



Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, Inc.

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Patron: Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO

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Stephan Knoll, MP
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
Roma Mitchell House
PO Box 1533
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mr Knoll

Request for a meeting to discuss the Adelaide Park Lands

Congratulations on the Liberal Party's win in the March State election, and on your appointment to the Ministry and Cabinet. The Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association (APPA) looks forward to working with you, in your role as the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government to whom the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* (the APL Act) is committed.

As the new Minister, you now have an outstanding opportunity to differentiate yourself and your Government from your predecessors by actively promoting both locally and world-wide the unique nature of this "City in a Park". For many years Adelaide's priceless resource, matched by no other city in the world, has been carelessly whittled down, with no strategic foresight.

The previous Government, in fact, seemed at times to be at war with the Park Lands, authorising (sometimes through proxies such as the Riverbank Authority or Renewal SA) a stream of gross incursions that have alienated irreplaceable Park Lands for little more than short-term political expediency.

We would be delighted to meet with you, to canvass ways in which the APL Act might be amended to strengthen the protection afforded to the Park Lands and to encourage, where possible, return to the public of some alienated portions. I have provided, in an attachment, three suggestions for your consideration. These suggestions might form the basis of an agenda for a meeting with you.

We would welcome an opportunity to have a discussion with you about the attached suggestions, and/or any other proposals that you might have. We also invite you to attend one of our monthly Guided Walks in the Park Lands, without any agenda. The schedule is here: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/guided-walks

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Sody".

Shane Sody
President 9/4/2018

cc Stephen Marshall MP, Premier
Rachel Sanderson MP, Member for Adelaide
Martin Haese, Lord Mayor

ATTACHMENT - PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Specific amendment to prevent accumulation of Park losses

Over the past 180 years, the Adelaide Park Lands have been whittled away at an average rate equivalent to the size of 7.6 tennis courts per year. There is no statutory limit to the inexorable continuation of these losses. Accordingly, prior to the State election, APPA sought, from all parties, comment on a proposed amendment to the APL Act such that:

"Despite the provisions of any other Act, no additional alienation of the Park Lands may be undertaken unless a previously-alienated site of equivalent or greater size is returned to Park Lands."

Responding to our question, your colleague David Pisoni responded on behalf of the Liberal Party that such an amendment would be "carefully considered".

2. Strengthening current ineffectual Park Lands return provisions

Section 23 of the APL Act sets up a formal mechanism for consideration of how to return alienated Park Lands to the public after the Crown or a State Authority does not require an "existing use" to continue. This section has been ineffectual in the process of deciding what will happen with the old RAH site. Former Minister for the City of Adelaide, John Rau took the view that a Section 23 report would be obtained only after the Government had decided what it would do with this site. This view effectively meant that the report would be prepared only as token statutory compliance and would not form any part of the decision-making process for the land. This section is also relevant to the policy that the Liberal Party took to the recent State election, to effectively commercialise large sections of the old RAH site.

3. State and World Heritage Listing

The Heritage Council in 2018 will be considering an interim listing of the Adelaide Park Lands as a State heritage place. Consultation on this proposal concluded at the end of September 2017. It is not clear what attitude, if any, the former Government might have taken in any submission to the Heritage Council. APPA hopes that you will consider making a belated State Government submission in support of such a listing.

State heritage listing would certainly complement and be consistent with National Heritage listing of the Adelaide Park Lands, which occurred in 2008. However you can do something more important. APPA encourages you to take the lead by forming a joint working party with the City Council, to examine the prospects of pursuing World Heritage listing for the Park Lands. Achieving such a result may take several years but would be a proud accomplishment for you as Minister, and a lasting legacy for future South Australians and the world.