

MEDIA RELEASE



Reclaim SA

A U S T R A L I A N C I V I C T R U S T I N C O R P O R A T E D

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A plan to reclaim control of our future

The Awards & Brickbats program in 2010 exposed the **Mt Barker project** as a **Government disgrace**. This was only one of a series of projects that are disasters for South Australia and give massive transfers of public funds to vested interests, to be paid for in our and our children's future. The people have lost control and the Government is no longer representing them:

- **The State Strategic Plan** – developed since 2004 but still it skirts around major issues such as population growth, new technology and climate change impacts, and fails to inform participants about other choices for action and new research and analysis.
- **30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide** – the government claimed this was based on community support but with the next projects at Gawler and Mt Barker it worked behind closed doors with developers against extensive public protest.
- **Water for Good** – even the experts haven't been listened to, as it is known that stormwater recycling can be feasible at a fraction of the cost of desalination, which now appears redundant, as demonstrated in Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully. The aim to make Adelaide independent of rainfall was also excessive: the recent rains demonstrate that rainfall cycles may lengthen but they do not stop. Now the public has massive and unnecessary increases in water costs.
- **Stadium Upgrade** – everyone is so relieved that something is happening that they forget what they are losing and aren't told about all the costs in the future, which could now lead to failure. Major infrastructure needs such as parking and public transport are ignored.
- **RAH Upgrade** – again the experts, even financial ones, aren't listened to – the development is against the advice of the doctors and the cost has been hugely misrepresented.
- **Glenside Hospital** – a critical hospital being downgraded for the sake of a film facility that could easily have been put elsewhere.
- **Transport** – planning is nowhere to be seen, despite major predicted population increases.

There are many more that could be listed, as many people could readily provide. In response the Civic Trust is now utilising its network of expertise and the 2011 Awards & Brickbats program to help the public to demand better consultation with people and with independent experts.

A 10-point plan has been developed to improve the current consultation process. It engages affected citizens more proactively, facilitates new approaches to consultation, involves the public in all stages, considers all potential options, ensures professional research, analysis and auditing, requires full responses to citizen comments, establishes an independent community consultation unit, restructures the planning process, making planning processes more transparent and open to public scrutiny and backs up these initiatives with legislation.

A revolution is needed. The ballot box is not enough to achieve the change we need, nor can it be based on visions alone. People must be involved *at the beginning* of the planning process. The strategy starts in civitrust.net.au, Reclaim SA. We invite people to join in.

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