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Media Release
OBJECTION TO PROPOSED REZONING OF ADELAIDE CITY PARK LAND
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Attached is an open letter from the History Council of South Australia to the Premier, the Honourable Stephen Marshall, regarding the proposed rezoning of the Riverbank Precinct.

The History Council of South Australia (HCSA) is an independent, non-government body whose membership is comprised of individual members, cultural, academic and government institutions, local libraries, museums and historical societies. On behalf of our members, the HCSA is asking the Government to reconsider this proposed rezoning of the Parklands.

The Adelaide Park Lands are an integral component of our state's heritage. In his 1837 survey, Colonel William Light included 2,300 acres (930 hectares) of land surrounding the city to be reserved from sale and dedicated as parklands for the use and recreation of the citizens. The exception was 9 blocks of land Light specified for use for government buildings and facilities (including government house, a botanic garden, a hospital and a cemetery).

Light's visionary plan is regarded throughout Australia and the world as a masterwork of urban design. It ensured Adelaide had the world's first public park (10 years ahead of the next public park in Merseyside, England). Light's model is recognised by town planners and historians as a major influence on the Garden City planning movement, one of the most important western urban planning initiatives in history.

The HCSA objects to the Government's proposal to acquire land for Government purposes as set out in the attached letter, and to rezone it for uses other than open space and community recreational facilities. The HCSA strongly objects to each of these proposals that will decrease the area of the green belt encompassing the city.

We argue that, as a hallmark of the city's original design, which has maintained elements of its historical layout for more than 170 years, the Adelaide Park Lands are of great historical and heritage significance. They continue to be a unique and highly valued aspect of our wonderful city and are important to the identity of South Australia. We also suggest that, as there is little Kauria land in the Adelaide area that has not been built over or bitumenised, it is disrespectful to build over the few remaining natural areas. In addition, global warming is increasingly recognised as an eminent threat to city dwellers' lifestyles; planners recognise that Green areas decrease the temperature of cities and assist in the retention of water and should be protected and expanded.

The HCSA draws attention to the health, environmental and economic benefits that green, treed and community accessible spaces provide. They also form a major aspect of Adelaide's unique character which appeals not only to residents but to visitors from interstate and overseas.