



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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NEWS RELEASE

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Aquatic Centre site: SHAM consultation

The State Government is undertaking a sham process of consultation on its proposals for a new \$80 million Aquatic Centre.

The Government's so-called consultation that opens today envisages no potential site other than on Open Green Public Park Lands.

The President of the Adelaide Park Lands Association, Shane Sody has written to:

- the Premier, Peter Malinauskas,
- Transport and Infrastructure Minister Tom Koutsantonis, and
- the Member for Adelaide, Lucy Hood

to point out that [there are multiple other brownfield sites around Adelaide that could be used.](#)

The State Government has powers to acquire any land it needs. By [thinking outside the box](#), a new Aquatic Centre site could be a win-win for swimmers and your Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands.

Mr Koutsantonis has acknowledged that the proposed new Aquatic Centre is intended to be used not just by the residents of Adelaide and North Adelaide. He says it's important that many different communities in and around Adelaide's CBD have their say.

Yet the sham consultation started by his Department today appears to have prematurely closed the door on any non-Park Lands site.

The Adelaide Park Lands Association has set up a rival consultation process, with a simple one-minute on-line survey, giving a much wider range of potential locations. Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KGZ7FKT>

"Our survey gives respondents a wide choice of suburbs around the City where a new Aquatic Centre might be located" Mr Sody says.

"Our survey will be running throughout the same period of time as the Government's sham consultation.

"We will be providing to the State Government real feedback, from an open-ended survey, showing that the Government does not need to attack Adelaide's Open Green Public Park Lands to deliver a first-class new Aquatic Centre."

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[**www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au**](http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au)

BACKGROUND

In 1854 the first Adelaide "City Baths" were erected off King William Road in Tartanya Wama (Park 26).

They were expanded or upgraded on the same site in the 1880's and again in 1940.

Then, in 1969, the "City Baths" site was taken over by a brand new Festival Centre and more of your Open Green Public Park Lands in Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) were taken away for a new swimming pool complex.

Sixteen years later, in 1985, the swimming pools were roofed and enclosed. Over time, large parts of the adjacent Open Green Public Park Lands were sacrificed for car parking.

Of course, a swimming pool or aquatic centre is a valuable community resource. Such a public facility encourages health and fitness and a commitment to build a new one is warmly welcomed.

But a pay-to-enter swimming pool building is NOT a park. Although it might well be "public" it is neither "open" nor "green".

Both the Adelaide City Council and the State Government agree that the current Aquatic Centre has passed its useful life.

There is absolutely no reason why a new facility must repeat the mistakes of 1854 and 1969 and be located, once again, on your Park Lands.

Getting State funding for a new Aquatic Centre represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore lost Park Lands.

It is an opportunity to learn from the mistakes of 1854 and 1969.

It is an opportunity to value Adelaide's world-unique green garland for its own sake, and restore all of Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) to Adelaide's Open Green Public garland.

The State Government needs to think outside the box.