

**strengthening our community**

6 May 2020

Mr Steven Marshall MP  
Member for Dunstan  
Unit 2, 90-94  
The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067

Dear Mr Marshall

SECRA would like to thank you for keeping South Australian's safe during the COVID19 crisis.

SECRA is a community-based group committed to providing the residents of the south-east precinct of the City of Adelaide with a voice. SECRA also seeks to preserve and enhance the inherent character and heritage of the neighbourhood, including the adjacent area of the Park Lands, and in particular, Victoria Park. In addition, SECRA supports the provision of local retail and service facilities while retaining the "village atmosphere" of Hutt Street.

The misuse of Victoria Park is the reason that we are contacting you.

Since the street circuit was established 35 years ago, there has been significant growth in residential development in the vicinity of the event, and many more residents are now adversely affected by the race. The event has been grown with substantial subsidies from the State Government, but SECRA understands with dwindling attendances. Although SECRA has tried to obtain information on the financial standing of the event, even our Freedom of Information requests have proved unsuccessful. A copy of the report from the 2018 event is attached, and SECRA was shocked, as I am sure you will be, at the extent of the unavailable content and the associated lack of transparency.

As you plan South Australia's transition out of COVID 19, SECRA invites you to look carefully at the feasibility of continuing the Adelaide 500 in the south-east of Adelaide and consider relocating the race to Tailem Bend where there is a purpose-built privately owned facility in a regional area.

Obviously, others have the same view. At the Annual General Meeting of the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, held on 26 April 2020 the following motion was carried:

"that the President writes to the Minister for Sport to urge:

(a) that the Adelaide 500 motor race be moved to Tailem Bend; or in the alternative,  
(b) that the build time and dismantling time for the annual Adelaide 500 motor race be substantially shortened to two weeks either side of the event, to minimise disruption to public access of the eastern Park Lands."

SECRA endorses this motion and on the grounds of the health and safety of residents, visitors and children, the significant inconvenience to commuters of closed or restricted

roads, the loss of open green public spaces for up to six months, general lack of benefit for Hutt Street traders, the noise and general interference to residents, the Festival Fringe and Festival and increased pollution, we seek your commitment to move the race.

As we are moving into a post-COVID 19 world to maintain it's job-creating and economic value to South Australia, the Adelaide 500 needs a new face as the falling attendances suggest the race in its current form is losing its appeal. Moving it to a world-class purpose-built circuit could restore the standing of the event while ensuring


- new transport jobs are created, and
- providing a much needed regional economic stimulus to Murray Bridge and the Murraylands.

Financial impact studies do not recognise the additional costs caused by the brake on commercial activity in Adelaide that occurs each year as a consequence of the choke points and street closures on the East-West and North-South transport corridors east of Victoria Park. Nor do they recognise the negative impact they have on the many other significant cultural and entertainment events occurring in Adelaide during this period.

As a fallback position, for what SECRA understands to be the last Adelaide 500 race in the current contract, SECRA seeks a substantially shortened presence in the Adelaide Park Lands.

SECRA looks forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

  
Elizabeth Rushbrook  
Chair  
SECRA

Cc Rachel Sanderson  
Cory Wingard