

23MIT10546



**Government
of South Australia**

Office of the
Minister for Infrastructure
and Transport
Minister for Energy and
Mining

Level 14, 83 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1533
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel 08 7133 1100

minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
centofanti@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Centofanti

APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 24 October 2023.

Your application seeks access to:

“A copy of all correspondence and meeting documents, including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, emails, letters, meeting agendas, and any other correspondence between the Whyalla City Council Mayor and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, between 24/10/2022 to 24/10/2023.”

An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 3 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application.

I grant you access in full to 3 documents; copies of which are enclosed.

No fees and charges are payable for this application.

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to apply for an internal review, in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act. To make an internal review application, please either write a letter or complete *Application for Review of Determination* form, to the Principal Officer of this agency, the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter.

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on (08) 7133 1100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carly'.

Carly McNeill
Accredited FOI Officer

23/ 11 /2023

22 March 2023

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Energy and Mining

E: Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister Koutsantonis

The City of Whyalla welcomes your government's consideration and advocacy for Federal funding to invest in the revival of the Eyre Peninsula Rail Network.

Thanks to the South Australian Government and your ministerial leadership, the City of Whyalla, whilst a remote regional city, is developing into a global mega, sophisticated hydrogen industrial and manufacturing hub.

We anticipate considerable local population and business growth for our city over the coming five to ten years. Transport infrastructure (air, sea, road and rail) will be critical to the success of our growing major projects, such as the hydrogen power plant and Port Bonython hydrogen precinct.

It will be essential that our city transport infrastructure supports this growth, transforming our regional city centre into a 'hydrogen demonstration city'. A regional city centre not only producing green hydrogen, but a centre using new green hydrogen-based technologies, extracting every benefit of such technology for our local regional business community.

The current proposed revival of the Eyre Peninsula Rail Network keeps the network effectively a closed loop network within the Peninsula.

This network has far greater National strategic potential.

We would welcome analysis of the Return on Investment, from connecting the Eyre Peninsula Rail Network to the National rail network through the City of Whyalla.

Such a connection would facilitate the carriage, by rail, of freight, mining resources and train passengers, east and west. The connection taking considerable vehicle traffic off National Highway Number One and the Port Augusta – Port Lincoln Highway.





The green rail line steel required, could be manufactured in and supplied from Whyalla.

The locomotives and rolling stock required to haul the freight could be powered by hydrogen and the passenger trains could be based on the fast, hydrogen passenger trains currently being built in the EU. These locomotives and rolling stock could be manufactured in South Australia.

Such a connection would facilitate the carriage, by rail of military vehicles from the Edinburgh Defence Base to Cultana Defence Training Grounds, south of Whyalla. This would include low loaders carting tanks and armoured personnel carriers that currently use National Highway Number One and the Port Augusta – Port Lincoln Highway.

We would welcome your advocacy to seek the support of the Commonwealth Government, working in conjunction with the South Australian Government, to plan and deliver a broader, bigger, long term strategic rail network project, as outlined above to support the expected rapid growth of the City of Whyalla.

Yours faithfully

Phill Stone
MAYOR

Justin Commons
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*c.c. Sam Crafter; Chief Executive Officer – Office of Hydrogen Power SA
Jon Whelan; Chief Executive Officer – Department for Infrastructure and Transport
Ryan Viney; Chief Executive Officer -Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula*



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21 August 2023

**Renewal SA
Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing
Department of Education
Department of Energy and Mines
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Department of Trade and Investment
Department of Environment and Water (Crown Lands)
Department of Transport and Infrastructure
Hydrogen SA
Australian Migrant Resource Centre
Football South Australia**

**Premier, Peter Malinauskas
Deputy Premier, Sue Close
Minister Tom Koutsantonis
Minister Nick Champion
Minister Katrine Hildyard
Minister Blair Boyer
State Member for Giles, Eddie Hughes**

RE: WORLD GAME FUNDING COULD BE CATALYST FOR MAJOR WHYALLA CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT

The Whyalla community were excited to hear the announcement that Whyalla has been named as one of the key sites expected to benefit from the State Government and Football South Australia’s (FSA) commitment to \$28 million for dedicated female sporting facilities.

