



AUSTRALIAN CIVIC TRUST

NEWSLETTER

December 2007

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Clipsal circuit should go west - Trust

MATT WILLIAMS

AN all-new Clipsal 500 racing circuit is the centrepiece of a bold plan to develop a major sport and public events precinct around the city's western parklands.

The independent Civic Trust is pushing for major works in the city's neglected west as an alternative to the State Government's Victoria Park redevelopment and without building on the parklands themselves.

Its blueprint also calls for the Royal Adelaide Hospital to be retained and for the scrapping of the railyards plan for the new Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Hospital, in favour of a new health precinct on the site of the Keswick barracks.

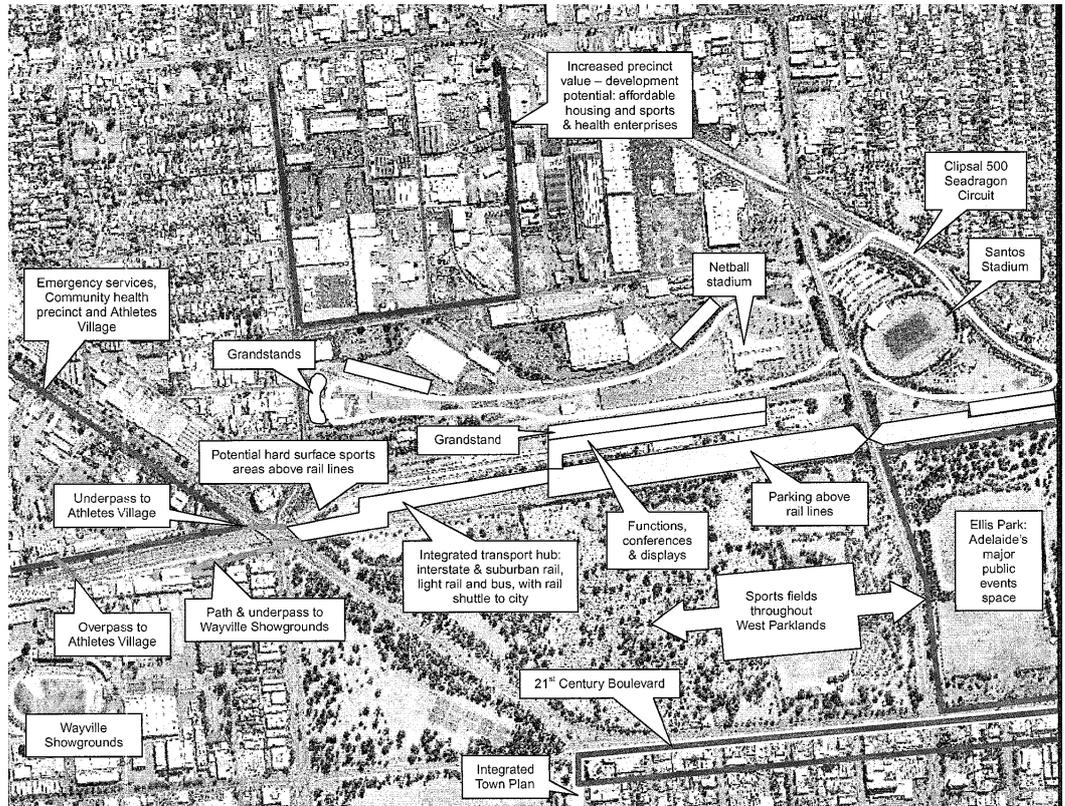
1 The Advertiser
Tuesday, October 16, 2007

PUBLIC VISION PART I

The first part of the Civic Trust's Public Vision was published in The Advertiser on 16th October (see main image) and has generated very wide discussion in various associations and government departments.

It seems that many people had not realised that the Clipsal track could fit anywhere other than in Victoria Park! In fact this location is closer to the square mile than some popular parks such as Bonython Park, where people had no trouble walking to Skyshow.

Other parts of the vision include water recycling, transport systems for the city, urban consolidation, biodiversity in the metropolitan area and health services.



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How the west could be won

THE radical suggestion by the normally conservative Civic Trust to redevelop the western side of Adelaide should not be lightly dismissed.

The plan to revamp planning requirements to encourage residential and commercial building, together with the relocation of the Clipsal 500 track and the development of new sporting facilities in the precinct, has genuine merit.

The trust's blueprint would provide an opportunity to create a new multi-purpose stadium, replacing the poorly positioned football stadium at West Lakes.

It envisages extensive parking facilities in the area and the establishment of rapid public transport and pedestrian and cycling pathways to the central business and retail districts. Extension of the new city tram service,



Extending the new city tram line is a natural option.

suburbs north and south of the city.

The Civic Trust has done what the Adelaide City Council should have done - provide a sensible, rational and workable vision for the expansion of the Adelaide square into the 21st century.

