

News Release

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Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

Hon John Rau

Deputy Premier

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STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS NEW PARKS VISION

State Government strongly supports the Commissioner for Social Inclusion's concept for the future of The Parks.

Commissioner David Cappelletti today publicly released his report into the future of the Parks Community Centre, which proposes a new recreation and sporting hub, refurbishment of the Children's Centre, a new health centre, and a new library and community centre.

"When it was conceived nearly 40 years ago, the Parks was an early model of integrated social, welfare and education services. At that time, the area was recognised as being among the most disadvantaged in Adelaide," Premier Mike Rann said.

"The plan notes that there has been a vast improvement in key socio-economic indicators in these suburbs in recent years, largely due to the \$600 million Westwood Urban Renewal Project.

"In response to these changes in the area, the Commissioner's plan appropriately seeks to change the nature of the Parks as a 'welfare centre' to a 'community hub' that fits with the whole western region of metropolitan Adelaide.

"We heard the community's message about keeping the services at the Parks loud and clear.

"We listened to the community and I reaffirm this Government's commitment to the continuation of the Parks Community Centre - it will not close, and over the next month we are seeking feedback and consulting with Local Government.

"Monsignor Cappelletti's report outlines an exciting and practical vision for a new Parks Community Centre which will meet the needs of the local community.

"But the implementation of Monsignor Cappelletti's report depends on a partnership with the Port Adelaide Enfield Council and the local community.

"That's why Cabinet has asked Deputy Premier John Rau to coordinate the Government's multi-agency response to Monsignor Cappelletti's report, including working closely with Council and the local community on its implementation."

Mr Rau said the new concept for a rejuvenated community hub at The Parks was exciting.

However, Mr Rau said the support of the Council and the local community was essential to make the new concept a reality.

“I will do my utmost to work with local government and the community to create a new heart for this community at The Parks,” Mr Rau said.

“The local community would benefit enormously from the proposed new Parks, including a new library and community centre, rejuvenated sport and recreation facilities, new health facilities, more usable open space, and more affordable housing.”

Monsignor Cappelletti's report envisages new facilities and services moving into a rejuvenated Parks precinct. This means that some government agencies and community groups that use the Parks may be moved to alternative accommodation, particularly during any construction phase.

No decisions have been made to relocate any services or groups currently using the Parks. Contact has been made with the groups to ensure their feedback is obtained.

Mr Rau said the Department for Families and Communities would work with each of the potentially affected groups to identify possible new accommodation, should that become necessary.

In the meantime, all services will continue to be offered as normal on site.

“Monsignor Cappelletti's report envisages some big and exciting changes for The Parks,” Mr Rau said.

“I understand that some community groups may be nervous about how these changes will affect them, but I encourage everyone involved to read the report and provide their feedback on the recommendations.

“The vision for The Parks is bold, but I believe that if the State Government, the Council and the community work closely together we can create a place that will be valued by the entire community for decades to come.”

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