



Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, Inc.

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Patron: Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO

ABN 19 706 384 386

Stephan Knoll MP
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
Roma Mitchell House
PO Box 1533
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mr Knoll

Heritage Listing for Adelaide Park Lands

I am writing to you at an historic cross-roads in the history of the world's first public parks. It is a cross-roads which gives you the opportunity to make decisions, in 2019, that should be celebrated for generations to come.

I wrote to you on 9 April 2018 and again on 15 July 2018. I have not received a reply (other than a brief acknowledgement) to either of those letters although I did have a meeting with your advisor Cameron Henderson on 24 September 2018.

As I anticipated in my letter to you of 9 April and in my meeting with Mr Henderson, after a delay of more than nine years, the Heritage Council on 6 December 2018 finally recommended that the Adelaide Park Lands be formally recognised as a State Heritage Area.

This complements the existing National Heritage listing, which was achieved in 2008. It is also consistent with recent initiatives by the Park Lands Authority to investigate the potential for World Heritage listing. A paper prepared for a Park Lands Authority meeting in October 2018 estimated that World Heritage listing of the Park Lands would lead to a 20 to 30 per cent boost in tourism to Adelaide.

Among the arguments to support World Heritage listing are the little-known fact that the Adelaide Park Lands, established in 1837, were the world's first public park (10 years ahead of the next public park in Merseyside, England); and in 2019 Adelaide is still the only city that is garlanded by Parks.

I believe that the Heritage Council has conveyed its recommendation to your colleague the Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs MP, to whom the *Heritage Places Act 1994* is committed.

It is expected that Mr Speirs will soon write to you, recommending that you reflect the Heritage Council's recommendation with an appropriate Ministerial amendment to the City of Adelaide Development Plan under the *Development Act 1993*.

Consistent with my letter to you of 9 April 2018 this represents an excellent opportunity for you to respond positively, by:

1. Making such a Ministerial Development Plan amendment; and
2. Announcing the Government's co-operation with the Adelaide City Council in examining a bid for potential World Heritage Listing of the Park Lands; and
3. Commissioning a review of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*. As I suggested on 9 April, a review of this Act should at least aim to:
 - insert a specific amendment to prevent further accumulation of Park losses; and
 - strengthen current ineffectual Park Lands return provisions.

The Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association would be delighted to work with you and with the City of Adelaide to assist in realising these historic opportunities.

Yours sincerely



Shane Sody
President

28 December 2018

cc:

- Rachel Sanderson, MP, (Member for Adelaide)
- Tony Piccolo, MP, Shadow Minister for Planning and Local Government
- Lord Mayor, Sandy Verschoor, Town Hall, Adelaide