



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## **REPORT REINFORCES EXTENT OF POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA**

A report by welfare organisation the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) has found one in eight Australians is living in poverty. ACOSS says that equates to **more than 2.2 m people living below the poverty line in Australia.**

The report provides the most comprehensive picture of poverty in Australia since 2006. It shows people who are unemployed, children of whom there are close to 600,000 (especially in lone parent families), and people whose main source of income is social security payments, are the groups most at risk.

**ACOSS says despite 20 years of economic growth, poverty has increased in Australia - ACOSS chief Dr Cassandra Goldie says it is a national disgrace. "In a wealthy country like Australia, this is simply inexcusable."**

"This is the first time this figure has been counted in six years and it is deeply concerning to us that there is no reduction in the rate of poverty in Australia," she said. "Combating poverty largely falls on the shoulders of our charity providers."

The Adelaide City Council supports our welfare providers in various ways including financial grants and by recognising the invaluable contribution made by volunteers. **But the amount we give is miniscule compared to what we spend on other areas and in particular the million dollars plus that we give in sponsoring events such as the Fringe, The Festival of Arts, Tour Down Under and the 3-Day Event. Perhaps we should reconsider our priorities.**

## **COFFEE SHOP REVOLUTION CONTINUES TO STIMULATE THE HIGH STREET**

The Adelaide City Census of Land Use and Employment 2011 tells us that in 2011 the City's cafes and restaurants provided **58,151 seats of which 77% were indoor and 23% were outdoors.** This suggests that shift towards more outdoor dining areas when compared to the 2008 numbers (79/21)



**In fact Adelaide seems to be going through a coffee-led boost to its economy. Over a cappuccino we can meet people, watch the world go by, conduct our business, study and do whatever takes our fancy – thanks to great venues, good coffee and food at reasonable prices and of course WIFI! However, I ask myself, will we ever reach a saturation point?**

*Rupert Neate reports in the UK Guardian that the UK already has 15,000 coffee outlets and is about to get thousands more.*

*Coffee shops are continuing to thrive as consumers become more interested in the origins of their drink.*

*There are more than 5,000 branded coffee shops in town centres, retail parks, railway stations, airports and even drive-thrus along motorways across the UK, and last year they served up £2bn (AU\$3.1bn) of coffee – double the sales recorded in 2005. Add in the independently owned coffee shops – another 5,500 – and the near 5,000 that have rapidly sprung up in outlets from corner shops to pubs, and there are already well over 15,000 places to find a caffeine fix.*

**So perhaps Adelaide has a fair way to go yet! Council has done much to encourage outdoor dining by reducing fees, simplifying and speeding up approvals and redesigning some footpath areas to create great places to sit and have a coffee, to spend more time in the city. We have also encouraged creation of 'smoke-free' areas.**

## **CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

Council has now reached the mid-point of its 4-year term and this is the point where membership of external bodies and the allocation of internal positions are reviewed.

Council business is conducted through 4 Core Committees. Each has a Chair appointed by the full Council and a Deputy Chair selected by the Committee itself at its first meeting – which will be next Tuesday, 4 December. More experienced Councillors have stood down in favour of newer members who will broaden and develop their skills as Councillors.

**New Chairs are Cllrs Malani (Planning), Hender (Community Services), Henningsen (Works) and Abiad (Finance)**

Of all the external positions (see details overleaf) the one that created the most interest was The **Capital City Committee**. The Committee was established under the City of Adelaide Act of 1998 and comprises the Premier with 2 other Ministers and the Lord Mayor with 2 other Councillors. Again the 'Old-Guard' (Cllr Llewellyn-Smith and I) have stood aside in favour of new blood. The Committee is charged with building an inter-governmental partnership and in the past year good work has continued to be done. However, I must say that the outcomes of the review of City Planning has not been well-received by the Council and the City character is under serious threat which I find very disappointing.

## **SPLASH-TACULAR - PEDAL POWER IN THE CITY**

The newly-formed **South West City Residents Association** is sponsoring a 'Prodigious Panoply of People-Powered Paraphernalia and Ping Pong' in Whitmore Square on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 4 pm. Everybody welcome.

**This is one of the many Splash Adelaide activities supported by the Council to bring life and activity to the City.**

## **COUNCIL MEETING – Meeting 27 November (Next Ordinary Meeting 11 Dec at 6pm – All Cées – 4 Dec at 5.30)**

Agenda Items 1 to 8 are standard items including the usual formalities and, when requested, Public Forum, Deputation and Petitions.

- Cllr **Abiad** was granted continuing Leave of Absence until 16 December.
- Minutes of Council meetings held on 13 & 20 November 2012 were taken as read and confirmed as correct records.

