



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

ISSUE No 70

26 OCTOBER 2011

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## THE STATE OF AUSTRALIAN CITIES 2011

This report, which was released last week by the **Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**, Anthony Albanese, builds on the knowledge contained in the first report published last year. It brings together new data that compares our cities with each other and cities internationally. **State of Australian Cities 2011** provides an evidence base to support the national urban policy released earlier this year – go to [<Our Cities, Our Future>](#)



### Key Changes in Australia's Cities Since the 2010 Report:

- There's now evidence of a major change in how people are getting around their communities, with per capita vehicle travel down by around one percentage point and aggregate travel beginning to stabilise.
- The shift to public transport and active travel such walking and cycling has continued, with more than 11.5 million bicycles sold in the period between 2001 and 2010 - 2 million more than cars.
- The gap between housing supply and demand is general across Australia - a short fall of 200,000 new homes.

## TREE PLANTING STEPPED UP

Council has carried out tree planting associated with this year's **Million Trees Program**. This work included the planting of approx **1,000 advanced trees and 4,000 tube stock** covering most areas of the Park Lands. All trees are natives species in line with the **Park Lands Management Strategy** and the Community Land Management Plans. This programme is fully funded by the State Government and is the first year of a three year commitment. Over recent years many Park Lands' trees have been lost due to drought conditions and to just coming to the end of their natural life; also many of the trees that have suffered in the drought were not native trees and were not appropriate for use in our weather conditions. Council policy is to leave selected dead trees standing to provide habitat for birds and other fauna. Other trees are felled and cut into logs for the same purpose. New plantings will benefit from the availability of recycled water from the Glenelg works.

## KITCHEN GARDEN MONTH

October 2011 is the inaugural **Kitchen Garden Month**, celebrating edible gardening in South Australia. Many Community Gardens throughout Adelaide will be holding open days for people wanting to know more about community gardens. On **Sunday October 30 Community Gardens at Walyo Yerta (behind Veale Gardens)** and Fern Ave Unley will be open and all comers will be welcome to see the great benefits of growing edible produce close to home. Other community gardens can be found in Adelaide at the Box Factory, St Andrews Hospital, the Old Bus Station at Franklin St. Plans are afoot to establish a garden at the North Adelaide Community Centre in Tynte St North Adelaide. Council is preparing a report on the feasibility of planting orchards of fruit and nut trees in selected Park Lands locations  
For Garden details go to: <http://communitygarden.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Community-Gardening-in-SA-small.pdf>

## AN OPPORTUNITY SADLY MISSED

Every **September 22**, people from around the world get together in the streets, intersections, and neighbourhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society. But we do not want just one day of celebration and then a return to "normal" life. When people get out of their cars, they should stay out of their cars. It is up to us, it is up to our cities, and our governments to help create permanent change to benefit pedestrians, cyclists, and other people who do not drive cars.



**As the climate heats up, World Carfree Day is the perfect chance to take the heat off the planet, and put it on city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport, instead of to the automobile.**

**Sadly, the Council decided that it was all too hard to do in Adelaide** – at least for this year – but Council is carrying out a 'root and branch' review of how we should move about our city and the adjoining suburbs. We are considering trials of **40kph speed limits** in selected parts of the city and the gradual **pedestrianisation of the central CBD** area and Council has just adopted an updated interim **Bicycle Action Plan for 2011 – 2013** with over \$2m to be spent over 2011/2012 which will be one step towards tipping the scales more in favour of pedestrians and cyclists. For details of the Plan go to **Adelaide Cyclists** at <http://www.adelaidecyclists.com/forum/topics/adelaide-city-council-bicycle-action-plan>

## VICTORIA PARK SELL-OUT

South East residents and the many casual users of Victoria Park were excited by the plans announced last year and readily admit that some good work has been done. However, the 2 over-engineered bitumen roads just built across the park are a visual disaster and a far cry from what the artists impressions led us to expect. What's worse is that due to a cost overrun on building the playing fields there is no money left for the all-important landscaping that was promised! **Locals are distressed at what appears to be an ever increasing network of roads and gravel tracks all over the park which are being provided by the Council for no other purpose than to facilitate the staging of the Clipsal race which has now become a 6-month intolerably intrusive occupation of the once heralded People's Park.**

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

### DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 5 October

#### 3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 DPC was **granted** for alterations to existing row dwelling at **196 Gover St North Adelaide** (DA/243/2011)
- 3.2 DPC was **granted** for removal of a significant tree (Lemon-Scented Gum) at **14 Charlotte Place** (DA/428/2011)
- 3.3 DPC was **refused** to demolish existing and build 2-storey dwelling at **198 Archer St N.Adelaide** (DA/613/2011)

### DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL – Meeting held 17 October (next meeting 7 November (tentative))

#### 2. Non-Complying Applications

- 2.1 Agreed to **proceed with assessment** of various works and change of use at **41-43 45-47 Gilles St** (DA/743/2011)

#### 3. Applications for consideration on Merit

- 3.1 DPC was **refused** for construction of a roof deck above exg garage to **27 Tynte St North Adelaide** (DA/467/2011)
  - 3.2 DPC was **granted** for alterations and change of use from office to restaurant at **1/242 Hutt St** (DA/436/2011)
  - In my view this is another nail in the coffin of the diversity of Hutt St & its claim to being a Village serving the local community.*
  - 3.3 DPC was **granted** for the removal of a significant tree (Willow Myrtle) **Off 205 Archer St N.A.** (DA/427/2011)
  - 3.4 DPC was **refused** for a change of use to **adult services at 228 Grote St (next to a school)** (DA/596/2011)
- Congratulations to the DAP for blocking this attempt to establish a totally repugnant adult services (!) set up next to a school.*

