

The Coast Matters

Constant calls on the Coastal Protection Branch (CPB) and City Charles Sturt to review the Adelaide Living Beaches Strategy (ALBS) brought together a positive discussion with WACRA and coastal experts where all parties agreed that the ALBS needed to be reviewed. The Coastal Protection Branch have taken on this responsibility by bringing together Coastal Marine, Surveying, Engineering experts and community with West Beach as a priority. A report is due to be tabled in March. We shall keep our membership and supporters informed and consulted of the content.



We support an independent scientific report to stop this destruction

Coast Park (shared pathway)

Council have made its position clear by producing a management and construction plan of the direction and consistency of the pathway. WACRA have supported a non-concrete continuous “Discovery Trail” of no greater width than 2 metres through the dunes from Semaphore to Grange similar in design and use of materials as agreed inside the Tennyson Conservation Reserve. WACRA does not support a 3 metre concrete pathway and have spoken out strongly to Council and Government representatives on our preferred option. Other Resident groups along the proposed pathway have taken their concerns to the

Environment Resources and Development Court where the matter has been adjourned pending further presentations. We will continue to lobby the Government and Council for our preferred option however it now seems that the matter will eventually be resolved through litigation.

Water Quality - Storm Water Outlets to Sea

Due to severe storm events and poor management practices we have experienced some of the worst water quality, in years, along the Adelaide Metropolitan beaches and in particular West Beach, Henley and Grange. The Natural Resources Management Board (NRM) do as much as they can with limited resources but it falls short of water quality improvement we would expect in this time of high technology.

Storm waters from the Barcoo Outlet at West Beach combined with grossly polluted waters from the Torrens River in addition to Council storm water collecting tanks have created a “turbid environment”.

Regular warnings are issued by the Environment Protection Authority in conjunction with Department Health NOT to enter any 'turbid (cloudy) water' for up to three days after any storm water event.

The EPA have an ALERT system – subscribe at: http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/beach_water_advice for advice when water quality at local beaches may not be suitable for swimming. Maps are issued of the danger areas and West beach and Henley beach are always at high warning levels. Adding to this problem has been the gross pollution of storm waters from Council collecting



tanks in particular at the end of Marlborough Street Henley Beach. Council are making far greater efforts working with NRM in developing a management plan for the disposal of these polluted waters into Gulf St Vincent.

Storm discharge Henley Beach Picture Steve Georganas MP

WACRA supports Nuclear – free Zone Policy

After extensive discussion, and hearing from experts and participants of the State Government Citizens Jury, WACRA have endorsed unanimously a Policy Position Document encouraging Nuclear – free Zones so that Nuclear Dumping cannot occur.

The principle reasons for our objections centre around five major concerns - the environment, economics that fail to stack up, lack of trust, transportation safety, social and community opposition.

The SA Government continues to pursue Nuclear opportunities against the majority wishes of the people. WACRA see this as a desperate effort to



bring a misconceived economic boost to the State at the expense of exploring renewables, job creation innovation and encouraging Nuclear countries

to dispose of their own waste.

A copy of the Nuclear – free Zone Policy is also available to download from the WACRA web page www.wacra.org.au

NUCLEAR – FREE ZONE POLICY

Supported by unanimous vote WACRA General Meeting
25th January 2017

The General Meeting of the Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc voted unanimously on the following resolution in relation to the importation, transportation, storage, disposal and dumping of nuclear waste within the Charles Sturt Council region.

Purpose of the resolution

For Council to adopt a policy and a commitment, consistent with many other South Australian Councils, declaring the City of Charles Sturt a Nuclear - free Zone.

A Nuclear - free Zone is a place which has been declared "off limits" to:

- high and intermediate level radioactive materials or wastes being created, used, stored or transported
- nuclear power plants, including power stations, uranium enrichment and reprocessing plants
- nuclear weapons or facilities associated with the development, manufacture, transport or use of nuclear weapons, component parts and associated technology

The exception to the above is for safety approved low level applications (e.g. radioisotopes) in medical, hospital and/or research facilities, approved under the terms of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. Low Level Waste is generated in hospitals and industry. It has short-lived radioactivity and does not require shielding during normal handling or transportation.

