

Stephen Mullighan MP

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Dear Minister Mullighan

I am appealing to you before it is too late. Please do not rip up Rymill Park – the jewel in the crown of Adelaide's National-Heritage listed Park Lands - for the sake of a couple of minutes of commuting time.

Adelaide is the only city in the world built inside a Park. Of all the cities in the world, none can boast what we have. It is truly unique - an accident of our history. No city could afford to emulate us. Shouldn't we be proud of it, shouldn't we protect it?

Unfortunately recent decisions seem to reflect at best a lack of appreciation of this heritage. We have had (or soon will have) in rapid succession (in the recent past or in the near future) the following major new buildings or infrastructure constructed on Adelaide Park Lands:

- an extension to Adelaide High School on West Terrace,
- the new RAH,
- two SAHMRI buildings,
- medical, nursing and health research facilities on North Terrace, for both the University of Adelaide and University of SA;
- a massive expansion of the Convention Centre,
- Walker Corporation's two office towers, a shopping precinct, and more car parking on Park Lands, i.e. on the Festival Plaza,
- the soon to be vacated Uni SA Reid building in Frome Park to be given a new lease on life as another High School, on Park Lands,
- The old RAH site is to be sold as a commercial and residential development site;
- a massive railway crossover project foreshadowed for Bonython Park, and of course
- the O-Bahn extension through Rundle Park and the much-beloved Rymill Park.

Little if any thought appears to have been given to sites other than Park Lands as locations for any of these proposed constructions.

Taken together, as a suite, the totality of these projects reflects what can only be described as at best callous indifference – at worst contempt for our irreplaceable heritage of Park Lands.

The wonderful heritage bequeathed to this city should not be treated as if it were an obstacle in the path of the rampaging god of Development.

National Heritage listing of the Park Lands was not a mistake. To quote the heritage listing itself: *“The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout is widely regarded as a masterwork of urban design”* It is most unfortunate that our “masterwork” is now being decimated.

There are regimes in other parts of the world that disparage heritage and have carried out savage acts of vandalism to remove or destroy treasures. They have been widely condemned for these actions.

The destruction of the Adelaide Park Lands is taking place more slowly, over years or decades, but

gradual destruction is still destruction. For decades we have been losing the equivalent of seven and a half tennis courts of Park Lands every year. The rate of loss has accelerated in recent years as the list above illustrates. The O-Bahn project will contribute to this, by cutting down dozens of trees and wide-trenching through an area that is held dear by so many South Australian families - . the historic Rymill Park

So please, Minister, think again. Are you really prepared to go down in history as one of those who supported partial destruction of what made this city unique in the world?

Or would you rather be able to say to your children and grandchildren that back in 2015, you played a part in preserving the unique nature of what was then (and hopefully will remain) the only city in the world ringed by Park Lands?

It is not too late to consider alternatives.

Yours sincerely