



# Adelaide Park Lands Association

c/o Affinity Business Advisers  
458 Morphett Street  
Adelaide  
SA 5000  
secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au

ABN 19 706 384 386

Community Consultation  
Draft Victoria Park Master Plan  
yoursay@cityofadelaide.com.au

## Draft Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan

Dear City of Adelaide

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the Draft Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan. <https://yoursay.cityofadelaide.com.au/draft-victoria-park-masterplan>

### MOTOR SPORT

The first and most obvious thing to say about the draft Master Plan is that little reliance may be placed upon it, when the Minister for Motor Sport has almost unfettered discretion to render much of the Plan irrelevant, by any future declaration issued pursuant to Section 20 of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984*.

Under the heading "Project Scope" at page 3, the Master Plan acknowledges that it has been prepared on the basis of an assumption: "that motor sports events will continue to be programmed on the site."

Maps of the Park (e.g. pages 17, 18) that purport to indicate the "Adelaide 500 area" give the false impression that this area is fixed, not alterable. They do not acknowledge the Minister's unfettered power to, from time to time, declare a larger or different area for motor sport. There should be a more explicit acknowledgement in this Master Plan of the limitations in planning for anything in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) when any part of the Plan may be rendered redundant or irrelevant at any time, pursuant to any future declaration by the Minister pursuant to Section 20 of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984*.

In June 2022, the South Australian Government signed a five-year contract to host the Adelaide 500 race until 2026. <https://www.v8sleuth.com.au/five-year-adelaide-500-deal-locked-in/>

Therefore, the State Government's commitment to carbon emission motor racing lasts only until 2026. On page 6 of the draft Master Plan, there is a reference to the Adelaide 500 continuing "annually for the next five years." In late 2023, this phrase is out of date and should be corrected to refer to the contract expiry date of 2026.

From the outset, the five-year commitment in June 2022 was in some tension with the State Government's declaration only a few weeks earlier, on 31 May 2022, of a "climate emergency" and the Government's initiatives to encourage the use of electric vehicles to reduce emission of greenhouse gases. <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/news-hub/news/articles/2022/06/south-australia-declares-climate-emergency>

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We suggest that the worsening effects around the world of climate change are affecting public willingness to tolerate or accept the continued use of public funds to promote carbon-emission motor sport. Motor racing (especially within an otherwise Open, Green, Public park) is increasingly at risk of losing much of the social licence it once enjoyed. <https://bleacherreport.com/articles/54869-is-motor-racing-in-the-21st-century-morally-responsible>

Accordingly, we suggest that the Master Plan for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) should not merely reflect the short-term status quo of motor sport dominating this Park until 2026, but should reflect the likelihood that within the next decade, if not sooner, motor racing will be perceived by policymakers and Government as a liability rather than an asset, especially for a city that proudly wears the mantle of a 'National Park City'.

Therefore, at least some part of this Master Plan (perhaps an addendum or additional chapter) should anticipate the end of motor racing in this Park, and promote a vision for what Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) could become, if it were not encumbered by the burden of catering for regular motor sport events.

This would be consistent with the 'Vision Statements' and the 'Master Plan Principles' within Section 4 of the draft Master Plan.

### **WELCOMED PROVISIONS WITHIN THE DRAFT PLAN**

The Master Plan itself, at Section 5 of the document (pp 35-49) contains many recommendations which are welcomed and supported. These include:

- 5.2 - strengthening the path hierarchy
- 5.3 - greening Fullarton Road
- 5.4 - celebrate cultural connections
- 5.6 - additional tree and biodiversity plantings, **although the target to increase tree canopy cover across the park by only 4% is far too timid and unambitious.**
- 5.7 - reveal and reconnect the water

### **CAUTIONS - RESERVATIONS**

Within Section 5.8 "A Park for Year-Round Activation" a number of recommendations are based on an assumption that hard paved surfaces will be a feature of this Park indefinitely, even after motor racing has ended.

Hence the proposals for a 'Pavilion', infrastructure for bands; and especially the suggestion of a "drive-in cinema" should be re-examined to discourage any expectation that the vast extent of hard paved surfaces within this Park will be maintained indefinitely.

In regard to proposals to 'upgrade the existing amenities block in the northern section of the Park (pp 46-47) it is pleasing to note the recommendation that any expansion of building footprint should be for "universally accessible" use. This befits the concept of a Park as a public space rather than a collection of privatised spaces as has been the fate of many sites within the Adelaide Park Lands.

Likewise, section 5.9 of the Plan (page 49) should be revised to eliminate suggestions that a public park should provide car parking, and electric vehicle charging.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President



11 September 2023

## About the Adelaide Park Lands Association

Our Association was founded in 1987 as a non-profit community based organisation - a 'watchdog' to guard Adelaide's greatest treasure: the world-unique, National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.

But we are much more than a watchdog. We offer a focal point for South Australians to explore, be inspired by, protect and restore the Open Green Public spaces that are matched nowhere else in the world.

Our support comes from a broad cross-section of the South Australian community, across the political spectrum - people who **Love Your Park Lands**, as **Open, Green, Public** spaces.

On 9 September 2023, our newsletter subscription list contained 3,924 active subscribers. Our following on Facebook was 5,054, and on Instagram 1,432. Our list of full (paid-up) members contained 552 names.

These numbers do not include sponsors, donors and subscribers to separate feeds for our Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize competition.

This is [what we do](#):

**Explore**



**Inspire**



**Protect**



**Restore**



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