

Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project

Project Newsletter

June 2026

Welcome

Capacity upgrades have recently been completed at:

- Lower Brown Hill Creek, Packages 1-3 – between the Airport and Birdwood Terrace
- Upper Brown Hill Creek, Area 3 Millswood – between Regent Street and Malcolm Avenue

Both projects were delivered successfully and significantly under budget.

Construction is well underway for 2 project locations in Upper Brown Hill Creek, with another 3 currently in the design phase. These 5 projects are all supported by Commonwealth Government funding under the Disaster Ready Fund and Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.

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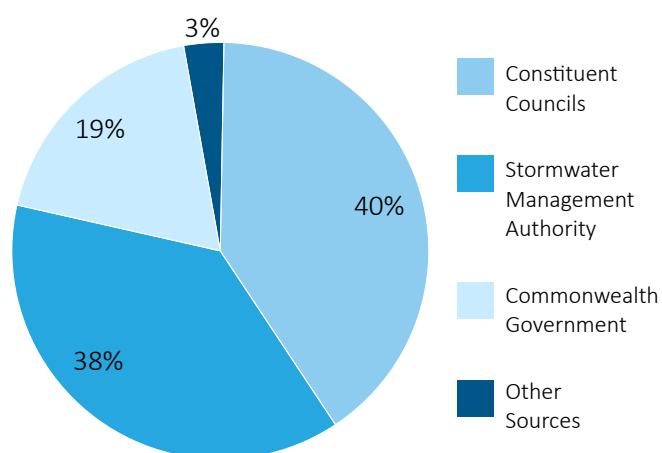
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Financial Summary

Capital Funding Summary as at 31 May 2026

\$83.9m in capital funding has been received and has contributed towards delivery of \$73.9m of capital works. An additional \$8.3m of capital works are currently in progress.

- \$36.2m from the 5 Constituent Councils – the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens.
- \$33.9m from the Stormwater Management Authority.
- \$16.7m 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 May 2026

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance \$
Income	\$1,279,614	\$1,019,860	\$259,754
Expenses	\$878,661	\$907,808	\$29,147
Net Surplus	\$400,953	\$112,052	\$288,901
Depreciation	\$265,546	\$443,396	\$177,850



The Board approved the 2026/27 budget on 9 June 2026. The budget sees a \$160k reduction in operating contributions (\$32k per Council) and retention of capital contributions at \$4m collectively for the 5 Constituent Councils, to match the \$4m in capital funding annually from the Stormwater Management Authority. Capital works delivery will focus on design and construction of 5 Commonwealth funded projects in Upper Brown Hill Creek, design of the remaining sections of Lower Brown Hill Creek and continued engagement with the Department for Transport and Infrastructure and the Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project regarding integration of our works with the North-South Corridor.

2025/26 Maintenance Budget

Annual Maintenance Actual vs Budget to 31 May 2026

YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance \$
\$222,650	\$326,370	(\$103,720)

¹ The Glenside GPTs have been cleaned 3 times this financial year. Most recently, GPT 1 was cleaned in March 2026. Regular inspections monitor capacity and another clean was scheduled in May, but wet weather has delayed this.

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.

Awards

**Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks
Stormwater Board is one of this
year's LGA Mutual Awards recipients.**

The LGA Mutual awards recognise exceptional commitment and innovation in workplace health and safety and risk management across the South Australian Local Government sector.

The Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board was one of two winners awarded the Risk Management Major Award for its Best Practice Operating Procedure (BPOP), developed to protect the community from risk of serious injury and drowning.

The BPOP provides a framework for the Board to:

1. Assess safety risks (both inherent and residual risks arising from works); and
2. Identify adequate fencing and safety barriers required to mitigate these risks.

The Board has been recognised for its practical and consistent approach to managing safety risks in stormwater works, helping improve safety outcomes for property owners, partner Councils, and the broader community.



The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project was also recognised as an Award Legacy Story by Local Government Professionals as part of their 25 Years of Leadership Excellence celebrations.

