



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## PLANNING FOR A MORE ENLIGHTENED FUTURE

Recently The Honourable **Anthony Albanese** MP launched the **State of Australian Cities 2010 Report** which addressed four key elements in relation to Cities, namely **Productivity**, **Sustainability**, **Liveability** and **Planning and Governance**. It is very gratifying that the Federal Government has again entered the field of building better cities, an area sadly vacated by the Howard Government. (It is interesting to note that Anthony Albanese worked many years ago for Tom Uren, a Whitlam Minister who with Brian Howe did so much to improve the quality of life in the cities of Australia where some 85% of Australians choose to live). The report looks at the future needs of Australia's largest 100 major cities including the Capitals.

To read the report go to [http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/files/MCU\\_SOAC.pdf](http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/files/MCU_SOAC.pdf)

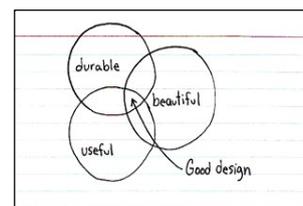


On a more practical front Minister Albanese has announced \$1m funding towards the cost of developing the **Integrated Design Strategy (IDS)** which is a joint initiative of the State Government and the Adelaide City Council who are jointly matching the Commonwealth funding. The IDS came out of the work of Professor Laura Lee, Thinker in Residence which itself builds on the work done by Jan Gehl for the Council in 2002 but sadly left by successive Councils to gather dust on the shelves.

The present Council, soon after its election in November 2007 gave clear directions that it was determined to see major improvements in city design and character building as well as developing a sustainable city. Council appointed an architect to oversee City Design standards, a more rigorous approach to Heritage protection was adopted and an Urban Renewal approach to Victoria Square and the enhancement of public spaces such as Rundle St, the Mall and the Park Lands has been instigated by this Council.

The Integrated Design Strategy has the potential to encapsulate these initiatives and to encourage the City to work in collaboration with the adjoining Councils to maximise the value of the Park Lands and to create a series of places which will be home, place of work, study, recreation and a retail hub for a population in excess of 200,000.

**SA Institute of Architects** Chapter President **Tim Horton** said: "Good design is about anticipating the needs of our communities, and planning in a holistic and sustainable way. Having a level of design quality in both the public and private realm within our cities enhances the quality of our lives, and fosters a culture of learning, arts, commerce and lifestyle. But good design can only occur where there's a design consciousness. Commonwealth support for the IDS demonstrates deep commitment and support for better design in our cities. The era of the ad hoc is over."



## COUNTING THE COST

This year we have seen more intensive use of the Park Lands for a whole host of events all concentrated into a fairly short time frame. It all began with **Clipsal** moving into Victoria Park on 1 December (and now painfully slowly dismantling their structures – last week no one could be seen working on the stands in Victoria Park and the totally disconnected 'Show Home' was still prominent in the Park), then **SACA** seriously limiting public access to Creswell Gdns and now most of the Park Lands Events areas are little more than a dust-bowl (or a mud bath as I write!)

I know that my views are in a minority; grass will regenerate and the Park Lands will appear to have survived another onslaught but no one is counting the long-term cost of the excessive use of the Park Lands. Excessive truck and car movements, the trampling of thousands of feet over the same areas time after time, temporary buildings erected within the root zones of trees must take its toll. **The demise of hundreds of trees is being blamed on the drought but it is much more likely that our enthusiasm for constant events is the real cause.**



## WAYLO YERTA COMMUNITY GARDEN OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Deputy Lord Mayor, **Cllr Michael Henningsen** led a large number of gardeners in the rush to plant the first crop in the newly established **community garden** in the South Park Lands (south of Veale Gardens) on 27 March. The garden is the culmination of months of work by numerous people led by **Mij Tanith** and supported by Council. Thanks also to **City South** who auspiced the project and to Martin Burns of **Liquid Property** at Norwood who have underwritten the first year costs of garden operation.

An apology: The previous edition of my Notes, issued before I went on leave, included some wrong dates for coming meetings.

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

### **DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL - Meeting held 15 March (Next Meeting 6 April at 5.30pm)**

#### **▣ Non-Complying Applications**

- (Item 2.1) **12-22 Tomsey Court**. The Panel agreed that the application to construct a 2-storey dwelling should proceed to assessment (DA/156/2010)
- (Item 2.2) **15 Watson St N.A.** Construction of a 3-level dwelling including roof deck on vacant land was approved subject to DAC Concurrence. (DA/885/2009)
- (Item 2.3) Consent was granted to construct a 4-storey apartment building (including roof level terrace at **333 Wakefield St** comprising 3 apartments (DA/1040/2008) ▶▶



#### **▣ Applications for consideration on Merit**

- Consent was granted to demolish existing building and construct a 6-storey apartment building at **134-137 South Terrace**. The building will consist of 18 apartments with a roof garden and parking for 20 cars (DA/951/2009) ▶▶
- ▣ There were no Sched. 10 Matters to be considered (*referrals for projects >\$10m to DAC*)
- ▣ An **ERD Court** compromise proposal regarding removal of a significant tree at **Unit 19/70 Finnis St N.A.** was considered in confidence as it involved legal advice.



