



Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, Inc.

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au
secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au

P.O. Box 7334
Hutt Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Patron: Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO

ABN 19 706 384 386

Lord Mayor
Martin Haese
Town Hall
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Lord Mayor

Council's decision to phase out the use of Park numbers

On 12 September 2017, the City Council, acting on a recommendation from the Park Lands Authority, endorsed the use of new, English names for most of the Parks within the Adelaide Park Lands. The new names were selected after a diligent process of consultation, both on the Guiding Principles that should govern selection of new names, and on the specific names that were put forward for consideration.

APPA commends the Park Lands Authority, the Park Lands Naming Committee, and the Council, for the way this project was carried out. We have taken up the new names, and adopted them in all our public communication, including our website, newsletters and social media.

However, we are concerned about one aspect of the process which appears to have slipped through without consultation, and was approved by the Council on 12 September 2017 apparently without debate.

It appears that at no stage in the consultation process was it suggested that Park numbers should be phased out. At the commencement of this process, in February 2013, Council's initial resolution envisaged retention of Park numbers, alongside English and Kurna names for each Park. It is not clear at what stage a recommendation was developed to remove Park numbers. It was not part of the Guiding Principles for selection of new Park names, nor was it raised in any consultation feedback.

There are five compelling reasons why Park numbers should be retained. These are outlined in an attachment to this letter. For the reasons provided, APPA is continuing to use Park numbers alongside the English and Kurna names for each Park, in all our correspondence and all our social media activities.

APPA strongly urges you to invite the Park Lands Authority to review its previous stance on this matter and to recommend to the Council that the use of Park numbers be retained or re-instated.

Kind regards

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

Shane Sody
President
4 January 2018

FIVE REASONS WHY ADELAIDE'S PARK NUMBERS SHOULD BE RETAINED / REINSTATED

1. Park numbers are practical

It is much easier for people to know and remember Park numbers (as they have been doing for generations) in preference to lengthy multiple-syllable double names, or even a single name. For most practical purposes including oral communication, Adelaide residents are unlikely to abandon the most convenient way of referring to specific Parks. The numbers are unlikely to recede from common public usage for generations, if ever. Indeed, you personally referred to at least Park number during your speech at your Christmas function on Thursday 14 December 2017. If Council refuses to recognise this practical reality, then Council's publications risk being seen as obfuscating and confusing.

The Council previously published this useful guide to the Park Lands using the Park numbers as a reference.



APPA is continuing a similar approach on our website, where we feature the Park numbers superimposed over a new Council map which now uses only the names. Please take a look to appreciate the practicality of this approach:

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/explore-parks/>

2. Park numbers are a signal of the relationship between adjacent Parks

It is not difficult for members of the public to grasp the concept that Park 5 is between Park 4 and Park 6, etc.

3. Park numbers are a signal that each Park is part of a larger whole

Even Parks on opposite sides of the City (e.g. Park 15 and Park 24) are recognised as part of a greater whole simply because the number implicitly acknowledges them as such. Each of the English and Kurna names, though appropriate for their own reasons, lack any link to the significance of the Park Lands as a whole.

4. Park numbers are the only possible description of some parts of the Park Lands

There are parts of the Adelaide Park Lands that are either owned by or leased to State Government entities. These areas are not affected by the City Council's name changes. Examples include both the new and old Royal Adelaide Hospital sites (Park 11 and Park 27), West Terrace Cemetery (Park 23) and the Botanic Gardens (Park 11). There is no way to describe these areas as part of the Adelaide Park Lands, without invoking a number. The Council, by its decision to discard the use of numbers, has indirectly made more tenuous the connection that these areas have to the entirety of the Adelaide Park Lands.

5. Park numbers are part of the integrity of the Park Lands.

Every city in the world has parks. Most, if not all parks in the world have names, perhaps multiple names (as in Adelaide) to reflect different languages and aspects of their histories. However, as you are well aware, no other city in the world is built, as Adelaide is, entirely within a garland of Parks. It is the nature of that whole that gives the Adelaide Park Lands their significance and their national heritage status. It could be argued that a future proposal to remove a parcel of land from the Adelaide Park Lands might be made slightly less controversial if the targeted parcel of land is not recognised (by its number) as part of the integrity of the Adelaide Park Lands.