



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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Premier, Peter Malinauskas MP
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Dear Premier

State Aquatic Centre - petition for brownfield site reaches over 1,000 signatures

The Adelaide Park Lands have been chipped away and their area reduced, over successive generations. That trend has accelerated in 2022, as the Government has proposed Park Lands sites to build:

- a new wing of the Botanic High School in Park 11,
- a new Womens and Children's Hospital and associated car park in Park 27,
- a new barracks for the SA Police Mounted Unit; (authorised in new legislation); and
- a new Aquatic Centre in Park 2.

So far there appears to have been no appetite from your Government to provide any of these facilities on alternative brownfield sites. In relation to the proposed new Aquatic Centre, your Government's public consultation process in July 2022 was flawed, because it limited choices only to sites within Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2).

In contrast, an open-ended survey of 682 survey respondents voted overwhelmingly (more than 85%) to endorse a brownfield site, rather than the Government's proposed Park Lands site.¹ These survey respondents have had their views ignored. A petition seeking that outcome has now attracted more than 1,000 signatures,² far more than the number who responded to the Government's flawed consultation.

During the 2022 State election campaign, you promised a new Aquatic Centre on either the current site, or an "adjacent" site. That promise could be fulfilled by protecting Park Lands and building in an adjacent suburb, such as Hindmarsh or Thebarton, the area favoured by most survey respondents.

One appropriate near-city brownfield site is the old West End brewery site on Port Road, currently for sale.³ This site - more than 8.4 hectares - is in easy reach of the City on the tram line, and is large enough to accommodate at least a new Aquatic Centre, as well as other developments.

More broadly I am hoping that your Government will review the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* with the aim of strengthening protection for the Park Lands. Clearly, the Act has proven to be ineffective at preventing regular Park losses. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with the Government in discussing options to strengthen legislative protections for the Adelaide Park Lands.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President

20 December 2022

1 <https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/new-aquatic>

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

3 <https://www.realcommercial.com.au/for-sale/property-the-old-west-end-brewery-site-107-port-road-thebarton-sa-5031-504167591>