

Subject: *PedBikeTrans e-newsflash: Consultation closes this Fri, 11 Dec, for ACC Park Lands events policy*

Adelaide City Council consultation closing this Friday: Draft Policy and Operating Guidelines for Events in the Park Lands

Adelaide City Council has prepared a draft policy for events in the Park Lands (see www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/council/consultation/draft-policy-events-park-lands.html). The draft is currently open for consultation, which closes at 5pm this Friday, 11 December.

The impact of Park Lands events on pedestrians and cyclists using paths through the event sites has been an ongoing issue.

This is your opportunity to improve Park Lands event management for pedestrians and cyclists.

Some suggested feedback:

- There is no recognition of the use of the Park Lands trails as providing access for non-motorised transport and hence no (obvious) attempt to manage the impact on trail users. That is, there is no mention or provision to maintain trails through the Park Lands sites open, either during events or for as long as may be practicable. In this context, the policy aims of limiting the loss of public access to any one event site to 10% of the time may be excessive. This is especially true of the sites identified in the east Park Lands, where the identified event sites stretch between roadways but there are few paths providing alternative access around the event site and the detour caused to pedestrians in particular can be long.
- The best way to “activate the City’s Park Lands and Squares” includes maintaining access through the Park Lands for current users, for as long as practicable.
- Council should identify major (or strategic) paths used by pedestrians and cyclists and show these on Attachment A.
- While there are some principles that could be used for or applied to path access (e.g. “Determining the appropriate area of exclusion and length of time required to build and dismantle an event”), the current practice fails to provide the advance notice, adequacy of information and care applied to vehicular access along roads.
For example, following the Horse Trials, sand lay across shared use paths for a number of days before being cleared. During this time, there was no signage warning cyclists of the hazard, nor signage indicating when the hazard would be cleared.
The management of major (or strategic) commuter paths should recognise their important transport role and be similar to the management of major roads through the Park Lands.
- Section 6.2 should reference major (or strategic) commuter paths and include detail about managing commuter path access, to minimise the impact on Park Lands users. This includes: advanced signage for strategic paths, providing advice on when closures will occur; minimising the length of time of closure for strategic paths; identifying appropriate detour routes; requiring hire of Track Mats to provide temporary detour routes if no path exists; signing detour routes; maximum allowable length of time for closures.
This type of management is currently required for roads.
- Information about walking and cycling use should be added to Site Criteria for each event park, as appropriate. This should be under ‘Infrastructure’ (new heading: pedestrian/cyclist access); ‘Parking access’ (add bicycle parking details); and ‘Site restrictions’ (identify major commuter paths and add a requirement to maintain access along these for as long as is practicable).
- Each event should have a binding management plan that includes when things will be closed, notices given, etc.

Submissions can be mailed (Events Policy Feedback, City and Park Lands Planning, GPO Box 2252, Adelaide SA 5001); emailed (consultation@adelaidecitycouncil.com) or submitted online using the electronic feedback form (www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/council/consultation/draft-policy-events-park-lands.html).

All submissions must be received by 5.00PM on Friday 11 December 2009.