

BRICKBATS

POOR MANAGEMENT OF WATER

Recipient: Government of South Australia

Long-established trees dying in the Park Lands while massive volumes of stormwater flow out into the Gulf is a spectacular example of the mismanagement of water by both government and council. The effective management of stormwater has been proven by Salisbury City Council for many years, yet whilst the State Government recognises the oncoming drought, it still does not move on the implementation of this most obvious and proven remedy. Instead it plans a far more expensive desalination plant that is also highly energy-intensive and will produce saline pollution in ecosystems in the Gulf, where there is little natural mixing to resolve the problem.



Photo: The Advertiser

The Adelaide City Council was also nominated with regard to water management in the Park Lands, as more appropriate irrigation and even the purchase of relatively minor volumes of water could have reversed the current problems. The project using recycled water from the Glenelg wastewater treatment plant will resolve this particular issue but the high nutrient content can completely change the ecology of the Park Lands. This should have been adequately discussed and planned at a public level but as the Council is taking some action, we assign the brickbat to the State Government for the gross wastage of stormwater.

The Australian Civic Trust challenges State and Local Governments to develop a coordinated strategy to address this environmental challenge and maintain our public open spaces for the enjoyment of future generations.