



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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Premier, Peter Malinauskas MP
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Dear Premier

State Aquatic Centre - Restore and Protect Petition for brownfield site reaches over 2,500 signatures

I am writing to follow up on my letter to you of 20 December 2022, in regard to your Government's plans to construct a new Aquatic Centre. I have not yet received a reply from you. In the meantime the position outlined in that letter has attracted an even larger body of community support.

My previous letter advised you that over 1,000 people had signed a petition urging you to choose a brownfield site for a new Aquatic Centre. I am please to advise you that petition signatories now number more than 2,500.

<https://www.change.org/p/save-these-trees-choose-a-brownfield-site-for-new-aquatic-centre>

The Adelaide Park Lands Association has made a submission to Planning SA's public consultation on proposed amendments to the zoning for Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2). This submission emphasises the extent of public support for not only restoring the site of the current Aquatic Centre, but also protecting the remainder of this Park.

Restoring and Protecting this part of the Adelaide Park Lands would be consistent with your Government's recently-announced support for pursuing World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and Adelaide Hills.

During the 2022 State election campaign, you promised a new Aquatic Centre on either the current site, or an "adjacent" location. That promise could be fulfilled by protecting this Park, and building in an adjacent suburb, such as Hindmarsh or Thebarton.

One appropriate near-city brownfield site is the old West End brewery site on Port Road, currently for sale. This site - more than 8.4 hectares - is in easy reach of the City on the tram line, and is large enough to accommodate at least a new Aquatic Centre, as well as other developments.

It is a fortunate conjunction of events that this site is for sale, and subject to possible rezoning. Its acquisition by the Government (either in part or in whole) would permit you to deliver a new Aquatic Centre (and perhaps other facilities) on the old brewery site, providing convenient links to the adjacent Entertainment Centre, and the Bowden community, while rejuvenating the Thebarton-Hindmarsh area.

Of course there are other sites within the broader Thebarton-Hindmarsh vicinity which, if acquired by the State Government, could serve similar purposes.

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au

I note that your Government is currently purchasing as many as 524 properties to facilitate the upgrading of South Road but apparently has not yet considered purchasing any property to assist in relocating any infrastructure from Park Lands to any brownfield site. The proposed new Aquatic Centre represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore Park Lands.

The site of the existing Aquatic Centre in Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) was chosen more than 50 years ago, well before National Heritage listing of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Replacement of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to entirely restore the location of the existing Aquatic Centre to Open, Green, Public.

Thousands of South Australians are urging you to step in and switch locations for the proposed new Aquatic Centre. You would be applauded by our hundreds of members, our thousands of supporters, and the broader public for recognising and acting upon this groundswell of opinion.

It would be disappointing if the Government were to press ahead with its present plans. Such a course of action would effectively ignore the wishes of more than 2,500 petitioners, and reverse the benefit of restoring the current Aquatic Centre site.

In summary, the community is pleading for your Government to "Restore and Protect" this Park, rather than "Restore and Attack" it.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President



8 March 2023



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Dear Premier

State Aquatic Centre - petition for brownfield site reaches over 1,000 signatures

The Adelaide Park Lands have been chipped away and their area reduced, over successive generations. That trend has accelerated in 2022, as the Government has proposed Park Lands sites to build:

- a new wing of the Botanic High School in Park 11,
- a new Womens and Children's Hospital and associated car park in Park 27,
- a new barracks for the SA Police Mounted Unit; (authorised in new legislation); and
- a new Aquatic Centre in Park 2.

So far there appears to have been no appetite from your Government to provide any of these facilities on alternative brownfield sites. In relation to the proposed new Aquatic Centre, your Government's public consultation process in July 2022 was flawed, because it limited choices only to sites within Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2).

In contrast, an open-ended survey of 682 survey respondents voted overwhelmingly (more than 85%) to endorse a brownfield site, rather than the Government's proposed Park Lands site.¹ These survey respondents have had their views ignored. A petition seeking that outcome has now attracted more than 1,000 signatures,² far more than the number who responded to the Government's flawed consultation.

During the 2022 State election campaign, you promised a new Aquatic Centre on either the current site, or an "adjacent" site. That promise could be fulfilled by protecting Park Lands and building in an adjacent suburb, such as Hindmarsh or Thebarton, the area favoured by most survey respondents.

One appropriate near-city brownfield site is the old West End brewery site on Port Road, currently for sale.³ This site - more than 8.4 hectares - is in easy reach of the City on the tram line, and is large enough to accommodate at least a new Aquatic Centre, as well as other developments.

More broadly I am hoping that your Government will review the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* with the aim of strengthening protection for the Park Lands. Clearly, the Act has proven to be ineffective at preventing regular Park losses. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with the Government in discussing options to strengthen legislative protections for the Adelaide Park Lands.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President

20 December 2022

1 <https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/new-aquatic>

2 <https://www.change.org/p/save-these-trees-choose-a-brownfield-site-for-new-aquatic-centre>

3 <https://www.realcommercial.com.au/for-sale/property-the-old-west-end-brewery-site-107-port-road-thebarton-sa-5031-504167591>