



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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### SHOWCASING THE CITY

As I sit down to write these notes schools are going back and for me that always signals the end of the long holiday period. The City has been host to numerous events and visitors over the Christmas period including the World Tennis Challenge and to top it all off we have just had the highly successful Tour Down Under and the Australia Day celebrations.

Wide streets, shady trees and a flexible transport system make the city an ideal location for events of this type. It was reported that over 144,000 spectators enjoyed the final stage of the Tour Down Under. Interestingly this is double the number of the daily attendance at the Clipsal and without major disruption of the city and only a fraction of the noise and pollution! Soon we will be preparing for the Fringe and our annual celebration of the performing arts.

**Adelaide, as the Capital City Council, commits large amounts of money and resources to maintain the venues for these important events and provides carefully targeted sponsorship money - your money - to attract and support those activities that can bring benefit to the city, its businesses, residents and visitors.**

### ATTACK ON SIGNIFICANT TREE IN THE EAST PARK LANDS

Recently the SA Motor Sports Board advised Council that it would have to severely prune a significant River Red Gum in the Park Lands in order to build one of its large new shade structure at the Senna Chicane. It was an urgent request but I suspect that they knew from long ago that this tree would have to be decimated. Leaving it to the last minute may have been a clever ploy to push Council into a corner. **I am opposed to the removal of any trees, let alone significant ones that just 'happen to be in the way' – ironically, we were being asked to agree to the cutting down of a shady tree to build a shade structure!** In fact Council did not agree to the request.

The Motor Sports Board has had all of last year to design these structures; it beggars belief that competent engineers would not have been able to foresee this problem and design their way out of it. It is also ironical that the arborists' report, which implies that the pruning would be beneficial, says that this is due to the prolonged impact of Clipsal structures and previous years' 'winching etc' which have so stressed this tree as to make it almost not worth worrying about.

This begs the question as to how many other trees are being endangered in a similar way both for temporary structures and for the parking of cars which compacts root zones and seriously stresses trees which are already suffering for lack of water. Perhaps SAMSB should engage an arborist to do a condition audit of all the trees within the Clipsal declared zone and to recommend management measures which will preserve these trees and prevent long-term damage to these priceless assets.

### AND ANOTHER ASSAULT ON THE PARK LANDS REPULSED.....

For some long time Business SA has been trying to get permission to erect a series of banners along Sir Donald Bradman Drive through the western Park Lands. Eventually the Council administration apparently relented, issued a licence and the banners went up. Unfortunately, the issuing of the licence was in effect '*ultra vires*' because Council Policy restricts such advertising in the Park Lands and in any event such an activity is classed as development and would require a DA to be lodged which Business SA had not done. Consequently, Council revoked the licence and removed the banners. Certainly there can be no doubt that the course of events was unfortunate and as a councillor I would wish to apologise to Business SA and do what is possible to make amends. At the same time Business SA needs to accept that a mistake was made, to understand that the banners would have needed Development approval and to understand that Council has to apply its policies fairly to all parties.

**Council has a long and proven record of giving policy and practical support to the business community and frequent critical responses to Council's activities and initiatives do not add value to that important partnership.**

### WHAT IS A TRANSITION TOWN?

Transition Town initiatives are bringing people together out of a desire to explore how we - and our communities - can respond to the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. Essentially it is about working out how we can plan for a future with diminishing oil and gas supplies, become more resilient and 'learn to live within our energy means' click [here](#) for more details. The **Adelaide Peak Oil Transition Group** has been set up and a small but enthusiastic group meets regularly at the South West Community Centre. For more details about the group and to learn how we can help, contact Mij Tanith on 0405 086 533. (Mij is Adelaide City Council's first Volunteer Community Environmental Leader and doing a great job in this new role)

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S \$250 MILLION PACKAGE

30 January is the last day for councils to submit project details to be funded from the Federal Government's fund for small-scale local community infrastructure projects - the initial round of the Rudd Government's \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, announced at the Australian Council of Local Government attended by the Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, in November. Adelaide City Council has requested \$101k towards the cost of the South Tce pedestrian crossing (close to Sturt St School) and \$50k towards replacing the fire-destroyed Women's Soccer clubrooms in Park 18 off Hutt Road.

Kenyan proverb – 'Treat the Earth well for it is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children'

Some recent meeting decisions.....  
**DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL**

**Meeting held on 15 December (selected decisions only)**

- An application to use vacant land at **42-56 Franklin St** as an open-lot car park was **withdrawn**.
- The Panel **deferred** an application to construct a 2 storey house at **201-205 Childers St** pending a review of plot ratios and plans to build a 4 storey residential flat building at **1-9 Evans Place** were **deferred** for further reconsideration of various design issues raised by representors.
- Approval** was given for development at **64 Hindley St** of a 238 room hotel with guest facilities. ►
- An application to develop **199 North Terrace** as an 18 level student accommodation building was **deferred** to review façade design details and the relationship with the adjoining heritage place.



