



# NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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## VISIT TO MELBOURNE

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne a small group of Councillors and senior staff led by the Lord Mayor visited our sister capital city to exchange ideas and experiences in the running of our cities. It was the first time such a visit has been made and we all found it very interesting and informative. Melbourne has rejuvenated itself over the last 30 years or so with developments such as South Bank and Docklands to its credit. The city population is close to 90,000 and daily visitation is 716,000 with over a million international visitors each year.



The Council consists of 7 area councillors plus Lord Mayor and Deputy, both of whom run on a joint ticket. The Council has compulsory voting and Proportional Representation is used which resulted in the current Council consisting of 2 Liberals, 2 Labour, 2 Independents and 1 Green, led by former State Opposition Leader, Robert Doyle as Lord Mayor. They have a 'cabinet' system of governance to implement policies that have been agreed by all the parties.



Strong emphasis has been placed on investing in a high quality public realm based on a pedestrian-friendly city. 80% of their public space is in the form of streets hence their programs to close some CBD streets, to widen footpaths, to build links to the River, to create spaces such as Federation Square, to activate their laneways and to conserve their heritage buildings and precincts based on the original Hoddle Grid.

Their Development Assessment system works in much the same way as ours with buildings larger than 25,000m<sup>2</sup> being dealt with by the State. It is worth noting that they had their 'heritage' debate some years ago and now many of their heritage buildings have been listed and have since been incorporated into major new developments with proper set-backs and podium treatments with great value accruing to the owners as well as to the city.

The importance of international students (currently 27000 living in the city) and the need to provide support services is recognised and running a '24-hour' city with mixed use zonings is presenting social challenges as is the case in Adelaide. In fact Melbourne is coming to the view that perhaps '18-hours' a day might be enough!

They have adopted a strong Eco City concept with targets of zero emissions and zero waste by 2020. They have a 1200 Buildings project which aims to retrofit 2 thirds of the city building stock to 4½ stars over a 10 year period.

A great deal of information transfer was crammed into the available time, networks were established for future exchanges and it was good that over half the Council shared the experience of the issues confronting another city.

## 6,764,669,623 AND COUNTING.....

This is the estimated world population at the time of these Notes being emailed - a staggering figure that is rising at the rate of **1 million every 5 days** – the equivalent of **3½ Australias every year**. What is more alarming is that 3rd World countries are growing at 190,000 per day compared to 6,650 for Developed countries. (2006 figures). (To see the world population clock go to <http://math.berkeley.edu/~galen/popclk.html> -US Census Bureau figures)

**Why the interest in population figures?** Well the **30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide** is based on a target of increasing SA population from **1.2m to 2m by 2050** (although current projections show that we will be there by 2023) Many people are asking what is the justification for such a high growth rate and how does it fit in with our Climate Change targets to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60% by 2050? Remember that this will be on top of a population increase of 40% by the same date. Much of the population increase will come from immigration and refugee programs, many of whom will come from some of the lowest per capita emitting countries (e.g. India 2t, China 4t and Britain 11t) into an Australian life-style which ashamedly is the world's worst at **26t per capita!**  
**The biggest single threat to climate change actions and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is increasing population.**

## AND ONE FOR THE ROAD....

**Car sales in China rose 48%** last month on the back of government stimulus packages and cuts to retail taxes. Chinese motorists bought **872,900** passenger vehicles and are on track to overshadow the USA as the largest vehicle market this year. Just think of the increased emissions from that source alone! (W/E Australian 11-12 /07/09)

## DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

### Meeting held 3 August 2009 (next meeting Monday 17 August 2009 at 5.30pm)

#### ■ Non-Complying Applications

■ The Panel agreed to **Proceed with Assessment** of an application to construct front extension to existing consulting rooms at **157 Jeffcott Street, N. Adelaide**. (DA/449/2009).

#### ■ Applications for consideration on Merit

■ Consent was **NOT GRANTED** to remove a significant tree (Peppercorn) at **U19/70 Finniss St N. Adelaide** (DA/551/2008)

■ Consent was given to vary a previous authorisation by reducing the length of a privacy screen by 1.5m to a second storey addition at **298 South Tce** (DA/123/2007/A)

■ The Panel granted Development Plan **CONSENT** to demolish existing building and construct 18 level student accommodation building at **199-200 North Tce** (DA/114/2008) ►

■ Development Plan **CONSENT** was granted to demolish existing building and construct 11 storey building comprising 32 apartments and associated facilities at **10-14 Andrew St, Adelaide** (DA/501/2008)

■ There were no new Schedule 10 matters for consideration and outcomes of previous Schedule 10 applications covering **74-80 Light Square, 241-243 Rundle St/2-10 Union St and 279 Grote St** were noted.

