



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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THE FUTURE OF PLANNING IN ADELAIDE – IS THERE A ROLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

South Australia's Expert Panel on Planning Reform, headed by prominent Adelaide Barrister Brian Hayes QC, has released its second report, **Our Ideas for Reform**, for feedback. The report outlines 27 ideas for reform. These have been developed in response to the panel's wide-ranging community engagement in 2013 'What we have Heard' and tested through research. The report and background material is available from the panel's website <http://www.thinkdesigndeliver.sa.gov.au/>

Council gave consideration to the impact of the proposed Reforms and their impact on the future planning of the city; in particular the future role for the city community and the responsibility of the City Council, the traditional and trusted custodian of good planning and development of the places where we live, work, study and play.

Council resolved (*in part*) to seek an urgent report from the CEO on all aspects of the Expert Panel Report particularly with regard to how the recommendations would impact on the city, its residents and ratepayers. It also determined to oppose the idea presented in Reforms 2 and 15 dealing with Regional Planning Boards and Regional Development Assessment Panels. Council will work with the LGA and seek an extension of time to allow full community and public consultation.

Both the Productivity Commission Report of 2011 and the COAG Reform Report have stressed the need for an overhaul of planning systems in Australia and already 3 states have embarked on major changes.

I think we would all agree that the system we have now - **a patchwork of band aid treatments based on a 20 year-old planning regime** - is not producing the outcomes we want for the city both in terms of our community and Council input into planning policy and the development assessment processes. Recent DPA's affecting the city have been more the result of dictates of the Minister rather than the clearly expressed wishes of the city community. At the same time the Government, at the behest of the development lobby has diluted the role of your Councillors and rights of appeal have been decimated.

In my opinion some interesting – and challenging - ideas have been put forward by the Expert Panel - and they are presented as ideas for reform at this stage. Surely what we need to do as a Council is analyse them carefully and in particular those that impact on the city and look for the chances to improve the system, based on the work of the Panel.

(For example, a reduced role for the minister to intervene, a POTENTIALLY better platform for Councils to influence the policy planning processes through the Regional Boards which will include Elected Members and the notion of a Charter of Citizens Participation. It is also worth noting that if there are only 3 Regional Boards for metro Adelaide, they could become quite powerful bodies in the 'political' sense)

The critical thing to do at this start of a 6-week consultation period is to take the higher ground, assess and analyse the ideas put forward in the report and express our concerns where it adversely impacts on planning for the city and the role of Local Government in that process. Most important is for us to have a place at the table, to be seen to be a mature, reasoned participant and to direct our efforts to building a coalition with the wider community of Local Government in SA.

Undoubtedly one of the main areas of concern is the complete removal of Elected Members from the Development Assessment Process. This would be the final 'nail in the coffin' of local people being able to have a say on how their communities will develop. In a few short years we have gone from Council-Only Planning Committees, to Development Assessment Panels with more independent 'experts' than elected members and now to Regional Assessment Panels (Reform 2, Page 36) which will be remote from local communities and made up entirely of 'professional planners.' This robs the process of that key element of local knowledge - and political accountability

The quote below from no less an authority than the Productivity Commission really makes the point about the importance of elected members' input into the development assessment process.

"As noted, circumstances change and it is often only during the assessment of development or rezoning applications that some final decisions about land uses can appropriately be made. Of course, doing so confers a great deal of discretion on decision makers and it is therefore important that such decisions deliver an overall net benefit to the community. This is most likely to happen through good processes that allow for business and community engagement, transparency, probity and accountability.

Ultimately, though, given the nature of 'trade-offs' in many of these planning decisions and the value-judgements that must be made — such decision-making is not, in the end, technical or administrative, but essentially 'political' in nature."

Involvement of Elected Members in the assessment process also shows up the shortcomings in the Development Plan and enables that coal-face experience to better inform the Councillors (and their staff) of the emerging needs to review and change the Development Plan to make it more responsive to the aspirations of the community it is designed to serve.

The future of Local Government is at stake – it is our responsibility to ensure that Planning stays firmly in its remit.

Council Meeting-12 August (Next Ordinary Mtg Tues. 26 August (6pm) – Group 2 C’ees – Tues 19 August (5.30pm)

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 and Leave of Absence** Dep. Lord Mayor Malani and Cllr Henningsen were on leave from this meeting.
- 3. **Confirmation of Minutes** The Minutes of Council held on **22 July 2014** were taken as read and confirmed.
- 4. **Public Forum/Deputations** There were no presentations to this meeting.

