

SECRA UPDATE

July 2022

1. Save the date: Meet City of Adelaide candidates on 15 September at the Box Factory Community Centre

SECRA and SWCCA (the South West City Community Association) will be inviting candidates for the South Ward (3 positions), Area (2 positions) and Lord Mayor to talk to the community about their policies were they to be elected.

Please make sure that you are enrolled as the Electoral roll closes 29 July 2022 by using information on the following web site. <https://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/enrolment/council-voters-roll>.

Residents' groups and other individuals worked very hard in 2021 during the Representative Review ensuring that the South Ward had three representatives. On your behalf SECRA made a number of submissions to the Council and then the Electoral Commissioner to ensure there was adequate and fair representation for the South Ward.

It is now our responsibility, as active, engaged citizens, to vote. Attending the Meet the City of Adelaide Candidates will give you an opportunity to meet and greet those wishing to represent you. Voting papers will be sent to you from 14 October 2022.

2. Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi. A legacy of climate change adaptation through careful tree planting and small pockets of green to enhance biodiversity? Or of more concrete and bitumen? Which one would you—and your grandchildren—choose?

The SECRA committee, led by Dr Doug McEvoy, who at our 2021 AGM delivered a presentation on the heat sink that makes most of the Park unusable in summer, has made an application for a Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant to plant 100 semi-mature eucalypts in July 2023 along walking paths and the edges of sporting fields in the southern half of the Park, and to conduct a one-day workshop in February 2023 on the Miyawaki method of fast-tracking biodiversity.

SECRA worked closely with Council staff to identify possible sites for the trees, and 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 (see recent symposium at <https://miyawaki.anzpac.chime.live>)

In 2021 Dr McEvoy and SECRA Chair Elizabeth Rushbrook visited and lobbied the Minister for Environment and Water, the Green Adelaide CEO, the City of Adelaide Lord Mayor and Councillors to begin planting trees (see Council presentation at 12 min mark of https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWKI7K_-urE). On October 12, 2021, the City of Adelaide Council passed a resolution acknowledging the significant lack of trees on the park and referred the matter to Kadaltilla/ Adelaide Park Lands Authority, which in February 2022 concurred with Council's assessment and recommended Council consult with stakeholder groups, including SECRA, to find ways to increase the tree canopy.

Well done, Doug, for putting together such a strong grassroots application in the five weeks allowed. Successful applicants will be contacted in October.

And if you would like to assist Council staff to plant trees in King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina Park 15 later in July 2022 please contact SECRA asap.

Of course, SECRA will continue to work with the car race to protect the park and park users (an increasing number of whom are living without gardens) from the V8 car race's supposed 'legacy' of more concrete and bitumen and its occupancy of the park for 5 months for a 4 day event of undemonstrated economic benefit to the people of South Australia.

SECRA says 'Better at the Bend'.

3. And so it came to pass: a broken planning system

SECRA is being contacted by more and more residents distressed about inappropriate developments in their vicinity particularly after the implementation of the new Planning and Design Code. At the request of residents SECRA has supported their concerns both at the Council Assessment Panel (CAP) and the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP). SECRA acknowledges the courage of residents responding to these developments in the south east of the city which appear to disregard the history, the amenity and the culture of our area. These experiences are being documented and will feature in further additions of SECRA Update.

The review of the Code is important to strike a better balance between the needs of residents and developers. Of particular concern is the presence of catalyst sites a matter which has been brought to the attention of Lucy Hood the incoming Member for Adelaide and the new Planning Minister, Mr Nick Champion.

4. Questions for, and answers from, City of Adelaide staff concerning the Council's 's 2022-23 Business Plan and Budget

SECRA responded to the public consultation (closed on 6 June) for the City of Adelaide Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget 2022-2023. In addition SECRA committee member and Treasurer, Heather Nimmo, addressed the Lord Mayor and Councillors at the Council meeting on 14 June. SECRA is grateful for the prompt, courteous and considered responses received from Council staff in this matter.

- **The need for undergrounding of narrow streets. There is 0.3 million in the 22/23 budget which, SECRA believes, will do one street. How are streets prioritized? Will there be a one a year and can residents see when their street will be done?**

Undergrounding is prioritised on the rating of the need to renew the asset and road renewals. We are currently developing an Undergrounding Strategy which will identify future undergrounding priorities, subject to annual Business Plan & Budgets approval by Council.

- **The need for infrastructure (either on street or somewhere else?) for charging EVs where residents have no off-street parking.**

City of Adelaide (CoA) has approximately 50 EV chargers (both on street and UPark). Most of these are 22kW fast chargers available for general community use, which take several hours to provide a 'full' charge for most EV models. There are two 50kW rapid chargers in Franklin Street that provide a "full charge" in less time.

