

REPORT FROM THE SOUTHEAST CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2022

INTRODUCTION

Like previous years this report outlines the work of your SECRA Committee, addressing the primary objectives of SECRA as outlined in our Constitution. It is a report of the Committee's activities consisting of Anne Ballard, Secretary Heather Nimino, Treasurer Doug McEvoy member and myself as Chair. Due to study commitments, I am very grateful for their consideration when I stepped down from the Chair in August 2022. I thank Heather Nimmo for stepping into the breach.

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 has been the focus of SECRA's activities this year. In particular, SECRA would like to draw your attention to the following

- **Grass Roots Grant Application**

The SECRA committee, led by Dr Doug McEvoy (who some may remember delivered a presentation at our last AGM on the heat sink impact on the Park), has prompted SECRA's application for a Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant.

This could be the first grant application for SECRA and, if successful, will support the planting of 100 semi-mature eucalypts in July 2023 along walking paths and the edges of sporting fields in the southern half of the Park. Another component of the grant is to conduct a one-day workshop in February 2023 on the Miyawaki method of fast-tracking biodiversity.

SECRA has worked closely with Council staff to identify potential sites for the trees. Further, SECRA has the support of three local schools, the Adelaide Parklands Association, residents' associations immediately east of the Park and Dr Scott Hawkins at Adelaide University, an expert on the Miyawaki method.

SECRA has not yet been informed of the outcome of the grant submission.

- **Submissions to the state government on the return of the Adelaide 500**

SECRA had a video conference with Premier Peter Malinauskas and a meeting with the new member for Adelaide, Lucy Hood, expressing our concerns on the return of the car race to Victoria Park. The issue loomed large during the state election campaign touting the significant economic benefits that would flow to the State.

In addition, SECRA also wrote to the Auditor General, Mr Richardson (unsuccessfully, as it turned out), asking him to conduct an independent cost-benefit analysis of any future Adelaide 500 event and requested that this report be published before the election.

Further, SECRA wrote to Mr Simms of the Legislative Council when the South Australian Motor Sport (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill was introduced to further support motorsports, including the Adelaide 500. Specifically, SECRA was concerned about the overriding of existing legislation and the reduction of community consultation processes. Unfortunately, the Bill was passed by both houses.

- **APA Guided Walks**

The Adelaide Park Land Association (APA) conducts guided walks throughout the Adelaide Park Lands, including Victoria Park. On 16 May 2022, President Shane Sody organized the walk through Victoria Park

and asked Dr Doug McEvoy to provide an overview of the Park and the impact of climate change on the Park.

- **The Brown Hill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project**

This is a collaborative undertaking between the catchment councils to mitigate serious flood risks and help safeguard properties across the area. As part of the project, a new 3.2-hectare wetland was completed, providing critical flood risk mitigation, and delivering an outdoor recreation space to picnic, rest, and watch sports. The wetland was opened to the public on 7 May 2022 and has been well-received by residents.

SECRA members and other resident groups visited the site during its construction. We are encouraging the City of Adelaide to integrate the Wetlands into its Community Land Management Plans for Victoria Park.

TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHEAST PRECINCT OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE AND

ADJOINING AREAS, AND TO DETERMINE THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION IN RELATION TO MATTERS AFFECTING THE SOUTH-EAST PRECINCT

The significant areas of this area of work in this area which emerged during the year were

- **Representative Review**

The Representation Review process required each Council to examine its current structure to provide the best design for the representation of its community. Councils had to identify if those communities would benefit from the composition, size or Ward structure changes. SECRA made several written submissions from July to December 2022 in response to the different proposals from the City of Adelaide and appeared before a Council committee. The Electoral Commissioner made the final decision and determined that the South Ward (with slight changes to the boundaries) should have three elected representatives rather than the one proposed by Council. It was gratifying that 12 people contested these three positions.

Another outcome of this work was the cooperative effort made with other resident groups in the Council area.

Finally, SECRA would like to acknowledge the contribution made by SECRA members in achieving this outcome, notably Ms Jan Davis, who submitted a petition to the Commissioner.

- **Planning and Design Code**

Introducing the new *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* has caused SECRA members ongoing concerns.

The new planning and development system is complex, accompanied by colossal documentation, and continues and even accelerates the development focus commenced under previous legislation. SECRA, in conjunction with CASA, has made submissions to subsequent Planning Ministers calling for changes to the makeup of the State Planning Commission. SECRA was pleased to hear that a local resident and recognized planner, Ms Stephaine Johnston, has been appointed to the Commission. Another matter that SECRA has brought to decision-makers attention is the need to remove catalyst sites from the Planning and Design Code.

