



# Adelaide Park Lands Association

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ABN 19 706 384 386

Lord Mayor  
Dr Jane Lomax-Smith  
Town Hall  
ADELAIDE 5000

Dear Lord Mayor

## Adelaide Aquatic Centre

I was disappointed to read in InDaily this week, that you seem to be supportive of the State Government's plan to construct a new aquatic centre and associated shops, club rooms, gym, offices and expanded car park on Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2).

You are quoted as saying that the State Government has "listened to residents and moved the site."

Yes, the State Government has opted to move its proposed construction site some 70 metres northwards, but that is of relevance only to some Barton Terrace West residents; who represent only a very small proportion of those who Love Your Park Lands.

It seems you might be unaware of a petition that has attracted more than 4,300 signatures so far, urging the State Government to save the trees within Park 2, and choose a brownfield site for a new Aquatic Centre.

<https://www.change.org/p/save-these-trees-choose-a-brownfield-site-for-new-aquatic-centre>

In a leaflet distributed to the public on 17 June, the Government suggested that its proposed aquatic centre, shops, club rooms, gym, offices and expanded car park would result in a return of 1,000 square metres to Park Lands.

Contradictory advice received by the City Council in a CEO's briefing on 13 June was that the footprint of the proposed new building would be 10 per cent larger than the existing site, and that the car park area would be expanded to accommodate 108 more spaces bringing the total to 375 spaces.

Even if the claim of 1,000 square metres returned were correct, it would still represent a very poor outcome for the Adelaide Park Lands.

If the Government were to choose an alternative brownfield site, it would be possible to reclaim, for the Adelaide Park Lands, some 28,000 square metres of Park Lands (being the entire footprint of the Aquatic Centre and its car park).

Choosing a brownfield site for a new Aquatic Centre would therefore be at least 28 times better for the world-unique Adelaide Park Lands, which recently have been subject to attack in several other locations. It would also save dozens of mature trees in Park 2, many of which have been identified by the Government's own consultants as wildlife habitat.

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

The Adelaide Park Lands Association is about to embark upon a substantial advertising campaign, including on social media, urging both the State Government and the City Council to respect the wishes of the more than 4,300 petition signatories and to demonstrate Love for Your Park Lands by having the new Aquatic Centre constructed on any brownfield site that still could be chosen for the purpose.

I hope that the City Council might assist the State Government to locate a suitable site for purchase, and also to publicly back APA's campaign on behalf of the Open Green Public Adelaide Park Lands.

Adelaide residents are relying upon you and the City Council to help protect the targeted site in Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2).

I have attached a CSV file, downloaded from change.org on Thursday 22 June 2023. It contains the names and postcodes of 4,311 signatories to date. Please note that more than 850 signatories are from postcodes 5000 or 5006.

Kind regards

Shane Sody



**President, Adelaide Park Lands Association**

22 June 2023

cc: to Adelaide City Councillors

- Cr Arman Abrahamzadeh
- Cr Janet Giles
- Cr Phillip Martin
- Cr Mary Couros
- Cr Carmel Noon
- Cr Simon Hou
- Cr David Elliott
- Cr Jing Li
- Cr Keiran Snape
- Cr Henry Davis
- Cr Mark Siebenritt

David Speirs MP, Leader of the Opposition  
Jack Batty MP, Member for Bragg



OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR

Shane Sody  
Adelaide Park Lands Association  
PO Box 4056  
NORWOOD SA 5067  
Via email: [secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au](mailto:secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au)

Dear Mr Sody,

Thank you for your letter regarding the State Government's Adelaide Aquatic Centre project, which will replace an ill-designed converted outdoor pool with multiple add-ons and wasted land use.

in the 2018-2022 term, the redevelopment of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre was the subject of a City of Adelaide Council proposal to State and Federal Government for joint funding which was unsuccessful but included a \$20m contribution from Council.

The current State Government committed to replace the facility with no expansion of the footprint which in light of the existing prior design is achievable.

I realise you adopt a hard line by seeking the removal of all infrastructure in the Park Lands, but I feel less aggressively opposed to genuine public infrastructure and existing activities.

That being said, as you know, I have actively and vehemently opposed the Riverbank Precinct Code Amendment, the Crows Corporate Facility, the new Women's and Children's Hospital, the SAPOL Mounted Operations Unit barracks, and much more over the last 35 years.

The original Adelaide Aquatic Centre plan was to build the facility 40m from Barton Terrace. On 31 January 2023 Council resolved to request that the State Government identify an alternative site for the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, and highlighted the incongruities in the plan and amendments for the area.

Discussion with State Government over their Adelaide Aquatic Centre election commitment has resulted in the development moving further north, to 70m from Barton Terrace, and a redesign of some elements of the buildings.

Strong advocacy in this term of Council has improved outcomes for the Park Lands, with our unrelenting opposition to relocation of the SA Police Mounted Operations Unit barracks, and advocacy to improve the Adelaide Aquatic Centre Plan.

I encourage you to continue campaigning to protect the Park Lands and commend the Adelaide Park Lands Association for their ongoing advocacy.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM  
**Lord Mayor**

June 2023