

## NEWSLETTER Edition 53 APRIL 2020

The South East City Residents Association Committee extends its best wishes to all residents in the south east of the city during this most challenging time as a result of COVID-19. This has resulted in many changes in Hutt Street with many restaurants closed or doing take away only, the Hutt Street Post Shop is temporarily closed until further notice (Post Shop services are available at the Adelaide Rundle Mall Post Shop located in the City Cross Complex) and many community services suspended including the free Connector Bus and the Adelaide Council's Library. SECRA encourages residents to shop locally to support the businesses trying to work through the government restrictions.

Both IGAs are open together with a number of restaurants and cafes in Hutt Street and other places within the south east precinct providing takeaways and deliveries.

As with many organisations the SECRA Committee's activities have been constrained. SECRA's last committee meeting was held in the Park Lands on 19<sup>th</sup> March with committee members keeping the required distance from each other. South Ward Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor Alex Hyde also attended this meeting and his attention was drawn to a number of residents' needs in the south east of the City for inclusion in the Council's next budget.

Thank you to the residents who responded to the email asking for issues of concern in our area. SECRA brought up these and a number of other local issues. The topics ranged from safer streets, lighting, footpath improvements and bins. Updates were sought on the progress of the Hutt Street Master Plan and the South Ward Street and Movement Study. The increasing congestion on our footpaths was noted and improved signage and an education program for cyclists and e-scooter users was requested. Finally the management and use of the Park Lands and city squares was discussed. It was a useful meeting and SECRA looks forward to seeing some of these matters translating into Council's budget

It is proposed to use video conferencing for SECRA committee meetings until the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Before the current restrictions, SECRA made submissions on the Adelaide Aquatic Centre Draft Needs Analysis, the Adelaide Football Club Unsolicited Proposal, the Adelaide Park Lands Building Design Guidelines, the Planning and Design Code and the E-W Bikeway. SECRA representatives attended the DPA hearings for Lot 14, the Lord Mayor's afternoon tea for resident groups and two public meetings associated with the AFC's unsolicited proposal.

### **ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB UNSOLICITED SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE PROPOSAL**

The Adelaide Football Club (AFC) has advised that it has written to the City of Adelaide and put on hold its proposal to build its administration centre on the Adelaide Aquatic Centre site in the northern Park Lands. The AFC intends to maintain its communication with the Adelaide City Council with a view to revisiting the opportunity at a later date should it remain a viable option. Why the AFC would want to move from West Lakes where they are able to remain rent free until 2038 in a \$21 million training facility that is little than a decade old is a mystery! Is there a hidden agenda?

SECRA opposes the relocation of the AFC to the Adelaide Park Lands and if the proposal is revisited in the future hopefully it will be after the next Adelaide City Council elections and the Council reverts to its traditional composition of independent non-aligned councillors who fulfil their responsibility of protecting the Park Lands from commercial interests.

SECRA notes that some residents in the SE of the city will be eligible to vote in the upcoming by-election for the Central Ward following the resignation of Houssam Abiad. Eight candidates are seeking the seat and SECRA encourages those eligible to use your vote wisely. Keep an eye out in your letterboxes as information will be available from 21 to 27 April with voting closing on 11 May 2020.



## **PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE**

SECRA is of the view that there are many aspects of the Planning and Design Code that will adversely affect residents of the City of Adelaide. and highlighted the following issues:

- Restoring previously listed heritage-listed buildings in the south-east corner of Adelaide to their original status during the reform process, in conjunction with the Adelaide City Council..
- SECRA does not support any reduction of the demolition controls.
- Interaction of other legislation with the new Planning Act, i.e. Adelaide Park Lands Act and the protection of the Park Lands.
- Clarification on issues relating to previously non-complying businesses
- Expansion of proposed appeal rights

Consultation has closed and submissions can be accessed at

[https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have\\_your\\_say/Draft\\_Planning\\_and\\_Design\\_Code\\_for\\_South\\_Australia](https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/Draft_Planning_and_Design_Code_for_South_Australia)

The State Planning Commission will consider the feedback received in making amendments to the Code and will prepare an Engagement Report that will outline what was heard during the consultation and how the Code could be amended in response to submissions. The Engagement Report will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration in making a decision and then be released on the SA Planning Portal.

In the meantime, the Community Alliance of SA (of which SECRA is a member) is seeking a further extension of time for the implementation of the Code as it incomplete and not fit for purpose.

## **A WISH LIST FOR AFTER THIS IS ALL OVER**

- That rough sleepers and other homeless people can continue to be found places of safety.
- That the Adelaide Park Lands are truly valued as vital open space. Victoria Park allows hundreds of people to exercise and connect with nature while maintaining physical distancing, and also provides much needed social connection, as people wish each other well as they pass by.
- That a city is its people; that community, and community health, are as important as the economy.
- That people continue to support our local businesses (especially our supermarkets) in Hutt Street and nearby streets.
- That we continue to look after those who struggle to find a job, or who find a job that can't give them financial security.
- That level of harmful emissions does not revert to pre-pandemic levels (or increase).
- That all levels of government will remain open to different points of view and don't retreat into factionalism.
- That governments will be guided by science and scientific experts on how to deal with the climate emergency, as they are during the Covid-19 emergency.
- That pedestrians will not have to revert to pressing a button to be allowed to cross the road (unlike those in cars).

## **SUPERLOOP ADELAIDE 500**

Representatives of SECRA provide feedback on the operation of the Adelaide 500 to the management group within Tourism SA following the race. SECRA would welcome an email to [secra.sa@gmail.com](mailto:secra.sa@gmail.com) setting out your views and experiences while the race was operating this year to inform these meetings. While the footprint on the Park Lands was smaller than previous years, the program spanned more of the day, leading to more noise and air pollution in the SE corner. SECRA sought financial information on the financial and evaluation reports for past years and eventually had to use an FOI request. This proved to be of little use due to much of the text being blocked out. SECRA remains committed to the view that car street races are inappropriate activity for the Adelaide Park Lands, noting that there is now an alternative venue for car racing at the Bend.

## **LORD MAYOR'S AFTERNOON TEA**

On 4 March 2020, the Lord Mayor invited one person from each of the established city residents group to meet her for afternoon tea in her office. The Lord Mayor provided a progress report on the Council's activities and sought information from residents groups on the processes used to consult with their members.

While SECRA was delighted that consultations with the Lord Mayor were re-established, there were a number of concerns primarily about process. The Lord Mayor did suggest that she was interested in meeting residents groups and SECRA is interested in taking up this offer.

The Lord Mayor made herself available for a number of 15 minute chats with residents prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

## **SECRA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Despite our best efforts by our Treasurer, there are still a few SECRA Members who have not yet renewed their SECRA membership. Payment can be made by post to SECRA, PO Box 7017, Hutt Street, Adelaide or electronically to BSB 105-148, Account No. 024 710 940 (please include initials and surname as payment reference).