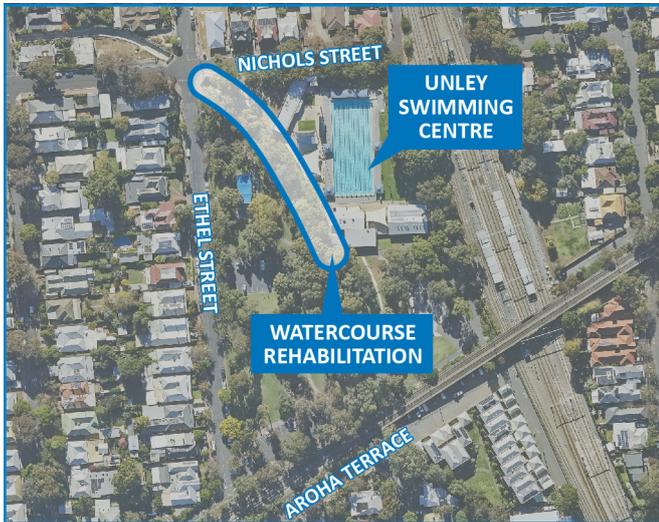
Delivery of these works will mark completion of the Area 1 upgrades of Upper Brown Hill Creek in Forestville.

This project is funded by the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens, the Stormwater Management Authority and the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund.



Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 1: Forestville Reserve



Existing Conditions

The condition of the existing Brown Hill Creek watercourse through Forestville Reserve has been significantly altered from its natural condition. The concrete low flow channel and steep banks require restoration efforts to improve ecological health and biodiversity.

An arborist assessment revealed a diverse range of tree species, both native and introduced, including trees that are located within the main channel that will require removal and other mature trees along the watercourse corridor that can be retained.

An ecological assessment identified 23 weed species, including declared and environmental weeds, and 8 native species including Blackwood and River Red Gum, highlighting the importance of preserving the existing local flora.

The survey recorded 12 bird species, including the Red Wattlebird and Laughing Kookaburra, indicating the area's ecological value and the need for habitat improvement.

There is a need to rehabilitate this section of Brown Hill Creek to improve the creek function, biodiversity, amenity and community interaction at the reserve.

Description of Proposed Works

The delivery approach seeks to achieve channel naturalisation and biodiversity outcomes with a focus on protection of significant trees, improved water quality and habitat for native species, and opportunities for increased amenity and community interaction.

New gabion walls will be constructed for the channel banks – the gabion baskets can be installed with limited disturbance to the existing channel banks and will be filled with sandstone quartzite stones to prevent erosion. The baskets are durable and flexible and will tolerate future ground movements.

On the western side of the channel, the new gabion walls will be constructed in a terraced configuration to maximise the opportunity for new plantings. The existing concrete base will be removed and replaced with cobble stones to promote groundwater replenishment

The works will not impact the existing playspace and a new 1,200mm high 'open style' safety fence will be installed along the top of the gabion wall in Forestville Reserve. The existing pedestrian bridge to the Unley Swimming Centre will be replaced.

While some trees are required to be removed for the upgrades, most of these are weed and exotic species, and on completion of the channel works an extensive revegetation program will be undertaken to plant new trees, shrubs and groundcovers along the creek corridor.

Once the works are completed this rehabilitated section of watercourse will convey the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (or 1-in-100 year) design flow, as defined in the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan.

This project is funded by the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens, the Stormwater Management Authority and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program .

Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 2: Orphanage Park, Millswood



Existing Conditions

The condition of the existing Brown Hill Creek watercourse through Orphanage Park is significantly degraded and the historical land use has led to disturbance and loss of native vegetation.

An arborist assessment identified 36 tree species, including both native and invasive types. An ecological assessment identified various bird species and mammal signs, indicating the presence of wildlife in the area. Five bird species were observed, including the Black-faced Cuckooshrike and Eastern Rosella, although hollow-bearing trees were not observed.

Sedimentation and bank erosion are currently impacting riparian vegetation, and the assessment also identified a predominance of invasive weeds – 33 species of weeds were identified, including declared and environmental weeds.

There is a need to rehabilitate this section of Brown Hill Creek to improve the creek function, biodiversity, amenity and community interaction at the reserve.

Description of Proposed Works

The delivery approach seeks to achieve channel naturalisation and biodiversity outcomes with a focus on protection of significant trees, improved water quality and habitat for native species, and opportunities for increased amenity and community interaction.