Discussion

Councils are charged with many aspects for protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of its citizens. As such, it is imperative for Council to consider nuclear and radiation issues as part of their responsibilities for health, town planning, community information and education. Whilst recognising that local governments' powers in relation to nuclear power, weapons and defence are limited, they can be a voice for their community and advocate positive initiatives that can be implemented by other levels of government.

Whereas the Radiation and Protection Control Branch of S.A. Health oversees the S.A. Government's responsibility for safe handling of radioactive substances, this does not relieve the Charles Sturt Council from support for and commitment to apply the general provisions of the S.A. Public and Environmental Health Act in its municipality.

Since 1977, 115 Australian Local Government Authorities declared their municipalities a Nuclear - free Zone, including 10 from South Australia. They were:

- Elizabeth City Council
- Gawler Town Council
- Kensington and Norwood City Council

- Munno Para City Council
- Port Adelaide/Enfield City Council
- Unley City Council
- Prospect City Council
- St Peters Town Council
- Hindmarsh Town Council (which held this policy when it was subsumed into the City of Charles Sturt)
- Noarlunga City Council
- The capital Cities Councils of Sydney and Melbourne.

In 2016 the South Australian Government established Citizens Juries to review the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission's Report and a proposal to create the world's biggest nuclear waste site. The outcome was conclusive. The Citizens Jury were unconvinced about the safety/health claims and dubious economic benefits identified in the Commission's Report.

Overseas experience shows that the nuclear industry is in global decline. This is partly due to the costs of decommissioning existing reactors and trying to find ways to safely store the waste. It is also due to the investment and establishment of alternative renewable energy sources. France will reduce its current dependency on nuclear fuel from 75% to 50% by 2025.

The declaration of a Nuclear - free Zone by Council is an important public statement demonstrating care and commitment to its citizens and future generations.

Authorised by Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc
PO Box 72, Henley Beach 5022



TELSTRA Telecommunications 35 metre Tower

TELSTRA made a development Application to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) of City Charles Sturt to erect a 35 metre Telecommunication tower at 73 East Terrace, Henley Beach in the centre of a Historic Conservation Zone. Telstra claim that after exploring all other options this was the most suitable and least destructive location. Residents objected strongly to the application and 15 residents made presentations to the DAP. The DAP rejected the application on the basis of it failing to meet the conditions of the Council Development Plan. TELSTRA appealed the DAP decision to the Environment Resources and Development Court where the matter was heard on 9th March. The Commissioner heard from the residents seeking to be joined to the matter to enable them to have a voice in future discussions in a pretrial conciliation conference with Telstra and Council in our endeavors to find a compromise. This matter will be heard by ERD Court via a pretrial conference on 30th March.



Proposed Telstra Tower
73 East Tce, Henley Beach
Residents and City of Charles Sturt Council's Development Assessment Panel reject this application.

Ground Water Illegal Extraction Antunes H2O and Baju development

Endless emails, personal meetings with the Environment Minister Hunter and the Department for Water have still failed to find a resolution to end the irresponsible and illegal extraction of 82.000 litres per day of precious ground water onto Henley Beach from Antunes Development. We are told that the matter is in "private and confidential" mediation and this has been the situation for over 12 months. WACRA have sought crucial measuring data that the Department of Water have been unable to provide because there is an insufficient number of bores, so critical, to obtain a full understanding of how far the ground water has receded and the sea water has intruded inland.

It is our understanding that the Antunes Development is the most vulnerable to possible damage and yet there is obviously a "stand off" on who is ultimately financially responsible to rectify this illegal groundwater extraction. For background information please go to www.HenleyVoice.com

Henley and Grange Asset Management Plan

City Charles Sturt have a number of buildings in Henley and Grange that have been identified as being 'surplus to use' and have discussed with WACRA how they intend to manage a long term plan to sell off various properties or seek expressions of interest of use.

This is what we know so far ...

Henley Town Hall (State Heritage) ...expression of use leasing/management.

Henley Library... exploring a downsize/relocation/expression of use or sale.

The White house on corner North Street and Military road to be considered for sale.

Henley and Grange Depot Military Road ...for sale subject to contamination/re-remediation reports.

Woodworkers Centre (currently located in the Depot)....considering new building at Henley Oval.

Henley and Grange Community Centre...to be retained in present location.

Grange community Centre subject to confidential negotiation.

NOTE ...this Plan is NOT defined and subject to Council elected members' considerations.

Development Plan Amendment-Public consultation.