The SA Government State-wide roll out will include additional public charging infrastructure in the coming year. We recognise that we do not currently have any EV Chargers located in the South East of the City, however we will be undertaking planning work this coming financial year to determine future EV charging infrastructure requirements, and CoA's role in the delivery.

- **How can renters benefit from roof-top solar power? Incentives for landlords or community schemes? Is this something the Council can pursue with State government?**

The 'incentives split' between landlords and tenants is well documented in both residential and business settings, where tenant receives the benefit of lower bills while the landlord pays capital cost.

CoA programs that currently provide solar to tenants include:

- Solar Savers Program that provided 40 lower income households and rental properties with solar power at no upfront costs, paid off through Council rates.
- Incentives under the Sustainability Incentives Scheme that rental properties can access on the cost of installing solar. (up to \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000 depending on system size).

There is currently also a rebate category for apartment strata committees to invest in 'shared solar' a technology type that enables multiple apartments in a building to use the solar generated by a large rooftop system in their home. Potentially up to \$20,000 is available, depending on the number of apartments connected. If apartments are tenanted, and the landlord agrees, the tenants could potentially benefit from this approach.

We've received feedback from the community about the potential for community owned power schemes, and are considering its role in a new draft climate action plan.

- **The need for bus shelters (for shade and protection from the rain) for the Connector bus, including those bus stops at the Halifax/Hutt Street corners. Would this be a State government responsibility?**

Local Governments are typically responsible for the provision of bus stop amenities such as shelters and seating and the CoA currently maintains and provides 134 bus shelters.

When determining where a bus shelter is needed, CoA considers population density, number of users, nearby shading, shelter and seating as well as the feasibility of installation (ie accessible footpath widths and the footprint of the bus stop).

Bus shelter infrastructure also comes under our Urban Elements Asset Management Plan, which is under review. One of the key activities involved in this, is reviewing the current levels of customer satisfaction regarding the levels of service that our assets provide, including availability and accessibility.

Your feedback will be considered in conjunction with other community engagement that we have recently undertaken to inform our draft asset management plans that will go through final community consultation in the coming financial year.

- **And in terms of services. What outlay achieves what result?**

The CoA has been on a journey over the previous two years to better show our services from a 'cost of service' view and a 'function' view – that is aligning the cost of service to what is being delivered.

The 2022/23 BP&B has continued this work and provides the community an expanded view, by describing in detail our business activities, aligned to our functions. As a result, we believe that there is a clear line of sight from the expenditure of a service to the deliverables of those services.

- **How many trees (approx.) can be planted for 5 million in the Cool Corridors and Green City Streets. How will streets be prioritized?**

Green Heart of Adelaide Funding has been withdrawn.

In November 2021, the then State Government announced a series of grants to transform the River Torrens and green Adelaide's CBD. Subsequently, Green Adelaide was charged with delivering the grants and entered into discussions with the City of Adelaide in early 2022 in relation to the following:

- \$5M for Transforming the Torrens – establish a series of wetlands and revegetate areas along the River Torrens in the CBD.
- \$1M for Cool Corridors – vision for a green walkway through the heart of the City.
- \$2M for Greener City Streets – greening of CBD streets based on heat and tree canopy mapping.

On 2 June 2022, the new State Government announced it has ceased this funding to meet the government's revised budget position.

The Transforming the Torrens grant of \$5M was potentially earmarked for the Karrawirra Pari Restoration Project. The Cool Corridors (\$1M) and Greener City Streets (\$2M) grants were potentially earmarked for additional greening as part of the CoA asset renewals program.

The grants were one-off project grants with the Cool Corridors and Greener City Streets being included in the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget that was put out for public consultation – they have now both been removed.

As a result of the State Government budget decision, the City of Adelaide is proposing to allocate \$2m as stand alone funding for Greener Streets across two years from 2022/23 (\$1m each year). Work will be undertaken across the year to best understand which streets this funding should be allocated to.

The CoA will continue to explore other funding opportunities to deliver greening and environmental outcomes. The City of Adelaide will continue to collaborate with Green Adelaide to create opportunities for new partnerships to support greening and cooling of the city and to provide benefits for the community and environment.

5. Celebrate NAIDOC week - 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' From Sunday, 03 July 2022—Sunday, 10 July 2022

From the Lord Mayor, City of Adelaide: 'This year's theme is 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' and we show up every day at the City of Adelaide as we continue to strengthen relationships with our First Nations people. This year, we have a fantastic range of activities celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including Living NAIDOC - reflections by Allen Edwards, live music, art and dance workshops in our community centres. I encourage you to head along and experience it for yourself!

Further information about the activities during NAIDOC Week can be found at <https://www.naidoc.org.au/> and City of Adelaide's activities at <https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/community/reconciliation/naidoc-week/>.'

Your comments on any of the issues covered are welcome, the SECRA committee, 5 JULY 2022