News Release



Treasurer Minister for State Development Minister for the Public Sector Minister for the Arts





Deputy Premier Attorney-General Minister for Planning Minister for Industrial Relations Minister for Business Services and Consumers

Minister Tom Koutsantonis

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Monday, 24 June 2013

New vision to make Adelaide's Riverbank one of the great city parks

Adelaide's Riverbank will become a great park and cultural precinct as part of a long-term vision that puts the Torrens at the heart of a vibrant city.

Premier Jay Weatherill said years of separate planning and design concepts are being brought together into a precinct that stretches from Bowden to Gilberton.

As well as providing for better connections between different parts of the park, the plan provides for a coherent vision for the four big areas of investment – a revamped Bonython Park, bio-medical precinct, entertainment precinct and the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site.

South Australians will be given an opportunity to provide their feedback on the plan as part of a consultation process, which includes an Open Day this Sunday.

"The River Torrens winding through the heart of Adelaide is one of our city's best assets – but Adelaide has never used the river to its greatest advantage," Mr Weatherill said.

"This grand plan provides an opportunity to elevate our city's Riverbank to a major destination of the quality of the Barossa Valley, Kangaroo Island and the Flinders Ranges.

"We want to bring more South Australians and visitors into the city to enjoy what we believe will become of the great city parks.

"Our parklands are unique and the recent investments in the Riverbank area are exciting but this plan brings all of these together into a new Riverbank park."

Deputy Premier and Planning Minister John Rau said the Greater Riverbank Implementation Plan would be displayed at the Convention Centre on Sunday.

"By taking a step back and looking at the Riverbank Precinct in its entirety we have been able to develop an overarching vision and co-ordinated approach to creating a place for everyone," Mr Rau said.

"These pathways will also draw people from our city's hotels, new residential communities overlooking the Parklands at Bowden, Gilberton and apartments within the CBD to this great park with its new and wide-ranging facilities.

"At the same time we aim to link these pathways to our long-standing cultural and educational institutions such as the Universities, Art Gallery, Museum and Adelaide Festival Centre."

The Greater Riverbank Implementation Plan, unveiled today, will:

CLEARLY define the Riverbank's role in the Government's Vibrant City commitment; DESCRIBE strategies to maximise usage of the existing cultural precinct on North Terrace, including the University, Art Gallery and Museum;

CREATE a framework for design work for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site;

ENCOURAGE quality investment in the Festival Plaza around the new Pedestrian Footbridge and Convention Centre upgrade;

PROVIDE opportunities to maximise the benefit of the medical research precinct around the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and;

INITIATE debate on the best uses for the old Adelaide Gaol, Police Barracks and the Bonython Park site, through to the billion dollar Bowden project across Park Terrace.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Tom Koutsantonis said the plan provides a 20-year guideline for investment in the Riverbank Precinct.

"Planned or committed investment in the Greater Riverbank Precinct already surpasses \$4.5 billion, which translates to tens of thousands of construction jobs and thousands of ongoing jobs for South Australians," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"By articulating a coherent vision for the precinct, we hope to build on the investment already made in the redeveloped Adelaide Oval, Footbridge, Adelaide Convention Centre and the upgraded Railway Station.

"Not only can we create a great park that befits a vibrant city, but we can also generate jobs and ongoing economic activity that will benefit all South Australians."

The Greater Riverbank Implementation Plan brings together former plans for various areas within the precinct such as the work of Ashton Raggatt McDougall and the 5000+ groups – and seeks to build on the city's role as the cultural, economic and social focus of South Australia.

An announcement about the future of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site will be made soon, with any proposed development on that site guided by the principles set out in the Riverbank plan.

Public consultation will begin at an open day at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Sunday, 30 June.