

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents Association Inc.

President's report presented to the 2013/4 Annual General Meeting

Thank you all for allowing me the privilege to represent you as the president of this incredibly active resident association.

The agenda for tonight's meeting once more reflects on the number of issues that we have taken an interest in achieving our major objective of Building Healthy and Engaging Community.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the Management Committee of the Henley Surf Life Saving club in allowing us to use these magnificent facilities. We have had our differences in the past and we are pleased to say that we believe that we have obtained very fair outcomes and look forward to building our relationship with the club who provide a wonderful community service.

I shall quickly run through some of the major issues that we have been addressing.

The pumping and loss of 82,000 litres each day of precious ground water from the Antunes site is very much still on our radar.

Numerous meetings have taken place with the Department for Water, Council and water experts in our endeavours to have the developer correct what is an illegal Water Affecting Activity in accordance with the Natural Resources Management Act.

As recent as this week we have received notification that some progress is being made with the developer working with the Council and the Department Environment Water Natural Resources to find a method of disposal that will return the ground water back into the water table senior to prevent possible subsidence and sea water intrusion.

Two options are presently being investigated to either pump the water into a series of drainage wells directing in front of the existing development or to dispose of the water by a series of wells installed in Henley Square. More information can be given when we get to general business in tonight's meeting.

The Henley Square Master Plan has been a interesting process of working with council, community and designers through a Community Reference Group. At least six members of WACRA are also members of the reference group in their own right and finally a plan has been put to community for comment and further discussed and endorsed by Council.

Design elements have been discussed at length and so too have costings to complete the development. Later tonight you will be hearing from Jamie Hosking the Council project manager on just where everything is at this moment.

The Coast Path is now at the final stage between Grange and West lakes Shores which of course was always considered to be the most contentious. A Community Reference group of 30 residents representing various interests has been set up and has already met a number of times in addition to a bus and walking tour that took place only a couple of weeks ago.

Part of the decision of where this path way will go has been eliminated by the decision of the minister for environment Ian Hunter who declared that the Tennyson dunes are a Conservation Reserve and has advised council that a Bike path is not to go through the Dunes because of its environmental importance. Community working with council and design engineers are presently working on the Pathway possibilities through the southern and northern corridor sections and it will

not be a easy ride reaching consensus.

A Traffic Management and Parking Plan within the Henley Precinct is being worked on through the Henley Precinct Community Reference group and in conjunction with Council and the community.

A number of community forums and consultations have already taken place and a concept plan is in the making.

It is not surprising that this issue has taken priority status as there are serious concerns from community about safety aspects because of increased popularity and urban infill.

On street parking and late night venues have increased community complaints and concerns. WACRA continues to have input into the development of this plan.

Late night venues and the associated problems for residents continue to be of concern and things have not been made any easier by the traders shutting out our Association from having an effective input on the trading hours management of these venues and their patrons.

Recent proposal for a 24 hour trading licence for the Ramsgate hotel during the world soccer games was strongly opposed by WACRA and residents. What was really interesting was to listen to the stories from the residents of the horrendous conditions that they are enduring as a result of late night closing.

A recent resolution by council to give themselves power to increase licensing hours via their Liquor Policy will be strongly opposed by WACRA. It is hard for us to understand how Council could even consider this without first speaking to and consulting with community.

A new Police Station for Henley Beach is something WACRA and the community have been wanting for many years. The recent announcement by the re-elected labour Government to build a new station is strongly supported by WACRA. We are also calling on the government to have the station staffed 24 hours on Friday, Saturday and Sundays as it makes a lot of sense to us that in a growing area with late night licensing and a increasingly patronised place that a Police presence has become a necessity.

We continue to show a keen interest in protecting and preserving the Culture and Heritage of Henley Beach and Grange and adjoined suburbs.

We are fortunate to have Theo our Treasurer who is not only good with our books but also has a keen interest in history and heritage. Of recent times we have supported the submitted list of places that we believe should be given heritage status. We continue to raise concerns about buildings in Henley Square that are state and local heritage listed, and that also includes the beautiful Henley Town Hall. Most of these buildings need work to bring them up to heritage status, and in particular the Town Hall that could and should be used far more by the community.

WACRA has retained our association with the Community Alliance SA that is a organisation consisting of over 30 resident groups all concerned about the 30 Year Plan for greater Adelaide. Although we don't have high rise development right on our doorstep we must at all times be aware that some development is unsustainable and downright bloody ugly. There are huge holes in the existing Government Plan and in particular the lack of over laying infrastructure planning. The Government are making no secret of wanting to take almost total control of the planning agenda and shutting out Local government in many instances. We would like to see and hear a greater and louder voice coming from council and their representative body the Local Government Association.

A expert panel has been set up directly under the Minister to review the present Planning Act. WACRA are participating in this review process that is required to conduct extensive community consultation and report back to the minister before the end of this year.

Jet Skis and the concerns community have in relation to safety on the beaches has been on our agenda for more than ten years. Representations to our Local Member Paul Caica and meetings with the Minister of Transport Tom Koutsatonis, department senior safety staff and council during last year brought about the trial Exemption Zone between the Torrens River and Grange road. This trial began in early December through to 31 March and in our view has been a great success. Council has co operated wonderfully with the Department for Transport, Police and the surf lifesaving clubs to ensure this zone was jet ski free. There have been some accidental and deliberate breaches of the Zone conditions but overall the feedback we are receiving has been very positive. Council has conducted a On Line Survey [poll] and it has to be said that it is not very user friendly and consequently many residents have given up on trying to register their opinions. As recent as yesterday council has advised WACRA that the poll will be open up to 14 April and an immediate review of the On Line registration process is taking place. WACRA have also offered expert evaluation assistance through one of our executive members Paul Laris who is expert in the skills of developing evaluation methods. We will be meeting with all parties soon after the completion of the trial and we are keen for you all to make your views known. If you are having problems registering your vote we strongly advise you to contact council and voice your concerns. Written comment is acceptable as part of the process.

Our fundraising activities continue and we will shortly be meeting to work on our next event. These events whilst fund raising are also community building and socially inclusive so we urge you to come along to the next event we organise whether it be a curry or pasta night , a recently released movie or a cruise along the Port River

The recent State Election Community Forum that was held a few weeks before the election proved to be a great success with over 120 residents in the electorate of Colton attending to listen and question the four candidates. Three primary questions were asked of each candidate and then it was open to the community to seek out answers to a number of State and local issues. The feedback from community and Candidates has been positive and we feel that it did bring out the differences in policy assisting electors to make their final decision on voting day.

There are many other issues of concern that we continue to be involved or take interest in.

Not the least being the installation of a wetlands on the Torrens River between Tapleys Hill road and the out let to Gulf St Vincent...to most of us it is what is commonly called a 'no brainer'. It is well overdue in this time and we must address the massive pollution and turbidity problems caused by this filthy river system.

We must remain vigilant in keeping our Federal member for Hindmarsh aware of our opposition to any further changes or breaches to the **Adelaide Airport Curfew** and we will continue to fight to **save West Beach from total devastation.**

In closing, I want to thank you, our membership, for remaining active and supportive of what we do and finally a huge thank you to the WACRA executive committee of 14 wonderful people who attend regular Executive meetings and do the hard work in making the Association a organisation that has respect and represents the community in a responsible and active way in our collective objective in making your life and where we live a better and enjoyable place.

Thank you

Jim Douglas, President