



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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**COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE AM**  
**AREA COUNCILLOR - CITY OF ADELAIDE**

32 Dukes Lane Adelaide SA 5000  
Email [dplumridge@adelaidecitycouncil.com](mailto:dplumridge@adelaidecitycouncil.com)

Tel 8232 0515 Mob 0417 088 992  
Website [www.davidplumridge.com](http://www.davidplumridge.com)

## TIME FOR REFLECTION

This is the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of my Notes; the first tentative issue went out to a limited email circulation list on 11 March 2008. It has been quite a challenge to produce them on a fortnightly basis but from the many positive comments I receive I think it is a venture worth continuing. When I was elected, I promised to keep in regular contact with my constituents and at that time I had hoped to be able to conduct regular "surgeries". That proved to be impracticable and so I developed the idea of regular Notes from my desk. The Notes seek to make people aware of the decisions of Council and its committees as well as the Development Assessment Panel, The Park Lands Authority and the Reconciliation Committee. I also write more generally about various issues which in one way or another impact on our community and which, in my opinion, should be considered. *I am regularly adding to my circulation list and if there is anyone you know who would like to receive my Notes please forward their email address and I will happily add them to the list.*

## COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

One of the buzz-words doing the Local Government rounds at present is Governance. So what is Governance? 'Governance' is the exercise of power or authority – political, economic, administrative or otherwise – to manage a common resources and affairs. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. 'Good governance' for us means competent management of Council's resources and affairs in a manner that is open, transparent, accountable, equitable and responsive to people's needs. *(Quotes from AusAid publication)*

One important aspect of governance is the way an organisation conducts its business. **On 15 June Council adopted a suite of recommendations**, based on a report prepared by John Comrie, which are designed to reorganize our committee structures and procedures to align them more closely to the **Outcomes of our Strategic Plan 2008-1012**. There will now be 4 committees (replacing the existing 3) named **City Design and Character** (chaired by Lord Mayor) **City Growth and Sustainability** (chaired by Cllr Ralph Clarke) **City Vibrancy** (chaired by Cllr Sue Clearihan) and **City and Corporate Governance** (chaired by myself) All members of Council will be members of all committees. Each committee will meet Tuesdays on a monthly cycle starting on 6 July and the big change is that the **Committees will now be advisory** to the full Council which will also meet monthly and will consider the recommendations coming from each of the committees. In addition, Council Briefings which have been held separately in the past will now be subsumed into the relevant committee which is intended to make the background briefing processes more open and accountable.

This represents a major change of operation for the Council which, I think it is fair to say, is viewed with some trepidation by some members and so it is to operate for a trial period. My own view is that it has the potential to make the Council decision-making more open and accountable which is a key principle of good governance.

Another recommendation of the Comrie Report was that the Council should attempt to reduce the amount of business which is conducted *in camera*. This is something which is important to me and I have been supported by Cllr Moran and an increasing number of Council members in reducing the number of confidential items or restructuring the way that items are presented to allow more of our business and decisions open to the public.

## I'LL DRINK TO THAT.....

On Sunday, some 100 people drank a Toast to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the **North Adelaide Society**. President **Ed Briedis** spoke of the many changes that have occurred since the NAS was established on 28 May 1970. A band of dedicated volunteers has done much over those years to preserve the character and heritage of the North Adelaide Village. Some of the original members were recognised and all were looking forward to the next 40 years! The NAS and other resident groups in the city are the 'glue' of our communities, **they are driven by community benefit rather than personal gain and their work is to be celebrated.**

## A CARING COMMUNITY

The Adelaide Day Centre based in Moore St provides generous support for homeless men in the city. Part of that support includes providing nutritious food which comes from the Roma Mitchell Garden located near the Old Adelaide Gaol. To quote from the Moore News "**the Roma Mitchell Gardeners work each day to provide food for the body and the soul. The garden plots are named after people who have struggled to bring a measure of justice and goodness to the world**" **People in need in Adelaide benefit from the organic harvest thru food parcels from the Day Centre.**



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

**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 21 June (next Meeting 5 July at 5.30pm)**

■ **2. Non-Complying Applications**

■ **(Item 2.1) 37-39 Ely Place.** Consent was **granted** to proceed to assessment of a proposal to convert an existing warehouse to a pair of 2-storey semi-detached dwellings. (DA/1004/2009)

■ **(Item 2.2) 12-22 Tomsey Court.** Development Plan Consent was **refused** for the construction of a 2-storey detached dwelling on vacant land. Reasons for refusal included excess plot ratio and height, insufficient landscaped open space, excessive scale and bulk of the building and inactive street frontage (DA/156/2010) ►►



■ **3. Applications for consideration on Merit**

■ **(Item 3.1) Cora Barclay Centre – 185 Melbourne St N.A.** Consent was **granted** to construct a 3-level rear addition with parking at ground level and the removal of **one significant tree** (Tree of Heaven) (DA/1054/2007)

■ **5 Other (Item 5.1) 17 Watson Street N.A.** The Panel resolved to **Not Support** an **ERD Court** compromise for construction of a 2-storey dwelling with garaging on vacant land adjacent to heritage places (DA/1000/2009)

**ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY (APLA) Meeting held 24 June (next Meeting 15 July at 5.30pm)**

■ **(Item 5.1)** The CEO of the SA Motor Sport Board Mr Jason Allen and the Marketing Manager were subjected to questions about the operation of the **Clipsal** event and its impacts on the Park Lands. In particular members were concerned about the increasing length of **occupation of the Park Lands** (this year it as from 1 December until well into June). In some areas Mr Allen agreed to review the operations but in areas of major concern it seemed that there was little or no preparedness to make concessions to make the event more resident and park-user friendly. This year the impacts were increased by Skyshow and the addition of a display show home.

