

NEWSLETTER Edition 39 May 2015

SAVE RYMILL PARK PICNIC RALLY – SUNDAY 31ST MAY AT 12 NOON

In February 2014 prior to the last State Election the Premier, Jay Weatherill, announced the proposal to upgrade the O-Bahn which involved digging a dual-carriageway extending for about 500m beneath Hackney Rd from near Plane Tree Drive, under the busy North Tce and Rundle Rd intersections. The tunnel was to exit at the East Terrace end of Rundle Road to connect with the cross-city priority bus lane.

In February 2015 the State Government revealed a new plan for its promised O-Bahn upgrade which includes a shorter tunnel and closing Rundle Rd to return it to parklands. What it does not publicise is that the tunnel exits into Rymill Park with the dual O-Bahn track, together with a dual lane roadway and tram corridor bisecting Rymill Park from Dequetteville Terrace to East Terrace passing within 20 metres of Rymill Park lake.



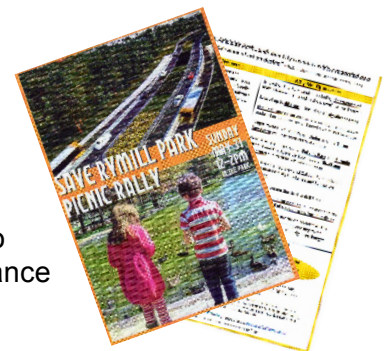
This project is another example of a State Government ignoring the fact that Adelaide's Park Lands belong to and are for the enjoyment of the people of South Australia. It beggars belief that the SA Government proposes to build this wide transport corridor through Rymill Park and ruin what is one of Adelaide's most popular and well used parks that has been enjoyed by generations of families.

SECRA supports the use of public transport and is of the view that if this project is to proceed it should only involve the O-Bahn corridor and that the ramp from East Terrace to the tunnel entrance should be kept at a minimum in order to reduce the impact of the project on Rymill Park. Road traffic could continue to use Rundle Road, albeit reduced in width to compensate for the area of Park Lands required for the O-Bahn tunnel access ramp. Surely the objective should be to encourage commuters to use public transport and not their own cars.

However SECRA has reservations about the whole concept of this project and questions how the expenditure of \$160 million on this project can be justified to save 3 ½ minutes on an O-Bahn trip when the State Government is supposedly short of funding. Surely this \$160 million would be better spent on improvements to public transport to those areas that are poorly served by public transport or on those roads throughout the state that are badly in need of upgrading such as some of the roads in the south east that are so bad that ambulances carrying patients are having to use alternative routes.

A "Save Rymill Park Picnic Rally" is planned for Sunday 31 May and is a joint initiative of a number of organisations, including SECRA, that have banded together to oppose what will be the destruction of Rymill Park. You are encouraged to come and show your support. Flyers publishing the rally have been printed and are being distributed.

A copy of the flyer will be emailed to SECRA members and you will be asked to please forward it to your friends and contacts seeking their support and attendance at the rally.



UPCOMING "GO GREEN" EVENTS

A number of "Go Green" Adelaide City Council activities that may be of interest to SECRA members are planned as follows:

May 22 – Fair Trade Short Films and Q & A Panel Discussion

May 30 – Grow Your Own Bush Tucker

June 10 – Go Green Recycling Bus Tour

June 27 – Go Green Park Lands Walk

Details of the "Go Green" events are available on the Adelaide City Council web site at <http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/your-community/groups-programs-projects/community-events-and-activities/go-green/go-green-activities>

HOW WILL YOU SHAPE THE ADELAIDE PARK LANDS?

The Adelaide City Council wants to make the Park Lands a place for all and this is a chance for members of the community to share thoughts about what the Park Lands could look like in the future. The council wants to hear your thoughts on how the Park Lands can be improved and what needs to be left alone.

To get involved all you need to do is visit the website shape.adelaideparklands.com.au and leave an idea or join the online discussion forum for more in-depth debate on Park Lands management directions.

The ideas received will help the council to understand what people want from the Park Lands in the future. These strategies and projects will be included in the draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy which will be released for public comment towards the end of the year.

FREE CITY CONNECTOR BUS SURVEY

In January 2014 the new free City Connector bus service commenced. The Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Metro are conducting a review of the first year of this service. As part of this review, they would like people to tell them their thoughts and opinions on the new service, how it is performing and further improvements they would like to see on the service.

SECRA encourages residents to participate in this survey as it is of the view that the City Connector bus has been a valuable service to residents, workers and visitors to the city and it should be continued.

Feedback on the free City Connector can be provided by completing the survey that is accessible by going to <http://yoursay.adelaidecitycouncil.com/city-connector-bus>.

Survey feedback forms are also available from the Hutt Street Library, Box Factory community Centre and the Adelaide City Council Customer Centre at 25 Pirie Street. Survey submissions must be received before 5pm on Friday 22 May 2015.

HIGH RISE DEVELOPMENTS AND HIGH DENSITY LIVING

In the July 2014 SECRA Newsletter expressed concern about an approved development in Hume Street that was allowed as a result of the Minister for Planning, John Rau, introducing interim development planning amendments in apparent haste and without adequate consultation. This development at 22-24 Hume Street on a 394m² site consists of an 8 storey building containing 30 serviced apartments with no off street parking is now nearing completion as can be seen in the adjacent photograph.

Hume Street consists of single and two storey residences and on either side of this development is a single storey residence with a gap of about 1 metre between their side walls and the walls of the new building. If this is the type of high rise and high density living that the Weatherill Government wants for the City of Adelaide then residents beware!



Also the type of high density apartment style living being encouraged by the Weatherill Government has created social problems where it has occurred in other countries. This is exacerbated where recreational activities are limited for those youth occupying these apartment blocks. With SA politicians "hell bent" on desecrating the Park Lands this could well become a real problem in the City of Adelaide for future generations!