



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## NEW CENTRE TO BOOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Problems arising from fragmented governance and planning of metropolitan regions is under the microscope as official business has begun for the new **Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG)**.

Opened by the Federal Minister for Local Government, **Anthony Albanese**, the new centre will drive innovation, support best practice, facilitate policy debate and enhance capacity and career development in local government.

Based at the University of Technology, Sydney, ACELG is a partnership between the Australian Government and a consortium led by UTS, which includes the University of Canberra, the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, Local Government Managers Australia and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

The Government has backed the initiative with \$8 million in funding, announced by the Prime Minister in June.

**Professor Graham Sansom** has been appointed Director. Details at <http://www.ancelg.org.au/>

## SUSTAINABLE CITIES

**The Green Building Council of Australia** Chief Executive, Romilly Madew, said that with 11 per cent of all CBD office space now Green Star rated and a further 25 per cent (400 buildings) undergoing certification, clear evidence is now available about the positive impact sustainable buildings have on people, places and performance.

"We know that Green Star rated office buildings are reducing greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 60 per cent. These buildings are commanding higher rents and higher selling prices and they have lower vacancy rates" and the occupants of green buildings report higher productivity and lower absenteeism," Ms Madew said.

Council has thrown its weight behind **City Switch** which is a program led by the Committee of Capital City Lord Mayors. The program is **primarily aimed at tenants** of city buildings who can influence 50% of office building emissions and who can achieve significant CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by adopting simple measures such as energy-efficient lighting, computer modes, improved air conditioning and the purchase of green power. Signatories to the program undertake to have their energy use rated and to achieve and maintain a **Star rating of 4 stars or greater**.

**Already 208 tenancies covering 1.2m m<sup>2</sup> of office space have committed to City Switch, Australia-wide.**

The Australian Government will introduce new laws from mid 2010 making it mandatory for office building owners to disclose their NABERS Star energy ratings when they sell or lease office space covering more than 2000 metres.

For further information about these Government initiatives visit [www.environment.gov.au/buildings](http://www.environment.gov.au/buildings)

## COUNCIL STEPS UP TREE MAINTENANCE (*Extracts from a Briefing Memo to Councillors 3 February 2010*)

In 2008/09 the number of trees identified as dead was 842, with 622 of these removed during that same period.

During 2008/09 Council had a number of planting projects undertaken including:

- National Tree Day where a total of 10,000 plants were planted (Tainmundilla - Pk 11)
- World Environment Day - 1,000 plants as above ;
- World Youth Day - 6,000 plants as above including 1,300 trees (tube stock);
- Our Patch installed 300 plants as above (tube stock); and
- 70 street trees were replanted - typically advanced sizes ranging from 2 -4 mts high.

**Tree removal for 2009/10 to date includes 88 street trees and 172 Park Land trees**, many of which were small to midrange in size associated with **dry land areas of the Park Lands**.



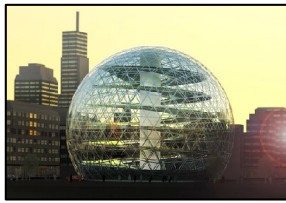
For the coming 2009/10 planting season Council is planning to replace the loss of significant trees with a total of 324 semi-advanced trees of various types in the Park Lands along with the biodiversity programs. Stage 2 of Tainmundilla is also planned for this season with another 10,000 plants (of trees, shrubs and groundcovers).

**In addition, the State Government has recently announced \$300,000 to plant 15,000 trees in the Park Lands including 1000 mature trees, given the implementation of the Glenelg Recycled Water Pipeline which has also allowed Council to return to pre-restriction levels of irrigation (700ML compared to 340ML per annum)**

## EARTH HOUR 2010

Adelaide will observe Earth Hour at **8.30 pm on 27 March**. Throughout the world, people will turn off their lights for one hour to represent their concern and commitment to address climate change. By supporting Earth Hour, you are sending a powerful message that you care about climate change and you want others to care too.

## SMARTER CITIES – VERTICAL FARMING



By 2050, the world's population will have increased by 3 billion people, requiring an additional chunk of arable land the size of Brazil in order to grow enough food. Add to that the potential loss of coastal property from rising sea levels, crop loss from drastic weather related incidents, and the need to reforest large swaths of land to sequester CO<sub>2</sub>. What we're left with could be helped by a new agricultural technique – vertical



farming. Located in an urban setting, the vertical farm automates the production of food in a more sustainable manner, by reducing waste, pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. (Story courtesy Inhabitat <http://www.inhabitat.com/>)

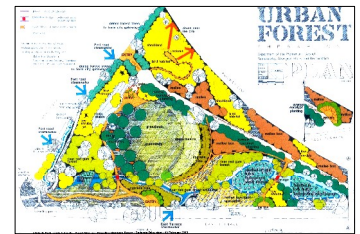
Some recent meeting decisions (full details are available on the Council's website 5 days after the meeting)

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL** *Meeting listed for 15 February was not held. Next Meeting 1 March.*

### THE ADELAIDE PARKLANDS AUTHORITY (APLA) – Meeting held 18 February (Next meeting 18 March)

Ministerial appointees to APLA are Frank Blevins and Mary Marsland (Deputy Presiding Member) (reappointed) and Dr Anne Sharp and Gunta Groves who replaces the Hon Ian Gilfillan who stood down as the community rep.

