



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## COPENHAGEN - WHAT WAS AGREED—AND WHAT WASN'T

Many of us came away from the Copenhagen talks saga with a deep sense of frustration and in fact a feeling of bewilderment. After all the debates in Australia and the drama that was played out on our nightly television news bulletins I for one was left wondering what had actually been achieved. **But there was a glimmer of hope .....**

Quoting from an article in *Energy Bulletin* the main points of the **Copenhagen Accord** are easy to summarize:

- Industrial countries must list their individual emissions **reductions targets**; all countries must accept a transparent system for monitoring their emissions.
- Poor countries will be paid to **prevent deforestation**.
- **Wealthy nations will establish a fund** (growing from 30 billion dollars per year to \$100 billion per year by 2020) to help poor and vulnerable nations adapt to climate change.
- **Signatory nations** accept a goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius by 2050. (So far only 20 out of 192 nations have signed up to the Accord and the 31/1 d'line has been extended)
- The Accord creates a Technology Mechanism to accelerate development of low-carbon technology.

*Energy Bulletin* goes on to say that it is important to emphasize that this is not a binding legal or political agreement. **The Accord is not a U.N.-sanctioned document**, though the U.N. has officially moved to "take note" of it **and Australia has signed up to it**. Criticisms of the Accord's substance include the following:

- The limit of **2 degrees C is too high**. A limit of 1.5 degrees was already supported by over 100 countries and is necessary to avert catastrophic climate impacts.
- The Accord offers **no cap for CO2 concentrations**. Any scientific assessment of temperature and CO2 targets is delayed until 2015.
- There is **no target date for peaking of emissions** mentioned in the Accord, just a vague suggestion that emissions should "peak as soon as possible."
- There are **no global emissions targets for 2020 or 2050**. Instead, the Accord merely proposes listing the voluntary targets of developed and developing countries. Based on current assessments of country promises, these 2020 targets will put the world on a track toward 3.5 to 4 degrees of warming.
- The Accord makes general statements about need for adaptation and an end to deforestation, but there is **no concrete deal on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation**
- **On the bright side:** the Clean Development Mechanism negotiated in Copenhagen seems to have excluded carbon capture and storage, thus reducing the incentive for wasting money on this dead-end technology. **Expect pushback from the coal industry on that.**

**Where does that leave us?** Copenhagen was a watershed event. Climate change has become, in many people's minds, the central survival issue for our species, and the talks provided a pivotal moment for addressing that issue. The fact that the talks failed to produce a binding agreement is therefore of some significance. The next opportunity to forge a binding global climate treaty will be the **2010 U.N. climate talks in Mexico City in early December 2010**. Many see this as a chance to achieve what proved elusive in Copenhagen.

*Energy Bulletin* is produced by Post Carbon Institute (<http://www.postcarbon.org/>)

In my opinion, the shortcomings of the Copenhagen talks in no way reduce the importance of acting locally to reduce our carbon emissions. As individuals we can all 'do our bit' and Local Government must continue to play a leading role. **Adelaide City Council's Climate Change Action Plan funded by a special 1% rate allocation is working to achieve a 60% reduction in Council emissions by 2012 and carbon neutrality within 10 years.**

## FROM PLAINS TO PLATE - THE FUTURE OF FOOD IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA – 10th to 13th FEBRUARY

'From Plains to Plate' will bring together community, business and government to discuss the issue of strengthening **South Australia's food systems** in the face of intensifying environmental, social and economic challenges.

The Convergence will examine food and agriculture through a number of streams, including urban planning and growth, agriculture and the environment, public health and food access, education and sustainability and economics.

**Opening Forum: 10 February, 5.45pm Allen Scott Auditorium Stop Press: Forum fully booked**

Registration Details etc at <http://futureoffoodsa.ning.com/> or contact Joel Catchlove at [joel.catchlove@foe.org.au](mailto:joel.catchlove@foe.org.au),

2010 Lunar New Year Street Party Celebrating  
**Year Of The Tiger**  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
From 10am to 4 pm  
Moonta Street, Chinatown

[Some recent meeting decisions](#) (full details are available on the Council's website 5 days after the meeting)

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held 1 February 2010 (next meeting 15 February 2010)**

▣ Applications for consideration on Merit

▪ Item 3.1 (DA/442/2009) An application was received from Ms M Forzisi of Arlecchino's Gourmet Café at **172A Hutt Street** for retrospective approval to install a roof to an existing pergola and to amend operating hours of the rear courtyard was **approved** subject to 6 conditions.

Representations were made from residents in the adjoining residential properties in Corryton Street who were concerned about potential noise and access problems. **Conditions included restriction of hours of operation of the rear courtyard to 7am to 10.30pm on any day and prevention of all forms of music, entertainment or other type of similar noise on the premises.** ▶▶



▣ Other matters discussed included the use of the **3D City Model** in development assessment and the preparation of a checklist for information and documentation to better assess applications to be considered by the Panel.