It was then resolved that *"The Administration prepare a report for DAP on what aspects of the Development Plan would need to be changed to achieve the integrity and intended outcomes of the Development Plan as adopted by Council in respect to DAP determinations which are overturned by DAC"* Moved by Cllr Plumridge, seconded by Cllr Moran, Carried.



A **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** was held on 28 July to consider in confidence leasing arrangements with the Gandel Group.

**BRIEFINGS** were held on 28 July dealing with ■ Waste Care SA Charter Review ■ New Royal Adelaide Hospital update and on 4 August dealing with ■ City Heritage DPA Consultation and Communication (conf) and Economic Prosperous City Strategy.

## COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

### Meetings held on Monday 10 August 2009. (next meeting Monday 24 August 2009 at 5.30pm)

■ A **Motion on Notice** by Cllr Yarwood calling for Council to support parking for Hilton Hotel at Grote St. U-Park was withdrawn ■ Cllr Moran moved a **Motion without Notice** calling for a report on establishing a **dog park**.

■ Council received a **petition** with 159 signatures expressing concerns about a separated bicycle lane in Sturt St.

■ Council approved the 2009/10 Business Plan and Budget for the **Adelaide Park Lands Authority**, a Council subsidiary with 5 Councillors & 5 State members & provides policy advice to Council. It costs Council \$95k p.a.

■ It was decided to endorse the purchase of up to **10 Tablet-PCs** for council members and senior managers who choose to work in a **'paperless' or 'less paper'** environment. Cllr Yarwood has trialled the system & supports it!

■ Council endorsed changes to the **Waste Care SA Charter**, a 6-council subsidiary which manages our waste.

■ Council has adopted the **CLMP for Park 26** (Adelaide Oval and Elder Park precincts) with minor amendments following further selective consultation. The vexed questions of SACA's never-ending expansion plans and the need to protect the Park Lands from excessive use and abuse by parking for an increasing number of non-

sporting events concern me and many others. **SACA has a clear obligation to plan to deal with this issue.**

■ **Rundle St Markets** future and **Whitmore Sq Housing – ownership options**, were discussed in confidence.

#### **CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

■ The Draft **Community Safety Strategy** and Action Plan 2009-12 were adopted. The strategy is structured around 3 basic outcomes -1) Safe streets and Public Spaces -2) A safe city by night and 3) Shared Commitments.

■ **An Affordable Housing Policy** was adopted. This is an extensive report which I will discuss in my next Notes

■ Council endorsed the 09-10 **Reconciliation Action Plan**; it will now be registered with Reconciliation Australia.

■ Council received a report on the successful outcomes of the **Gouger St 8-Point Safety Action Plan**.

■ A progress report on the **Bicycle Action Plan 2008-2011** was received. Council's strong financial commitment had successfully attracted \$512k external funding in 08/09 and a further \$552k in 09/10. 21 kilometres of new on-street lanes have been rolled out; tenders let for a Torrens bridge (behind the Zoo); and improved bike parking.

■ The April-June report on **Development Assessment Panel** activity shows a drop over the same quarter last year which reflects the impact of the GFC. Approvals totalled \$35.4m this year compared to \$ 201.8m last year.

■ Re the **existing RAH site**, the Park Lands Authority advice to the Minister for its future use was endorsed The Council also agreed to support the return of the **entire site** to a community space and the adaptive reuse of the **heritage and historic buildings** for public benefit, consistent with the new **Park Lands Management Strategy**.

■ For the year 2009/10 Council approved continued undergrounding of power in **West Tce** (Stage 2, with PLEC), residential/business/developer subsidised schemes and **Gray St (Stage 2)** North Tce to Hindley Street.

■ **City speed limits** will not be changing any time soon. Council agreed to retain speed limits as existing but to improve speed signage. On-road markings, favoured by some, are not approved by DTEI who control such things.

■ The Lord Mayor and I were appointed to the **Brownhill and Keswick Creeks** Project Mediation Process to try to resolve issues arising from withdrawal of Mitcham from the 5-Council flood mitigation & drainage project.

#### **CITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

■ Corporate Property and other Fee-based reports for June were received with unfavourable balances noted in some areas but with improved 'year-to-date' revenues for the Aquatic Centre (good summer season) and U-Park.

■ Council gave Landlord approval to SACA to stage a **Pearl Jam Concert** at the Oval on 17 November 2009.

#### **CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

■ In accordance with Council's Purchasing Policy a report was received in confidence listing non-tendered purchases for the quarter ended 30/6/09 Efforts are being made to reduce the number of such purchases.