

e-Gazette No. 022 - January, 2017.

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AN ENEMY OF THE PARK LANDS? IF THE CAP FITS....



On 27 December, Former Deputy Lord Mayor, [Mark Hamilton](#), took aim, in *The Advertiser*, at the Minister for the City of Adelaide, John Rau:

"Building on free parkland is not going to correct the state's economic malaise"



On 3 January, Mr Rau responded:

"[He] starts from the premise I am an enemy of Adelaide's parklands. He is wrong."

We couldn't let that go unchallenged, so here's our reply to Mr Rau.

Dear Minister Rau

We are delighted that in a recent opinion piece for The Advertiser, you drew attention to your role in administering the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005. You responded to criticism of your recent actions in appointing three members of your own Department to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board.

We are also delighted, now, to have this opportunity to respond to your comments.

Here's what you said – and here's our reply:

All great science fiction movies begin with a premise which defies reality – such as travelling through time or faster than the speed of light. Accept that premise and all else seems plausible.

The column by Mark Hamilton in *The Advertiser* (December 27) begins with a false premise. Mr Hamilton, a former deputy lord mayor and mayoral contender, starts from the premise I am an enemy of Adelaide's parklands. He is wrong.

Actually Mark Hamilton didn't say that. He just criticised what you've done, Mr Rau. But if the cap fits....

He claims I "sacked" three members of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. Again, he is wrong. The terms of the three members expired on December 31 and it is not my intention to reappoint them.

On 18 February 2016 you appointed Jane Chapman, Emeritus Professor Damien Mugavin, UniSA associate professor Anne Sharp, and SA Heritage Committee deputy chair Carolyn Wigg to the Park Lands Authority Board, for very short terms, expiring on 31 December 2016.



To most of us, not getting re-appointed after a 10-month period (like a probation) would be perceived like this.

We're glad you've read that bit of the Act, Minister.

Mr Hamilton implies the State Government wants to shred Colonel Light's plan and wreck the parklands with rampant development. Again, completely wrong.

Mr Hamilton didn't say that. He did say your three sackings and your three departmental appointments represented a "direct and present threat" to the Park Lands.

He could have said much more about your Government's recent actions.



He didn't draw attention to the war that your Government has been recently waging on the Park Lands, even without the help of three new Departmental representatives on the Park Lands Authority.



In September 2015, despite 168 public submissions opposing it, you re-zoned the Adelaide Park Lands as suitable for "infrastructure" starting with the O-Bahn through Rundle Park and Rymill Park.



The Government of which you are the Deputy Leader is handing over part of Elder Park to the Walker Corporation, for new office towers, along with a \$180 million taxpayer subsidy - and also making another Park Lands giveaway to Sky City Casino.



1,080 apartments on Park Lands?
31 Eminent South Aussies say "a gross breach of trust"

Your Government is proposing to use the Park Lands site of the old RAH for 17-storey private residences.

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/current-issues/>



Your Government also is planning a new 7-storey building on Park Lands off Frome Road

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/current-issues/>

Where is the government proposal to dilute the principles or functions of the Authority? No such proposal exists.

Apparently you haven't read the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 very well Minister. The statutory principles in section 4 of the Act apply not just to the Authority, but also to you. Your actions, as described above, do not seem consistent with the principles.

There is no need for you to dilute the principles of the Act when your Government can and does merely sidestep them.



You have also failed to carry out your obligation under section 23 of the Act to obtain a report on how to turn the old RAH site into Park Lands.

Let us turn to the composition of the Authority's board. Under the Act, the first board seat goes to the Lord Mayor - or, if they decline, another person chosen by Council. The next four are chosen by Council and then five by the Minister. The Council and Minister must consult each other and appoint a board with a range of skills in planning or management in fields such as environment, cultural heritage, finance and local government.

Yes, that's all in the Act.

The minister - but not the Council - is bound by the Act to appoint at least one nominee from an organisation dedicated to preserving the Park Lands.

I am satisfied my five candidates for 2017 meet these requirements, including Stephanie Johnston who was nominated by the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association.

Yes Ms Johnston was one of three names put forward by APPA as we were required by law to do,

The others are Roger Zubrinich (reappointment) and Planning Department executives Sally Smith, Anita Allen and Chris Kwong.

