

11 December 2009

Manager City and Park Lands Planning  
Adelaide City Council  
GPO Box 2252  
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mr David Bailey

**RE: ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT “EVENTS IN THE PARK LANDS”**

The South East City Residents Association (SECRA) has reviewed the Adelaide City Council Draft Policy Document “Events In The Park Lands” and provides the following comments.

SECRA is of the view that the Park Lands are primarily for the use and enjoyment of the general public of South Australia. This will become more important with the increasing population density within the city and adjacent suburbs. The Park Lands should not therefore be seen as being the place to hold major events, particularly those of a commercial nature. SECRA also sees a conflict within the Adelaide City Council with the Events Department being a business unit whose performance is in part measured by the revenue received from such events.

SECRA is also of the view that there should be no parking of vehicles within the Park Lands other than on hard standing areas which have specifically been set aside for parking. All Major events together with those medium events which are to be held over a number of days should be required to have a public transport plan which incorporates the use of shuttle buses and local parking stations if appropriate.

The Park Lands are of significant importance to the residents of the south eastern precinct of the city and in particular Victoria Park which is adjacent to the residential area of the precinct.

## **VICTORIA PARK**

SECRA is of the view that Victoria Park is primarily a “people’s park” which provides a relaxing environment for individuals, families and small groups to meet, recreate, walk, jog, cycle, play and to generally relax and enjoy the quiet natural ambience and bio-diversity of the park. This enjoyment will be further enhanced with implementation of the Adelaide City Council’s Master Plan together with the development of the wet lands at the southern end of the park.

Of concern to SECRA is the conflicting information provided in the document in relation to type of events that are proposed to be held in Victoria Park.

Attachment A to the Policy document that shows the “Current and Proposed Major/Medium Event Areas” shows a large “major/medium event area” at the northern end of the park. Schedule 1 on the other hand, states that Victoria Park is suitable for “large scale community sporting events”. While a “Major” and a “Medium” event is defined in the document no such definition is provided for a “large scale community event”.

Because of its close proximity to residents SECRA is opposed the holding of Major events in Victoria Park and is of the view that any Medium” events held in the park should be limited to community sporting events and that such events should be primarily participative sporting events and not spectator events. SECRA is opposed to the holding of the Clipsal 500 and the Skyshow in Victoria Park and is of the view that musical events should not be permitted in Victoria Park.

Residents in the vicinity of Victoria Park during the Clipsal 500 already have the inconvenience of the noise of racing cars, helicopter flights, after race concerts and noisy patrons in residential streets. This will be exacerbated by the Skyshow.

Complaints have also been received from residents about the noise from public address systems being used at the park during sporting and other events.

SECRA would like to see noise monitoring of the above events together with the monitoring of similar events held in the parks north of Victoria Park that are adjacent to the south eastern precinct residential area. It is understood that this is done in some other areas of the Park Lands. SECRA would then be in a position to advise residents of the noise levels produced by such events and if the levels exceed those levels permitted under the relevant health regulations.

Victoria Park is not well serviced by public transport and consequently parking in surrounding streets can be a problem during large scale events, particularly for evening events when residents often find vehicles being illegally parked in residential permit areas. Organisers of such events should be made aware of this situation and advised that the area will be policed and infringement notices issued to offending vehicles.

Because of the large open space nature of Victoria Park organisers appear to believe that it is all right to use areas of the park for the indiscriminate storage of items required for their event. (eg the Horse Trial set up activities). Organisers should only be permitted to store such items in approved areas.

Vehicle parking for events in Victoria Park should be confined to the strip running parallel to Fullarton Road with vehicle access to the park being from that road. No parking should be allowed on the western side of the park. All vehicular access points to Victoria Park should be closed and only opened when required for events or maintenance activities in order to prevent the indiscriminate driving of vehicles within the park.

Organisers of evening events should be required to ask those attending to respect the fact that it is a residential area and to be quiet when leaving. The Adelaide Festival has agreed with SECRA to do this for their “A Little More Light” event to be held on 27 February 2009.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

The document defines “Major”, “Medium” and “Minor” events as being events of “5000 plus”, “3000 to 5000” and “0 to 3000” people respectively. It does not however define an “event”. While there are many activities in the Park Lands involving small numbers of people it is most unlikely that these would constitute an “event” covered by this document. An “event” should therefore be clearly defined in the document.

While the draft document spells out the need to avoid damage to turf, trees and infrastructure and to minimise the impact on grassed areas by organisers’ vehicles past experience has shown that this will continue to occur. A methodology is required to ensure that the requirements are adhered to by the organisers of events. This could take the form of a bond to be deposited to cover the costs of any remedial works together with policing and the issuing of infringement notices to offending vehicles.

Where it is a requirement for organisers of an event to bring vehicles onto the Park Lands they should be required to obtain the appropriate permit for each vehicle. The application forms for these permits should clearly identify those areas where vehicles are able to be driven within the Park Lands.

Organisers who require heavy vehicles to transport equipment for their event should be required to submit a traffic management plan for approval. This plan should identify the routes to be taken by these vehicles and the access points required into the Park Lands. The use of residential streets within the City of Adelaide should be avoided.

SECRA is of the view that structures required for events should be of a temporary nature. The construction of any permanent structures should be limited to those required to provide essential facilities (eg toilets) and should be able to be fully justified, in keeping with the surroundings and have a minimum footprint.

Fees charged for events on the Park Lands should be set at a price which discourages commercial use subsidised by ratepayers but encourages participative, community use with those events alienating the Park Lands from normal use being charged a reasonable commercial rate. Fees should be charged for the set up and take down phases as well as the actual days of the event.

A schedule of coming events should be available on the Council’s Events website together with the days required to set up and dismantle the infrastructure for the event. This information should be able to be accessed by the general public as well as those persons who are submitting an event application.

While it is acknowledged that the activities of the South Australian Motor Sport Board are outside of the control of the Adelaide City Council it is of concern that the Clipsal 500 Event contravenes many of the objectives listed in the draft document. Once approved the “Events In The Park Lands” document should be forwarded to the South Australian Motor Sport Board so that they are aware of what is required of other organisers of events in the Park Lands.

## CHANGES TO SPECIFIC CLAUSES

The following amendments are suggested on specific clauses of the draft document:

- 6.2.5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> dot point  
Ensuring that event organisers notify adjacent residents and businesses, *together with those in close proximity that may be affected by the event*, by letterbox drop prior to all major events in the 2-4 week period preceding the event; and
- 6.3.2  
Considering the development of *appropriate* new facilities to improve event capacity in the Park Lands and minimise impact on residents, for example a multi functional events space at Tambawodli (Park 24), consistent with the Adelaide Park Lands Strategy;
- SECRA also supports the suggested changes to clauses by the Adelaide Park Lands Authority at its meeting held on 19 November 2009.

Taking the above comments into account SECRA is in general agreement with the draft document but has reservations regarding the adherence to the policy by many organisers of the events and is therefore of the view that effective strategies need to be in place to address this issue.

Kind Regards

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