



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## RELIEF FOR THE PARK LANDS AT LAST

A recent news item claimed that the **Adelaide Showground** is firming up as the preferred venue in Adelaide for large-scale music festivals, with both **Future Music Festival** and **Stereosonic** choosing to relocate to the Wayville Showground. Organisers of both events said the Adelaide Showground's quality infrastructure, mix of indoor and outdoor spaces, on-site event expertise and accessibility, with ample carparking and good public transport links, made the venue a logical choice. **The 2013 Stereosonic – the first held at the Adelaide Showground – was a resounding success, attracting 32,000 patrons, while the Future Music Festival, on March 10 which attracted over 20,000 music-lovers.**

Whilst I am sure these events are popular with cashed-up young people, they have placed a heavy load on the Park Lands and on the tolerance of the residents who live within earshot (that's anywhere from East Tce to Stirling). With their self contained eating and drinking services they brought very little benefit to the city and no small amount of aggravation.

## AN END TO THE AGE OF LOCAL ENTITLEMENT

At the meeting of 26 February Council reviewed its Standing Orders to meet the requirements of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012, Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 and the recently-mandated Mandatory Code of Conduct for Elected Members. *Being a Councillor these days can be quite scary!*

Council has removed the **Facilities Pass** for all current Councillors which for many years has given members free use of the Aquatic Centre, the Golf Course and parking in Council's UParks. **Current members will now only be entitled to free use of Council car parks when on official Council business;** all such uses to be recorded on their Benefits Registers.

These were comparatively minor 'perks' which should be seen in the light of the fact that members receive an annual taxable allowance of \$18,234 (Lord Mayor \$127,638) in recompense for a workload which involves some 20 hours per week and being at the beck and call of all and sundry on a 24/7 basis. We are also provided with phones, computers broadband access, some travel expenses and childcare. But compared to our counterparts in other states we are poorly remunerated and when it comes to comparisons with State backbenchers and their perks and benefits the situation becomes risible.

In recognition of their service, lifetime access to facilities will continue to be made available to past Lord Mayors and to Councillors who have served 8 years or 2 terms. Eligibility for these benefits will be reviewed by Council in Nov/Dec 2014.

## CAPITAL CITY LORD MAYORS LEAD THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) has released the *Unlocking Smart Growth in Australian Cities* report by Urbis Australia. CCCLM Chair, Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, said it makes sense for city planning to focus on locating people close to jobs and existing infrastructure.

**"Our capital cities are home to an increasing majority of Australians, more than two-thirds of us live in one of our capitals and numbers are growing, but stretching city borders to accommodate more people is not the best option – a Smart Growth approach to increase populations in established areas means people living in those communities have easy access to jobs, a range of housing and transport choices and public spaces"** Lord Mayor Doyle said.

"Building in established parts of a city is cheaper than building new developments on city fringes and therefore reduces the pressure on federal and state governments to provide the required infrastructure. By making smart investment choices in city infrastructure, we can meet the needs of communities and set in motion significant private sector investment, creating new jobs as traditional employment sectors dwindle," Lord Mayor Doyle said. . (Extract from ALGA News 8 March 2014)

## LOCAL DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT

Council rate-capping is a very blunt instrument and nothing more than a cheap appeal to the populist vote. More to the point, it strikes at the very fundamentals of Local Government.

To shackle Councils in the way proposed by the Liberals is an insult to elected members and to the integrity of the ratepayers who elected them (albeit by a small % - bring on compulsory voting) I don't hear any similar rigour being applied to state taxes and charges or any suggestion that State taxes and levies should be subject to capping by Canberra.

Over recent years LG has allowed itself to become more akin to an agency of the State, bringing with it all the costly bureaucracy and inefficiencies which we can see in the State Government!

**In the final analysis, the performance of local councils is a matter for their electors to pass judgment on through the democratic process of the ballot box.**

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"International Women's Day is especially important for local government, a sector which is under-represented by women, both as council members and within senior staffing positions,"

**"Nationally, 45 per cent of the local government workforce is women, however only 20 per cent of these women work in a professional position"** ALGA President Mayor Lewis of the City of Marion said.