It is these latter three who are answerable to you Minister. [Can they contradict you, their boss, in public?](#)

For the Authority to provide sensible advice and assist dialogue between Council and executive government, the listed skill sets are essential.

It is not their skills that are in question Minister – just their capacity for impartiality when they are answerable to you. And are you implying that the others you sacked after only 10 months, don't have the skill sets you said they did less than a year ago?

Mr Hamilton conveniently neglected to mention that Adelaide City Council decided all five of its seats should go to elected Councillors, including the Lord Mayor as presiding member.

Elected members of Adelaide City Council are directly accountable to the public. In contrast, your three nominees are accountable, through their Chief Executive, to you.

Would Mr Hamilton prefer I took a lead from Council and appointed the Premier, Treasurer and myself to the board?

[Councillor Ann Moran thinks that would be a splendid idea!](#) It would certainly signal to the community the important regard that the Government had for our Park Lands.

If we're going to discuss independence and qualifications, let's look at all seats on the board.

Yes let's do that.

Actually, on second thought, we would prefer to be discussing the management of the Adelaide Park Lands, and what plans you might have to limit their year-on-year reduction and erosion by the State Government.



We would prefer not to be discussing seats on a board, but rather footsteps on grass — picnics by the Torrens, revegetation, biodiversity, sporting events, gardens, and appreciation of our unique asset.

AND IT'S NOT ONLY APPA SAYING THIS

As we reported in [the December 2016 e-Gazette](#), Mr Rau's changes to the Authority's Board have been met with widespread concern, not only from APPA.

The Lord Mayor Martin Haese described these changes as "a very concerning approach". The (Liberal) member for Adelaide, Rachel Sanderson, described them as "a mockery of the Authority's independence"

Two others have recently leapt into print to make related comments:



On 4 January, [City Councillor Ann Moran](#) invited Mr Rau to think again:

"the O-Bahn tunnel speaks for itself"



...and on 6 January, [Darian Hiles, the Chair of the Australian Civic Trust](#) also responded:

"You're wrong, Mr Rau. The independent, quality advice we should see in your proposals is missing"

BRIBES NECESSARY TO SELL PARK LANDS APARTMENTS?

In order to help developers sell their proposed apartments on this Park Lands site, the State Government is not only giving away YOUR land. It's also giving this project the benefit of a tax holiday.

While the rest of us must pay tens of thousands of dollars in stamp duty to buy a home, buyers of these proposed privatised Park Lands apartments will not have to pay any.

It seems the State Government is simply in the thrall of the development lobby.

Read more in the Adelaide Review:

<http://adelaiderewiew.com.au/opinion/general-opinion/montefiore-adelaides-apartment-boom-doesnt-keep-pace-with-reality/>

And if you haven't done so already, please take action!

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/take-action/>

SISTER CITY - HIMEJI - SUPPORT FOR ADELAIDE



One of the most beautiful parts of the Adelaide Park Lands is the Japanese garden in Wita Wirra (Park 18) established to cement Sister City ties between Adelaide and Himeji. It was a gift from the city of Himeji, in 1982.

With our Park Lands under attack as never before (see above) APPA has been reaching out to the international community, seeking support from other cities, including those with iconic urban Parks. Our objective is enhanced international collaboration on urban and urban fringe Park Lands issues.

We were gratified to get this [recent letter of support from Himeji](#).

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARK LANDS

There are always events scheduled in the Park Lands, many of them free, and there are always opportunities to explore the Park Lands on your own, or with friends or family. Take a look at [our picture gallery](#) for hints about interesting spots to visit.

The City Council continually updates its list of 'what's on'.

<http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/whats-on/category/park-lands>

Some things you might like to try over coming days or weeks include:



Women's Tour Down Under – final stage – Tuesday 17 January

A criterium race at Victoria Park/
Pakapakanthi (Park 16) 6.30 to 7.40pm



Tour Down Under Final Stage – Sunday 22nd January

The 90-kilometre final stage street circuit takes in laps of Tarntanya Wama (Park 26) along King William Rd, War Memorial Drive, up Montefiore hill, and down Pennington Tce. Free entertainment including Bubble Man, face painters, bike art, stunt bike riders, airbrush tattoos, jumping castles and more. Pack a picnic or take advantage of ample onsite catering. 1.30pm to 3.30pm

"Australia Day In the City" – Thursday Jan 26th

A parade, free family concert & fireworks celebration at Elder Park. Tarntanya Wama (Park 26) From 6.00pm to 10.00pm, join more than 40,000 people celebrating Australia's national day.