It is an idea which deserves thorough assessment and economic feasibility study by both the ACC and the State Government. It should not be shelved along with the dusty files urging the redevelopment of Victoria Square, the Torrens Lake, the repositioning of the Keswick railyards and so many more.

which is already heading west down North Tce, would provide a natural transport option.

Restaurants and other amenities and services would automatically follow, creating a unique residential and commercial environment.

Inner-city living is a worldwide phenomenon.

Adelaide has the opportunity, by a program of urban renewal in the west, to provide relatively cheap accommodation and halt the sprawl of



AWARDS & BRICKBATS 2007

Hosted by the Hon Jack Snelling, Speaker

The Awards & Brickbats ceremony at Old Parliament House on 26th October was very well received indeed, with comments ranging from “Brilliant” to “The best one I’ve been to”. The Hon Jack Snelling hosted the event to the enjoyment and appreciation of all.



Peter Hornsby of Torrens Park Railway Station



Part of the crowd at Old Parliament House



Sue & Sean Delaney

HUMAN

Awards

Ben Yengi
Art of Respect

Commendations

Imagine Peachey
Homeless Voting

Honourable Mention

Radio Adelaide

NATURAL

Awards

Sinclair’s Gully Winery
Southern Emu Wren Recovery
St Kilda Mangrove Trail

Commendations

Torrens Park Railway Station
Marino Rocks Conservation

MATERIAL

Awards

Windsor Street Linear Reserve
Maid & Magpie Hotel
Stuart Gifford



Steve Vines and Sandra Lange receive their award from Hon Jack Snelling, Speaker



Vickie Sanders talks to Ben Yengi on a direct Link to Sudan



Claire Bossley announces the Natural awards

PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS

Human Category

Radio Adelaide

Natural Category

Sinclair’s Gully Winery

Material Category

Stuart Gifford’s
Sarah’s Café

People’s Choice Brickbat

Adelaide Airport Carpark



TASMANIAN PULP MILL AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Today everyone understands that the environment operates independently of State boundaries but in specific cases this is not always obvious.

A recent inter-disciplinary study by the Civic Trust of the proposed Tasmanian Pulp Mill and its effluent provided an excellent example of this.

The plan for the Pulp Mill includes the discharge of 64,000 tonnes of effluent *per day* into Bass Strait. This includes dioxins, which are rated as one of the most poisonous compounds known to science.

The proponents claim that the effluent will be discharged deep underwater and therefore will not have an impact.

Naturally this is a concern for the fisheries industry in Tasmania but I found two other reports which when combined lead to a potentially significant impact on South Australian fisheries.

The first was a CSIRO study reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 16th August 2007 (below) that

identified an undersea current flowing from Tasmanian waters to the fishing grounds of South Australia.

The second was a book, "The Deep: The Extraordinary Creatures of the Abyss" edited by Claire Nouvian, which describes the daily migration of sea creatures from the depths to the surface waters.

The deep ocean is too cold and lifeless for many creatures to dwell permanently, so herbivores rise at dusk to the solar-heated upper region where their food is and return to the depths at dawn. The predators follow them down, together creating what is described as the greatest synchronised animal movement on the planet.

Thus any pollutants in the depths get carried to the surface and spread through the food chain on a daily basis.

We advised the South Australian Fishing Industry Council and the information was received with much appreciation. The news then adopted a life of its own and the TV networks took it up with enthusiasm.

Since that time the Chief Scientist has requested further investigations and we trust that the health of the waters in South Australia's fishing grounds will be taken into account.

Darian Hiles

Great mystery of the deep solved

Richard Macey

A DEEP sea current flowing past Sydney has been found to be part of a long-sought "missing link" thought to connect all the world's southern oceans.

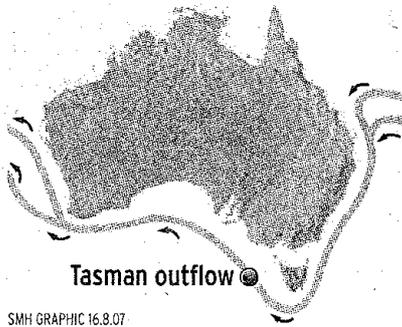
CSIRO scientists who discovered the current say it plays a crucial role in controlling not only the world's temperature but the food supply for marine life around the globe.

Dubbed the southern hemisphere supergyre, it travels at depths averaging 800 to 1000 metres. Starting in the Pacific north near New Zealand, it flows towards the Queensland coast where it bends south.

Passing Tasmania, it turns west until it reaches Western Australia, where it splits in two before crossing the Indian Ocean. Then it curves south of Africa and into the South Atlantic.