#### 4. Schedule 10 Matter

- 4.1 The Panel **supported** a request to remove a significant tree (Norfolk Is Hibiscus) at the **Festival Centre** (DA/434/2011)

### COUNCIL MEETING - Meeting held 25 October (Next Ordinary Meeting 22 Nov –Committees 1& 8 Nov at 5.30)

**A Petition** was received from Nursing Staff of St Andrew's opposing parking changes in Beaumont Road (**Park Lands**)

**Public Forum** The Director of the **Come Out Festival 2011** presented a "Thank You Gift" to Council for its support.

**Questions on Notice** - Cllr Malani re how Council could support the State bid **2014 National Australian Surf Life Saving Championship** and - Cllr Llewellyn-Smith re facilitation of short-term parking in **Council UParks** over long-term.

**Motion on Notice** - Cllr Hamilton moved that a **Riverbank Working Party** be convened to advise on R'Bank proposals.

**Questions w/o Notice** were asked by - Cllr Moran on **Preachers** in the Mall and - Lease arrangements for **Mall traders**.

**Motion w/o Notice** was moved by Cllr Clearihan calling for a report on the feasibility of establishing a **Men's Shed**

**Items referred by Committees to Council (NB Not all items are reported)**

- 16 Recommendations of the City Design and Character Committee – 4 October (Chair: Cllr Llewellyn-Smith)

-1. Council adopted proposals for testing the Viability of a **Nightscape Lighting Incentive Scheme** with a pilot to be focused along North Tce (16 sites) and St Peter's Cathedral. The pilot will seek to leverage Government & private funds.

- 17. Recommendations of the City Development and Sustainability Committee – 4 October (A/Chair: Cllr Malani)

-1. Council endorsed the **Strategic Framework for Economic Development** and noted the outcome of public consultation related to the **Economically Prosperous City Strategy** and endorsed the Strategy for 2011-2016.

- 2. Council resolved to investigate (with the Dept P&C) the feasibility of a **Property Assessed Clean Energy Scheme**.

- 18. Recommendations of the Community Services, Events and Facilities Committee – 11 October (Chair: Cllr Clearihan)

-1. Council agreed to grant a 9-year lease of part of **Bonython Park** to the Minister for Police for a **Road Safety Centre**.

-2. Council adopted the amended **Library Vision Statement**. This statement will guide future directions of the service.

-3. Council will engage in a campaign next winter to promote best practice operation of **slow combustion heaters**

-4. **Outdoor Markets** Policy and Operating Guidelines **were adopted** and a number of possible locations identified including the Squares, Leigh St, Moonta St and North Tce. Council budget to assist start-up of markets this year is \$30k.

- 19. Recommendations of the Corporate Planning, Governance and Finance Committee – 11 October (Chair: Cllr Moran)

-1. The **Capital City Committee Annual Report** for 2010/2011 was formally received and updates on projects noted.

-2. It was resolved that the protection of heritage buildings should be made on of the major cornerstones of the **Rundle Mall Master Plan** and recognised as a key point of difference between **Colonel Light's Adelaide** and Regional Centres.

-3. Council approved-in-principle KPMG recommendation of an Independent Entity Operating Model for the **Central Market**

-4. The **Bicycle Action Plan** for 11-13 was endorsed. An emphasis is to be placed on early implementation of 'quick-wins'

- 20. Advice of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority – held 13 October was received and noted by the Council at item 18.1

#### Items for Council

- 21. Council endorsed its usual concerns about the declared area, declared period and prescribed works by the SA Motor Sport Board for the **Clipsal** event in the city and in particular the occupation of **Victoria Park**. Particular concerns relate to - management of the **remnant vegetation** areas and habitat of trapdoor **spiders** and chequered copper **butterflies** which are endangered species - impacts on **cycling** events - access restrictions which become more restrictive every year. **Other concerns** include location of the construction camp, timing of the fencing and the extension of the Declared Area

- 22. **Events approved** include Tour Down Under \*(15-22 January) Gluttony Festival \*(17 Feb-18 March) Fringe Club \*(24 Feb-18 Mar) Spirit Festival\* (24-26 February) Adelaide Writers Week (2-8 March) and Soundwave Festival (3 March).

*Events marked with an asterisk (+Clipsal) are all in Rymill Park over 4 weeks so we can expect the same level of damage as last year – it took many weeks to restore the turf and untold damage is done to the trees. When will we say no to some of these events, show more respect for the Park Lands and acknowledge that free public access and enjoyment should be our priority.*

- 23. The discussion on the **Adelaide Oval Lease** was deferred for further discussion at a **Special Meeting of Council**.

- 24-27 Audited **Annual Financial Statements** were noted for various organisations including the **Adelaide City Council**.

- 28. **Strategic Planning and Community Engagement** papers were endorsed for consultation beginning on **31 October**.

- 29. Council adopted a revised Employee Code of Conduct. The review has been done as required by the LG Act.

- 31. Council resolved to nominate Cllr Clearihan to the LGA for re-appointment to the **Adelaide Cemeteries Authority**.

- 32. Council resolved to nominate **Cllr Henningsen** to the LGA for appointment to the **SA Public Health Council**.

- 33. **Cllrs Clearihan and Malani** were appointed as council representatives to the **Public Art Round Table (PART)**

- 36. Council resolved to not make an offer to purchase the **Semaphore Carousel** (supporting reports remain confidential)

**Confidential Items** covered - North Adelaide Local Heritage Listings - Variation to titling arrangements for Sale of Council Land - Rundle Mall Management Authority Governance Review-award of contract.

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

