

# Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc

PO Box 3040, Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

[www.adelaide-parklands.org](http://www.adelaide-parklands.org)



**Patron: Bruno Krumins AM  
Lieutenant–Governor of South Australia**

Jim Daly, President of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc (APPA), invited eminent South Australians to participate in APPA's defence of the Adelaide Parklands. The response has strengthened his belief that APPA is not alone in believing the government's development proposal for Victoria Park is unwarranted and against the interests of the majority of South Australians.

## EMINENT PERSONS STATEMENT

The Adelaide Parklands are a priceless asset, held in trust for the people of both the city and our State. They must be protected—for the citizens who enjoy them now, for the attention and praise they attract from around the world, and for the generations to come.

We have considered the Victoria Park Masterplan proposed by the State Government, which would see a large multi-purpose facility (grandstand) erected for motor sport and horse racing. We strongly believe it is not in the long term interests of the City and State, the present and future users of the Parklands, nor nearby residents. We also believe the proposal is not necessary for the limited purposes of motor sport and horse racing, when existing facilities can be upgraded and utilised.

We therefore urge the South Australian Government and the Adelaide City Council to reject this proposal and to direct their planned investment into other, more worthy projects.

We agree strongly with Lewis Cohen, Deputy Mayor of Adelaide in 1910, who said:

***The parks are the pride and glory of this city—the best and greatest asset it has, or ever can have. To every generation they are becoming more valuable. Let us, therefore, keep them inviolate, keep them intact, keep them sacred from the hands of the despoiler.***

Dr Michael Armitage (Former Member for Adelaide and Member of Liberal Cabinet)

Anita Aspinall (President National Trust of South Australia)

Warren Bonython AO (Former Chair Conservation Council and Patron of Friends of the Heysen Trail)

Ed Briedis (Chair, North Adelaide Society)

John Chappel (Former leading Adelaide architect)

Susan Clearihan (Adelaide City Council Councillor)

JM Coetzee (Novelist and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature)

Steve Condous (Former Lord Mayor of Adelaide and Liberal Member of House of Assembly)

Francene Connor (Former Adelaide City Alderman and Councillor)

Dean Fidock (Former Deputy Lord Mayor of Adelaide)

Chris Halbert (Businesswoman and publisher, Human Kinetics)

John Halbert MBE (Sturt footballer, Magarey Medallist and sports academic)

Barbara Hardy AO (Conservationist and scientist)

Prof Basil Hetzel AC, MD (National Living Treasure)

Kerry Heysen-Hicks (Film producer)

Scott Hicks (Academy Award nominated film director and screen writer)

Dr Don Hopgood (Former Deputy Premier of Labor Government)

Elliott Johnston (AO, QC Former Supreme Court judge)

Stephanie Johnston (Businesswoman and publisher Wakefield Press)

Jane Jose (Former Deputy Lord Mayor of Adelaide)

Prof Nicholas Jose (Author and academic)

Diana Laidlaw AM (Former Minister Liberal Cabinet)

John Letts (Former leading SA Jockey)

Anne Levy (Former Labor Cabinet member)

RG Matheson AM QC (Former Chair State Heritage Authority)

Uncle Lewis O'Brien (Kaurna Elder)

Lew Owens (Member of SA Heritage Council)

John Schumann (Singer and songwriter)

Anthony Steel (Adelaide Festival of Arts director)

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (former Australian Democrats Leader)

Hugh Stretton AC (Emeritus Professor, historian and leading social commentator)

Jennifer Strickland (Former Mayor of Prospect)

Andrew Strickland (Former Commissioner Public Employment)

**ADELAIDE Parklands—Unique in the World**

# THE CASE AGAINST THE PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

- The Parklands belong to the people. They are held in trust by the government, and the Adelaide City Council is the current lease holder and manager.

## The first Statutory Principle in the new Park Lands Act is:

1. (a) **The land comprising the Adelaide Park Lands should, as far as is reasonably appropriate, correspond to the general intentions of Colonel William Light in establishing the first Plan of Adelaide in 1837.**

### (b) Held for the public benefit of the people of SA.

- The SAJC and Motor Sport Board are commercial organisations which are planning to build a HUGE (245m—a quarter of a kilometre long, and four storeys high) building on land they do not own.
- The cost is estimated at \$35m, paid for by the taxpayers of South Australia, with an extra \$20m for site work, partially paid for by the SAJC with funds raised by selling the Cheltenham Racecourse. Also, the Adelaide City Council ratepayers will be asked to contribute. Total estimated cost is \$55m.
- It is a false argument that the building will return land as open space by aggregating all minor structures at present on site into a massive three-storeyed building plus 'penthouse' that will be there for at least a 100 years. It is also plainly dishonest. The removal of the buildings was announced in 2005 and some of them have already been demolished and the stables have been recently refurbished. The motor race track will be lengthened and will detract from the retrieved open space.
- The Motor Sport Board plans to use the building for only four days a year.
- Only the elite will use this proposed facility in the car racing mode because the building will be used to garage cars, house race officials and the media and provide corporate boxes, including a Premier's Suite. It will NOT be used by the general public.
- In horse racing mode, it will be used as a viewing and entertaining facility for attendances that could be easily housed in the present Jubilee Heritage Grandstand that is being renovated at significant cost and that will NOT be used for horse racing under the present proposal. In this proposal, the beautiful stand will be used only for four days a year and be overwhelmed by the proposed building.
- There are doubts about possible other uses for the building and a fear that the building will need to justify its cost by opening it up for conventions, bar facilities, restaurants and other uses (including poker machines). These uses would add significantly to the problems of residents with noise and traffic congestion.
- No provision has been made for additional parking so, once again, the Parklands will be used.
- The natural and cultural heritage of the park will deteriorate if the building is constructed despite the planned additional planting of 1000 trees. Tree planting and restoring of the park environs can occur without the massive building. In fact, Victoria Park has been deliberately run down to make the case stronger for the proposed redevelopment.
- Car racing can continue to operate with existing temporary facilities; the proposed permanent building will not obviate the need for the present temporary stands for the public. The proposed reduction in construction time of only a month could be obtained easily by more efficient project management.
- The contract granted to the Motor Sport Board for the V8 Supercar race has only another six years to run, but the government will request a lease for 42 years to construct permanent facilities, contrary to the SA Motor Sport Act.
- The long run future of this type of car racing event must be questioned in a world where the carbon gases from heavy use of petroleum should not be encouraged and there are already cutbacks in the car industry.
- Over \$35m of taxpayers' money could be better spent on important public services or public works such as schools, hospitals, water, roads and welfare.
- Permanent buildings on the Parklands take away their essential open space character.
- Steve Condous former Lord Mayor of Adelaide and Member of Parliament said:  
*If this building proceeds, Adelaide will become famous for the wrong reasons; every planning conference worldwide will cite it as an example of how irresponsible and destructive planning destroyed one of the great parks of Adelaide—using before and after photographs. This \$55million grandstand will be the biggest and ugliest structure built on Adelaide's parklands (Advertiser 9 March 2007).*