

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Willunga Creek Flood Mitigation and Environmental Flow Project

Background information

Historically, to minimise flooding in the Willunga township, stormwater was diverted through a large underground pipe around the township. While this helped with flood management, it has also limited the natural, year-round flow of water (environmental flows) in the creek.

Willunga Creek is one of only 2 perennial watercourses in our council area that flows continuously from natural springs. This project aims to increase the environmental flows while mitigating flood impacts.

The original Willunga Creek alignment through the township was heavily modified many years ago with water now flowing through a constructed drainage channel along Methodist Street, Giles Road and Norman Road.

Why is this work being undertaken

This project aims to increase environmental flows in the creek while also reducing property flooding risks, delivering benefits for both the environment and the local community.

What work is being undertaken?

Works include:

- Upgrading one culvert crossing.
- Widening sections of the drainage channel to improve water flow
- Removing woody weeds
- Raising bank heights in front of low-lying properties and known overflow points.
- Landscaping with native trees, shrubs and sedges.

Which part of the creek is being upgraded?

Parts of the drainage channel to be upgraded runs along Giles Road and Norman Road as seen in the image below.



Tree Removals

Works will also include the removal of woody weeds, primarily willows and desert ash trees. These 3 species are declared weeds within waterways, as they choke water flows and reduce water quality.

There are 38 willow and ash trees proposed for removal in agreement with the private landowners.

Revegetation will include replanting with established trees (1.5 meters tall) including 31 native evergreen trees and 6 deciduous trees. Approximately 2,000 tube stock of native creek shrubs and sedges will also be planted within the creek corridor.

Project Cost

Council has allocated \$640,000 for the project through its 2026–27 budget, funded under the Project Capital Works Water Resources category.

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Willunga Creek Stormwater upgrade

Community engagement

Engagement has been held in 2 stages:

Stage 1 December 2025

In late 2025, 118 properties along Norman Road, Giles Road, and Methodist Street were door knocked to introduce the project and gather local knowledge about flooding and creek-related issues.

Stage 2 March – June 2026

Following determination of the scope, 9 property owners identified as being directly affected by proposed works on their private property were further engaged. These landowners have been closely involved through the design stage, helping shape the selected materials, landscaping treatments, and revegetation approach on disturbed areas.

Stage 3 July 2026

Broader community engagement on the developed concept design and continued discussions regarding woody weeds with private property owners with a creek in their front yard.

When is work expected to commence and how long will it take to complete?

Work is expected to commence mid-2026 and take approximately 6 months to complete.

We will ensure the community is informed prior to any work commencing.

We'll also have a dedicated webpage on Your Say Onkaparinga:

(www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay) when engagement opens to the wider Willunga community.

How will I access my property during construction?

Our team will work with you to ensure your property access is maintained during construction and appropriate traffic management is in place to allow continued access to Norman Road and Giles Road.

Creek protection

The Willunga Creek is a perennial creek, meaning it flows continuously throughout the year due to being spring fed. The council will be applying for the required permit from the State Landscape Board to undertake works within the creek. This process ensures appropriate environmental controls are considered, including managing sediment, protecting creek bank stability, and managing creek flows during and after construction.

For periods of construction, we will look to reduce creek flows for short periods to complete works in the creek invert to enable culvert installation or creek widening works. This work will be coordinated to take place in drier months when creek flow are at their lowest and risk of sediment washing downstream is reduced.

Need more information?

If you have a question or would like further information, please contact us:

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