

REPORT FROM THE SOUTHEAST CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION'S CHAIR 2021

Introduction

I have been the Chair of SECRA for two years. This report, like last year, addresses the primary objectives of SECRA as outlined in our Constitution. In doing so, I acknowledge the impact of COVID 19 upon our lives. This meant that our Committee conducted its meetings by Zoom, often challenging our technical skills.

Here is a short overview of the projects we worked on this year

Support the provision of local retail and service facilities whilst retaining the “village atmosphere” of Hutt Street

- Last year I noted the establishment of the Hutt Street Roundtable by the Lord Mayor. This year SECRA was invited to provide a presentation with a vision for Hutt Street. Our submission emphasised that SECRA sees Hutt Street as a destination, not a through road, and secondly, we see it as an urban village within the CBD. The Hutt Street Traders and a Board Member of the Hutt Street Centre submitted other presentations. Elected members and council staff have considered these submissions, and a community consultation process managed by the Council is planned. It is anticipated that all of these ideas will feed into the City of Adelaide's budget process to establish a Master Plan for Hutt Street, guiding its short-term and long-term development.
- SECRA welcomed Tanya Press Place Coordinator - Hutt Street, who has facilitated the lights in trees, colour on the bollards, programming activities, and liaises with the traders along the street.
- SECRA also participated in a night-time survey to provide feedback on the safety of Hutt Street. This has resulted in improved lighting outside commercial premises and the installation of new security cameras.
- SECRA acknowledges the resilience of the traders on Hutt Street Traders and the support given to traders by residents during the COVID 19 in responding to the changing conditions placed upon their services.

Preserve and enhance the inherent character and heritage of the neighbourhood, including the adjacent area of the Park Lands, and in particular, Victoria Park

- **Victoria Park**

The establishment of the Reimagining Victoria Park Network emerged from the announcement that the state government cancelled the contract with Supercars and is in the process of selling much of the racing infrastructure. It has been a hard-working group. Representatives have met with the Lord Mayor, the Minister for Environment and Water, and Green Adelaide's Presiding Member.

The 'Reimagining Victoria Park' project was presented at an Adelaide City Council meeting on 12 October, with SECRA committee member Doug McEvoy speaking of a “major threat to the public amenity of Victoria Park, because of overheating in summer due to climate change and a lack of tree canopy. The Network is looking to extend the tree canopy on the Park and ‘remove as many hard surfaces as is feasible’.

A presentation on the Reimagining of the Victoria Park project will occur at the SECRA AGM.

- **Visit to the Victoria Park Wetlands**

The Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Board are constructing the Wetlands on the southern end of Victoria Park. SECRA joined with the newly formed East Residents Association to visit the construction site on 17 October. Over 40 people listened to the board's representatives and the constructing company Bardovcal providing an overview of the project. Some stayed in VP to enjoy a picnic.

- **Park 17**

SECRA notes that a bio-cultural burn was held in the Bush for Life site in Carriageway Park, Tuthangga (Park 17) on 14 May, which carried cultural importance for the Kurna community, the traditional owners of the Adelaide region. Our residents involved in the burn were proud to be working with the Kurna community to trial the return of fire management to the Adelaide Park Lands.

- **Adelaide Park Lands**

The Adelaide Park Lands are symbolic to Adelaide residents, and the SECRA Committee, along with its members, has

- advocated and participated in the design of the Park Land Trail in Lot 14.
- made submissions against the following developments in the Adelaide Park Lands - Adelaide Oval Hotel, the Adelaide Football Clubs headquarters on the Denise Norton Park and most recently the
- proposal for the development of a Riverbank Precinct adjacent to the River Torrens.

Although all of these projects are outside of our area, SECRA continues to join with others to protect the Park Lands from commercial development where necessary.

Character and heritage of the south-east of the city

- SECRA has responded and continues to respond to the consultation by the state government on the Planning and Design Code, a reform that has the potential to change our community. SECRA joined the Community Alliance of SA to strengthen its voice, and the Chair joined a deputation to the Minister for Planning on 16 September. In addition, SECRA has supported residents whose amenity has been threatened by out of scale development applications in Albert Lane and Angus Streets.
- On 28 March on Neighbour Day, SECRA held a guided walk along Hutt Street, which was very well received. Led by Heather Nimmo, Treasurer, the walk introduced SECRA members to the rich heritage along the street, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and the local member for Adelaide. The walk concluded with a coffee and chat. The Council has taken up an aspect of this work, and SECRA looks forward to being consulted on the outcome of their self-guided app.

Promotion of interests of residents of the south-east precinct of the City of Adelaide and adjoining areas

- An essential part of SECRA's role is to respond to residents' concerns. For example, we have followed up on matters such as the City Connector Bus, the Hutt Street Post Office's reopening during COVID, the Halifax Street entrance to the COVID testing tent, and our last bank's closing.
- SECRA contributed to the installation of the street library in the foyer of the Hutt Street Post Office, made by SECRA member Ron Grill.

- SECRA recognises that the resident voice is essential to Adelaide to remain a highly desirable and liveable city. Therefore, we made three separate submissions, appeared before the Council, and wrote to the Electoral Commissioner on the Representative Review. This process looks at how the ward boundaries are to be changed to deal with a growing city population and what type of representation best meets the democratic needs of its electors. SECRA was highly disappointed with the City of Adelaide's decision to support a substantial change to the existing ward structure of Option 3 rather than adjusting the number of ward councillors to meet the legislative requirements in Option 2.

Conclusion

Thank you so much for being so supportive. We appreciate the comments and involvement we have received throughout the year and Anne's emergence as a membership secretary.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the contribution that John Underwood, immediate past Chair, has made to SECRA over many years and Phil DeBondi, who are both moving out of the city for very different reasons.

In addition to John and Phil, my thanks go to a very hard-working committee, Anne Ballard, our Secretary, Heather Nimmo, Treasurer, and Doug McEvoy. I would also like to thank Dianne Gray for joining SECRA for a time and providing some much-needed support to develop our response to the Planning and Development Code and her ongoing interest. We are looking for some new people to join us and we have some temporary vacancies if SECRA members would like to join us for a short term.

We look forward to rising to the challenges that 2022 will bring to the south-east of the city.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Elizabeth Rushbrook
Chair
SECRA
7 November 2021.