This new facilities funding – together with the State Government’s previously committed \$6 million sporting development funding, and ideally even further government and private funding sources – could well be the spark for an even more ambitious project to revitalise the city’s centre, creating state-of-the-art sporting and accommodation facilities (think Commonwealth and Olympic Game villages) that will help attract workers and their families from across the globe to service the major government and private-sector projects on our horizon.

Whyalla City Council wants to work alongside all relevant State Government departments and relevant organisations to collaborate in bringing this multi-benefit vision to life.

The major investment by the State Government in the Whyalla Secondary College has paved the way for this vision of a central city precinct – with the College as a focal point – as well as utilising surrounding, underdeveloped State Government land and community reserves (see map attached), which could include sites such as the former Edward John Eyre High School.

Whyalla Council wants to see the College benefit from FSA funding, enabling its sporting facilities to be expanded to provide a national-standard soccer facility, dedicated to the development of female participation. Ideally further funding could lead to the ultimate expansion of the precinct into a sporting hub, catering for the likes of tennis, netball, gymnastics, e-sports, squash and little athletics, similar to developments surrounding Aldinga Payinthe College and Roma Mitchell Secondary School at Gepps





Cross; this would leave the adjacent Edward John Eyre, Appleyard Reserve and Civic Schulz site to be developed like St James Park on the River Torrens.

Council believes this central development could benefit all in Whyalla, providing contemporary, world-class, regional facilities and public spaces, ensuring participation and therefore community wellbeing is maximised. The Whyalla community wants to create a new model of community integration, where migrant workforces are welcomed, and landscapes are engineered for their wellbeing and interaction within the heart of a community.

Major lifestyle and amenity improvements will create a vibrant, engaged workforce that is committed to living in Whyalla for an extended period, ultimately benefiting the city, as well as major projects such as hydrogen, mining expansion, northern waters desalination and green steel.

Whyalla Council wants to see all new workers - nurses, doctors, allied health, electricians, engineers and boiler makers, have an opportunity to live within the central business district of the city and not isolated in basic amenity camps on the outskirts of town. Many of these workers will come from around Australia and overseas to deliver and support major projects like the Hydrogen Jobs Plan, Green Hydrogen Hub, Northern Water Supply Project, and GFG Alliance's Green Steel transformation and magnetite mine expansion.

Learning from the mistakes of the past, the Whyalla community wants to see its sport and recreation infrastructure develop in a "joined-up" manner, adding value to worker accommodation and migrant resource support facilities. Whyalla has an incredible history of welcoming thousands of workers, many migrants, from all corners of the globe. The community knows new workers thrive when they have their families living in Whyalla, enjoying local amenities, participating and being active in sport and recreation, without necessarily needing access to transport.

The attraction, wellbeing and retention of this new population influx will hinge on Whyalla's liveability. Benefiting from new facilities funding – together with the State Government's previously committed \$6 million sporting hub funding, and ideally additional government and private sector funding – could be the catalyst for a more ambitious project to revitalise the city's centre, creating state-of-the-art facilities that will help attract workers and their families, seeking employment in specifically major government and private-sector 'green' projects.

Whyalla Council would like to partner with the State Government to release a *Major Development Opportunity Request for Proposal* offering the chance for visionary development partner(s) to design and deliver an all-new community that sets a new benchmark for greenfield development and makes a meaningful contribution to the character, sustainability and prosperity in this highly desirable regional South Australian city.

Mayor, Phill Stone

CEO, Justin Commons

Tafe, new Senior College & University sites





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RECEIVED
14 NOV 2022

BY: _____

7 November 2022

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 1533
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Tom

With the conclusion of the 2022 Local Government elections imminent, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude for your support during my term as Mayor of the City of Whyalla.

During my two terms on Council, my focus has been to continually improve the attractiveness and liveability of Whyalla, whilst bringing big investment to the city. Together, we have worked to reimagine and transform our city – we are indeed unearthing a bright future for Whyalla!

I am extremely proud of my work and that of the current progressive Council, and am encouraged by what the future holds for the City of Whyalla.

This is not a goodbye, but a see you soon!

Yours faithfully

Clare McLaughlin
MAYOR