SECRA supports residents when concerned about planning proposals causing a loss of neighbourhood amenity. To this end, SECRA has appeared before the State Commissions Assessment Panel (SCAP) about 200 East Terrace and 17 Hutt Street and before the Council Assessment Panel (CAP) about 5 Albert Lane. SECRA made a supporting submission for 193 Angus Street.

SECRA also seeks to work collaboratively with the peak body Community Alliance of SA to increase the residents' voice in planning matters.

- **Meet the Candidates**

With the South West City Community Association, the SECRA held Meet The Candidates meetings for state and local government elections. The forum for the State Government elections was held on 23 February 2022 at the Minor Works Building. Another meeting was held on 15 September 2022 at the Box Factory for the Local Government elections. Both meetings were well attended by candidates and members alike.

- **Governance issues**

Led by Secretary Anne Ballard, SECRA is continually seeking to improve services to members. Anne and Elizabeth undertook web training to restore our web presence during the year. We both were grateful when Peter Davis stepped in and refreshed the SECRA website, which we hope is a beginning to improving our social media presence. Another initiative was taking out public liability insurance so that SECRA can broaden the activities offered to our members and enable us to seek grant funding where appropriate.

SECRA hopes that you enjoy our regular Updates sent by email to keep you informed of our decisions and activities.

- **City of Adelaide's 2022-23 Business Plan and Budget.**

SECRA is committed to responding to this critical annual document committee underpinning the activities of the Council. In addition to a written submission from SECRA, Heather Nimmo gave a range of questions to the Lord Mayor and Councillors at the 14 June Council meeting, which subsequently received a written response forwarded to members through the Update.

SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF LOCAL RETAIL AND SERVICE FACILITIES WHILST RETAINING THE "VILLAGE ATMOSPHERE" OF HUTT STREET

- **The Lord Mayors Hutt Street Round Table**

The City of Adelaide identified Hutt Street as one of four priority main streets and is developing comprehensive plans for revitalization. As part of this process, the Lord Mayor established the Hutt Street Round Table, with SECRA invited as an initial member represented by Elizabeth Rushbrook and John Underwood and later by Anne Ballard. Other members included the Hutt Street Centre, SA Police, Hutt Street Traders, individual businesses and council staff. In its presentation to the Roundtable, SECRA saw Hutt Street as a part of an urban village: a destination rather than a through road. SECRA sought to lower the speed limit, establish cycle paths, change road design to eliminate U-turns, remove electric scooters and bikes from the footpaths and coordinate development along its length.

From March through to early April 2022, there was a community consultation process on the revitalization of Hutt Street, informing a report to the City of Adelaide meeting in December 2021. The Council noted that the critical features of Hutt Street were a community and village feel, enhanced amenities, green space and connections, embracing culture and music and celebrating heritage. The use

of the \$3M election promise by the state government was to be used to deliver an entry statement to Hutt Street, signage and lighting improvements between South Terrace and Halifax Street, increasing the number of trees, creating a shared path along Hutt Road as well as a meeting places for locals and visitors.

SECRA acknowledges this is a beginning, but the issues brought to the table by SECRA members about changes to Hutt Street were not addressed in the first stage of the Master Plan.

- **NEIGHBOUR DAY and HISTORY WEEK Hutt Street Walks**

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual community celebration, bringing together the people next door, across the street or in your neighbourhood. Following the successful Neighbour Day Walk along Hutt Street showcasing its historical buildings last year, a similar walk was held on 27 March 2022. This gentle walk started at Davaar House and ended at a local café for a chat and refreshments.

SECRA thanks the City of Adelaide for its assistance with these walks. The Council has developed and printed materials for two self-guided walks, one along Hutt Street and the other in the South East of the city, which are available at the Hutt Street Library.

Heather Nimmo also managed a self-guided Historic Hutt walk on 18 May 2022 for History Week and gave a talk on *Writing Local History* at the Box Factory.

- **Street Library**

A SECRA member constructed a street library at the Adelaide City Shed, registered and installed near the SECRA notice board on Hutt Street. SECRA acknowledges the efforts of the Hutt Street Traders and the City of Adelaide in facilitating this project.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to our members for your support. We also appreciate your comments and contributions. Thank you to the hard-working voluntary Committee.

We look forward to meeting some of the challenges 2023 will bring to the city's southeast.

Elizabeth Rushbrook

Chair SECRA

23 October 2022.