- Graham Hopkins, Landscape Architect, presented an amended proposal for the development of the SA Water Depot site into an **Urban Forest** which is the wish of the State Government. The Authority recommends that the Council should support the amended design which is now to be constructed at the cost of the Government.
- The Authority received presentations on **Park Lands policy** from Minister Jay Weatherill (ALP), The Hon Michelle Lensink MLC (Liberal Party) and the Hon Mark Parnell MLC (The Greens). *For details readers can refer to respective websites*
- The Minister has signed off conditionally on the new Park Lands Manag<sup>t</sup> Strategy.



### COUNCIL – (Deputy Lord Mayor Presiding) Meeting 22 Feb. 2010 (next meeting Monday 8 March at 5.30pm)

- **Questions on Notice** were tabled by me dealing with 1) tenders for car parking at Clipsal and 2) the use of Creswell gardens by SACA.
- **A Motion on Notice** was moved by **Cllr Yarwood** asking Council to trial the provision of filtered water-bottle refilling stations in various public locations. Council resolved to investigate before proceeding.
- (12.1) Council adopted the December **2009 Business Plan and Budget Reconsideration** and the proposed new framework for the 2010/11 budget which aligns with recently adopted **Organisational Realignments**. Managers are now to be more directly accountable for delivering Program Outcomes. Council now has 10 Programs to deliver its 6 Strategies. **Council's net funding for projects is \$690k favourable to budget at the end of December 2009.**
- (12.2) Council endorsed the **priorities and parameters** to be used in developing the **2010/11 Business Plan** and Budget which in turn are based on the current Long Term Financial Plan for the sustainability of the Council. There will be extensive consultation with stakeholders starting with Notifications beginning on **29 April**, running through workshops and information sessions and culminating with a Council Meeting to receive submissions on **27 May**.
- (12.3) Council will support the **Local Government Managers National Congress** in Adelaide on 16-19 May '10.
- (12.5) Cllr **Ralph Clarke** was nominated to attend future meetings of the **Premier's Taxi Council** and to hopefully become an ACC representative on the Council. Given the important role played by taxis in city safety and transport issues, especially with initiatives such as managed taxi ranks, our representation is very important.
- (12.6 and 12.7) Council approved the waiving of its **Encroachment Policy** to allow balconies to a residential development in **Hurtle Sq** and for retractable canopies to Francis/ Lindes Lanes for the **Harris Scarfe** development.
- (12.8) Temp leases were granted for 1) **Tasting Australia** in Elder Park on 1/2 May, 2) **Austin Healey Car Show** in Elder Park on Saturday 24 April and **West Adelaide Soccer Club** in Wirranendi (Park 23) April to September '10
- (12.9) Council agreed to the temporary closure of Waymouth St for the **Union Hotel** Anzac Day Diggers Party.
- (16) It was agreed (reluctantly) to accept the government fee offer for DAP services which is below actual costs.

### CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

- (5.1) The Adelaide City Council **Reconciliation Committee** Quarterly Report was received. Issues dealt with by the Committee included Aboriginal Employment policies, Victoria Square Project and the 2010/11 Business Plan.
- (5.2) Council agreed to be a part of an **MoU** of organisations interested in creating a corridor of promotional banners from the **airport to the city**. This would be contrary to policy (and the Dev Plan) and I voted against it.
- (5.3) Council was updated on the **New Architects and Graduates Design Festival Competition** and the proposed judging processes/panel. 21 entries have been received for **creative designs for street furniture and art**
- (5.4) Approval was given for a new interpretive sign at the **Torrens Parade Ground and Training Depot**.
- (5.5) A significant tree in **Bakkabakkandi/Victoria Park** is to be pruned. (After 10 years of Clipsal it is now dead.)

### CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- (5.1) The **Fee-Based Facilities Report** for December 2009 was received. It shows unfavourable YTD figures in all areas, but the **Aquatic Centre and the Town Hall** are on track to achieve their 2009/10 outcomes.
- (5.2) The **Corporate Property Fee-Based Facilities Report** for December 2009 shows a favourable report for both income and expenditure which led to a **\$650k favourable balance** as at December 2009.
- **A Motion on Notice** by Cllr **Ann Moran** dealing with a Central Market lease matter was dealt with in Confidence.

### CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- (5.1) Council has applied for **External Funding** grants totalling **\$12.871m** & has **\$8.552m** confirmed year to date.
- (5.2) Council received the Dec 2009 report on its financial performance and position which is **\$690k favourable**.
- A confidential Report on **Non-Tendered Purchases** for the Quarter ended 31 December was received.

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