### **■ 9. Report of City Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – 20 November** (Chair: Cllr David Plumridge)

- 9.1 Council noted the results of the **Torrens Lake** water quality improvement flow trial and endorsed that further trials should take place in the coming summer. The trials are to be conducted by the SAG and the Adelaide & Mt Lofty NRMBoard.
- 9.2 Council granted an easement to **SA Power Networks** for electricity supply purposes to the **new RAH site** on North Tce.
- 9.3 Council noted design details proposed to formalise arrangements for **car parking on War Memorial Drive**. Fence lines will be adjusted to clearly define parking areas and to construct new gravel shoulders to accommodate parallel parking. The majority of the parking will be designated as 4-hour parking with no charges to apply. **Councillors expressed the view that parking in the Park Lands should generally be for people using Park Land facilities.** Particular concern was expressed that the intent of this road being established as a War Memorial should be respected and not used for commercial parking operations, also that the Park Lands are not an appropriate place to provide cheap commuter parking. **The issue of parking in this location on Adelaide Oval event days is yet to be determined.**

*I am committed to the progressive removal of long-term parking in the Park Lands and I support this major step forward.*

- 9.4 A motion from Cllr **Henningsen** for a **trial of 40k speed limits** in the residential areas of the south-east corner of the city was amended by Cllr **Williamson** to include Hutt St.

Whilst this is in line with the recently adopted Smart Adelaide Movement Strategy, it will require Government approval.

### **■ 10. Report of Finance and Corporate Governance Committee – 20 November** (Chair: Cllr Anne Moran)

- 10.1 Council adopted the draft **Digital Strategy 2012-2016 “Connect Adelaide”** for public consultation purposes.
- 10.2 Council adopted the draft text for the **Adelaide City Council Annual Report 2011-2012**
- 10.3 Council adopted numerous changes to its **Business Plan and Budget** as part of the September Budget Reconsideration and referred a proposal to spend **\$199,000 on a communications strategy** to promote the Smart Adelaide Movement Strategy was referred back to the committee for further consideration.
- 10.4 Council noted the outcome of the **Review of Confidentiality Orders – July 2003 to December 2011**. This has resulted in the revocation of orders for 77 matters, part revocation for 8 and continuation of orders for 365 matters.

### **■ 12 Report from the Lord Mayor**

**The Lord Mayor** presented his report covering a number of his recent activities including the launch of the Smart Move Strategy, greeting delegations from Himeji and Chinese Mayors, the Pageant and the City Safety programme,

### **■ 13 Reports from Council Members**

Reports from myself and Councillors **Clearihan, Hender, Llewellyn-Smith, Malani, Wilkinson and Williamson** on their activities on behalf of Council were received and a number of **Council-won awards** were presented to the Lord Mayor

### **Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer's Reports)**

- 14 Council **deferred considering concurrence** to the Development Plan Consent granted by DAC for the **Adelaide High School**. Council had previously granted consent as Landlord (**the expansion is partly on Park Lands**) in April. *(Recent public comments by Minister Portelese that Council had been holding up this development were not correct.)*
- 15 Council endorsed its submission to the **Attorney General** on the **Draft Late Night Trading Code of Practice**.
- 16 Council appointed **Cllr Henningsen** to the position of Chair of the City Infrastructure and Public Works Committee. *This is a position that I have held and I decided to not seek re-election. I wish Cllr Henningsen success in this role.*
- 17 A number of appointments to **External Boards and Committees/Groups** were made as follows:
  - Adelaide Convention Bureau Board – **Cllr Malani** (Proxy: Cllr **Williamson**)
  - Adelaide High School Governing Council – Cllr **Williamson**
  - Board of Adelaide Horse Trials Management Inc. – Cllr **Williamson**
  - Capital City Committee - **Lord Mayor Yarwood** (ex off) **Cllrs Malani and Hender** (Deputy: Cr **Llewellyn-Smith**)
  - Education Adelaide Board – **Cllr Malani** as Proxy.
  - North Adelaide Community Centre – **Cllr Clearihan**.
  - Rundle Mall Management Authority – **The Lord Mayor and Cllr Abiad**.
  - SAMSB – 5 Nominees for 2 positions **Cllrs Malani, Williamson, Moran, Llewellyn-Smith and Hamilton**.
- 18 Council received and noted the **Capital City Committee – 2011-2012 Annual Report**. *“Our reputation across the world as a place to both attract business and skilled workers is affected by the reputation of our city centre....I see the Capital City Committee as having a pivotal role in revitalizing the city” Premier Weatherill Statement to the Parliament.*
- 19 I asked a **Question on Notice** dealing with the use of Torrens water and recycled water for irrigation purposes. *I will consider the extensive answers to my five questions and report on them in a later issue of my Notes.*
- 20 **Questions without Notice**. Cllr **Wilkinson** was advised that Council is not a corporate member of the **National Trust or the Civic Trust**. *Very disappointing, given that Council is a member of peak property and development bodies.*
- 21 **Motion on Notice** I moved a motion regarding **anti-social behaviour** in the **South Park Lands** and calling for an urgent meeting with relevant authorities & stakeholders to discuss what measures can be taken to alleviate this situation.

- **Confidential Items** were (24.1) **Update on Council's Visual Identity**, (24.2) **Central City Library**, (25) **CEO Performance Review Panel** and (26) – Motion on Notice – **Adelaide Oval Redevelopment Landscape Plan**.

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