



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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IRRIGATE PARKS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Water restrictions and reduced irrigation for urban parks, public gardens and sports grounds are having a significant impact on Australia's public health, according to a review by the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures. Scientists at the Irrigation Futures CRC say that healthy urban parks and gardens do more than provide opportunities for recreation and biodiversity. They are crucial for social well-being and help to reduce blood pressure, stress and obesity.

The report found that, contrary to '**saving water at any cost**' that dominates popular thinking, maintaining urban green areas such as public parks, gardens and sporting ovals in the face of water restrictions is necessary for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the community.

Urban irrigation isn't a luxury but rather a necessity to our urban lifestyle. Maintaining healthy trees during the drought can also lead to reduced energy use during summer. **Large shade trees can provide a cooling effect of between 2° to 8°C and reduce building energy consumption by 7 to 47%. One wonders what scientific research backs the draconian restrictions being applied by SA Water**

The CRC for Irrigation Futures is a partnership of universities, government agencies, water service providers and industry. It exists to provide tools and knowledge for better decision-making about irrigation in Australia. More details at: www.irrigationfutures.org.au Download report [here](#).

BICYCLES OUTRUN CARS

Australian bicycle sales continue to outstrip motor vehicle sales and prove resilient in the face of a slowing economy. Figures show bicycle sales have bucked the downward trend in consumer spending, outselling cars for the 9th consecutive year.

"The economic downturn and the affordability of cycling are the key reasons for the continued surge in bicycle sales" said Elliot Fishman, policy advisor with the **Cycling Promotion Fund**. "The sluggish economy, coupled with concern over climate change, health, congestion and petrol prices have strengthened interest in cycling as an option" said Fishman.

Total vehicle sales for 2008 were 1,012,640 while bicycle sales were 38% higher at 1,401,675. For more information about the benefits of cycling go to <http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/>

GOOD NEIGHBOURS – OR BAD?



There is much discussion amongst architects, planners and developers as to how much effort should be made to retain our heritage-listed buildings which not only provide a narration of our city and remind us of our rich heritage of building styles and construction techniques but also the social history of our city - stories of who lived, worked and pioneered the growth of our city. But when new buildings are approved to be built right alongside and at times overhanging the old they should show respect and be good neighbours.

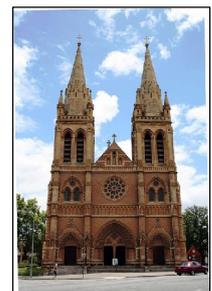
Are these new buildings good or bad neighbours?..... You be the judge.



CATHEDRAL ROOF TO BE RAISED

Plans are being considered to raise the roof of State heritage-listed St Peters Cathedral and to replace it with a series of modern geothermal 'sails' in gothic form. This will facilitate the building of a mezzanine level to provide for conferences and conventions to be held above the nave. The main structure of the cathedral will be retained and tastefully incorporated into the new development, according to the Cathedral's heritage consultants.

The long-awaited development will provide vastly improved facilities for the congregation and the officials at the main services as well as an improved cash-flow. Cathedral authorities are said to be planning 1500 events a year at the new facilities. It is assumed that Council will allow the required extra parking to occur on the adjacent Park Lands.



Well, before you raise the roof with your protests, let me assure you that this is just a figment of my imagination but after having seen what is being supported for the Adelaide Oval heritage-listed buildings by the relevant authorities I must say that anything appears to be possible in the Adelaide planning system. Thankfully, the Cathedral is in the hands of responsible people who respect the value of the architectural and social value of this heritage-listed place.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Meeting held 16 February 2009 (next meeting 2 March 2009 at 5.30pm)

- The Panel **REFUSED** a non-complying application to construct a 4th level to an existing office building at **17-21 Bagot Street**, N. Adelaide. Reasons included over height and plot ratios and a shortfall in carparking.
- It was decided to **PROCEED** with Assessment of a non-complying application to construct a 3 level building with ground floor retail and residential on levels 2 and 3 (2 apartments) at **149-151 Melbourne St** N. Adelaide.
- The Panel resolved to **NOT PROCEED** with an application to use vacant land at **154-160 Wright St** as a temporary car park for CMI Toyota during construction work until 31 January 2010.
- A proposal to construct a 2-storey rear addition and to build a garage at **52-54 Barnard St** North Adelaide was **DEFERRED** for further consideration of building heights of the garage on to Barnard Lane.
- Caffe Paesano's re-submitted application for canopies and an outside dining area at Shop 19 at the corner of O'Connell St and Archer St North Adelaide was **GRANTED CONSENT**.

