



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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Department for Infrastructure and Transport
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Adelaide Aquatic Centre Code Amendment

The Adelaide Park Lands Association welcomes a commitment by the State Government to build a new Aquatic Centre. We also welcome a commitment that the site of the existing Aquatic Centre should be restored to Open, Green, Public Park Lands.

However this Association rejects the proposed Code Amendment in its entirety. The proposed Code Amendment rests upon a flawed assumption that the only suitable site for a new Aquatic Centre is a site within the world-unique, National Heritage listed Adelaide Park Lands.

During the 2022 State election campaign, then-Opposition leader Peter Malinauskas promised that an incoming SA Labor State Government would build a new Aquatic Centre either on the existing site or an “adjacent” site.

After the State election, hopes were raised that the State Government might choose an “adjacent” brownfield site in a near-suburb such as Medindie, Brompton, Thebarton or Hindmarsh. We [offered many suggestions, pointing out multiple sites around Adelaide that could be used](#). The State Government has powers to acquire any lands it needs for the purpose.

The cost of purchasing an appropriate site would represent only a small proportion of the budget for this project. Indeed, the State Government is intending to purchase 524 properties to rebuild South Road. Yet it has so far been [unwilling to commit to purchase even a single property](#) on which it might build a new Aquatic Centre.

The chosen site in Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) reflects a lack of appreciation for Adelaide’s outstanding asset; the Open, Green Public garland of Park Lands. The Adelaide Park Lands make up only 0.2% of the Adelaide metropolitan area. Selecting a Park Lands site for new infrastructure reflects an outdated assumption that Adelaide’s Park Lands are dispensable, not worthy of protection (nor *restoration*, where possible) as Parks. This assumption is fundamentally at odds with Adelaide’s status as a National Park City and the State Government’s recently-announced intention to support a campaign for World Heritage listing of the Park Lands.

Imagine the outcry in New York if the City’s administration recommended new infrastructure be located within Central Park.

We urge the Minister to reject this Code Amendment and instead examine a range of brownfield options, such as at Thebarton or Hindmarsh, suburbs that could benefit from rejuvenation, and are better served by public transport.

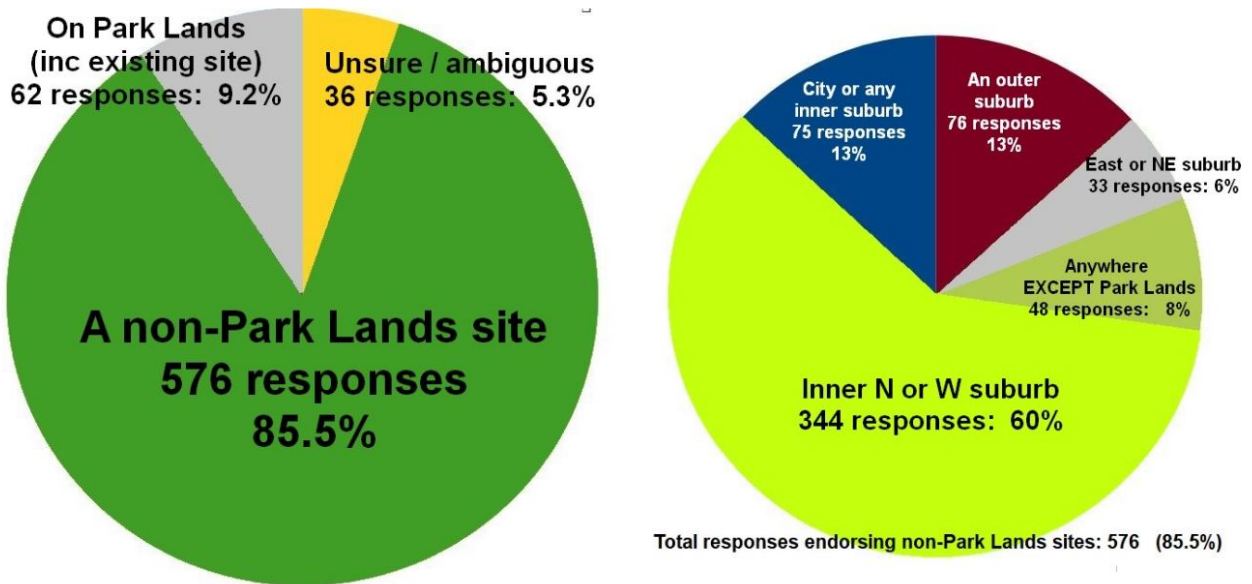
This would allow full restoration of Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) to ‘Open, Green, Public’ status after a new Aquatic Centre is built elsewhere. This would be consistent with a stated aim of the Government to “protect and restore” Park Lands.

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Park Lands site rejected by the community

Community consultation undertaken by the Government during July 2022, was fundamentally flawed. Government-appointed consultants constrained public feedback by refusing to offer for consideration any site other than within Park 2. This flawed consultation attracted over 900 responses.

In contrast, parallel open-ended consultation allowing respondents to choose any preferred suburb or location, indicated 85% support for sites other than Park Lands.



Since then, a petition sponsored by the Adelaide Park Lands Association has attracted (so far) more than 2,420 responses urging the State Government to “choose a better brownfield site, close to public transport, in a suburb that could benefit from rejuvenation.”

I have provided along with this document, three Excel spreadsheets. They are:

- (1) the comments of all people who responded to our open-ended survey in July 2022;
- (2) the list of signatories to our petition as at 5 March 2023; and
- (3) their comments on our petition.

These documents make it abundantly clear that the community does not endorse re-zoning of Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2).

I trust that you will have regard to the views of the community as evidenced by these attached documents, in addition to this formal response from the Adelaide Park Lands Association.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President

5 March 2023

About the Adelaide Park Lands Association

Our Association was founded in 1987 as a non-profit community based organisation - a 'watchdog' to guard Adelaide's greatest treasure: the world-unique, National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.

But we are much more than a watchdog. We offer a focal point for South Australians to explore, be inspired by, protect and restore the Open Green Public spaces that are matched nowhere else in the world.

Our support comes from a broad cross-section of the South Australian community, across the political spectrum - people who **Love Your Park Lands**, as **Open, Green, Public** spaces.

On 6 March 2023, our newsletter subscription list contained 3,876 active subscribers. Our following on Facebook was over 3,900, and on Instagram 1,285. Our list of full (paid-up) members contained 489 names.

These numbers do not include sponsors, donors and subscribers to separate feeds for our Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize competition.

This is [what we do](#):

Explore



Inspire



Protect



Restore



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