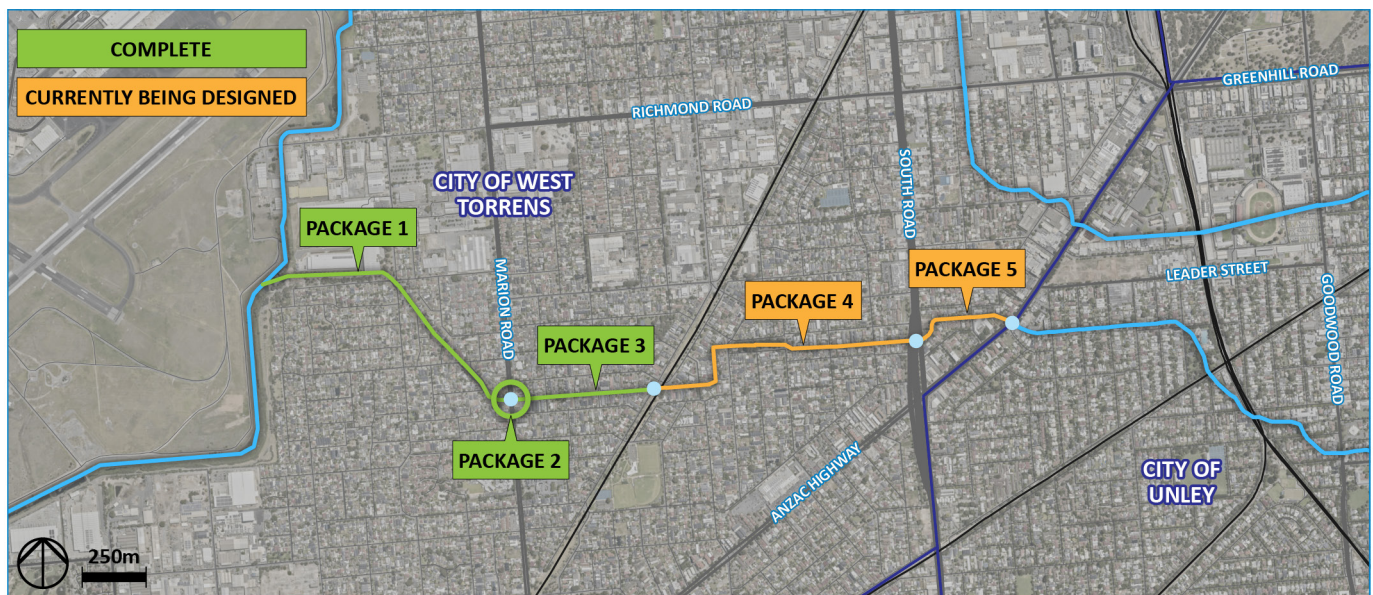
Lower Brown Hill Creek Upgrades

Packages 1-3



COMPLETE

Construction of packages 1-3 of the Lower Brown Hill Creek upgrades has recently been completed. Some property matters are ongoing, including easement registration and land transfer, with these matters to be concluded in the coming weeks.



Packages 1-3 extend from the convergence of Brown Hill Creek with Keswick Creek at the downstream end (at the eastern side of the Airport), to Birdwood Terrace at the upstream end. Approximately 1.7km of channel has been doubled in flow capacity and 4 new crossings have been constructed at Watson Avenue, Harvey Avenue, Marion Road and Birdwood Terrace.

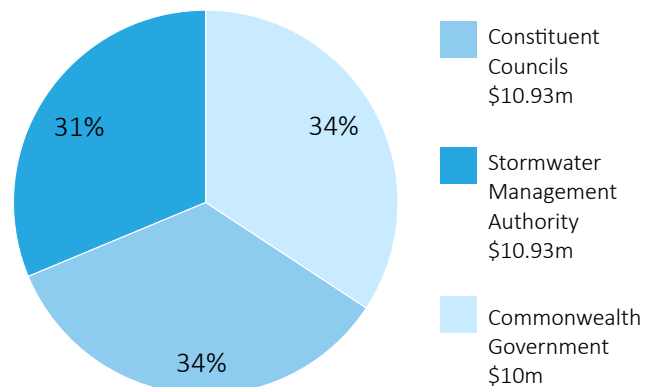
These upgrades were delivered with \$10m of Commonwealth funding, provided under the Preparing Australian Communities Program. This grant has now been fully expended and acquitted.

This project has therefore almost achieved the funding split envisaged within the Stormwater Management Plan, whereby each tier of Government contributes 1/3rd of the total cost of the project.



The actual project cost is expected to be

\$620k
below budget



Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 3: Millswood



Upgrade of this section of Upper Brown Hill Creek was completed some time ago, with only landscape reinstatement works remaining. The project involved a doubling of the capacity of a section of Brown Hill Creek, from just downstream of Regent Street at the downstream end to Malcolm Street at the upstream end, including upgrade of the Regent Street culvert. The entirety of the creek in this location traverses through privately owned property and across Council roads.

The project was delivered in a heavily constrained environment and the works were designed in collaboration with property owners to meet the flow capacity requirements while being sympathetic to the natural environment and the individual and unique objectives of each owners.

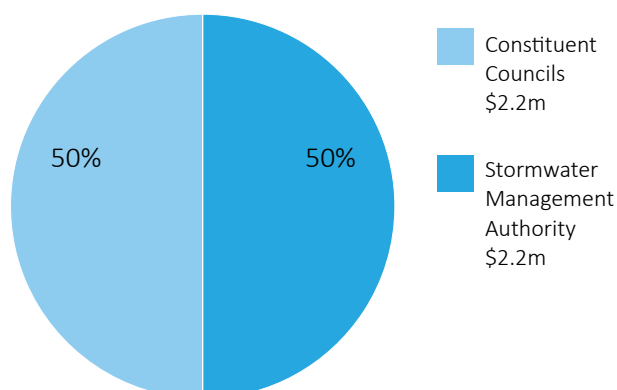
Channel solutions included a combination of stacked rock or upright concrete block constructed walls, often transitioning from one treatment to another as the creek moves through different properties. Cobbles were reinstated within the base of the channel, with more robust base treatment in specified locations where required to support higher velocity flows.

These upgrades did not receive any Commonwealth funding and the total project cost has therefore been funded by the Board – with expenses shared equally between the Constituent Councils and the Stormwater Management Authority.



The actual project cost is expected to be

\$846k
below budget



Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 1: Wilberforce Walk, Forestville



The Wilberforce Walk project, between Third Avenue and Leah Street in Forestville, is partially funded under the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Ready Fund. Design plans are currently progressing in consultation with City of Unley, and property owner engagement is commencing. Pre-construction activities are scheduled to commence in spring.

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 in pedestrian safety concerns.

A significant Red Gum must be protected in this location and the channel bank adjacent this tree will be a stacked rock wall treatment 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.

Area 1: Forestville Reserve



The Forestville Reserve project is partially funded under the Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Design plans are currently progressing in consultation with City of Unley. Pre construction activities are scheduled to commence in spring.

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.

New gabion walls will be constructed for the channel banks and 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.

Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 2: Orphanage Park



The Orphanage Park project is partially funded under the Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Design plans are currently progressing in consultation with City of Unley. Broader community engagement has not yet commenced and construction is not scheduled to commence until 2027.

The condition of the existing Brown Hill Creek watercourse through Orphanage Park is significantly degraded with sedimentation and bank erosion impacting riparian vegetation.

The design must be cognisant of the existing features of the reserve by:

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

Area 5: Hawthorn



The Hawthorn project, between Cross Road and Hampton Street, is partially funded under the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Ready Fund. Agreements were reached with all impacted property owners and construction has commenced, with channel upgrades being delivered from the downstream end. Works have now ceased on site over the winter period and will reconvene in spring with completion of the channel upgrades and the Hampton St crossing.

This is a known flooding hotspot with multiple properties at this location inundated by high flow events in 2005, 2016 and 2023. The watercourse bisects several private properties and, in some locations, represents an asset of high intrinsic value that is fully integrated with landscaping. For other properties, the watercourse is less maintained and is delineated from useable yard areas. A new culvert crossing will be constructed at Hampton Street with new footpaths being provided on both sides of the road.

Upper Brown Hill Creek

Area 6: Betty Long Gardens



The Betty Long Gardens project is partially funded under the Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Construction commenced in January and is almost complete, with landscape reinstatement remaining.

The condition of the existing watercourse had been significantly impacted by high flow events in 2005, 2016 and 2023 which caused erosion of the creek bed and undermining of the channel banks. Rehabilitation has protected the significant Kauri trees located along the top of the western bank.

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

A site visit was recently attended by Louise Miller-Frost MP, Federal Member for Boothby, along with representatives of the Stormwater Management Authority, City of Mitcham and the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board.