Schedule 10 Matters - recommendations to the Development Assessment Commission - included:

- **SUPPORT** was given to the South Australian Cricket Association application to vary a previous authorisation for re-development of the western grandstands at the **Adelaide Oval** subject to a series of Conditions. The variation increases the height of the roof, extends the footprint and increases seating capacity by a further 3000 spectators. ▶
- The Panel **REFUSED** to give **CONDITIONAL SUPPORT** to a DTEI application to remove up to 25 significant trees along the route of the proposed tram line extension from North Tce to Bowden. An initial motion to give conditional support was lost 7 votes to 2. (*Council has previously approved the removal of the trees with conditions*) Trees to be removed are in **Narnungga (Park 25)** and **Bonython Park (Park 27)**



COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

Meeting held 23 February 2009. (next ordinary meeting 9 March 2009 at 5.30pm)

- Ms Kelly Henderson made representations to Council expressing opposition to proposed leasing arrangements to SACA.
- I asked a Question on Notice regarding the **condition of trees in the Park Lands** and what more could be done to help maintain them during this period of hot weather. I will summarise the answers in my next Notes.
 - I also moved a Motion calling for a report on costs of engaging an **acoustical consultant** as recommended in our Events Operating Guidelines, the purpose being to find ways to reduce the impact of noise from events impacting on residents.
 - Council endorsed the **Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012** thus completing our obligations under S22 of the LG Act. A key component of the Plan is Council's Long Term Financial Plan which is designed to ensure ongoing financial stability.
 - Council has agreed on the priorities and parameters which staff are to use in preparing the first drafts of the **2009/2010 budget**. It has also been agreed to extend the budget consultation process to include a Pre-Consultation phase to make it easier for the public to engage with the process and to have more information before the consultation begins in earnest.
 - **The Torrens Lake** refilling options were discussed and given that the quarry water was not fit to be used for that purpose, Council agreed that we would have to wait for rainfall in the catchment. Meanwhile every opportunity is being taken to clean up the lake, remove the carp and re-planting of the aquatic vegetation which will help to combat attacks of blue/green algae.
 - Council approved a 6 months trial of the **Bikelfun** business in Elder Park. These are family-sized 4-wheel bikes for hire on an hourly basis. ▶▶▶
 - Cllr **Anne Moran** was nominated for consideration as a Local Government representative on the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board. Her name will go forward to the Local Government Association.
 - Cllr **Joe Cullen** was nominated for consideration for a similar position on the SA Water Customer Council.
 - Parts of Gilbert Street will be closed for the annual **St Patrick's Day** celebration at the Brecknock Hotel (17 March 2009)
 - Hutt St will play host to the **Clipsal after-Race street party**, mercifully on one day only this year, on Saturday 21 March.
 - A proposal to lease a part of **Oval No 2** at the Adelaide Oval to **SACA** was deferred to a special meeting on 26 February. The lease is being sought for a period of 22 months to be used as a construction site while the western grand stands are being redeveloped. The proposal includes use of the access road to **Pennington Tce** – across the Nth Park Lands – which is understood to involve 400 truck movements every day for 22 months. An abuse of the Park Lands if ever there was one!



2 items concerning the **Balfours/Bus Station Redevelopment Project** and another matter concerning a protocol dealing with the Planning Assessment of developments over \$10m were considered in confidence.

City Strategy Committee

- The Committee resolved to use the Ministerial Code of Conduct covering the operations of the **Development Assessment Panel** rather than adopt the convoluted and ill-conceived model that had been prepared by the Local Govt Association.
- The **Capital Works** report for January showed that total expenditure to the end of January is \$16.546m with a further \$15.368m in forward contractual commitments. **North Tce Stage 2** reached Practical Completion in January. Council has reluctantly deferred work on **Stage 3** (Kintore to KW St) until continued joint-funding with the State Govt is confirmed.
- **Enterprise Adelaide** (EA), the Council's city business development group is performing well with assistance being given to 229 businesses in the second quarter of 2008-2009 financial year. EA is jointly funded by ACC and DTED.
- Council adopted a motion moved by myself to prepare a detailed business case for a **City of Adelaide Museum** including possible venues and costings. I consider that this project is exciting and would be a valuable addition to the cultural and tourism offerings of the city. However, these things don't come cheaply and I accept that the project has a long way to go!
- Council directed staff to submit a revised application for funding under the Federal Governments enhanced **Stimulation Package** which would be applied to the development of **Victoria Park, valued at \$16 m** in total and ready to go.
- Council has agreed to commit \$20k to become a partner in the Laura Lee Thinker in Residency during March to October.
- The committee considered in confidence a report dealing with City Heritage and Character in the city south areas.

Briefings were held on **10 Feb** (Balfours Project – Confidential); **12 Feb** (Dev Assessment /DAC Protocols, Late Night Licensing DPA and Quarterly Budget reconsideration – all Confidential) and **19 Feb** (Affordable Housing and River Torrens)