Ken Ridgway, a scientist with the CSIRO Ocean Flagships re-

DIRECT CURRENTS Southern hemisphere supergyre



SMH GRAPHIC 16.8.07

search program, said yesterday that because the current travelled at great depths its temperature and salinity, as well as the nutrients swept along with the flow, changed little.

As a result it played an important role in stabilising the world's temperatures, and ensuring the survival of sea life. Monitoring changes in such a stable system should provide pointers to global climate change.

Dr Ridgway said scientists had known about what appeared to be three separate westward-flowing currents in the southern Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans. While modelling suggested they should be linked, there was no proof.

"We knew about individual bits. We knew about the current east of Australia, but when it reached Tasmania, we didn't know whether it went east or west."

The previously unknown section of the current, south of Australia, has been named the Tasman Outflow. "That's the missing link," Dr Ridgway said. "We have been able to show that the global circulation in the southern hemisphere is connected."

Identifying such a deep current had taken "thousands and thousands of observations" collected between 1950 and 2002 by ships, automated ocean monitors and satellites.

Health & Science - Pages 20, 21

A similar pulp mill is proposed for South Australia's South-East at Penola and the owner is asking for 189 megawatts of electricity each year. This is considerably greater than Olympic Dam (105-115 megawatts) and Mark Parnell MLC noted that this is almost 70% of the total used by Adelaide households.

Greenhouse gas concerns will be the same as other pulp mill factories and major water supply and effluent issues as with the Tasmanian mill will apply.

MURRAY-DARLING ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS

Inaction by the government regarding the environmental health of the Murray-Darling continues to be a major concern. Irrigators themselves understand the long-term needs but they are naturally reluctant to offer sacrifices of their own volition. The following letter to the Advertiser was prepared jointly by Darian Hiles and Associate Professor David Paton, Head of School of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Adelaide (published 28th November 2007).

The drought in the Murray-Darling Basin may be related to climate change but it would normally be absorbed by the resilience of the system. However, over-allocations have removed too much water, resulting in rising salinity, the decimation of healthy wetlands and their purifying effect, declining native fish and increased algal blooms. Hence agriculture and its economy are now in crisis, not because of the drought but because of its exacerbation by over-allocation and removal of the water.

This mismanagement of Australia's primary breadbasket is a national political failure of historic proportions.

The \$10 billion National Plan for Water Security was not strong enough to avoid being derailed simply by one party not agreeing to certain elements. However, further long-term economic losses and environmental degradation can be avoided by releasing funds now to ensure the return of 1500 billion litres to the system from the next significant rains in the basin and to establish an independent body with the necessary expertise to develop and drive national water planning and the recovery of the ailing health and economy of the Murray-Darling Basin.

This is a national crisis with a simple solution. Both the environment and the irrigators will be the beneficiaries of immediate action, for the irrigators themselves are critically dependent on the flushing of the river and effective water planning.

We call on the new Labor government to take this essential step, which was missing from the election policies of both parties.

VICTORIA PARK GRANDSTAND

The Civic Trust has continued to lobby against a permanent building in the Park Lands (e.g. letter to The Advertiser on 14th December) and we welcome the decision by the State Government to adopt the more viable and cheaper solution of a temporary stand.

We note, of course, that the "grandstand" was actually a corporate function facility and that seating for races would still have to be provided, presumably on a temporary basis each year, of similar capacity to that which will now be erected in the same way on a temporary basis each year.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to three new members of the Trust:

Manuel Delgado

Louise Russell

Dr Mary Holmes

All were jurors in 2007. Nominators, of course, are also welcome.

In order to address the wider aspects of the Public Vision for urban development for the modern era, including water management, energy and other aspects of climate change as well as social viability and the rationalisation of transport and urban design, we need to:

- Expand our membership in 2008
- Build in-kind connections in the various project areas and
- Strengthen our account balance.

New members, ideas and initiatives are welcome. If you can help or wish to discuss, please email, phone or visit our website:

civictrust.net.au

Simple planning

ADELAIDE started as a world-class planned city, but today some people want to move backwards and say forget planning; if any ad-hoc idea comes up, don't think, just do it.

This is a guarantee of controversy and failure and it is also holding Adelaide back. Obviously the parklands are planned open space and replacement by huge buildings will not be accepted, especially when there are better alternatives, such as Keswick, which is closer to the square mile than popular city spots, such as Bonython Park.

Sidelining planning makes good political spin, but does it justify so much public time, cost and energy wasted on ill-considered developments in the wrong places?

If we plan, then we can do it. But if we don't then we thrash around forever. The permanent grandstand was massively rejected by the people of South Australia by a factor of 744 submissions to 22. Let's accept the people's view and now try some simple, honest planning. It's the professional way to move on.

■ **DARIAN HILES**, Chairman,
Australian Civic Trust Inc,
Adelaide.

Advertiser December 14, 2007