



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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Premier, Peter Malinauskas MP
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Dear Premier

Saving Parks – a health measure

I was pleased to hear you say on ABC-TV news on 16 August that in connection with the proposed new Women's and Children's Hospital, "all options are on the table." <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-17/new-womens-and-childrens-hospital-site-could-grow/14022156>

I would hope that among the options under consideration is an option of constructing a new Women's and Children's Hospital on a site that (unlike the Park 27 site chosen by the former Liberal State Government) does not sacrifice more of Adelaide's world-unique, National Heritage-listed Park Lands.

There has been consideration in the past of using the site of the Newmarket Hotel opposite the Royal Adelaide Hospital and connecting the two hospitals with an air bridge across North Terrace. Many hospitals in other parts of world, and elsewhere in Australia (Hobart and Bendigo) have connected two major hospital buildings in this way. See the images at <https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/wch>

The Adelaide Park Lands have been chipped away and their area reduced, over successive generations. It seems that, in relation to the Park Lands, your Government has continued in the same vein as your predecessors by planning 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, 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. I am choosing to be optimistic and believing that your use of the phrase "all options are on the table" means that you are now considering the option of protecting Adelaide's Open Green Public Park Lands, when choosing a site for the new Women's and Children's Hospital.

Given the well-documented health benefits of spending time in nature¹, **saving Park Lands would be consistent with the long-term health of all South Australians, including all women and children.**

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 canvassing options to strengthen legislative protections for the Park Lands.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President

22 August 2022

1 https://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/310750/HPHP-2nd-Edition.pdf