■ **(Item 6.1) The 2010/2011 Business Plan and Budget** for the Authority was adopted. The total budget is **\$130k** which includes \$50k to fund part of the draft Marketing Plan.

■ **(Item 6.2)** The Authority gave its support to the proposed siting of the **Aquatic Centre Co-Generation plant**.

■ **(Item 6.3)** The monthly **Park Lands Matters Report** was received. This is a very comprehensive and informative report of all things relevant to the Park Lands. To view it go to the Agenda link below (at p 7145)

[http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/NetcatApps/agendasminutes/files08/Agendas/APA/2010/2010\\_06\\_24APA.pdf](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/NetcatApps/agendasminutes/files08/Agendas/APA/2010/2010_06_24APA.pdf)

■ **(Items 7&8)** Because APLA declined to be briefed on the **O'Bahn extension** in confidence, the DTEI officer declined to proceed. Such matters are of **public interest** and the Authority cannot, in my opinion, support such secrecy. *(I am told that a similar briefing to an adjoining Council was given with no such request for confidentiality)*

■ **(Items 9&10)** Representatives of the **Stadium Management Authority** (SMA) led by the Hon. John Bannon gave a very comprehensive briefing (their request for confidentiality was withdrawn at the request of APLA) on proposed expansion of the **Adelaide Oval**. Members of APLA were tacitly supportive but greatly concerned about expansion of the footprint into Creswell Gardens, the overall increase of hard surfaces and the apparent reliance on the Park Lands for **car parking**. My view is that basic Oval car parking should be provided u/ground and that general access should be by way of city car parks and the use of public transport all with easy access via the proposed footbridge. **Surely the best way to change Oval parking expectations is to not provide it!**  
*(For an independent view of the APLA proceedings ask for Gunta Groves' Newsletter email [ggroves@chariot.net.au](mailto:ggroves@chariot.net.au))*

**COUNCIL – Meetings held Tuesday 28 June - (next meeting of the Council, Monday 26 July at 5.30pm)**

**NOTE that the new committees will meet on Tuesday 6 and 13 JUNE at 4.30 in the Colonel Light Room**

■ **A Motion on Notice** was moved by **Cr Henningsen** proposing a 21 year lease for the **PAC boatshed**.

■ Mr Cohen promoted a scheme for **CO<sub>2</sub> reduction** by tree planting funded by a levy on car park usage fees.

■ **(Item 12.2) Community Land Management Plans** for 21 non-Park assets were endorsed for consultation.

■ **(Item 12.4)** An **encroachment** on the footpath in NE Light Square for a disabled access ramp was agreed to.

■ **(Item 12.5)** A proposal to create **shared use zones** in Coromandel Place, French St & Chesser St was endorsed for consultation. These are **busy and historic laneways** and activation would be great for the city.

■ **(Item 12.7)** Approval was given to **Feast Festival 2010** to use parts of **Light Sq** from **13 to 28 November**.

■ **(Items 12.8 to 12.13)** Council considered nominating members for positions on external bodies. ■ **Mayor Rosenberg** of Onkaparinga was supported for the LGA State Exec. ■ **Cr Henningsen** was nominated for the Public and Environmental Health Council. ■ The CEO was asked to name staff to go to a Parking Conference.

■ **(Item 13.1)** Council agreed to alterations to **on-street parking** traffic control provisions in 4 locations.

■ **(Item 18) - confidential** matter dealing with **Strategic Property Matter – Wingfield**.

**CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

■ **(Item 5.1)** Council endorsed a Project Brief for a revised **Flags and Banners Policy Review**.

■ **(Item 5.2)** The 2010/11 Plan for the **Noise Management Project** was endorsed. The Project has been well-received with 52 Advisory visits, 19 projects funded & 5673 Fact Sheets downloaded from the website YTD

■ **(Item 5.3)** Council adopted the long-awaited **Tourism Action Plan**. I will look at this Plan in my next Notes.

■ **(Items 5.5/ 5.7) Round 1 Grants** in • Community Dev't, • Rec. & Sport and • Arts/Living Culture were adopted.

■ **(Item 7&9) - confidential** dealing with (7) **Victoria Sq/Tarndanyangga** and (9) **Late Night Licensing DPA**

**CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**(Item 5.1)** The Business Ops Report for May was favourable except for Aquatic Centre, Golf Links & UPark.

**(Item 5.2)** Sponsorship allocations totaling \$737k were made. **Notable omissions and reductions** included Clipsal, CheeseFest, Womadelaide, Wicked and Animal Liberation with **increases** to the Fringe, ASO, and Young Aust/Lebanese Assn and **additions** of Youth Orchestra, O'Connell St Traders and Irish/Australian Assn.

**CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

**Item 5.1)** The Monthly Financial Performance Report for May shows net funding available for projects are \$622k better than budget. \$12.8m (79.7%) of the Strategic Projects budget has been spent compared to 73% last year.

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