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3 June 2011

Dear SECRA Member

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention some most unsatisfactory and unacceptable aspects of the Rann Government's draft "Adelaide Oval Redevelopment and Management Bill 2011".

You may have seen my recent letter to the Advertiser (see across) which was published on 25 May 2011.

SECRA has real concerns about the proposed takeover of the Park Lands that surround the oval by the Government and the leasing of these Park Lands to the Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority (SMA).

There are many aspects of the Draft Bill that are unacceptable and it is astonishing that a democratically elected government could produce such an undemocratic and draconian document.

Some of the most objectionable aspects of the draft bill are as follows:

- *The Council **must**, at the request of the Minister, grant a licence to the Minister overall of the Adelaide Oval Licence Area, or any part of that area specified by the Minister.*

The wording "must" indicates that the Adelaide City Council has no choice in this matter and as far as the Rann Government is concerned its going to take over these areas of Park Lands regardless of what concerns the Council or the South Australian Public have.

- *The Minister may, after consultation with the Council, grant a sub-licence over any land that is subject to a licence between the Minister and the Council under this section.*

Under this clause it is the intention of the Government to take control over the Park Lands and sub lease them to the SMA (a non elected, commercial organisation) for a period of up to 80 years.

- *In connection with a licence under this section, the Minister, or a person authorised by the Minister, may carry out works on land subject to the licence (including by undertaking excavations, changing the form of any land, and forming paths or access roads).*

This will enable the SMA to completely change the form of the leased Park Lands so that they bear no resemblance to their current appearance and the adjacent Park Lands.

Question of trust

ADELAIDE City Council has a history of successfully managing car parking in the parklands for cricket matches and other events at Adelaide Oval, with events at the Showgrounds and Bonython Park.

Why then is the Rann Government introducing legislation to take over control of the parklands around the Oval and lease the area to the Stadium Management Authority to enable that organisation to take over the management of car parking?

Also this area of parklands to be used for car parking is indistinguishable from the adjacent parklands, so why would a state government want to take control of it?

Is there something sinister behind this action? Can we trust this and future governments to respect this area and keep it as part of Adelaide's unique parklands?

I suspect not, as past experience has shown governments see our parklands as land that can be easily acquired at little or no cost and redeveloped.

They fail to see the parklands that surround Adelaide are the envy of other cities and are priceless.

JOHN UNDERWOOD, chairperson, South East City Residents Association, Adelaide.

- *The Adelaide Parklands Management Strategy under the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 will not apply to land within the Adelaide Oval Core Area or to land within the Adelaide Oval Licence Area that is subject to a licence under this Act.*

The conferral or exercise of a right to occupy any land under a lease or licence under this Act will not constitute the division of any land for the purposes of the Development Act 1993.

A management plan under Part 11 of the Local Government Act 1999 will not apply to land within the Adelaide Oval Core Area or within the Adelaide Oval Licence Area.

These clauses will in effect give the SMA unprecedented authority to do as it pleases within the leased Park Lands without having to gain approval for what it wants to do with the area including the removal of the many significant trees within that area.

In addition there will be no requirement for public consultation prior to the granting of the 80 year lease.

As can be seen from above the Rann Government appears to be most adamant about taking over control of the Park Lands around the Adelaide Oval and handing that control to the SMA for a period of 80 years. To place this area of Adelaide's unique heritage listed Park Lands under the control of an unelected, commercial entity, the SMA, which is free to do what it wants with them, is in effect privatising that area of the Park Lands. This action is abhorrent and not in the interests of the people of South Australia.

SECRA is of the view that these Park Lands should remain under the control of the Adelaide City Council. The Rann Government's proposal to take over these Park Lands and transfer control to the SMA is the largest transfer of a section of the Adelaide Park Lands to a profit making corporation in the Park Lands' 160 year history. It is totally unconscionable and unacceptable!

It would be appreciated if you could forward this letter to your friends and relatives to inform them of the Rann Government's arrogance and complete disregard of the interests of the people of South Australia.

An email or phone call to your local State Member of Parliament expressing your concern would also be appreciated.

Kind Regards



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