

The saga of publicly stated proposals for the re-use of the 'old' Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) site

INTRODUCTION

Below is a series promises and stated intentions made by the Rann/Weatherill Governments concerning the future use of the 'old' RAH once the 'new' RAH is completed in 2016, and statements made by the Liberal Opposition.

The 'old' RAH site occupies and alienates community-owned Park Lands, as does the 'new' RAH, which is being constructed on alienated community-owned Park Lands used as railyards.

The *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* was gazetted by the Rann Government in 2005.

Section 23 'Steps regarding change in intended use of land' says the following:

- Sub-section 1: *If land within the Adelaide Park Lands occupied by the Crown or a State authority is no longer required for any of its existing uses, the Minister must ensure that a report concerning the State Government's position on the future use and status of the land is prepared within the prescribed period.*
- Sub-sections 2–6 detail the other procedures to be observed by the Minister, and remedies if the Minister does not follow the steps.

1. 12 June 2007 (*The Advertiser*—story by Greg Kelton)

Health Minister John Hill was reported as saying that 'converting more than 3ha of existing hospital grounds into botanic gardens is a strong option' and that 'another 5ha could be turned into open space with paving and landscaping'. The article goes on with:

"Some of the buildings are historic, heritage-listed icons that must be retained", he said. "However, the majority of the buildings are pretty ugly and past their use-by date."

He said a section of the hospital was actually built on Botanic Garden land which had been taken over in the 1950s and it would be "terrific" to have that restored to the gardens.

Mr Hill said the area could not be sold off and the Government was committed to maximising the amount of parklands available.

Botanic Garden director Stephen Forbes was reported as welcoming the move. The article recorded:

"It would take a few years to remediate the land but we could move it along fairly quickly if we had the opportunity," he said.

***Opposition Leader Martin Hamilton-Smith** said the Government had little option but to return the hospital land to parklands.*

2. 14 March 2009 (*The Advertiser*—story by Russell Emmerson)

Health Minister John Hill was reported as saying 'a Federation Square-style "green plaza" designed to host festival events and fitted with cabling for giant TV screens is planned for the Royal Adelaide Hospital site'. He wanted the site to become the location of the city's newest square, with permanent underground cabling hidden under sculpted mounds, powering large-screen TVs to televise sporting events and regular festivals such as the Fringe. The Minister's vision had been captured in a master plan prepared by Woodhead International.

3. 25 March 2009 (Hansard record)

In a ministerial statement, **Health Minister John Hill** tells Parliament:

It is definitely the government's intention that large parcels of that land be returned to the Parklands, and particularly to the Botanic Gardens, from which it was taken. As I said, I have had informal discussions with the Director of the Botanic Gardens about that suggestion. All of these matters are being considered in the master planning process. Eventually we will have a document which will be put out for public discussion.

4. 3 August 2009 (Official letter to the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc)

The Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill told the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association:

For the existing RAH site, the Government is still going through a planning process and there are no fixed views in relation to the future use of the land other than that the heritage buildings will be protected and some form of public open space areas will be created where the buildings are demolished. As stated previously, the majority of this open space may form part of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. More detailed options and proposals are being developed and will be made public at an appropriate time.

5. 19 February 2010 (APLA Board Meeting)

An address by the **Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill** to a meeting of the **Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) Board** included a promise to return the old RAH site to Park Lands.

6. 16 May 2010 (Sunday Mail—story by Brad Crouch)

Adelaide may end up with two rival Federation Square-type developments as the State Government wrestles with what to do with the Royal Adelaide Hospital site. While a \$100 million plan to redevelop Victoria Square is now on the table, Health Minister John Hill continues to favour turning the RAH's Frome Rd–North Terrace precinct into a festival area once the flagship hospital is rebuilt on the railyards site. However, it has now emerged that a concept he announced in March last year did not proceed to Cabinet for approval.

...
Mr Hill's office told the Sunday Mail no plan had gone to Cabinet for the RAH site, despite the Minister telling The Advertiser on March 13, 2009, that a detailed plan was being drawn up.

7. 26 June 2013 (ABC radio news)

It was reported on the ABC radio news that **Premier Weatherill** announced a design competition that would help decide the future of the 'old' RAH site. The competition will open on 18 July and a winner chosen in December 2013.

