



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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AUSTRALIANS 'BORED' WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Australians are getting bored with climate change, and many still doubt whether it is actually happening, a new survey has revealed.

Only 46 per cent of Australians said they would take action on climate change if they were in charge of making decisions for Australia, a dip from 55 per cent last year, according to the Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute's third annual climate change survey.

And almost one in 10 Australians (nine per cent) strongly agreed with the statement "I have serious doubts about whether climate change is occurring". A further 23 per cent agreed to some extent.

Ipsos-Eureka director of Sustainable Communities and Environment Unit Jasmine Hoyer believes Australians are becoming more concerned with other environmental issues that they can have more direct control over.

"We believe the public is currently overwhelmed by other, more pressing environmental issues - namely water and river health - and sees climate change as something that is largely out of their control," she said.

"However, there is a desire among many Australians to know how they can personally make a difference regarding climate change."

Aside from river and water health, other environmental issues of most concern to Australians included illegal waste dumping, renewable energy, litter, smoky vehicles and packaging.

"What really strikes me is that we still have so few Australians taking specific actions like substantially reducing their household energy use, driving and flying less, switching to green power, or even buying carbon offsets, especially given all of the media coverage on this critical issue," she said. *(This information is extracted from a recent ALGA Newsletter)*

Council has made a considerable commitment of ratepayer funds to developing strategies to combat climate change. Fashions may change and public opinion may waiver but a reading of the science can leave no thinking person in any doubt as to the potential threats of climate change.

Council can have the most impact in reducing energy use and carbon emissions arising from two main areas namely, building activities and our modes of transport. Council is moving to amend its Development Controls to require better design of buildings, more efficient use of materials and energy and greater use of solar power, green roofs and smart management of all building servicing systems. It is also worth noting that retention and refurbishment of our older building stock is very much more efficient in terms of embodied energy than building from new.

And of course we householders can make simple savings in the use of water and energy right here in our homes. Council is working on a whole package of incentives to support these small but significant savings and which will be rolled out in the coming months.

In terms of transport which accounts for over 40% of our energy consumption, Council is reviewing its integrated transport policies to align with those of the State and to encourage the use of public transport, bicycles and a pedestrian-friendly city. Continuing changes to car-parking policies are a direct result of our determination to discourage the use of the motor car for journeys to and within the city when clearly public transport is a better option. Changes to Early-Bird parking, long-term commuter parking access and charges in our car parks and the indiscriminate use of the Park Lands and their access roads for long-term cheap parking have got to be curtailed if we are to realistically cost the use of the motor car versus the benefits of an improved public transport system.

Far from being bored, Council is excited by the challenge of climate change and is working to deliver a sustainable city for the benefit of all who come to Adelaide to live, work, study and enjoy themselves on a daily basis.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

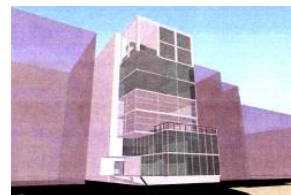
We have all heard about Peak Oil and Peak Gas and I guess we all know that the rapid depletion of these finite resources will force many changes on to big consumers of these sources of energy. I went to an AIUS seminar recently which was addressed by 3 young planners from Generation X and Y. One speaker, Elise Harris, spoke about how in her view there were 2 other resources perhaps more critical than Oil and Gas, namely Water and Food. Planners need to design urban settlements around water sustainability and protecting the means of producing our food locally. Preservation of good arable land and the support of the movement to growing our own food need to be planned for. We need to resist buying food that has travelled many kilometres and to support organic production and above all we need to change our eating habits. She asserted that dropping meat from our diets may be a better way of reducing our CO2 emissions than not driving our car. **Food for thought.....**

Some recent meeting decisions.....

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL *Meeting held 7 October (next meeting 21 October at 5.30)*

The Panel is now feeling the effect of its reduced role with projects over \$10m now being determined by the Development Assessment Commission.

- The Panel considered a non-complying proposal to build 2 3-storey townhouses at 15/17 Watson Street, North Adelaide. The application was refused on the basis that the building exceeded plot ratio, maximum building height and presented bulk and scale that was incompatible with adjoining development in Curtis Street.
- A further application to demolish the house at 47 Molesworth Street was considered and it was determined not to proceed with this non-complying development.
- The proposal to develop a property at 121-123 South Terrace was again deferred to seek further improvements to the design of the building and its mix of office to residential floor space.