- 5. **Report of the City Planning and Development Committee – 5 August (Presented by Chair: Cllr Hamilton)**
 - 5.1 Council endorsed the continuation of Agreement with the Minister for Transport for the management of the **Bank Street Demonstration Project** until 31 December 2015. The Minister will continue to clean, maintain and repair the Project.
 - 5.2 After consultation Council resolved to endorse **Option 3A ‘Oxford Hotel’** as the preferred bus stop in **Tynte St West**.
 - 5.3 Council will make a submission to the Government detailing its opposition to aspects of the **Urban Renewal Draft Regulations** especially its powers to supplant the role of Local Government in many key aspects of local government.
 - 5.4 Council approved **HIS funding** for Conservation Works at **248 Grote St (\$72.5k)** and at **281-285 Wakefield St (\$69k)**
 - 5.5 Council endorsed the **2014-2015 Heritage Promotions Works Programme** and budget of \$90k. This includes Council being a corporate member of the **National Trust of SA** and partnering with the Trust on a number of key activities.
 - 5.6 Council endorsed a change to the **Outdoor Dining Policy** to allow only non-fixed furniture for new applications as an interim arrangement and notes that this change will not be applied retrospectively until determined by Council.
 - 5.7 Council endorsed the draft **Green Infrastructure Guidelines** *et al* for inclusion in the **Urban Design Framework**.
 - 5.8 Council endorsed the **Street Design Principles** *et al* for incorporation into the **Urban Design Framework**
 - 5.9 Council will write to the **Minister for Planning** encouraging the practice of pre-application consultation for all developments over \$10m. Council will support ratepayers in making representations but may not always intervene itself.
 - 5.10 Approval was given for signs incorporating **ACC Coat of Arms** at **Warnpangga (Park 10)** and **Karrawirra (Park 12)**
 - 5.11 Council will convene an urgent community meeting in the **East End** and invite the **CEO of Renewal SA**, Mr. John Hanlon to discuss plans, timelines and the economic impact of redevelopment of the current **Royal Adelaide Hospital site**.
 - *The committee confirmed its July Minutes, received the Monthly Update, discussed and deferred an application for an encroachment of air conditioning units in Twin St and received the Quarterly Update on Climate Change Action Initiatives...*

- 6. **Report of the City Culture and Community Services Committee – 5 August (Presented by Chair, Cllr Hender)**
 - 6.1 Council endorsed a response to State legislation on **Smoke-Free Events**. Council’s **New Year’s Eve event** will be smoke-free but generally the legislation makes it very difficult to have S/F events other than through leasing arrangements.
 - 6.2 Council endorsed the **Children’s Play Action Plan** for the purpose of public consultation which will commence shortly.
 - 6.3 Council granted temp leases for **Australian International 3-Day Event** (Eastern Park Lands); **Royal Raj Racquet Club** (Event Space Pk 26); **Tour Down Under** (Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga); **Adelaide Fringe** (Rymill Pk); **Gluttony** (Rymill Pk); **The Garden of Unearthly Delights** (Rymill Pk); **Adelaide Festival** (Elder Pk) and **Cirque du Soleil** (Pk 24)
 - 6.4 Council will spend **\$65,000 to ‘dress-up’ the city** with flags and banners for the **2015 Cricket World Cup Series**.
(I was joined by 3 other Councillors in opposing this expenditure which I consider to be a gross waste of ratepayer funds).
 - 6.5 Council will investigate the provision of two extra **flagpoles at the Town Hall** to facilitate the flying of non-ACC flags.
 - 6.6. Council endorsed the **Live Music Action Plan 2014-2016**. The 3 Key Areas of focus of the plan are to Showcase SA Talent, Activate Spaces and Places in the City and to support the Live Music Industry development.
 - *The committee also confirmed its July Minutes, received the Access and Inclusion Strategy Update, agreed to seek funding for the Lord Mayor’s Gala Concert Series, noted Out of Session Papers and received the Monthly Update.*

- 7. **Report of Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting held on 24 July 2014** – (Presiding Member the Lord Mayor)
 - 7.1 Council noted advice of the Authority re proposed signage for **Warnpangga** (Pk 10) and **Karrawirra** (Pk 12)
- 8. **Report of The Adelaide City Council Audit Committee - Meeting held on 25 July** – (Deputy Chair Mr. Ross Haslam)
 - 8.1 Council noted the Audit Committee decision to appoint Mr. Ross Haslam as Chairman for the rest of the Council term.

Reports for Council (Chief Executive Officer’s Reports)

- 9. Council endorsed **Deputy Lord Mayor Malani** to represent the Council at the **South Australian Promotional Dinner** being hosted by Premier Weatherill in **Mumbai** on 18 August as part of SA’s long term support for engaging with India.
- 10. **Cllr Llewellyn-Smith AM** was appointed to be the voting delegate at the AGM’s of the Local Government Association and the LG Finance Authority with **Cllr Clearihan** as the proxy delegate.
- 11. There were no **‘Out of Session’** Papers to receive and note at this meeting.
- 12 **Question on Notice: DLM Cllr Malani** asked about Council’s response to the **SA Government’s Board Reforms**.
- 13 **Question w/o Notice: Cllr Abiad** re previous Motion on Shared Zones in the East End; **Cllr Clearihan** re Oval Events
- 14. **Motion on Notice: Cllr Hamilton** withdrew his motion re the **Report of the Expert Panel on Planning Reform**

Other Business

- 15. The **Lord Mayor** reported on his participation in the **World Mayors’ Forum** and the **World Cities Summit** at Singapore in June. This gave an opportunity to promote Adelaide as one of the emerging Great Small Cities of the World.
- 16. **Cllr Hamilton** moved a motion dealing with Council’s initial response to the **Expert Panel on Planning Reform Report**. It was a lengthy 5 part motion which I have attempted to summarise on the front page of these Notes.
Cllr Abiad moved for a Report to be prepared by staff on activation and outdoor dining opportunities for **Peel Street**.
- 17/18. **Confidential Items** • 18.1 Smart and Connected City Initiatives • 18.2 Belfour’s Update • 18.3 Ergo Stage 3 Update • 18.4 Property Matter – 116-122 Waymouth St

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