The Premier was reported as saying that the Government will outline design criteria but it did not want to pre-judge what a final design might include. Premier Weatherill said a prize pool of \$900,000 would be enough to offset the cost of the design work for entrants. He said:

"What we're getting is the best of really anybody's ideas, narrowing it down to six, picking one two and three and that will inform the next stage in the process. We don't have to obviously have a solution until 2016 but we think this is a good way to go".

The news report said:

The Opposition said the competition would pave the way for a broken promise. Liberal Rob Lucas said former premier Mike Rann had indicated the site would be returned to parklands.

“The Government had committed to demolish all the buildings and return it to open space parklands and the Botanic gardens,” he said.

“Personally that was never my view. There should be some reuse of the site so if the Government is paving the ground for breaking that particular commitment we’d welcome at least that particular part of it.”

In another ABC radio news item, **Liberal Opposition Leader Steven Marshall** responded to the design competition announcement by saying that he would be releasing the Opposition’s plans for the old RAH site sometime in the future.

8. December 2013

The **Deputy Premier John Rau** announced the design competition winner for the ‘old’ RAH site. The winning design was for a civic place featuring a new city high school, art gallery and extensive gardens. The Weatherill Government described the designs as concept ideas rather than proposals.

9. February 2014

The **State Opposition Liberal Party** announced it would call on private operators to take over the ‘old’ RAH and continue running it as a major medical facility if the Liberals won the March 2014 election.

10. February 2014

The **Weatherill Government** countered the Opposition pre-election proposal with a promise to build an \$85 million, 1000-student high school as the dominant site use, with the school to be opened in time for the 2019 school year.

11. February 2015

Planning Minister John Rau refused to rule out rumours that another site would be chosen for the second CBD high school for 1000 students by 2019, despite Labor’s 2014 pre-election promise (above). The State Opposition Liberal Party warned that Labor was preparing to break its promise to build the new high school on the ‘old’ RAH site.

12. 2 May 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Paul Starick)

Apartments, offices and a major arts and cultural precinct are being considered for the 5.8ha [sic] ‘old’ RAH site, as part of a push to shelve plans for a high school there. It is understood major developers are set to be asked within weeks to prepare expressions of interest in redeveloping the site, which is unrivalled in Adelaide’s CBD and will become vacant when the hospital moves to its new West End site next year. This is likely to result in multimillion-dollar concept plans by the end of the year for a major housing and commercial development, in return for which it is understood a successful developer would be asked to substantially fund a major arts and cultural space.

The plans are expected to reuse many of the existing 25 buildings. The plans for the RAH are also expected to include a music performance area, returning some land to the adjacent Adelaide Botanic garden, restaurants, cafes and a hotel.

...
Senior Government sources have told The Advertiser that consideration is being given to locating the new school elsewhere in the East End, or near the existing Adelaide High School, on West Terrace ... Senior Labor sources told The Advertiser the promise was conceived as part of an unsuccessful bid to recapture the seat of Adelaide and voters likely would not be overly distressed if the high school were developed elsewhere.

Author's note: Paul Starick's '5.8ha' is actually more than 7ha.

- 13. 5 May 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Lauren Novak and Martina Simos)**
Premier Jay Weatherill has recommitted to building a new city high school on the old Royal Adelaide site, just hours after his Education Minister said the location of the school was “not of particular interest” to her ... But Mr Weatherill yesterday said the Government was sticking to its original plan. Asked directly if the new school would be built on the old RAH site, Mr Weatherill responded: “Of course, that’s where we said we’d build it. We’ll be delivering on our promise”. “ We’ll certainly be making an announcement very soon”.

- 14. 7 May 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Sheradyn Holderhead)**
A University of South Australia building at the back of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital is tipped to be the site of the State Government’s new city high school. The Advertiser understands the Government is in deep negotiations with the university about using its six-storey Reid building on the east side of Frome St [sic] between the hospital and Adelaide Zoo. The Government is aiming for a final sign-off for the project by the end of the month. Neither university management nor the Government would confirm the negotiations but did not deny the information put to them. Labor committed \$85 million before last year’s state election to put a new high school on the old RAH site, which would open in 2019 and specialize in health and sciences. At the time, Premier Jay Weatherill said the final master plan would allow for “small” commercial ventures, but the “dominant” use would be public education. Last week The Advertiser reported that apartments, offices and a major arts and cultural precinct were being considered for the site as part of a push to shelve plans for a high school there.

