



NOTES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PLUMRIDGE'S DESK

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RECONCILIATION WEEK - 27 MAY to 3 JUNE – 55,000 years and counting.....

Each year in National Reconciliation Week we celebrate the rich culture and history of the First Australians. It is the ideal time for us all to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Reconciliation Week is held every year between 27 May, being the date in 1967 on which the **Referendum** gave indigenous Australians the right to be counted in the census and the Commonwealth the power to make laws on their behalf and 3 June in 1992 being the date on which the High Court passed judgement in the **Mabo** case. The theme for National Reconciliation Week this year is '**see the person, not the stereotype.**'

For more information about Reconciliation Week events go to www.reconciliationsa.org.au



ALCOHOL'S LAST SHOUT

DRUG ARM is calling for Australians to reassess their drinking habits in light of the National Health and Medical Research Council's **new alcohol guidelines** which recommend that no more than two standard drinks on any day will significantly reduce the risk of alcohol-related injuries or disease over a lifetime. For healthy men and women, drinking **no more than four standard drinks** on a single occasion is recommended. It is a sad fact that many young people fall victim to a culture of binge-drinking and seem to be unable to enjoy social night-out without resort to excesses of alcohol and other more damaging drugs. Worse still is the fact that there are establishments in Adelaide which seem to be more interested in making a fast buck than promoting responsible drinking. **Perhaps worst of all** is licensing laws that allow almost non-stop drinking coupled with limited policing of licence conditions. In parts of the City, the morning after the night before is not a pretty sight.

Drug Arm volunteers are to be commended for their work with victims of excessive alcohol & drug use.

VICTORIA SQUARE/TARNDANYANGGA



One of the marks of a great city is the quality of its public spaces and almost without exception those spaces are dominated by strong people activity, excellence of design of the built form and the landscaping and the ability to be used for an ever-changing panoply of events and activities. Think **Venice**, think St Marks Square, **London** - Trafalgar Square, **New York** - Central Park and now Times Square, **Melbourne** - Federation Square, **Chicago** - Millennium Park (*shown here*) and so the list goes on.

Council has embarked on a journey that will deliver just such a future for our main ceremonial place in the heart of the city, Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga.

Council has chosen a locally-based, world renowned design team and a Review Panel of 5 eminent persons. Many people will have their personal wish-lists of what they would want the Square to be – *personally I would hope that we make it predominantly a people-place, perhaps some form of building and level changes to create a sense of enclosure and I want the Square to relate strongly to the places and activities that surround it* - but at the end of the process it is important that we pay high regard to the skills of the designers that we have chosen.

Great works of urban design have seldom, if ever, been designed by a committee or by popular opinion.

This is a great Capital City initiative which we all hope will be supported by the State and Federal Governments.

ADELAIDE WELCOMES STUDENTS

Strengthening the education sector in the City of Adelaide and attracting more students is a key strategic objective of the Adelaide City Council and complements the State Government's initiative to grow the State's education sector. Growing student numbers enables the city to foster innovation, investment, harness knowledge and add vitality to the city; **Adelaide University reports an 8% increase in enrolments this year.**

In spite of the Global Financial Crisis, the outlook for continued growth is most positive with a strong collaborative approach between State Government, Council and key stakeholders. Council believes that Adelaide is a great location to grow an education training business. At a recent reception for international students that I attended many said that they had chosen Adelaide because it was a safe, convenient and cost-effective place in which to study. Many hoped to work here for a time after graduating and all looked forward to forging long-term links with Australia after experienced life in a friendly and welcoming Adelaide community.

It is not just universities that are setting the agenda. There has been growth across all sectors with high demand for public and private school enrolments and increasing capacity of registered training organisations.

BUDGET MUSINGS

Following consultations, written and emailed submissions are now being prepared for presentation to **Council on 28 May**. At that meeting Council will also adopt its **Fees and Charges** schedules which cover a wide range of Council activities from parking fees to what you will pay for a round of golf or a swimming lesson at the Aquatic Centre. **The majority of fees will be adjusted in line with CPI.**

Some Councillors have expressed concern at the level of **charges imposed on Small Business** and I intend to move to reduce a range of charges for such things as A-Frame signs, Food Inspections and Outdoor Dining permits. **I will also seek** to waive some fees on approvals for solar panel installations and for heritage works.

