



OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR

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Response due	

ACC2014/137885

Hon. Jay Weatherill MP
Premier, South Australia
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Premier *Jay*,

RE: THE ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY AND REFORM OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Thank you for your letter dated 8 July 2014 and the invitation to comment, as Presiding Member, on the functions of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA).

Firstly, I wish to highlight that APLA is established under the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 (the Act) as a subsidiary of Adelaide City Council and is funded solely by this organisation, including the payment of sitting fees to all eligible members and the provision of a full-time Executive Officer.

The functions of APLA are formally established in the Act. APLA is primarily an advisory body, providing comments and advice to Adelaide City Council and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation on significant plans, development and other management issues in the Park Lands. APLA is also responsible for preparing and revising the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy.

APLA fulfils these functions admirably, providing regular, valuable advice on Park Lands matters through monthly meetings and formal reporting procedures to Council and the Minister. The current Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy was prepared by APLA, and adopted by Council and the Minister, in 2010 and has provided very useful guidance during the last four years of significant development in the City. I attach for your interest a copy of the recently completed Status Update 2014, which found that many major projects had been undertaken since 2010 and that, of 64 projects in the Strategy, 13 were completed and 43 were underway.

Members of APLA are aware that there is a level of discontent regarding governance of the Park Lands, and in particular the opportunity for all stakeholders to have a say in planning and management. To address this, in February this year APLA formally established a Project Advisory Group to advise on the review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy. The Project Advisory Group, which held its inaugural meeting on 3 July 2014, is composed of representatives from inner-rim Councils, State Government agencies and APLA, and is chaired by a senior Adelaide City Council officer.

I feel that the establishment of the Project Advisory Group by APLA is providing a fresh approach that generates an atmosphere of partnership and collaboration in planning for the Park Lands. Furthermore, Minister Rau and Minister Hunter both complimented APLA on this approach when they wrote to me to provide their nominations for the Group.

With regard to governance of the Park Lands, I believe that it is important that we get the planning right before making significant changes to the delivery model. I am confident that the collaborative process that APLA is following will set a shared vision and strategy, which will form the basis of ongoing cooperation and partnerships. APLA, as an independent voice for the Park Lands, is an ideal vehicle for this process.

In summary, I consider that APLA serves a very important role in setting strategic direction for the Park Lands and providing advice to Council and the Minister on Park Lands matters. Because APLA is not involved in day-to-day management decisions, it is able to exercise its advisory function at arm's length from Council and State Government land managers. Given the complexity of issues faced by decision makers and land managers in the Park Lands, this is a valuable function that should be retained, and I do not believe that any other existing body could play this specialised role.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with you the Park Lands and the role of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Yarwood

LORD MAYOR

PRESIDING MEMBER, ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY

24 July 2014

cc Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation