

Appointment of Members to the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Audit and Risk Committee

Tuesday, 23 September 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Confidential - s 90(3) (a) unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs

Program Contact:

Tom McCready, Director City Infrastructure

Approving Officer:

Michael Sedgman, Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board (Board) established an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) as per the Board’s Charter (clause 18) and The *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), Schedule 2 Part 2 - Regional subsidiaries established by two or more Councils. The ARC has operated with 4 Board Members and 1 Independent Member.

On 27 November 2024 the Owners Executive Committee approved the Board’s recommendation that the ARC be ideally comprised of 2 Board members and 3 independent members, subject to sourcing suitably qualified independent members.

The Board appointed Judith Choate and Geoff Vogt as Board Member representatives to the ARC on 29 July 2025. Subsequent to the Charter being amended Judith Choate will step away from the ARC and Rob Gregory will be appointed as the additional board member.

The ARC currently has one Independent Member, David Linder-Patton, appointed until 30 September 2025. David has been a valuable contributor on the ARC since 14 February 2023 and to maintain continuity of ARC members it is proposed David be re-appointed for a further 1-year term.

On 2 June 2025 the Board started the process to advertise and seek two new Independent ARC Members.

Consideration in confidence is sought as this report would otherwise involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the report as contained in Item 24.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 23 September 2025.
2. Approves the Nominations Committee recommendation to appoint the following Board Members to the Brown Hill Keswick Creeks Audit and Risk Committee, as follows
 - 2.1. Judith Choate, until such time that the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board Charter is amended
 - 2.2. Rob Gregory to take Judith Choate’s position on the Audit and Risk Committee after the Charter is amended, until his current term as a Board Member expires on 2 August 2026
 - 2.3. Geoff Vogt, until his current term as a Board Member expires on 2 August 2028.
3. Approves the Nominations Committee recommendation to appoint the following Independent Members to the Brown Hill Keswick Creeks Audit and Risk Committee, as follows
 - 3.1. David Linder-Patton for a term of 1 year commencing 1 October 2025
 - 3.2. Roberto Bria for a term of 2 years commencing 1 October 2025
 - 3.3. Pep Piscioneri for a term of 3 years commencing 1 October 2025.

4. Authorises that, in accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) and because Item 24.1 [Appointment of Member to the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Audit and Risk Committee] listed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 23 September 2025 was received, discussed and considered in confidence pursuant to Section 90(3) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), this meeting of the Council do order that
- 4.1. The resolution and report remain confidential and become public information upon confirmation of the appointments by the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board.
 - 4.2. The confidentiality of the matter be reviewed in December 2025.
 - 4.3. The Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to review and revoke all or part of the order herein and directed to present a report containing the Item for which the confidentiality order has been revoked.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment The status, attributes and character of our green spaces and the Park Lands are protected and strengthened.
Policy	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS) – contains objectives to ensure that the Park Lands are resilient in adapting to a changing climate, enhancing biodiversity, and sustaining the quality of the user experiences.
Consultation	Report consultation has occurred between the five (5) Constituent Councils, and a mirrored report will be presented for adoption to each Council meeting.
Resource	The Board – a regional subsidiary formed pursuant to section 43 of <i>the Local Government Act 1999 (SA)</i> by the five Constituent Councils (Cities of Adelaide, Burnside Mitcham, Unley, and West Torrens). Council's contribution to the Board and the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks (BHKC) Stormwater project has been budgeted for, with capital costs being paid by the five Constituent Councils and the Stormwater Management Authority, with grant funding where available. The whole of the operational costs are paid equally by the Constituent Councils.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

GROUNDS AND BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONFIDENCE

Grounds

Section 90(3) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA)

- (a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)

Basis

This Item is confidential information that must be considered in confidence in order to protect the personal affairs of nominees.

The disclosure of information in this report could reasonably implicate the nominees' reputations in the business Community.

DISCUSSION

1. The Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board's Charter requires that the Chair of the Board must also Chair the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).
2. However, the Charter is currently being reviewed and amended in line with best practice, so that an independent member can assume the role of Chairperson for the ARC, subject to sourcing a suitably qualified independent member with experience in the role as Chairperson.
3. The Board therefore called for nominations for appointments of Board representatives to the ARC in 2 stages:
 - 3.1. Stage 1 (prior to Charter amendment) – Judith Choate as Chair of the ARC with 1 additional Board member as ARC member.
 - 3.2. Stage 2 (subsequent to Charter amendment) – Judith to step away from the ARC and additional Board member to be appointed as ARC member.
4. In June 2025, the Board called for nominations to the ARC and received the following.
 - 4.1. Geoff Vogt as Board Member Representative (1st position).
 - 4.2. Rob Gregory as Board Member Representative (2nd position). Rob indicated that he would like to be considered for the 2nd position after Judith Choate steps away and he supports Geoff's appointment to the first position.

Advertisement and Interview Process

5. An advertisement was posted on SEEK and the Brown Hill Keswick Creeks Stormwater Project website for the positions of Independent Audit and Risk Committee Members on 2 June 2025. The Advertisement was also shared with the Local Government Financial Management Group and Women On Boards (WOB) Group.
6. Sixty-six applicants applied for the positions, and an initial shortlist of 13 candidates was established, with five applicants shortlisted for interview based on skills, experience and knowledge on the below listed criteria:
 - 6.1. Financial Literacy & Accounting/Audit Knowledge.
 - 6.2. Risk Management.
 - 6.3. Regulatory Compliance / Local Government Experience.
 - 6.4. Industry Knowledge.
 - 6.5. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.
 - 6.6. Communication Skills.
 - 6.7. Experience as a Chairperson.

6.8. Governance.

7. Interviews were conducted on Wednesday 6 August 2025, by the Board's Deputy Chairperson, Geoff Vogt, Board Member, Howard Lacy and Executive Assistant, Vanessa Geerts.
8. One applicant cancelled their interview at short notice and was unable to attend the alternative option provided. The interview panel considered additional interview options but were unable to accommodate due to being unable to come together again within the required timeframe to meet the process deadlines.

Recommended Applicants

9. Following interviews and reference checks, Mr Pep Piscioneri and Mr Roberto Bria were selected as the preferred candidates for the Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member positions.
10. Mr Bria has vast experience in Local, State and Federal Government as well as the private sector with a deep understanding of the politics, finances, operations, governance and management of both businesses, Local Government (LG) and LG subsidiaries. He understands interactions with funding bodies and the complexities and process of funding discussions with the State and Federal Governments, including management of government grants.
11. Mr Bria has a good technical knowledge of LG operations including stormwater, and will be valuable in understanding the technical, operational, financial, procurement, WHS, political and reputational risks that the project may encounter. As well as legislative and regulatory requirements of LG. As an accountant, he can interrogate financial statements having been responsible for their preparation and approval in his various roles. He has a good understanding of the legislative and regulatory requirements of LG.
12. Mr Piscioneri is a strong Chief Financial Officer, responsible for commercial and financial functions including cash flow management and financial accounts. He attends Board, Finance and Audit and Risk Management committee meetings. Predominantly managing agendas with respective chairs and presents and discusses reports as needed. Mr. Piscioneri is involved in Strategic Risk assessment and understands the risk management, governance and reporting frameworks and processes for government subsidiaries.
13. Mr Piscioneri has a strong understanding of financial standards and regulations, WHS responsibilities and customer service.
14. The Nominations Committee met on 28 August 2025 and discussed:
 - 14.1. Support for the rolling terms for Audit and Risk Committee Members, maintaining Intellectual Property on the Committee.
 - 14.2. Confirmation that there will be 5 Audit and Risk Committee Members at all times (i.e. Rob Gregory will not sit on the Committee until Judith Choate steps down once the Charter has been amended.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -

24 Confidential Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer's Reports)**24.1 Appointment of Members to the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Audit and Risk Committee [S90(3) (a)]**

Moved by Councillor Noon,
Seconded by Councillor Maher -

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Carried