"In my home state of South Australia, only 24 per cent of senior managers in councils are women and only four councils out of 68 have a female Chief Executive Officer" Mayor Lewis said. **In Adelaide City Council, 2 of the top 6 senior management team are women (Sandy Verschoor and Jane Booth) and 4 of the 12 elected members are women.**

### Council Meeting- 11 March (Next Ordinary Mtg March 25 (6pm) – Group 2 Cées – Tues 18 Mar (6.00pm)

NB: Group 2 Committees are the City Infrastructure and Public Works Committee and the Corporate Governance and Finance Committee

- 1. The meeting began with an [Acknowledgement of Country](#) in respect of the Kurna People of the Adelaide Plains.
- 2. [Apologies](#) All members were present.
- 3. [Confirmation of Minutes](#)  
The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on **26 February** were taken as read and confirmed as correct.
- 4 [Public Forum There](#) was no Public Forum at this meeting
- 5. [Report of the City Planning and Development Committee](#) – 4 March (Presented by Chair: Cllr Hamilton)
  - 5.1 Council endorsed the installation of contra-flow bike facilities in **Little Sturt St, a Wombat Crossing on Gilbert St** between Little Sturt Street and Wilcox Street and **widening of a section of footpath in Wilcox Street.**
  - 5.2 Council adopted amended **Building Inspection and Development Compliance Policy** and Operating Guidelines. These changes are a result of Councils now being required to inspect roof structures and new swimming pool installations
  - 5.3 Council agreed to the continuation of the joint Council/DPTI **Bank St Demonstration Project** until 31 December 2014.
  - 5.4 Council received and noted a report on the operation of the **Grenfell/Currie St Bus Lanes** and requested the CEO to convey to DPTI its concerns about the condition of the road and the impact of the bus lanes on traffic movement.
  - 5.5 Council noted the concerns of residents and decided to not proceed with **Ebenezer Place and Union St Parklets**  
*The committee also confirmed its February Minutes, received a presentation on the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk in Kintore Ave, received the Park Lands Visitation Research Study and a presentation on Urban Design Elements.*
- 6. [Report of the City Culture and Community Services Committee](#) – 4 March (Presented by Chair, Cllr Hender)
  - 6.1 Council, having considered all public submissions, resolved to make **By-Law 12 – Miscellaneous Variation By-Law.**
  - 6.2 Council endorsed the **'Good Evening, Adelaide'** Strategy which will now be presented to the Capital City Committee.  
*The committee also confirmed its February Minutes and received a presentation on the SA Tourism Adelaide Campaign.*
- 7. [Report of Adelaide Park Lands Authority](#) - Meeting held 27 February (Chair: Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood)
  - 7.1 Council adopted the Authority recommendation to note the preliminary findings of the **Park Lands Visitation Research Study** and that when finalized it should be made public and used in reviewing the **Park Lands Management Strategy.**

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

- 8 Council endorsed traffic and parking arrangements for the **Rolling Stones Concert** and the **AFL Season** at the Oval but declined a request for the use of **Pinky Flat** for car parking, due to safety and public amenity reasons.
- 9 Council appointed **Peter Scargill** GM Strategic Finance and Business Services to the position of **Public Officer of Council's Development Assessment Panel** for occasions when the current Public Officer, **Peter Smith** is unavailable.
- 10 Council determined to nominate **Cllr Clearihan** to attend the Australian Local Government Association **2014 National General Assembly of Local Government** to be held in Canberra in June.
- 11 Council nominated **Cllrs Abiad, Hender and Moran** to form a panel of names to be forwarded to the Governor for the appointment of one (1) Council Member to represent Adelaide City Council on the **Adelaide Festival Corporation Board**
- 12. **Question on Notice** There were no Questions on Notice
- 13. **Questions without Notice** were asked by **Cllr Henningsen** re fencing of playing fields in **Victoria Park** (to be removed on 1 April) and **Cllr Williamson** re flooding remedies for areas in and adjacent the **South Park Lands.**
- 14/15. **Motions on Notice** - **Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Malani** moved for a report on **Vacant Buildings within the City** and their feasibility for residential conversions and **Cllr Abiad** moved that the programming of events in Victoria Square focuses on attracting new event rather than relying on the relocation of established events from around the city.
- 16 **Other Business:** The **Lord Mayor** presented the responses from the political parties to policy issues raised by the Council. Neither the Labour Party nor the Liberal Party had responded. The **results will be published on the website.**
- 17/21 [Confidential Items](#) ■ 18.1 Contractual Matter 116-122 Waymouth St ■ 18.2 Commercial Property matter ■ 19.1 Tennis SA Lease ■ 20 Charitable Item ■ 21 Central Market Contractual Arrangements – Legal Advice.

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