



Adelaide Park Lands Association

c/o BK Partners Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 4056
Norwood South
SA 5067
secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au

ABN 19 706 384 386

NEWS RELEASE

Saturday 24 September 2022

“Hands Up for Win-Win” Rally to support Gov’t-threatened trees

A crowd of Park Lands supporters, dressed in black, will gather alongside black-shrouded trees this morning (at 9.30am) and lift their hands in a symbolic show of support for State Government-threatened trees.

Tall sugar gums, river red gums and others are set to be axed because the Government has so far refused to entertain a win-win option for a planned new \$82 million Aquatic Centre.

“The Government is ignoring the clearly-expressed wishes of its own community” APA President Shane Sody will tell the crowd.

“**Government propaganda** fails the pub test, by not even acknowledging the huge community support for these trees, nor to admit that there are better, near-city brownfield sites, close to public transport, that would re-invigorate a precinct like Hindmarsh, Thebarton or Bowden”, Mr Sody says.

Mr Sody says he doubts whether anyone within the State Government has bothered to read the hundreds of responses provided by Park Lands supporters. “If they had read what people were saying, they would have realised how unpopular it would have been to attack Park Lands yet again.”

A new \$82 million Aquatic Centre is being planned for the south-western quadrant of Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2). **Today, at 9.30am, Park Lands supporters will be identifying trees that are threatened by the proposed development, by wrapping them in black shrouds, and raising hands to signify their support.**

“The Government’s refusal to even properly consult has resulted in a flawed, win-loss decision”, Mr Sody says. “Restoring the site of the current Aquatic Centre to Park Lands is welcome, but the site nominated for the new centre would be a brand new wound to Adelaide’s Open Green Public Park Lands.”

“This rally, *Hands Up for Your Trees* is making a positive contribution to the debate. It is a rally in support of a win-win. We are urging the Government to listen to their own voters, protect these trees, and choose a near-city brownfield site instead.”

- **WHEN:** Today, 9.30am Saturday 24 September
- **WHERE:** – corner of Barton Tce West and Jeffcott Road in Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2)
- **CONTACT:** Shane Sody, APA President 0414 959 125

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au

TREES AT RISK

Within the site that was nominated by the State Government in July 2022, there are 61 trees, including:

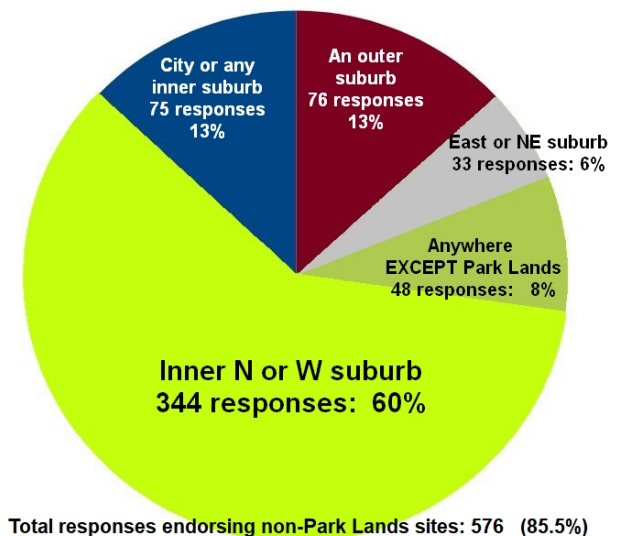
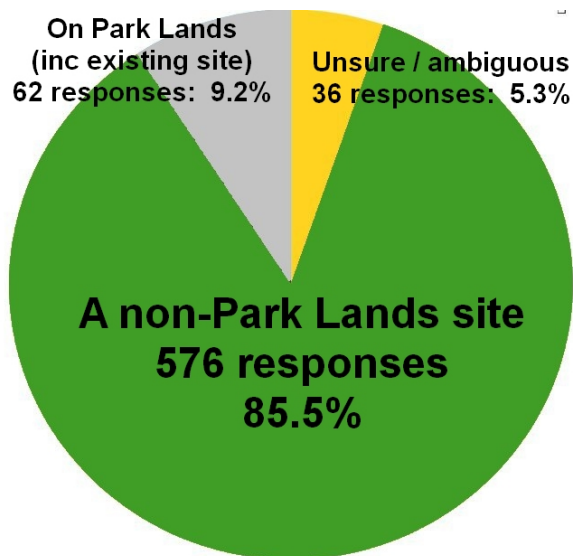
- 11 Sugar gums (Eucalyptus Cladocalyx)
- 9 Yellow gums (Eucalyptus Leucoxydon)
- 8 River red gums (Eucalyptus Camaldulensis)
- 4 Spotted gums (Corymbia Maculata)
- 6 Moreton Bay figs (Ficus Macrophylla)
- 5 Kurrajongs (Brachychiton);
- 4 Aleppo pines, and
- 3 Acacias.

The Premier’s announcement on 5 September 2022, indicated that some of these trees might be saved by locating the new Aquatic Centre close to the existing site and car park. However, this would still leave dozens of trees at risk, and would ignore the win-win option of saving all of them.

A survey conducted by the Adelaide Park Lands Association in July this year received 682 responses, and found overwhelming support for building a new Aquatic Centre on a near-city brownfield site, rather than on Park Lands. The most popular response was for a site close to public transport in Thebarton, Hindmarsh, Bowden or Brompton.

<https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/blog/2022/7/31/when-given-a-choice>

The full results of APA’s survey, including all comments from 682 respondents, were forwarded to Premier Peter Malinauskas, Infrastructure Minister Tom Koutsantonis, and the Member for Adelaide, Labor’s Lucy Hood, along with a request for an urgent meeting to discuss the findings.



The State Government has powers to acquire any land it needs. By [thinking outside the box](#), a new Aquatic Centre site could be a **win-win** for swimmers and your Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands.

Before the State election in March 2022, SA Labor cautiously promised only that a new Aquatic Centre might be “adjacent” to the current site; leaving open the possibility of a brownfields site in a nearby suburb. The Labor party’s election promise did not openly threaten Park Lands.