A copy of the DRAFT Plan can be examined at the Council Civic centre on Woodville Road or any of the five Libraries. The Draft DPA is also available on Web site

www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au

The Development Plan is a key policy document in the SA Planning system to guide development.

The consultation process is open until 31st March 2017.

Libraries are hubs for learning and building inclusive, informed communities.

Community libraries are being downgraded and schools are removing arts and humanities from the curriculum. These decisions will have long-term detrimental effects on society, says guest writer and educator Erica Jolly. WACRA welcomes your comments and feedback..



Libraries are the hubs for learning and building inclusive, informed communities

Community libraries are being downgraded and schools are removing arts and humanities from the curriculum. These decisions will have long-term detrimental effects on society, says guest writer and educator Erica Jolly.

Community libraries are increasingly important as schools such as Henley High School close their libraries. Libraries provide multidisciplinary avenues of discovery, at multiple levels and with infinite variety, from the youngest child and their carer/s right through to the oldest members of the community. Users can browse books of different sizes, for different ages, and with different foci suited to everyone – men, women and children – in their local community area.

In schools, there have been moves away from a worthwhile focus on the arts and humanities with a concentration on science, technology, engineering and mathematics ('STEM'). In too many schools, we are losing the inestimably valuable avenues of learning, earning, discovery and creativity in the arts and humanities because subjects are seen as 'silos' disconnected from each other. In the UK, 1 in 11 are gaining their living from some aspect of the arts! In Australia, we have hardly begun to think about connecting STEM disciplines with the arts and humanities ('STEAM'). Libraries are the hubs we need for the future since formal secondary schooling is limited by the more regimented national curriculum.

Face-to-face conversations with a librarian willing to listen to people's needs and interests, and with knowledge about the possibilities in myriad forms of

media held in a library, keep human-felt connections alive. Library visitors can access the internet through a booking system. Henley Community Library is packed with people at weekends. The Early Childhood Play and Learning Centre within the Library is just one of its high use and well attended activities. U3A (University of the Third Age) has a group meeting in the Henley Community Library. Other groups, such as older women enjoying crafts and moving away from commercial to more personal connections, need this encouraging space. The increase in individualism in politics, with its accompanying loss of a sense of community, of sharing ideas, thoughts and enjoyment, undermines the sense of belonging for the whole community into the future. Young people who are unemployed have no money to spare; they can't afford a Kindle or a computer. And what of families who cannot afford childcare? The love of learning that a welcoming library brings with it advances their children's success at school. And at no added expense to ratepayers!

Any effort to squash library resources and people into a smaller space will decrease the quality of human interaction that occurs at Henley Community Library. It is so easy for short-sighted councils to destroy valuable human connections. Council appears to have little understanding of the quality of investment in the future for all community members, not just the wealthy, that the community service of such a library brings to the mental health and wealth of everyone in the local community it serves.

Erica Jolly

**Annual General Meeting Wednesday 29th March
Henley Library Learning Centre North St.7.30pm**

From the President's Chair....



WACRA continues to meet our primary objectives of Building Healthy and Inclusive Community.

Our membership and supporters have increased substantially and our use of the social media has enabled us to reach far into our community. Our affiliations with the Conservation Council SA, the Environmental Defenders Office and the Community Alliance has provided us with a broader knowledge base and strong advocacy. We should be proud of the way we represent our membership and the broader community on issues that are important to us all. The work that we do is as a result of the huge effort put in by our Executive committee and strong support of our active members and supporters. We encourage your involvement in the WACRA activities and look forward to your continuing support.

Jim Douglas
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **29th March 2017 7.30pm**

Henley and Grange Library Learning Centre
Henley Town Hall (enter North Street or through
the library)

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome & Apologies
Acceptance of AGM Minutes 2016
Treasurer / Auditor Reports
Presidents Report
Election of Officers

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING **AGENDA**

Coastal Pathway Grange - West Lakes Shores
TELSTRA Telecommunications Tower
Coastal Management Report
Nuclear-free Zone Policy - Action plan
City Charles Sturt Asset Management Plan
Torrens River Wetland
General Business

Join us after the meeting for refreshments

Authorised by Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc www.wacra.org.au
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Produced by Anne Wheaton (Membership Officer)
Photos courtesy of Fernando M Goncalves/Anne Wheaton

