



Adelaide Park Lands Association

c/o BK Partners Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 4053,
Norwood South
SA 5067
secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au

ABN 19 706 384 386

NEWS RELEASE

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World Body Urged: Don't Fall for Adelaide "Park City" hypocrisy

The London-based National Park City Foundation has been urged not to fall for State Government hypocrisy in seeking "Park City" status for Adelaide, while the Government continues to attack the Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands.

The SA Government has started the process of seeking endorsement of Adelaide as the world's second National Park City.

However, APA has advised the National Park City Foundation that the Adelaide bid cannot be taken seriously, because the State Government keeps on attacking Park Lands.

A letter to the Foundation from APA President Shane Sody lists eight recent examples of State-sponsored Park Lands attacks. The list exposes the hypocrisy of the South Australia Government claiming recognition for its attitude towards Parks. These attacks, itemised in the letter, include:

- the commercial takeover of the former public Festival Plaza, in Park 26;
- Adelaide Oval Hotel in Park 26;
- Botanic High school in Park 11;
- a proposed new 15,000 seat stadium in Helen Mayo Park, Park 27;
- a new Womens and Children's Hospital off Port Road in Park 27;
- a new multi-storey car park in Kate Cocks Park, Park 27; and
- proposed Planning Code changes to allow major developments throughout a greatly enlarged "Riverbank precinct" throughout Parks 27, 26, 12 and 11.

Mr Sody has urged the National Park City Foundation to respond to the SA bid by urging the South Australian Government to "stop the continual plunder of Park Lands... and put in place enduring legal protection for this irreplaceable green asset."

"APA is not opposed to recognition of Adelaide by the National Park City Foundation" Mr Sody said. "However actual Park protection is more important than any title. It would be futile to have international recognition of an asset that the State Government is determined to continually damage.

"It is not too late for the State Government to wake up to its mistakes and pursue its major development agendas on commercial land rather than on the land that South Australians love: their Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands."

See the letter at this link: http://archives.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/Submissions%20and%20Letters/Letter_NPC_Foundation_16_August_2021.pdf

Contact: Shane Sody 0414 959 125

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au

BACKGROUND

The Adelaide Park Lands secured National Heritage listing in 2008.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/australian-heritage-council/national-heritage-assessments/adelaide-park-lands>

However, despite a recommendation from the State Heritage Council in Decemer 2018, the State Government has failed to accord the Park Lands comparable Heritage protection under State law.

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/heritage

Meanwhile, the Adelaide Park Lands Association and the City of Adelaide are both working towards international recognition of Adelaide, on UNESCO's World Heritage list, as the world's only City in a Park.

The title of "National Park City" is not tied to heritage listing or status. It is a project of the National Park City foundation based in London. At present, London is the world's only National Park City, but the SA Government has started a process to have Adelaide accepted for the same status, as have several other cities around the world.

<https://www.nationalparkcity.org/>