



Friends of Port Willunga 2020 Summer Newsletter

As we head towards the 2020 AGM to be held at **11am** in the **Aldinga Institute Hall** on **Sunday January 19th 2020**, here is an update from the Chair on what your committee has been up to over the past year.

1. Linear reserve planting and concept plan for the old caravan park site

Once again the Friends of Port Willunga (FOPW) supported ongoing implementation of the City of Onkaparinga's planting plan for the foreshore and linear reserve area. We are pleased to announce that a project officer has also been appointed and budget allocated for future revegetation and rehabilitation of the dunes at the former caravan park site, now dedicated 'for coastal purposes'. FOPW are working with project officer Janelle Arbon to develop a concept plan for the site, and lobbying hard for the budget to include removal of the two stobie poles that currently obstruct views, and discontinuation of the use of the site for commercial helicopter landings. The draft concept plan will be available for comment in early 2020 and will guide the proposed future restoration and enhancement of the site into an attractive revegetated coastal environment. A less is more approach will be taken. The plan will consider:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Coast Park shared use path alignment and other pedestrian links
- revegetation
- interpretative signage
- investigations into stobie pole removal
- ongoing site management (including controls to stop trail bikes and go-carts)
- staging and costing.



Former caravan park site with unwanted stobie pole and helicopter

2. Renewal SA's development of 95 hectares south of Quinliven Road, preservation of the 'Green Triangle' and maintenance of the Aleppo Pine Avenue.

Towards the end of 2018 the State Government through Renewal SA undertook initial structure planning of 95 hectares of deferred urban-zoned land between Port Road and Aldinga Beach Rd, which includes a new high school, railway corridor, and the 'green triangle' enclosed by the Port Road Aleppo Pine Avenue, Quinliven Road and Howe Road. Renewal SA acknowledged overwhelming community advocacy for preservation of the green triangle as community open space, and this was supported by Mayor Erin Thompson and the City of Onkaparinga. However Renewal SA's draft structure plan allocated a much smaller area (see small green triangle below) incorporating the proposed rail corridor as open space, with the rest of the triangle allocated for housing with access to Port Road. This was met with broad opposition from across the community during consultation in May 2019. The Structure Planning process is running 6 months behind schedule, with the Final Structure Plan Report and Engagement Plan report still to be released.



Renewal SA Draft Structure Plan showing smaller green triangle



New high school design

3. Pop up protest

In September 2019 council invited community feedback on a proposal for “activation” of the public area next to the toilets at the bottom of the Port Willunga car park through a pop-up bar and live music, over a period of several weeks, between the hours of 7.30am and midnight, with later hours proposed for New Year’s Eve. The largely negative response from the community was loud and clear and the proposed activation was cancelled.

4. South Australian planning reform

Many will be aware of broad community protests across Adelaide regarding the potential impact of state planning reform on local heritage. South Australia is currently undergoing the biggest modernisation of its planning system in 20 years. The proposed new system and draft planning code is currently undergoing public consultation, and FOPW and FOWB are engaging the services of former Willunga planner Dr Iris Iwanicki to identify any issues in the code that may impact negatively on heritage and sustainable planning for our regions heritage and primary production zones. A workshop with FOPW and FOWB committee members is planned ahead of the Feb 28 submission deadline. Community information sessions are being held in the region in January and February. See this link for more information https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have_your_say

5. Main South Road duplication

The duplication of Main South Road between Seaford and Sellicks Beach is being delivered in two stages:

- Stage 1 (funded) will involve the duplication of approximately 10 kilometres of Main South Road from south of Griffiths Drive in Seaford to Aldinga and includes the duplication of the Pedlar Creek Bridge at Seaford Rise.
- Stage 2 (unfunded) will continue duplication of Main South Road for approximately six kilometres from Aldinga to Sellicks Beach.

6. Star of Greece Café lease renewal and upgrade

Concerns have been brought to FOPW’s attention around safe pedestrian access being cut off when the disability access car parks are in use adjacent to fencing of the new outdoor area of the café. There was also concern that temporary portaloos might become permanent. Finally, concerns were raised around the lack of communication with the community before approval of the detailed plans for this first stage of the upgrade. All these concerns have been communicated to Council.



New Star of Greece outdoor area

7. Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid

The key focus for 2019 was an external expert review of the work undertaken to date to inform the next steps, the strength of the bid and future project stakeholders. The review confirmed that a strong case for World Heritage listing exists, however further research and analysis is required. The expert review also considered federal government feedback on the National Heritage listing nomination, which acknowledged the depth of the research undertaken for the bid and extent of community support, however raised concern about the size of the area being nominated and the lack of clear State Government support for the bid. Additionally, Adelaide City Council (ACC) is seeking World Heritage listing of the Adelaide park lands and city layout. Participating councils are now exploring the opportunities for collaboration between the two bids, something that the state environment minister David Spiers has encouraged. Further meetings in this regard will occur in the 2020.

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in 2019, and look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on Sunday January 19th, where we will hear from our guest speaker Paddy O'Toole, author of *Fragments of Time: The Lives and Works of the Willunga Slate Carvers*, and provide you with an opportunity to voice any of your concerns or ideas.

Please note the AGM start time of 11am.



Stephanie Johnston
Chair, Friends of Port Willunga Committee