

strengthening our community

4 December 2018

The Lord Mayor
Ms Sandy Verschoor
City of Adelaide
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide 5001

Dear Lord Mayor

Please accept SECRA's sincere congratulations on your election to the position of Lord Mayor.

SECRA was pleased to see that you are making a strong stand against the proposal for the development of a hotel at the Adelaide Oval. The Parklands which surround our beautiful city are continually under threat and SECRA in principle objects to any action that alienates it from the general public. The Park Lands should not be used for commercial ventures and such a hotel would establish a precedent that could well put our Park Lands at risk of further commercial developments.

SECRA is confident that if the hotel had been included in the original proposal to redevelop the Adelaide Oval there would have been considerable opposition which may well have put the proposed redevelopment at risk.

Please be assured that SECRA strongly supports your stand on opposing the proposed hotel.

Also SECRA is most concerned that the Government did not consult with the City of Adelaide Council about this proposal and saw fit to only brief the Council on the day before informing the public about the project. SECRA also raised concerns when a similar situation occurred under the previous State Government with the proposed O-Bahn Busway through Rymil Park and the Adelaide Botanic High School.

Such actions by State Governments show a complete disregard for the establishment of good working relationships with the City of Adelaide Council and an understanding of the fact that the Council is responsible for the Park Lands on behalf of all South Australians.

The Adelaide Park Lands are unique and State Governments should see them as such and should be working with the City of Adelaide to ensure that they protected instead of seeing them as an opportunity for development.

SECRA is also of the view that the Park Lands should be better promoted as a tourist attraction by the Government. Where else are visitors able to walk or cycle in Park Lands surrounding a city, alongside a river, through natural woodlands, visit sporting and playground facilities and an discover a historic cemetery where early settlers are buried?

SECRA has a number of suggestions that will improve the Park Lands as a tourist attraction which we will raise with you at a later date.

In summary SECRA wishes you every success as Lord Mayor and looks forward to working with council for the benefit of residents of the south east corner of the city.

Regards



John Underwood
Chairperson, South East City Residents Association (SECRA)
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