

OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER:

WAITE GATEHOUSE LODGE

16 December 2020

Dear Premier,

The community organisations signing this letter represent well over 100,000 South Australians.

We are greatly concerned by the Government's threat to demolish the State Heritage listed Gatehouse Lodge building at the Waite campus of the University of Adelaide and to remove a number of significant trees within the vicinity.

We write to call upon you to initiate a genuine and transparent community consultation process on the proposed design for the Fullarton and Cross Road intersection upgrade and to explore fully those options that preserve the built and natural heritage of this site and which properly respect Peter Waite's bequest to the people of South Australia.

We are extremely dissatisfied with the inadequate consultation and repeated misinformation about decision making in this project from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. The South Australian public and our heritage places deserve much greater respect and consideration.

When the initial consultation period on the proposed intersection closed at the end of January this year, -carried out we note with the scantest of detail- thousands of us indicated via an on-line petition that we did not want the Waite Gatehouse Lodge or adjacent trees to be impacted. Many of us indicated that we would prefer to wait longer at the lights, as the loss of the Lodge and trees would be too high a price to pay for a gain of some 30 seconds, a gain that evidence shows is very quickly lost.

There were many, too, who demonstrated an understanding that bigger roads carrying more cars are not in our best interests. This is backed by scientific evidence. While we understand that the intersection could work better, we do not wish to see it become enormous and simply shift a bottle-neck a few hundred metres further down the road.

The design proposal that DIT has now announced has ignored all of this community feedback.

Furthermore, it has added insult to injury by not only proposing the demolition of the lodge but also changing the justification for the "need" to do this and seeking to drive a wedge through the community by stating that for the lodge to remain, some further 18 homes would have to go.

For the State Government to propose the demolition of a State Heritage listed place is a clear breach of the public's expectation about the State's responsibility for protecting our most treasured places. No government in living memory has advocated such a thoughtless and needless act. It makes a mockery of the heritage protection system and your Government's election commitment to protect our heritage.

We therefore urge you to require DIT to come back to the community with a design that preserves the lodge and minimizes loss of trees. Too much of our precious built heritage and too many of our mature

trees have been lost because of the intellectual laziness that demands a clean slate for the design of each new project. We do ourselves a dis-service when we justify these losses by saying that it's only one old tree, or one old building. The very fabric of Adelaide is being destroyed by the cumulative losses that we are seeing on a daily basis.

We the undersigned and the people we represent call on you as a matter of urgency to reject this travesty proposed by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and join us in demanding a better solution.



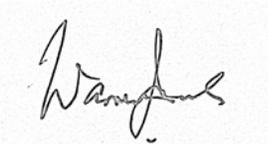
Deborah Morgan
National Trust of South Australia



Iris Iwanicki
Community Alliance SA



Craig Wilkins
Conservation Council SA



Professor Warren Jones AO
Protect our Heritage Alliance



Melissa Ballantyne
Environmental Defenders Office



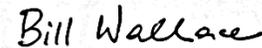
Dr Skye Krichauff
History Council of SA



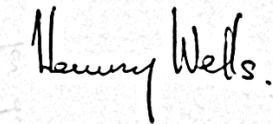
Heather Holmes-Ross
Mayor, City of Mitcham



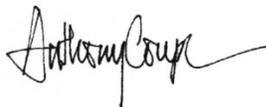
Wayne Harvey
Friends of Waite Arboretum



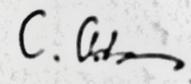
Bill Wallace
Friends of Urrbrae House



Henry Wells, representing
living descendants of Peter
and Matilda Waite



Anthony Coupe
Institute of Architects (SA)



Caroline Adams
Professional Historians
Association (SA)



Ron Bellchambers
Brownhill Creek Association



John Wood
Mitcham Historical Society



Alicia Seagal
Mitcham Plains Action Group



Peter Birds
Friends of Waite Conservation
Reserve



Glenn Williams
Treenet



Mark Barnett
Mediterranean Garden Society



Geoffrey Bishop
East Torrens Historical Society



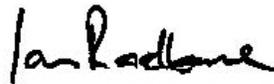
Philip Henschke
Friends of the City of Unley Society



Elizabeth Crisp
Prospect Residents Association



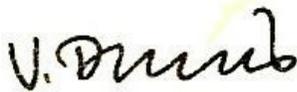
Andrew Dyson
Kensington Residents Association



Ian Radbone
Norwood Residents Association



David Cree
St Peters Residents Association



Valdis Dunis
Friends and Residents of North Adelaide

cc

The Hon Corey Wingard MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

The Hon Sam Duluk MP, Member for Waite

The Hon David Pisoni MP, Member for Unley

The Hon Peter Malinauskus, MP, Leader of the Opposition

The Hon Mark Parnell, MLC, Leader, SA Greens

The Hon Frank Pangallo, MLC, SA Best

Ms Nicole Flint, MP, Federal Member for Boothby