Author's note: The Reid Building is on Frome Road, and *is not* part of the old RAH site. It is located in Park 11. The six-storey 1960s building is virtually obsolete, and is currently leased to the University of South Australia as the home of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences.

- 15. 14 May 2015 (*InDaily*—story by Tom Richardson)**
The Weatherill Government will today call for future expressions of interest from private developers in a seven hectare “mixed-use” precinct on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site. Renewal SA’s Urban Renewal Prospectus will be distributed to potential stakeholders this afternoon, outlining “a range of key urban renewal sites and expected release dates within the next year.”

Most significant, and politically-sensitive, is the RAH site, billed as “symbolic of the new Adelaide”, a CBD “gateway” site containing “a number of state heritage buildings as part of a total floor area of approximately 275,000 square metres”.

But it remains unclear just what proportion of that area will be dedicated to a much-hyped \$85 million new high school, with Planning Minister John Rau telling InDaily: “The answer to that is I don’t know”. “The RAH is one of the more complex sites,” he said.

“We’ve already master-planned that site in terms of the physical development of the site, (and) in terms of the functional part of it, it’s pretty clear what we’re looking for—we’re looking for something that would retain economic activity and people in the east end.”

He said that would involve “a mix of cultural things, educational things and commercial things, and possibly some residential, depending on exactly what the proposals are”.

“We have reasonably serious expectations of outcomes, so we’d expect there to be some pretty complex proposals put forward and serious bidders in there—not necessarily just local SA companies”.

He said plans for the high school, which had been under a cloud in recent weeks, were “something we’re finalising at the moment”. “That will all be clear when we go out to expressions of interest very soon,” he said.

But it appears the much-vaunted investment will not be pride of place on the marquee site, with the minister suggesting it will comprise “one of these buildings” on the site. “It was always envisaged that the high school development wouldn’t mean we’d demolish the whole of the hospital site,” he said.

It appears too that open space for ovals or sporting precincts will be in short supply, Rau noting “they’re immediately adjacent the Botanic Gardens and university sports facilities so it’s not like there’s a lack of open space”.

16. 15 May 2015 (InDaily—story by Tom Richardson)

Adelaide University has thrown the Weatherill Government’s vaguely-articulated plans for a new public high school on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site into further doubt. It has poured cold water on suggestions by Planning Minister John Rau that the proposed secondary school would not need open space or sporting facilities on-site, because of its close proximity to Botanic Gardens and the university. The university confirmed it had received no request from the government to use its facilities, pointing out that availability was in short supply.

Rau yesterday launched Renewal SA’s Urban Renewal Prospectus, which flagged development investment opportunities for Government land that would come onto the market in the new year. The RAH is the flagship project, offering seven hectares for mixed-use development in the heart of the city’s east end.

But confusion still surrounds the key election pledge to build a second CBD public high school on the site, with Rau now intimating such a facility would be “just one of those buildings” on a site that will house “a mix of cultural things, educational things and commercial things, and possibly some residential, depending on what the proposals are”.

“It was always envisaged that the high school development wouldn’t mean we’d demolish the whole hospital site,” he said.

But when asked about open space for ovals and sporting facilities, he drew an analogy with nearby Catholic school Christian Boys College, whose students use the public ovals on Bartels Road. “(The RAH site) is immediately adjacent the Botanic Gardens and university sports facilities so it’s not like there’s a lack of open space,” he told InDaily yesterday.

But an Adelaide University spokesman said the institution “hasn’t received an official request from the Government on the use of Uni sports grounds and facilities”.

“However, it’s worth mentioning that the sports grounds are heavily utilised by the University community, including staff, students and members of the public involved in Uni sports clubs,” the spokesman said.

He said under arrangements with the Adelaide City Council, “we do make the grounds available to other members of the community, at times when they are not being used by our sports clubs”.

“But”, he noted, “availability is limited”.

17. 10 June 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Daniel Wills)

Premier Jay Weatherill has conceded that his plans for a new city high-school in a refurbished UniSA building break Labor’s election promise to locate it on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site. But he insists it will deliver better student outcomes. The State Government yesterday confirmed the Reid Building, on Frome Rd, would become the site of a new 1000-student school to open in 2019, as revealed by The Advertiser last month.