**Meeting held 19 January 2009 (next meeting 2 February 2009 at 5.30pm)**

- The Panel decided not to proceed with a non-complying application for redevelopment of **TPI House** at 318 South Tce but advised that it may be willing to assess proposals which better address design issues and the relationship with the exg building.
- The Panel decided to proceed with assessment of non-complying development to build a 3 storey dwelling at **7 Watson St NA**
- It was decided to not proceed with assessment of a non-complying development at **47 Molesworth St North Adelaide** which involved the demolition of a heritage-listed building and replacement with 2 2-storey dwellings.
- The Panel refused an application to build a 2 storey house at **37-39 Old St, N Adelaide** at the rear of a Melbourne St building.
- Approval was given to demolish exg buildings and construct 2 semi-detached 3 storey dwellings at **10-12 Owen St Adelaide**.
- The Panel agreed to a request to remove 2 significant trees at **41-43 Ward St N. Adelaide** (A River Red Gum and a Fig)
- Plans to convert an office to consulting rooms for massage at **Ruthven Avenue Adelaide** were refused due to noise impacts.
- A proposal to remove a significant tree and build a house at **83 Childers St N.A.** was refused on environmental grounds.
- The Rob Roy** hotel in Halifax St was given approval to erect 4 fixed umbrellas on the footpath at the front of the hotel.
- The Panel resolved to call for a report on the implications of the DAC Schedule 10 conditional approval of development of a 13 storey office and retail development at 71-83 Franklin St. The report is to show where the Council's Development Plan failed to support the outcome that had been recommended by the Council's Development Assessment Panel. (Project over \$10m)

**COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES Meeting held 27 January 2009. (next meeting 9 February 2009 at 5.30pm)**

- Motions on Notice** were moved by Cllr Moran asking for information on future plans and the condition of the **Aquatic Centre**, and another motion aimed at relieving the **Australian International 3 Day event** of their debt to Council 9438,955.67) This was lost in favour of an amendment moved by myself which did not forgive the debts but which provided for Council to contribute \$20000 towards their costs of the replacement track through Rymill lake after its upgrading last year.
- DLM Cllr Yarwood successfully moved for a report on the implications of Adelaide becoming the first **Fair Trade Council** in SA. He also moved for Council to write to the Govt requesting a reversal of the decision to close the Currie St **Centrelink office**.
- Council endorsed the **Strategic Plan 2008-2012 "Creating our Future"** and noted the background paper.
- Council considered the **contents** of 2 draft Bills covering changes to the operations of Local Government. These cover mainly minor and/or routine issues and the LGA is compiling a response to go to the State Government.
- Of more concern in my opinion is the Government's **Local Government Accountability Proposals Paper** which is in the consultation phase but which clearly aims to further interfere with the autonomy of the Local sphere of government. Councils are already very transparent and accountable to their electorates and there are already effective controls on erring councils. **What is being proposed now indicates stronger 'supervisory' role by the State which is aimed at making Councils little more than compliant agencies of the state.** This may appeal to some but when Local Government is fully emasculated, we will see the rapid demise of Local democracy and the undermining of a fundamental part of Australia's system of governance.
- Council supported the Ministerial appointment of Ms Mary Marsland and Ms Jane Chapman to the **Park Lands Authority**.
- Council accepted a proposal from the **SA Motor Sports Board** for our **\$50k sponsorship** of the 2009 Clipsal event based on the provision of free public transport for racegoers on the Saturday and Sunday as an environmentally responsible program.
- It was decided that previous support of \$10k for **Carnevale 2009** could not be maintained since their decision to relocate to Wayville Showgrounds. Their decision to relocate highlighted the unsuitability of Rymill Park for such events including the assertion that the **Clipsal 500** set-up makes access and parking in the precinct unworkable.; a view which I am sure would be shared by other potential users of the East Park Lands over a period of an increasing number of months of the year.
- Council agreed to the use of Whitmore Square for the **Cycling South Australia series** on Sunday 8 March 2009 and for the **SA Police and Emergency Services Games** on Sunday 10 May 2009
- A trial closure of Hindley Street** (Morphett to Rosina Streets) will run for 4 weeks starting in February. This will create a night-time mall and is in response to a request from SAPOL to increase pedestrian footpath space and to reduce causes of tension.
- As reported on the front page, Council has made a funding application to the Federal Government for \$151k being our *pro rata* allocation. The funds will be applied to the installation of pedestrian-actuated traffic signals on South Tce, just west of Willcox St. (\$101k) and to assist the Adelaide City Women's Social and Soccer Club to build their new clubrooms in Park 18 (\$50k).

**City Strategy Committee**

- Council adopted the **Section 30 Development Plan Review Report** for submission to the Minister. Arising from council deliberations and community consultation, the report recommends five priority areas that will require DP Amendment reports:

- Sustainability DPA
- South Adelaide Character/Heritage DPA
- Population Capacity/Housing Diversity DPA
- Better Development Plan DPA
- Park Lands DPA

Whilst the Park Lands is the lowest priority, I hope that changes to the DP required as a result of the new Park Lands Strategy will be able to be dealt with before the end of the term of this Council. I think we all regard Sustainability as the top priority.

- The committee noted the **Capital Works Reports** for Nov and Dec 2008. The Capital Works budget totals \$69.646m of which some \$20m has been spent or committed by the end of 2008. A major success was completion of the North Tce Stage 2 Details at [http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/adccwr/publications/reports\\_plans/monthly\\_capital\\_works\\_summary\\_highlights.pdf](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/adccwr/publications/reports_plans/monthly_capital_works_summary_highlights.pdf)

- The ACC Reconciliation Committee** Report Oct-Dec 2008 was noted and support was given to allocate \$9k for restoration of the Piltawodii Memorial adjacent to the Torrens Weir car park, including repairs to the beautiful and popular bronze possum.

- A proposal to upgrade landscape in **Light Sq.** was deferred pending further consideration of other planting and design options.