



## Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, Inc.

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Patron: Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO

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David Speirs MP  
Minister for Environment and Water  
GPO BOX 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister Speirs

### Heritage Listing for Adelaide Park Lands

I am writing to you at an historic cross-roads in the history of the world's first public parks. It is a cross-roads which gives you the opportunity to make a decision, in 2019, that should be celebrated for generations to come.

A decade after the Adelaide Park Lands received *National* Heritage listing, the State Heritage Council resolved on 6 December 2018 to recommend that the Park Lands should also be acknowledged as a *State* Heritage Area.

We understand that the Heritage Council has written (or will soon write) to you, urging you to recommend to your colleague the Minister for Planning that the Park Lands be identified as a Heritage Area within the Adelaide City Development Plan.

The recommendation was made by the Heritage Council after receiving a comprehensive assessment, by a contracted consultant, of the match between the Park Lands and the statutory criteria for heritage listing. A process of public consultation in 2017 also featured a record number of public submissions in support of State Heritage listing.

The recommendation coincides with recent initiatives by the Park Lands Authority to investigate the potential for World Heritage listing. A paper prepared for a Park Lands Authority meeting in October 2018 estimated that World Heritage listing of the Park Lands would lead to a 20 to 30 per cent boost in tourism to Adelaide.

Among the arguments to support World Heritage listing are the little-known fact that the Adelaide Park Lands, established in 1837, were the world's first public park (10 years ahead of the next public park in Merseyside, England); and in 2019 Adelaide is still the only city in the world that is garlanded by Parks.

I encourage you to act upon the Heritage Council's recommendation by recommending to the Minister for Planning the recognition of the Adelaide Park Lands as a State Heritage Area within the Adelaide City Development Plan under the *Development Act 1993*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John S.', written over a light grey rectangular background.

28 December 2018

cc:

- Rachel Sanderson, MP, (Member for Adelaide)
- Susan Close, MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water
- Lord Mayor, Sandy Verschoor