As part of the deal, the Government is spending a further \$30 million to buy the land and building from UniSA. That is in addition to \$85 million that was budgeted to put the school on the old RAH site, but which will now be spent on refitting the Reid Building.

The site for the new school was a hot political issue at last year’s state election. The Liberals offered a counter-plan for a second Adelaide High campus on West Tce, which was to be linked to the existing parklands site by a bridge over the roadway. Mr Weatherill admitted yesterday Labor had shifted its position since the election. “This is a different outcome, there’s no doubt about that, but it’s better,” he said ...

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni said students would receive a “secondhand school” at about half the cost of six recently built super schools. “The Premier said that the old RAH site was the best possible for the school,” he said. “How on earth does it cost \$115 million for a secondhand building? Our plan is what people want. They want their children to go to Adelaide High School.”

18. 10 June 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Sheradyn Holderhead)

Apartments, hotels, cutting-edge businesses and shaded gardens are among the State government’s ambitions for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site now it has selected another site for a new city high school.

The Government will today release the “design principles” for the site just weeks ahead of asking major national and international developers to prepare ideas for the site. Any proposal for the site would have to include plans for restoring and reusing its heritage buildings, putting a wrecking ball through others and must ensure it is populated day and night.

Planning Minister John Rau said the design principles were “broad brush” directives that would not narrow the ideas developers bring to the table, but will ensure proposals meet government requirements. “We’re trying to encourage proposals to be as creative as possible with financing and developing,” Mr Rau said. ...

Opposition Leader Steven Marshall said the future of the site should have been decided years ago. “It is disgraceful that eight years after announcing the Royal Adelaide Hospital would be moving, the State Labor Government doesn’t know what it wants to do with the existing site,” he said.

19. 11 June 2015 (*InDaily*—story by Bension Siebert)

The land chosen by the State Government to host Adelaide’s newest high school is contaminated and flood prone, a former landscape architect says. On Tuesday, the state government announced it would spend \$115 million to acquire and renovate the University of South Australia’s Reid building on Frome Street [sic] to host a new city high school.

However, Vice President of the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Society [sic] and former landscape architect Damien Mugavin told 891 ABC radio this morning that the land surrounding the building was contaminated. “The areas surrounding the Reid Building have a long history of uses that (has) left contamination on the site,” he said. “Some of that might have been from the hospital or just general disposal of coal cinders and general rubbish. It was such that ... the contamination level was not suitable for human contact, so it was buried on that site.”

Mugavin—who worked on the land as a landscape architect for Adelaide City Council during its upgrade of the entrance to the Botanic Gardens—said the southern side of the Reid Building had waste products buried beneath it. “(They) had to be buried a metre deep and filled over and ... it can’t be disturbed,” he said. “Any suggestion that you could build sports fields or car parking or anything like that is just out of the question.”

He said it was safe for people to use the land, but that it could not be disturbed without an expensive state government clean-up operation. He also said the Reid Building itself was “a lemon” which regularly flooded. “I suspect that’s ... one of the reasons why the university wants to get rid of it,” he said. “The building itself is obsolete. It’s a lemon of a building (and) it’s flood prone. The actual first ground floor level of that building is elevated out of the ground because the area is flood prone.”

Premier Jay Weatherill told reporters on Tuesday that construction and renovations for the high school would begin before the end of the year. The school, which will specialise in health and sciences, is expected to open in 2019.

Author’s note: Located at the junction of Victoria Drive and Frome Road, with boundaries to the Botanic Garden, Botanic Park and the RAH, the Reid Building sits on a narrow sliver of land. It is an unlikely locale for a 1000-student high school. The nearby Adelaide Zoo attracts large visitor numbers, and car parking is at a premium. Students would be required to negotiate a very high traffic area, and many would have to make the lengthy walk to North Terrace and beyond to make public transport connections.

The 1.7ha Park Land site to the immediate south of the Reid Building was returned to the care of the Adelaide City Council in 2010, and incorporates the new western entrance to the Adelaide Botanic Garden. The Adelaide City Council commissioned Golder and Associates to perform an environmental site assessment of the area in 2004. The August 2004 site assessment found ‘that the current concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons associated with asphaltic concrete on the site and levels of heavy metals are in excess of recommended guidelines for future use of the site as a public recreation area’.

