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## **Response to City of Adelaide Draft Strategic Plan 2020-24**

‘Adelaide is a beautiful, well-organised city that operates on a human-scale. It is low-cost, globally connected, and poised at the edge of the many new possibilities such as those the space and future industries will bring. This is why we are considered one of the most liveable cities in the world.’ (*City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan: Draft for Consultation*)

SECRA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the City of Adelaide Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Our members want proper protection of:

- the Adelaide Park Lands, in particular, from commercialization
- our low-scale heritage buildings and streetscapes, in particular, from so called ‘medium’ (we are already a medium development area) and high-rise development
- our Hutt Street shopping strip with its ‘village atmosphere’,
- the rights of cyclists and pedestrians to be able to move safely around the city
- our residential streets, increasingly threatened by unregulated short-stay accommodation
- social and cultural services, such as the Hutt Street Library, the Box Factory Community Centre and the Connector bus.

We believe that these protections are required for a ‘human-scale’ and ‘liveable’ city. And we see threats to these protections in some strategies and key actions in the Strategic Plan, in particular:

- **Plan for and grow residential population (*Thriving Communities, Strategies*)**  
We suggest adding the following **‘but not at the expense of the city’s human-scale, liveability and heritage buildings and streetscapes.’**
- **Leverage the Adelaide Park Lands to promote health, wellbeing and lifestyle experiences (*Thriving Communities, Key Action*)**  
‘Leverage’ is defined as ‘advantage gained for any purpose’ (*Chambers 20<sup>th</sup> Century Dictionary*). Under the draft Plan this leverage is intended to be used to promote ‘health, wellbeing and lifestyle experiences.’

We suggest adding the following **‘but not through commercialization of the Park Lands or at the expense of the flora and fauna in the Park Lands—the city’s ‘green lung’—and those who enjoy its quiet spaces to connect with nature.’**

The Adelaide Park Lands, which is first and foremost a (managed) natural system, must remain open, accessible, free, ‘green’, public space. In the face of our climate emergency this is more important than ever.

This *Thriving Communities* Key Action – involving possible commercial leverage - also threatens to undermine the Key Action (*Beautiful, Surprising Places*): **Pursue world and State heritage listing for Adelaide Park Lands and city layout.**

However it is not enough merely to list a layout; there must be world and State heritage protection for the built and natural heritage within the Park Lands. Therefore we suggest adding the words **'and for the built and natural heritage within that layout.'**

- The Park Lands will remain under threat so long as the Council allows unsolicited bids for development on the Park Lands to be discussed in secret. The community needs to be consulted before concept plans are prepared.
- **Create accessible city streets that support cyclists and pedestrians** (*Connected and Accessible, Key Action*). We suggest adding the words **'without delay'** as we have noted Council's seeming reluctance to act on constructing the East-West cycleway, to reduce traffic volume and speed in city streets, and to give more time for pedestrians to cross streets, especially traveling east-west.
- We see no mention in any of the strategies or key actions of working with the State government to **properly regulate short stay accommodation** which is causing so much harm to communities, both in Adelaide and around the world.
- We see no mention in any of the strategies or key actions of this draft Plan of Adelaide experiencing **a climate emergency** even though the Council has declared that one is occurring. We suggest that the primary and overarching strategy of the Strategic Plan should read: **'Given that Adelaide is suffering a climate emergency all strategies and actions of Council should be to address this emergency.'**
- **Make Adelaide the lowest-cost capital with the least red tape** (*Strong Economy, Strategy*).
  - SECRA is concerned that this will lead to a reduction in services and proper protections for residents, visitors and workers. We would suggest that **'with the least red tape' is removed** from the strategy. 'Red tape' is a highly politicized term used by those who wish to weaken protection from unsafe practices and reduce necessary services.
  - The draft Plan states that we are already 'low-cost'.
- **Reduce and streamline Council policies, permits and fees** (*Strong Economy, Action*).
  - Regulations are there for a reason and should not be removed without proper consideration of 'unintended consequences'. We suggest adding to this Key Action **'with due concern for unintended consequence'**
  - Self-regulation has been proven not to work.
- **Be a leader in open, transparent and evidence-based decisions** (*Excellent Governance, Strategies*).
  - We suggest adding this to the strategy or including it as two key actions: **'by substantially reducing the number of confidential items in Council agendas and by reforming the unsolicited bids process.'**
  - SECRA suggests as another key action: **The continuation of the Lord Mayor's Residents Forums to be held four times a year.**

SECRA submitted a detailed response to the survey which helped shape the Plan. We look forward to discussing our many suggested actions with Council staff.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Nimmo  
for the SECRA committee