**THE ADELAIDE PARKLANDS AUTHORITY – Meeting held 28 January (Next meeting 18 March)**

The Authority received a presentation on Park Lands policy from **Hon Rob Brokenshire** on behalf of **Family First**.

**COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES – Meeting 8 February 2010 (next meeting Monday 22 February at 5.30pm)**

▣ **Motions on Notice** were moved by **Cllr Yarwood** asking for an investigation into improving access to city services through the latest mobile phone technology and **Cllr Clarke** proposing that the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Henningsen, should visit the **Town of Dernancourt** in France for the 2010 Anzac Day commemoration services.

▣ (12.1) Council approved an application from the **Exeter Hotel** for an outdoor dining area in **Vaughan Place**. In response to many objections, hours will be restricted; there will be no music, full security and removable furniture.

▣ (12.2) Approval was given for the **AC/DC Concert** at the Oval on **2 March** and to the **Mela Festival** at Elder Park on 27 March. The AC/DC concert with 42,000 attending will not be required to meet normal acoustical standards.

▣ (12.4) Temporary closure of **Hutt St** was approved for the traders to hold their annual **Clipsal street party** which this year promises to be even more disruptive than usual to the locals with the added 'attraction' of **Sky Show**.

▣ (12.6) Council's Executive Manager Strategic Asset and Property was appointed to the Board of Waste Care SA.

▣ (12.7) Council endorsed the **Lord Mayor's 4-city Goodwill visit to India** from **19 February to 1 March**. The visit will seek to ensure the Indian authorities of our sincere concern for the continuing welfare and safety of Indian students in Adelaide and at the same time will work to build stronger ties in trade, tourism and education with India. Cities to be visited will be **Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi and Chandigarh**.

▣ (12.8) Council agreed to a request from Education Adelaide for \$35k sponsorship of **Adelaide United Soccer Team** in their 2010 **Asian Champions League** Campaign. In my opinion this has no real benefits for the City and meets none of the guidelines for sponsorship funding. (Council already gives \$200k to Education Adelaide).

▣ Confidential Matters dealt with at this meeting included a Strategic property Matter (**sale by tender of 188 Gilles St the former Beresford Arms hotel**) and a matter relating to the **Balfours/Bus Station** Redevelopment Project.

**CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

▣ The Presiding Member reported that the public had submitted over 100 possible **names for the new bridge** behind the Zoo. Names suggested ranged from the sublime to the plain ridiculous. It was agreed to defer the matter.

▣ (5.1) Council has adopted the **Arts and Cultural Strategy 2010-2014** and the Action Plan. The Strategy has 3 Outcomes 1) A City that encourages Cultural Expression and Engagement 2) A City of Dynamic and Memorable Spaces and 3) A City that fosters Creativity and Talent. Support is also given for busking and live music and a wish to attract commercial cinema operators back to the city and to make greater use of electronic media and broadband.

▣ (5.2) Council also adopted the **Youth Strategy 2010-2014** and its Action Plan. The Strategy comes as a result of extensive consultation including with 800 young people. **5 key outcomes** will offer young people **opportunities to live, learn, earn, and play in the City** and to engage in effective ways of participating in all the activities.

▣ (5.3) Council adopted **Policy and Operating Guidelines for Events in the Park Lands** following extensive consultation. The depth of feeling in the submissions shows that there is increasing tension between those who see the Park Lands as places to be exploited in the name of commercial gain with little or no concern for the impact of those activities on other users and nearby residents and those who see the Park Lands as primarily a place for personal recreation and community-based sporting activities. **In my opinion**, there has to be a balance and at this stage it is weighted far too heavily towards commercial exploitation. As long as Council continues to put big resources into chasing ever more events and as long as Council profits from event parking on the Park Lands, nothing will improve. **A review of Fees and Charges** for Park Lands use is to be considered soon; perhaps this will put a more realistic value on the Park Lands especially for all the commercial profit-making events and activities.

▣ (5.4) Council is to carry out a review of its 2006 **Memorials and Monuments Policy** particularly to give clearer direction regarding location of new works and to better integrate this policy with our wider urban design strategies.

▣ (5.5) Council received an update on **Enterprise Adelaide** which showed it to be on track to meet its 09/10 targets.

▣ (5.6) **DAP statistics** for the last quarter showed small increase in activity with a total value of **\$189.6m** approved.

▣ (5.7) The contentious Sturt St Bicycle lane and streetscape was considered by Council and it was decided to concertina the review process although it was recognised that external factors such as Toyota need to be finalised.

▣ (5.8) Council approved Round 2 **Heritage Incentive Scheme (HIS) Grants** to a value of **\$68k** for 17 projects.

▣ Council considered in confidence an item dealing with an Heritage and Character Development Plan Amendment.

**The views expressed herein are those of Cr Plumridge and do not purport to be those of the Adelaide City Council.**