

25 September 2017

Adelaide City Council  
GPO Box 2252  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

### **Kurranga (Park 20) Recreational Adventure Facility**

The South East City Residents Association (SECRA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Kurranga (Park 20) Recreational Adventure Facility.

This appears to be a relatively “benign” commercial venture in the Park Lands:

- minimal fencing
- care being taken to protect the trees
- the area under the trees remaining accessible to the public at all times

**However, SECRA is not happy with the Council’s process of dealing with “unsolicited approaches” from commercial operators to lease areas of the Park Lands. Are these approaches properly evaluated by Council staff before being sent out for community consultation? If so, is the public able to access such information? How are we to adequately judge the effect of such proposals on the Park Lands without the required information and data?**

By granting a lease for one commercial activity in the Adelaide Park Lands the Lord Mayor and City of Adelaide Councillors are opening the door to other “landgrabbing” of public land by commercial interests.

A dangerous precedent will have been set and the integrity of the CLMP process will have been damaged. Elected members should remember that precedents created by them will have repercussions into the future and for projects which they may not necessarily support.

With these comments in mind, there are some conditions that need to be met before SECRA would support this facility and the resulting change to the CLMP:

- That there be an expert’s report on the fauna that live in these trees and the understorey below the trees, and the effect such a development would have on them. It’s not enough to take care of the trees. It was reported in the media that the operator expects 40,000 people per year to use the facility. There needs to be adequate protection for the high biodiversity-value understorey below the trees to stop people tramping over it. It is not clear how much activity is going to take place at ground level (eg tree climbing).
- That there be minimal lighting to protect any birds or bats nesting in the trees
- That the operator pay a bond to pay for any remediation at the end of the lease or in the event that the commercial operator goes broke and/or is not able/willing to remove the infrastructure (cf the barge that is now a liability in the Torrens).
- That the Council’s biodiversity team (not an independent arborist) will make regular inspections of the health of the trees, understorey and any fauna living in and around the trees during the lease.

- That the possibility of enhancing the biodiversity of the area (including in and around the adjacent dirt bike sites) by new plantings of understorey be explored by the Council with costs to be met by the commercial operator. There is a keen group of young volunteers connected with the dirt bikes sites who would welcome getting involved in improving the biodiversity of their sites.
- That there be no car parking **on** the Park Lands. A designated parking area on the Greenhill Road shoulder could be created.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Nimmo  
Secretary  
South East City Residents Association (SECRA)