

NEWSLETTER Edition 35 March 2014

STATE ELECTION – 15 MARCH 2014

At the coming State Election residents in the south east of the city will vote for a State Government that will be in power for the next four years. The current Government has introduced a development approval process that excludes our elected Adelaide City Council from developments over \$10 million. The Council is therefore no longer able to represent residents' concerns about high rise developments which may be proposed near their homes.

SECRA is most concerned about this situation and on 16 January 2014 wrote to the Premier, Jay Weatherill and the Leader of the Opposition, Steven Marshall.

In the letter SECRA stated *"In order to ensure that SECRA can inform our residents on what your party's policies will be on development within the City of Adelaide if elected to Government could you please provide answers to the following questions? If a response is not received from you by 28 February 2014 residents will be advised accordingly."*

- 1. Will the Expert Panel on Planning Reform be retained and will their recommendations be implemented unless there are substantial reasons to reject them?*
- 2. Will any development approval responsibilities and statutory consultation rights be returned to the Adelaide City Council and if so what will these be and how will they be implemented?*
- 3. Will the size of catalyst sites be increased from 1500 square metres to 2500 square metres as proposed by the Adelaide City Council and rejected by the current Minister of Planning?*

The following response to the above three questions has been received from Steven Marshall's office.

- 1. Yes, we will retain the Expert Panel on Planning Reform and allow it to finalise its work which is due later this year.*
- 2. We will bring them back to the pre-assessment process for developments over \$10m in the CBD.*
- 3. If elected, a Marshall Government looks forward to working with the ACC to progress this issue.*

As at 9 March 2014, which is over seven weeks since the questions were sent to Mr Weatherill, no response to the three questions has been received from Mr Weatherill.

SECRA is non political but is very disappointed that no response to its questions has been received from Mr Weatherill. It must therefore be concluded that the most unsatisfactory development approval process created by the current Labor Party Government will continue should they be re elected. This would mean that the development approval process for projects over \$10 million will not return to what was previously an inclusive, consultative and democratic development approval process. This a major concern to SECRA as it is those projects over \$10 million that have the potential to adversely affect residential properties.



CLIPSAL 500 OCCUPATION OF VICTORIA PARK

While Clipsal 500 has responded to some of the issues raised by SECRA its occupation of Victoria Park continues to cause concern. On the positive side the contractors' compounds have been relocated from the East Terrace side of Victoria Park to the Fullarton Road side and the Fullarton Road entrance is being used instead of the Halifax Street entrance (much to the concerns of Rose Park residents). However Clipsal's occupation of Victoria Park can be likened to a cancer. Each year it takes over more of the park resulting in an increase in damage and a decrease in the area being able to be accessed and utilised by the public.

The excavation of a significant grassed area to accommodate the "Tractor Pull" is just one example. What has that event to do with car racing and how can the resultant damage to the park be justified?

We are told that the Clipsal 500 event brings many millions of dollars into the State. We are also told that the reason that it takes so long to set up and dismantle the infrastructure in Victoria Park is that there are not enough appropriately skilled local workers available to be able to undertake the work more quickly. If the event

brings so much money into the State why can't some of this money be used to bring skilled workers from interstate to speed up the work and reduce the time that Victoria Park is unavailable for the enjoyment and recreational use by the general public? Other street car races in cities throughout the world are able to achieve this so why can't the Clipsal 500.



SECRA is particularly concerned about the degradation of the once-grassy strip of parklands between the new fitness circuit and the Park Lands Trail along East Terrace from Halifax Street to South Terrace. This area is now a swamp in winter and a dust-bowl in summer. It is an area of Victoria Park close to housing and most used by families and walkers. SECRA will be asking the Adelaide City Council to make available the money in the 2014/15 Budget to install irrigation and return the degraded space to the pleasant grassy area it once was (before being destroyed by cars and trucks driving over it) and plant trees and shrubs and erect seating for walkers. This area should not be subjected to occupation by a commercial plant sale business (for 6 weeks during the car race set-up and take-down). Also it should not be used as a carpark by Clipsal 500!

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

The free movie show arranged by the Adelaide City Council and local community organisations on Friday 7 February 2014 at Himeji Gardens in the south Park Lands was well attended. There was a mixture of residents, friends and families on portable chairs and rugs, many of whom enjoyed a picnic tea in what was a very pleasant balmy night with an enjoyable movie.

NEW CITY LIBRARY OPENED

The new City Library was opened last month and is the most modern library of any Australian Capital City. The library is located above Harris Scarfe on the top floor of Rundle Place Centre and is accessed from Rundle Mall via Francis Street. Access is either by stairs or lift. All residents are encouraged to visit the new library and you are assured of being pleasantly surprised at what is available. In addition to being able to borrow hard copy or electronic books there are many other things on offer such as internet access, reading areas, including an outdoor rooftop reading area, meeting rooms and the Adelaide City Digital Hub that provides free training in computer, internet, iPads, smartphones, on line banking and applications such as Facebook and Twitter. The library is staffed by Adelaide Council Staff together with volunteers. Depending upon when you visit you may see a resident artist working or the 3D printer producing amazing small complex articles.

The Council has offered SECRA the opportunity for a group of SECRA members to be given a conducted tour of the library. If you are interested in such a tour please email to SECRA.SA@gmail.com with your name, preferred times, and if we get sufficient interest we will arrange for a conducted tour of the library.