



## **CHELTENHAM PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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### **CHELTENHAM RESIDENTS -V- THE STATE**

#### **GROUP WINS RIGHT TO FIGHT CHELTENHAM REZONING**

In the Supreme Court yesterday, the Cheltenham Park Residents Association (CPRA) was given permission to proceed with its action against the State Government and the Minister for Urban Development and Planning over the rezoning of the Cheltenham Park Racecourse.

The Minister approved the rezoning in August last year to allow the land, protected until last week by a 1961 open space proclamation, to be subdivided for housing. CPRA claims that the rezoning process, known as a Development Plan Amendment (DPA) was flawed, and that the Minister did not give the proclamation due consideration.

“The proclamation was made ‘in the public interest’,” said CPRA spokesperson Trevor White. “Keeping the land open space for the good of the public is more important now than it ever was. We need Cheltenham Park for stormwater-recycling wetlands – much more than the proposed 4.5 hectares – which will serve the dual purpose of creating a substantial water supply for the city of Adelaide (up to 30 gegalitres per annum), and providing flood mitigation for surrounding suburbs.”

Flood plain mapping, completed by the Charles Sturt Council in March last year, showed that many homes in the vicinity of the racecourse and in the Port Adelaide /Enfield Council area are at risk of flooding in the event of a major storm. CPRA understands that, despite Charles Sturt Council writing to the Minister and providing a copy of the flood mapping, the issue was not addressed in the DPA. “Stormwater management and flooding is something that the Minister must consider as part of a DPA, but the flood maps don’t rate a mention,” said Mr White.

The Government played down last Thursday’s revocation of the 1961 proclamation, with Ministers Maywald and Weatherill instead focusing attention on an expanded stormwater plan for Cheltenham. “What they’re proposing still falls a long way short of the site’s full potential for water recycling,” said Mr White. “And we refute Minister Weatherill’s claim that the ‘overwhelming majority of people in this community want this (housing) project.’ The fact is, the overwhelming majority of submissions during the public consultation process were in favour of retaining open space.”

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