

Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association Inc

Minutes of the **General Meeting** held on 29th January 2020 at the Henley Town Hall

Chaired by Paul Laris, President, who welcomed everyone and paid our respects to the Kurna people who are South Australia's first people and nation as traditional owners and occupants and we pay our respect to their ancestors and elders and those present today.

Attendance: 25 **Apologies:** Jim Douglas, Deb Cashel, Ros Herbert, Bob Herbert, Theo Ellenbroek, Heather & Calvin Brown, Anna Shepherd, Lyn Walsh, Don Howie, Helen Manning, Tina Koh, Sharon Picken

Minutes of the Previous Meeting Accepted - Moved Bert Brown, Seconded Chrissy Schultz

Treasurer's Report - Anne Wheaton

Our Total funds at the end of January were \$2,262.75 plus \$2000 invested in a 12 month term deposit which will mature in October 2020. Membership reminders to be sent out. Report Accepted - Moved Julie Whitehead, Seconded Fernando Goncalves.

President's Report

Paul reported that the Australian fires were BIG news across Europe and the UK - Australia portrayed as the 'canary in the coal mine'. Huge alarm about the effects of climate change as manifested in Australia. Floods in the UK. Raised temperatures across Scandinavia. In line with the predictions of XR.

Torrens Governance Review. The Natural Resource Management Board has established a review of the management of the River Torrens as there are many councils and govt bodies (like SA Health) etc all having a stake in its management but not necessarily taking responsibility for it when it matters. Bert Brown and Paul Laris attended a workshop to try to determine who should be responsible and the outcome is that there is going to be a 'River Torrens round table' with a convenor (facilitator) and around the table, representatives from SA Water, DPTI etc, a Kurna man and woman, a community group representative etc - we await to see if it achieves any good but its outcome will rely on a good convenor.

Guest Speaker

Paul then introduced Dr Iris Ininicki who has been engaged by SA Community Alliance to produce a submission to the SA Govt on the evolving Planning & Development Code, which will have a huge impact on the built environment. Iris has a distinguished background in Planning, Environmental Law, Heritage, Conservation Policies, History and Local Govt Management and is Past-President of the Planning Institute of SA. Iris works as a Consultant providing advice on a large range of planning issues.

Iris addressed the meeting for well over an hour and we all got a sense of just how complex and problematic this whole new Planning Code is. She started by explaining how Community Alliance was formed in 2011 and that it is run by Tom Matthews and has 28 Residential and associated groups with it, including WACRA from the very beginning. It has strong links to the Environmental Defenders' Office and the Conservation Council.

This is the fourth major review of the Planning Act and it is a radical one, as it is largely removing Local Govt from the process - one code for the whole of the State. Once it is passed, the Minister has the power to remove or change policies without consulting. The Community Alliance is separate to the Protect Our Heritage Alliance but supports it and Iris brought with her some Petitions concerning the Heritage.

The proposed new Planning Code was introduced by Minister Rau in 2016 to setup a centralised State-wide planning system and since then there have discussion papers, position papers, draft code policies, community and Practitioner's Guide etc and much of this is now available through the SA Planning Commission's Portal. which is part of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The **Planning and Design Code** now runs to about 3,000 pages was released on 1st October 2019 along with an Online Portal Consultation Map Viewer. An update report was released in December by the Planning

Commission admitting there had been mistakes and inaccuracies with the P & D Code and that plans were afoot to remedy issues raised by Councils with them.

On 23rd Dec 2019 the Historic Area Statements were released - 368 pages and then the Code Updated Classification Table, 2,200 pages. A draft Historic Area Overlay has been produced.

And since then, the Planning Commission has run community consultations and workshops etc. but generally most outside observers are a bit overwhelmed by what is being proposed. There are many issues to consider but everyone should check <https://saplanningcommission.sa.gov.au> and be prepared to spend a few hours exploring all that is happening - look at the Planning Portal. Generally, most people thought the Portal was poor and often confusing.

Iris's talk highlighted how complex and important the whole issue is, the need to delay the Bill, as advocated by Mark Parnell and to check for Public Meetings. She discussed Contributory items, private accreditations and the Adelaide Oval. And many other issues like Mount Barker, clearances around houses and the 30% increase in the tree canopy and pointed out just how much power will be given to the Minister.

Paul wondered why there was such urgency to get the legislation through by July but Richard was cynical and thought that by making it so complex and the portal so difficult to navigate, there would be less objections. Iris plans to have her Draft Report in by early February and she encourages everyone to write in to the Commission about any changes to the zoning.

The meeting thanked Iris for her valiant attempt to explain this behemoth of legislation and she recommended that we check the following submissions on the Portal: the Local Govt Association, West Torrens Council and the City of Marion.

Paul Laris asked the meeting to write, if possible, a submission or letter to someone like our Local Member, Matt Cowdrey saying that 'This consultation process is so rushed and so flawed as to be ineffective, so please extend the process to allow the community to have its say'.

Climate Emergency Group

Julie Whitehead reported on behalf of the group (Julie, Andrea Rankin, Alan Goldsmith and Pedro Schultz) by giving the background to the formation of the Group and how the Charles Sturt Council had declared a Climate Emergency. In the light of that declaration, the group met with Fiona Jenkins, Manager of the Waste and Sustainability Team, from the Charles Sturt Council and we wanted to find out what actions the Council planned to not only adapt but mitigate the effects of Climate Change in the future. The Council's Leadership Group will be meeting in February to formulate its plans but Fiona welcomed input from us. Issues raised were 'gardens on the verge', trees, waste collection etc.

We have lots of other ideas and welcome any suggestions from other Wacrans,

Coastal Management and Sand Replenishment Group

Bert Brown reported that the group (Jim, Paul, Deb and Bert) had met with Steve Dangerfield from Pro Manage which is funded by the Govt and wants to set up a Reference Group with about 20 participants to facilitate a pipeline to replenish sand from Semaphore down to West Beach. Dangerfield said that the Govt:

- a) wanted to put in the pipeline
- b) has put aside money for rehabilitation
- c) looking for external source for sand

We asked why they were using a pipeline and does it work? We would like to see the evaluation of the pipeline from Glenelg to Somerton Park. We will be part of the process provided it is an informed process.

Any Other Business

There will be a Coastal Walk to look at the art installations along the coast this coming Sunday - starting at the Grange Train Station and walking to the Henley Hotel. There are rumours that the Grange Train may be axed - saveTheGrange.com

The meeting closed at 9:13pm