The history of flooding in the area dates back to 1854. Taxpayers might ask what level of due diligence (if any) was performed by the Weatherill Government in cobbling together this about-face.

20. 30 June 2015 (*The Advertiser*—story by Anthony Templeton)

Plans to build a new city high school could become stuck in red tape after the Adelaide Park Lands Authority labelled the development “non-complying”. The authority is concerned the State Government’s plan to build the school by redeveloping UniSa’s Reid Building, on Frome Rd, will lead to more carparks and roads.

The non-complying classification, to be debated at tonight's Adelaide City Council meeting, would give Town Hall planners and councillors the right to scrutinise the school's design. It would also leave the door open for any third-party legal challenge to protect the Parklands.

The school's final approval would still rest with the independent approving body Development Assessment Commission, which was set up by the State Government. "The last thing we want to see is a huge carpark or huge slabs of roadway being built in the Parklands," Authority member Councillor Anne Moran said.

21. 7 July 2015 (InDaily—story by Bension Siebert)

The Adelaide City Council says the State Government's plans for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site may be against the law. Yesterday, Acting Premier John Rau announced the opening of the expressions of interest process for the site, saying the site presented opportunities for "residential, retail, hotel commercial, health, education and cultural facilities".

However, North Ward councilor Phillip Martin told InDaily this morning that allowing commercial and residential development on the site was akin to "selling off the parklands", and was contrary to the Adelaide Park Lands Act. He said the State Government's plans for the site do not "fit the definition of the legislation ... which specifically (precludes) any development other than public infrastructure, from which there is a clear, derived benefit for South Australians". "We actually have a government that is no longer protecting the parklands, but has become, in effect, the enemy of the parklands," he said. "A large number of people ... would rather see a development from which we all derive some benefit, rather than something that will produce a profit for residential, retail or general commercial structure".

Rau told reporters yesterday that he expected any development of the site would open it up so that the public could walk through the site in all directions. "It is essential that the plans provide a significant number of opportunities for people to live and work on the site," he said.

He said the site "presents a once in a generation opportunity to create an internationally acclaimed mixed use precinct that is expected to generate estimated investment in excess of half a billion dollars in South Australia". He said development on the site would occur on a "long-term lease" basis. [See author's note below] However, Martin said he was concerned that none of the site would be returned to parklands. "If there are to be open spaces between apartment blocks, it does not amount to a return of that land to parklands," he said. "It simply amounts to open spaces between commercial development".

Adelaide City Council acting CEO David Chick told InDaily the council had not been properly consulted about the site, and that it had "serious concerns" about the Government's approach. He said that the Adelaide Parklands Act was "quite explicit: that the parklands are for the benefit and enjoyment of all members of the South Australian community".

Chick said that council had been excluded from involvement in the redesign of the old RAH site since the conclusion of the design competition in 2013. "There has been no real involvement until effectively today, when the expression of interest (documents) have come out," he said. "There is a level of concern, and certainly, frustration, due to the lack of involvement within the process".

Acting Planning Minister Stephen Mullighan told InDaily: "The redevelopment represents a great opportunity for Adelaide, and the Deputy Premier said yesterday that we see huge potential for the site to integrate into the surrounding parklands".

A council committee will tonight consider the State Government's development plan amendment applications concerning, amongst other things, the proposed use of the Reid Building on Frome Road as another city high school—and the latest version of the Government's planned O-Bahn upgrade.

“There has been no real consultation regarding the school within the Reid Building either,” said Chick. “There’s a whole level of detail that just has not been provided.”

Author’s note: Planning Minister Rau’s statement that development of the old RAH site will be on a *long-term lease* basis is interesting. Long-term leases on the Adelaide Park Lands must be approved by Parliament. It remains to be seen if the State Liberal Party will honour its 2014 state election pledge not to allow any further commercial development in the Adelaide Park Lands.

Potential developers (and purchasers) would need to be mindful of the risks and limitations associated with leaseholds, as opposed to freehold titles, and the prospects of consumer backlash from the rightful owners of the Adelaide Park Lands.