121-123 South Tce

RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE *meeting held Wednesday 8 October.*

The last meeting of the committee took the form of a tour of significant aboriginal attractions within the city area. Unfortunately I was sick and not able to attend. Key sites visited included:

- Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga which included the Alice Dixon Tree, the flag and the 3 rivers fountain.
- A visit to Tandanya followed including a Yidaki (Didgeridoo) performance
- Various North Terrace features including the Festival Centre and Hyatt forecourts.
- The afternoon concluded with various aboriginal culinary delights thanks to Daphne Rickett.

COUNCIL MEETING *held on 13 October (next meeting 27 October at 5.30pm)*

The public forum included presentations from the organisers of the 3-day horse trials, and a disability access proponent who showed many ways in which the city could be made more accessible for people in wheelchairs.

- Council agreed to a request by Cllr Wong to review **City Safety Strategies** in general and Gouger St area in particular following recent cases of violence in that part of the city.
- Council adopted the **audited Financial Statements** for the year ended 30 June 2008. Council's nett assets increased from \$1.023m to \$1.034m primarily due a net surplus for the year of \$12.203m.
- Council also adopted the audited Financial Statements of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority for the year ended 30/06/08. The statements showed a nett surplus from operations of \$1k, due to a donation to the Fund.
- Council agreed to support a request to the Australian Government to develop a consistent approach to alcohol management. This reflects Local Government's increasing concern at levels of binge drinking, bad social behaviour and other threats caused by liquor licensing laws which are too relaxed and which are not effectively enforced by licensing authorities and the various state police forces.
- Council reappointed Cllrs Moran, Clarke, Henningsen and myself to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. The Lord Mayor continues as Presiding Member. Government members are now to be appointed by the Minister.
- Cllr Sandy Wilkinson was nominated for consideration to fill the place vacated by former Cllr Judith Bryne to represent Local Government on the South Australian Heritage Council.
- Council approved a lease of Elder Park to Groove in the Park for an all-day music festival on Sunday 19 April 2009. It is to be hoped that our new sound control measures will prevent excessive noise in North Adelaide.
- Whitmore Square will be used for the Cycling SA racing series on Sunday 26 October 2008.
- Council approved the use of Rundle Park for a Latin/Brazilian Festival on Saturday 24 January 2009.
- Confidential items included a contract for Cleaning and Waste Management Services at the Central Market. and a legal matter regarding the Gawler Place Car park validation booth underlease.

The City Strategy Committee agenda included:

- Adoption of the Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for **Tarndanya Womma (Park 26)** which includes **Elder Park and Adelaide Oval**. This CLMP includes many challenging and controversial uses of the Park Lands and will be open for public consultation after prior consultation with the Minister as required.
- The regeneration of **Victoria Square** took a major step forward when the committee adopted a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for Victoria Square together with a Registration of Interest brief as the basis to call for suitable national consultants to produce concept designs for this major urban space.
- In another **boost for the Park Lands** Council agreed in principle to take over control of the former SA Water depot in the western Park Lands after decontamination of the site and a grant of \$800k for development. This is the fulfilment of a promise made by the Rann Government and will include an urban forest development.
- It was agreed to remove 2 significant –but dead- Dutch Elm trees in Park 20 (Kurranga)

The City Services and facilities Committee included:

- The introduction of opening of the **Central Market** on Wednesdays and provision of 2 hours free parking subject to spending \$10 while at the market. Opening is not compulsory but it is hoped that the majority of traders will adopt the extended hours. The operation will be reviewed after a reasonable period of time.
- Council has agreed to lease a small additional area to **Tennis SA** in Park 1 to provide an opportunity to provide shelter for players and spectators. Tennis SA has agreed to open up the courts to view and to encourage free public access of the courts when they are not being used for formal activities.

I apologise for the lateness and some lack of completeness of these notes; I came back from a weekend in Melbourne and was struck down with a viral infection last week which completely knocked me out for a few days.

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