



HON DAVID SPEIRS MP
Leader of the Opposition

JACK BATTY MP
Shadow Assistant Minister for
Environment and Heritage



Mr Shane Sody
President
Adelaide Park Lands Association

shane.sody@gmail.com

Date: 19 April 2023

Dear Mr Sody,

We write in relation to the Malinauskas Labor Government's latest proposal to erode the Adelaide Park Lands through the development of Mirnu Wirra / Golden Wattle Park.

Labor has announced their intention to develop office blocks and stables at Park 21 West, to facilitate the relocation of the SAPOL police barracks and horses from the existing site at Thebarton. This has been announced as the government's preferred site, despite consideration being given to 14 other locations.

We are disappointed that this site has been chosen as it has the most significant native remnant vegetation remaining in the Adelaide Park Lands, which has been cared for by Bush for Life volunteers for over 15 years and is home to around 85 species of native plants and animals – including threatened species.

The Park Lands grab appears to be happening without consultation with the Park Lands Authority, the City of Adelaide, local conservation groups or Aboriginal representatives and flies in the face of Labor's pre-election commitment to "protect Adelaide's unique Park Lands."

The Liberals know that our unique Adelaide Park Lands set our city apart – supporting biodiversity, heritage and recreation in the heart of the city and it is unacceptable for any government to treat them as a land bank. This is one of the reasons why the Liberals want to lift the standard on the protection of our precious Park Lands.

We voted in Parliament to add the Park Lands to our State Heritage list (which was not supported by Labor) and have further announced that we will push for their recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If the Liberal Party form government at the next election, we will work in partnership with the City of Adelaide, to provide the financial and technical resourcing to advance the UNESCO application process.

During the last term of government, the Liberal Party reformed the way that natural resources were managed in South Australia through the decentralisation of natural resource management into the relevant regions. Green Adelaide was created through this reform, and is focused on creating a cooler, greener, wilder and climate resilient Adelaide.

Contact Hon David Speirs MP

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As part of our commitment to the Park Lands, we will establish a sub-committee of Green Adelaide, to drive biodiversity and conservation across the Park Lands, which are an intrinsic part of Adelaide’s status as the second National Park City in the world.

A future Liberal government will work to increase the footprint of the Park Lands by 5%, through the consolidation of existing buildings and by removing unnecessary hard surfaces. These commitments will deliver tangible benefits for our environment and local communities, while also recognising the original vision for Adelaide as it was planned by Colonel Light in 1837, as a planned colonial settlement, surrounded by an outer ring of parklands.

It is our intention to seek to establish a Select Committee of the Legislative Council through the South Australian Parliament, when sitting of parliament occurs in May 2023. The Committee can make inquiries into the process that the Government has used to select Park 21 West as the site for the proposed SAPOL Police barracks and horses, and could make recommendations about alternate sites.

If you or your members share our concern, we encourage you to sign our petition (QR scan below) or at: [Protect Our Parklands Petition \(office.com\)](https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/protectourparklands), as we call on Peter Malinauskas to bring an end to Labor’s assault on our Park Lands.

Kind regards,

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Dear Mr Speirs and Mr Batty

Adelaide Park Lands

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2023 expressing concerns about the State Government's proposed attack on eight hectares of Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West) and the Liberal Party's promises in relation to this issue and the Park Lands more broadly.

The Adelaide Park Lands Association is an apolitical organisation and we are keen to work with members of all political parties, other conservation and heritage groups and the South Australian community to protect and restore the world-unique Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands.

We have published a website blog article giving our readers an opportunity to read your letter, along with this response. That article has been shared on our social media (Facebook and Twitter) and will be included in our newsletter of 1 May 2023, further spreading its reach to many thousands of South Australians.

We are heartened by the promises made to commit a future Liberal Government to:

- work in partnership with the City of Adelaide, to provide the financial and technical resourcing to advance the process for pursuing UNESCO World Heritage listing;
- establish a sub-committee of Green Adelaide, to drive biodiversity and conservation across the Park Lands; and
- increase the footprint of the Park Lands by 5%, through the consolidation of existing buildings and by removing unnecessary hard surfaces.

In the interim, we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Opposition and others on your intention to move for a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au

The *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* has proved ineffective at protecting your Open Green Public Park Lands. More robust protection is urgently required.

Any Select Committee of Inquiry must look at a range of options and strategies to protect the Park Lands from not just the latest single proposed assault on Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West) but from other future attacks as well.

For this purpose, a Select Committee of the Legislative Council could play a vital role investigating and recommending improvements to the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*.

I would encourage you to seek the views of the City Council; Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority; Kaurna community representatives and others before settling on proposed Terms of Reference for such a Committee.

I would be pleased to participate in a meeting or workshop for that purpose, or simply to provide our Association's recommendations, if you prefer.

Kind regards

Shane Sody



President, Adelaide Park Lands Association

23 April 2023

cc: Lord Mayor, Jane Lomax-Smith