22. 14 July 2015 (*The Advertiser Business Journal* advertisement)

‘Expressions of Interest’ advertisements placed by the State Government’s development body Renewal SA start appearing with the slogan ‘*A generational opportunity to shape Adelaide’s future*’. The text of the advertising states:

Renewal SA is seeking global interest from experienced organisations and consortia to develop all or part of The Royal Adelaide seven hectare site through an Expression of Interest process. Our vision is to create a dynamic mixed-use urban precinct that capitalises on the prime inner-city location on North Terrace, South Australia’s cultural boulevard.

23. 15 August 2015 (*The Advertiser*—unattributed story ‘Investors eye RAH site’)

This story is, most probably, just *The Advertiser* dutifully publishing a government press release:

International investors have put forward some “interesting” ideas for transforming the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, Deputy Premier John Rau says. The State Government opened an expressions of interest process for the key east end site last month and has already had interest from more than 100 developers about a month out from the September 1 closing date. “We are receiving quite interesting expressions of interest from around the globe,” Mr Rau said. “It’s still early days and that process has some way to work itself through (but) I’m pretty optimistic we will get a wide range of significant players from around Australia and possibly overseas looking to invest. “If international players are looking around the world for opportunities, the idea that you can have a city of over 1 million people with a 7ha site right in the middle of the city ... I think it’s an attractive thing from anyone’s point of view.”

Author’s note: Presumably developers and investors will be conducting thorough due diligence of their own, and not placing any reliance on ‘spin’ from the State Government.

Will they like what they find? This is a State Government with record debt levels, a state with the highest levels of unemployment in the country, and large numbers of known job losses to follow over the next couple of years. Global markets are in turmoil, China is in a massive economic slow-down, and the Australian economy is starting to look very ragged. The world may be awash with cheap money looking for a home, but developers need buyers to realise profits. Uncertainty of title will also be a very significant issue for potential investors. Yet Rau would have us believe developers are beating a path to our door!

According to the ABS, the City of Adelaide's population at the end of 2014 was 22,690, as distinct from Rau's 'city of over 1 million people'. South Australia's current population is around 1.251million.

AUTHOR'S SUMMARY

As at late August 2015, it is more than eight years since the June 2007 announcement by the then Health Minister John Hill that the area 'could not be sold off' and that 'the Government was committed to maximising the amount of parklands available'. In June 2007, the then Leader of the Opposition Martin Hamilton-Smith also stated the government had little option but to return the hospital land to parklands.

It is abundantly clear that the Weatherill State Labor Government has no intention of recognising community ownership of this alienated Park Lands old RAH site. The statements and proposals documented above reveal a pattern of abandoned commitments, promises and undertakings from both the Rann and then the Weatherill State Labor Governments.

Increasingly, there is evidence of a government that has been, and remains, in covert discussions and plans with the property development industry over the future use of this important parcel of alienated community-owned Park Land. It is not just the Adelaide City Council which has been excluded from the process—so have the public as owners of the site.

It is also self-evident that, behind the scenes, the State Government's 'plans' for this site are well advanced, and have been for some time. The calling of expressions of interest from national and international developers with a very short lead-time from 7 July 2015 to a closing date of 1 September 2015 reinforces this assertion.

None of this should come as a surprise to South Australians. The Weatherill Labor Government is currently in the process of 'handing over' community-owned Park Lands to a Sydney-based property developer Walker Corporation to build an office tower, and the NZ-owned SkyCity Entertainment Group to extend its Adelaide Casino operations. The Opposition Liberal Party, having gone to the 2014 state election with a pledge not to allow further commercial development in the Park Lands if it won office, seems to have reneged on that commitment. With SkyCity currently reviewing their Adelaide Casino expansion plans, on 12 August 2015 Liberal Opposition Leader Steven Marshall joined with the Weatherill Government in telling SkyCity to 'get on with it'. Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

The sense of social responsibility and corporate citizenship of companies expanding their activities on alienated community-owned Park Lands must be tested. Signs that the South Australian community is starting to take a critical interest in the Weatherill Government's commercial intrusions into the Adelaide Park Lands are growing. SkyCity shareholders should take note, as should any developers eyeing off the 'old' RAH site.

Philip Groves

Tel 8336 8424; email pvgroves@chariot.com.au