### **ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY – Meeting held 18 March (Next Meeting 15 April at 5.30pm)**

- Ms **Gunta Groves** moved a **Motion on Notice** requesting an update on progress of the new park in Frome Road.
- The State Government response to the **Park Lands Management Strategy** was received and it was agreed to recommend to Council acceptance of the minor changes requested by the Government.
- The draft **Marketing Plan** was received and discussed; the consultants will now develop the final marketing plan.
- Options for the resurfacing of the **Adelaide Bowling Club car park** were considered and as the preferred option (other than NO car park at all) was beyond the available funds it was referred to Council for budget consideration.

### **COUNCIL – Meetings held Monday 29 March 2010 (next meeting Monday 12 April at 5.30pm)**

*It was noted that this was to be GM Doug Schmidt's last meeting. He was commended for his outstanding contribution to Council over 3 years.*

- ▣ **Motions on Notice** were moved by ▪ **Cllr Stephen Yarwood** on 1) Seeking Council support for **Team Trev** (an electric car program) which was not supported and 2) requesting Council to develop an **electric car strategy** as part of its Movement Strategy ▪ **Cllr Ralph Clarke** on 1) Feasibility of establishing a **roller disco**, 2) University lease arrangements on Park Lands properties and 3) To rescind an earlier decision re Taxi Council representation and ▪ **Cllr Anne Moran** on 1) regarding the O'Connell Traders Food and Wine Fair being held in O'Connell St and 2) a request for the **Central Market Committee** members to visit the **Victoria Markets** in Melbourne.
- ▣ In the **Public Forum** Council was addressed by **Bicycle SA** & Mr Pearson on behalf of a **Central Market trader**.
- ▣ (12.1) Council agreed to retain and redevelop the **Aquatic Centre** at its present location and noted progress on the roof replacement project. Council will now conduct a **feasibility study** to inform it on redevelopment options.
- ▣ (12.2) Council chose not to nominate additional representation the Metro Region on the **LGA State Executive**.
- ▣ (12.3) Council nominated **Cllr Yarwood** for appointment to the **Development Assessment Commission**.
- ▣ (13.1) Council agreed to alterations to **on-street parking** traffic control provisions in 6 locations in the city.
- ▣ (14.1) The December 2009 Quarterly **Business Plan** Progress Report was received. Of the 30 Annual Objectives set by Council, 3% have been completed, 94% are currently in progress and 3% will commence shortly.
- ▣ **Confidential Items** included 1) Consideration of the proposed **Aquatic Centre Cogeneration System** and 2) A Presiding Member's Report dealing with the **Chief Executive Officer's** first Annual Performance Review.

### **CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

- ▣ (5.1) Council adopted a **Project Brief** to guide development of a **single management plan** for those Park Lands which are managed by the Council as the means of implementing the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy. This study will also undertake Council's required **review of the existing Community Land Management Plans**.
- ▣ (5.2) The **Capital Works Report** shows that total expenditure to the end of February is **\$26.536m**.
- ▣ (5.3) Council investigation into providing **refuge and billeting** to people in catastrophic fire zones shows that there is limited support from Hills Councils but that the scheme is worth pursuing in conjunction with the CFS and/or the Dept of Families and Community Services. Council will continue to make the **Bus Station** available.
- ▣ (5.4) **The City of Adelaide Museum** Business Case was received and referred for consideration with the 2010/2011 budget. Although the proposal was well-received by the various agencies that could be involved in such a project, the fact remains that it would be very costly and difficult to justify Council funding on an ongoing basis. **Other cities have museums** which are popular with locals and visitors. **What we need is a generous sponsor!**
- ▣ (5.5) Council gave its consent - as landlord – for the construction of a **new gatehouse at the Nursery** in Park 10.

### **CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

- ▣ (5.1) the Committee received the report on **Fee-Based Facilities** for the 8 months ending 28 February 2010. Not all the figures are favourable but **it was interesting to note** that for the month of February visits to the **Central Market** totalled **1,348,676** which is **60,954** or 4.5% more than in February 2009.
- ▣ (7) An item dealing with lease of **Stands R17 and 18 at the Central Market** was dealt with in confidence.

### **CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

- ▣ (5.1).The February 2010 **Financial Performance Report** YTD shows \$435k favourable balance of funds for projects which primarily reflects a General Operating favourable variance of \$417k. **61.4% of the Operating Projects budget and 35.3% of the Capital Projects budget for 09/10 has been spent in the year to date.**

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