Women's Recreational Running Network

A "run club" where women can get together under the guidance of a qualified run leader in a non-threatening environment. Participation is free. Meeting places, always in Park Lands, vary depending on the time of the week: Monday 6pm, Tuesday 6pm, Thursday 6am, Thursday 6pm, and Sunday 8am. See the schedule here: <http://www.runningsa.com.au/WRRN>

Wild Imagination – nature play school holiday events

Every day, Monday to Saturday until 28 January. Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) off East Terrace, between Halifax and Carrington Streets. There are both KIDS ONLY days (where parents can drop and go!) plus FAMILY days, where parents and caregivers stay and play with their children. Secure fencing and ticketing. There is a cost – bookings essential. More information here: <https://www.wildimagination.com.au/>

NORTH-WESTERN PARK LANDS HIT BY SEWER MAIN UPGRADE WORK

SA Water has appointed a contractor (Leed) whose crews have established a work site in Narnungga (Park 25) off West Terrace almost opposite Hindley Street.

Works are scheduled over the next six months, to install approximately 2.5km of new wastewater mains pipes through Tampawardli (Park 24), Narnungga (Park 25) and Bonython Park / Tulya Wardli (Park 27).

The new pipeline alignment will be constructed from West Terrace, through these three Parks and tie into an existing main, at the North Adelaide Golf Course in War Memorial Drive.

SA Water advises that there will be multiple crews working simultaneously along the alignment. Construction hours will be from Monday to Sunday 7am – 7pm, with West Terrace works to be undertaken at night from 7pm – 7am.

A HEAT WAVE? THANK GOODNESS FOR THE PARK LANDS!

As we swelter through another Adelaide summer, you might want to recap on this story that [we published a year ago](#).

Scientific studies led by Flinders University have shown that the unique Adelaide Park Lands effectively reduce the air temperature in the Adelaide CBD, which in turn on warm days reduces electricity demand in Adelaide buildings, especially those located close to the Park Lands.

The lead researcher, Walter Guan was the guest speaker at APPA's Annual General Meeting last year.

See the full story in [our archived e-Gazette of January 2016](#).

WANT TO ATTRACT HEAT? JUST ASK FOR FASTER WORK

As APPA has pointed out recently, work to erect and dismantle motor racing paraphernalia in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi takes five months of every year, which seems overly long for a four-day event. We've tactfully suggested that perhaps the intrusion should be minimised.

To her credit, the (Liberal) member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson has taken up this cause, joining APPA supporter Paul Henderson in Victoria Park on Sunday 8th January - to point out, simply, that the intrusion on the Park could be substantially reduced from its 5-month extended work plan.

As Ms Sanderson said: "A cynical person could think the government is punishing city residents for their stand against a permanent grand stand. It does seem ridiculous to take so long, you would expect it would get quicker each year as efficiencies are made."

After media appearances by both Ms Sanderson and Mr Henderson, they were both slapped down by the Government's spin doctors:

PHOTOS OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

From the top:

- a) Dog Park, Ngampa Yarta (Park 5) off Medindie Rd
- b) Archery, Warnpangga (Park 10) off Bundeys Rd
- c) BBQ Buoy on River Torrens, Karrawirra (Park 12)
- d) Sunrise from under the Port Rd bridge, Bonython Park /Tulya Wardli (Park 27)
- e) Bicycle racks and cricket game, Mirnu Wirra (Park 21W) off South Tce near Goodwood Rd

The Park Lands 'photo of the day' series has been running since May 2014, and **the collection of Park Lands photos has just passed the 1,000 mark**. We maintain (and gradually grow) 37 separate albums for each one of our 30 Parks, six squares (and one album for 'Alienations'). To browse the photos in any album (i.e. in any Park) follow the link below to '[Our photos on Flickr](#)'.



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Our photos on Flickr

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