Some recent meeting decisions (full details will be available on the Council's website after 5 days)

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL Meeting held on 18 May 2009 (next meeting will be 1 June 2009)

- The Panel decided to **proceed to assessment** of a non-complying development for 2 3-level houses with roof decks at **15-17 Watson St North Adelaide** (DA/154/2009).
- The Panel **REFUSED** an application for the construction of a 3-level house at **7-9 Watson St N. Adelaide** due to plot ratio, inadequate open space, width of garaging and orientation of living spaces (DA688/2008)
- The Panel **DEFERRED** an application for an 11 storey apartment building at **10-14 Andrew St** to seek expert architectural advice & details of the building's relationship to the adjoining public spaces (DA 501/2008)
- Panel **APPROVED** SACA's continued use of temp seats to the Chappell Stands to 30/11/2011 (DA/305/2009)

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE – Meeting held on 20 May 2009

A general discussion took place in relation to ■ Aboriginal **Employment** Policy ■ Aboriginal **Tourism** Plan and ■ the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **War Memorial** proposed to be erected at the Torrens Parade Ground. The committee adopted the reports on Employment Policy and the Tourism Plan and commended the Memorial Committee and the artists for the excellent concept designs that they presented.

ADELAIDE PARKLANDS AUTHORITY – Meeting held 21 May 2009 (The next meeting 18 June at 5.30)

- The Authority gave **approval** to the **Park Lands Management Strategy** which brings to a conclusion a major piece of work and the key obligation under its Charter under the **Park Lands Act 2005**. The Strategy incorporated many of the points brought forward during the consultation phase and will now go to Council and the Minister for endorsement. The Authority congratulated consultants and staff on the quality of the Strategy.
- The Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for Tarndanya Womma **Park 26** which covers the **Oval** and **Elder Park** was **endorsed** after a number of amendments and it will now go to the Council for consideration.
- The proposal to establish a Community Garden in Veale Gardens (behind the Conservatory) was recommended to Council. Further soil-testing must be done before the area can be used for food cropping.

COUNCIL AND KEY COMMITTEES

Meetings held on Monday 25 May 2009. (next meeting Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 5.30pm)

- **Motions on Notice** were moved by **Cr Moran** on▪ Possible reinstatement of the N.A. Railway Station, and
- Improving Pedestrian Safety; and **without notice** by myself on Campers in the Park Lands and▪ Liberal Party Policy on City Governance and for the institution of Local Government in the State.
- Public Forum presentations covered ▪ Car Free Day in the city and ▪ the work of Drug Arm in the city.
- Council approved the **Annual Business Plan and Budget** variations for the March Quarter of 2008/09.
- Tenders are to be called for the **Acoustic Modelling Project** to look at noise impacts from events locations.
- Approval was given for a lease of Rymill Park for a **Midnight Fashion Launch** on 20 June 2009.
- Confidential items included 2 related to Extension of Time claims on the Balfours/Bus Station Redevelopment and another related to the Future Direction of the Rundle Street Markets.
- Cllr Cullen's name will go forward to the LGA for consideration for appointment to the board of Zero Waste.

City Strategy Committee

- A report on Development Assessment Panel activity for January to March 2009 showed a marked downturn. 250 applications for Consent (**value \$49.9m**) in 2009 compared with 268 (**value \$249.1m**) in 2008.
- **Capital Works** spending to the end of April is \$27.445m with a further \$14.325 of contractual commitments. Total Capital Works for 2008/09 is **\$60.971m** which covers a total of **330 projects** throughout the city.
- Council has been investigating **storm water capture** for street trees & is to consider conducting a trial in NA.
- In conjunction with DTEI Council proposes to adopt ways to **reduce delays** for pedestrians and motorists and and at the same time improve pedestrian amenity at signalised intersections in line with the **Jan Gehl Report**.
- Approval was given for improvements to be made at the **3 managed taxi ranks** in the city at a cost of \$35k.
- Council received a report on possible **lighting** of sections of **Park Lands Trail 5** and recommendations for other parts of the trail which are classed as commuter routes to be lit, subject to funding estimated at \$1.25m.

Corporate Strategy and Performance Committee

- The committee noted the **April Financial Performance** report and that 32% of 08/09 funds remains to be spent in the last 2 months of the financial year,
- The **March Quarterly** report was received covering operating projects and operating services. It was noted that the North Tce Stage 3 project had been deferred pending the State's contribution and that 4 other projects including the Sturt Street affordable housing project were at risk due to lack of Federal funding.

BRIEFINGS were held on 12 May dealing with the housing needs of vulnerable people in the Park Lands; 13 May an information session on the Federal Government's Major Cities Unit, Infrastructure Australia and on 19 May ■ Adelaide Convention & Tourism Association and ■ March Budget Reconsideration (confidential).

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