This approach is cognisant of the existing features of the reserve by:

- Retaining and protecting existing significant, regulated and native trees in preference to weed and exotic species in the watercourse corridor.
- Retaining and protecting the existing heritage stone channel base.
- Improving the existing pedestrian and cycle access at the culvert crossing in the reserve.
- Retaining the existing culvert crossing at Mitchell Street.

The cross-section of the watercourse needs to vary through the reserve to satisfy these objectives and site constraints.

While some trees are required to be removed for the upgrades, most of these are weed and exotic species, and on completion of the channel works an extensive revegetation program will be undertaken to plant new trees, shrubs and groundcovers along the creek corridor.

Once the works are completed this rehabilitated section of watercourse will convey the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (or 1-in-100 year) design flow, as defined in the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan.

This project is funded by the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens, the Stormwater Management Authority and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program .

Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 5: Cross Road to Hampton Street, Hawthorn



Description of Proposed Works

The delivery approach seeks to achieve the required flow capacity while integrating the channel wall selections of adjoining property owners and otherwise minimizing the land that is impacted by the works.

The new channel walls will include a range of treatments from the BHKC Design Guide, including vertical concrete block walls, stacked rock walls and rock landscape walls. New safety fences will be installed along the channel walls through private property and the existing cobble base of Brown Hill Creek will be retained and replenished with new stones.

There is also an opportunity for property owners to contribute funds that would enable the amenity of the channel and landscape reinstatement to be further enhanced. Examples include the cladding of vertical concrete block walls with natural stone and the installation of alternative fencing styles.

While some trees are required to be removed for the upgrades, most of these are weed and exotic species, and on completion of the channel works an extensive revegetation program will be undertaken in consultation with property owners to plant new trees, shrubs and groundcovers along the creek corridor but outside of the main channel.

The new culvert crossing at Hampton Street will include the relocation of some existing utility services and new footpaths on both sides of the road.

Once the works are completed this upgraded section of watercourse will convey the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (or 1-in-100 year) design flow as defined in the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan.

Existing Conditions

The section of Brown Hill Creek that runs through private properties between Cross Road and Hampton Street in Hawthorn is a known flooding hotspot – multiple properties at this location have been inundated by high flow events in 2005, 2016 and 2023 and remain vulnerable to flooding.

The condition of the existing watercourse varies along this section. For some properties, the watercourse bisects their backyard and represents an asset of high intrinsic value that is fully integrated with landscaping. For other properties, the watercourse is less maintained and delineated from useable yard areas by fences or walls.

There is an urgent need to upgrade this section of Brown Hill Creek to improve flow capacity and flood protection to private properties, while reinstating the land that is impacted by the works.



Existing Channel - November 2023

This project is funded by the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens, the Stormwater Management Authority and the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund.

Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 6: Betty Long Gardens, Torrens Park



Existing Conditions

The condition of the existing Brown Hill Creek watercourse through Betty Long Gardens and adjacent private property has been significantly impacted by high flow events in 2005, 2016 and 2023 which have caused erosion of the creek bed and undermining of the channel banks.

An arborist assessment for this section of watercourse identified various tree species, including both native and invasive types, and some high value significant trees that are in good health.

An ecological assessment identified only nine bird species and no native mammals at the project site, with no hollow-bearing trees limiting the nesting opportunities for fauna. The assessment also identified a predominance of invasive weeds – 38 species of weeds were identified, including declared and environmental weeds.

There is an urgent need to rehabilitate this section of Brown Hill Creek to protect the significant Kauri trees that are located along the top of the western bank and to improve the creek function, biodiversity, amenity and community interaction at the reserve.

Description of Proposed Works

The delivery approach seeks to achieve channel naturalisation and biodiversity outcomes with a focus on protection of significant trees, improved water quality and habitat for native species, and opportunities for increased amenity and community interaction.

New gabion walls will be constructed for the channel banks. The gabion baskets can be installed with limited disturbance to the existing channel banks and will be filled with sandstone quartzite stones to prevent erosion. The baskets are durable and flexible and will tolerate future ground movements.

A new 1,200mm high 'open style' safety fence will be installed along the top of the gabion walls in Betty Long Gardens Reserve and the existing cobble base of Brown Hill Creek will be retained and replenished with new stones.

While some trees are required to be removed for the upgrades, most of these are weed and exotic species, and on completion of the channel works an extensive revegetation program will be undertaken to plant new trees, shrubs and groundcovers along the creek corridor but outside of the main channel.

Once the works are completed this rehabilitated section of watercourse will convey the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (or 1-in-100 year) design flow, as defined in the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Catchment Stormwater Management Plan.

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