

Community Alliance SA Inc  
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Engaging for Reform



Community Alliance  
South Australia

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Sent to all SA Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Council

Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

### **Disallowance of *Development (Riverbank Footbridge) Variation Regulations 2012***

Community Alliance SA is a community coalition representing 30+ residents associations. We are dedicated to 'Putting the People back into Planning', and fighting for a planning and development process that is accountable, transparent, environmentally and socially sustainable, and that guarantees real consultation.

The Alliance recommends disallowance of the *Development (Riverbank Footbridge) Variation Regulations 2012* (*South Australian Government Gazette*, 12 July 2012, pp 3111-3112).

This variation to the *Development Regulations 2008* intends to fast-track construction of a \$40 million bridge, across the River Torrens within the City of Adelaide Park Lands, by avoiding normal development assessment processes.

In trashing fine-grained and nuanced *planning controls* developed over several decades with remnant (albeit diminishing and increasingly inadequate) provisions for community engagement, the *Development (Riverbank Footbridge) Variation Regulations 2012* is yet another example of government action squandering the State's planning heritage, making a farce of consultative processes, and undermining the rights of communities to enjoy real, effective participation.

Current development processes are no longer based on sound planning principles for building sustainable communities, and deny South Australians meaningful participation in decision-making and in defining the future shape of our communities and our State's capital.

Re-defining a \$40 million bridge as 'development that does not require consent' by means of the *Development (Riverbank Footbridge) Variation Regulations 2012*, and thereby grouping it with small residential garages, swimming pools, solar panels and rain water tanks is a

brazen abuse of process, directly contravening provisions of the principle Act (*Development Act 1993*) for protection of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Irrespective of the rights and wrongs of the policy content on the Adelaide Oval Redevelopment—this process is totally inappropriate.

Acclaimed as the ‘World’s Widest Concrete Span’ (*The Mail*, 5 Oct 1929, p 16), the City of Adelaide’s King William Road (‘Adelaide’ or ‘City’) bridge opened on 5 March 1931. Since then Adelaide’s King William Road bridge has been capable of accommodating crowds of 50,000+ football and cricket spectators emanating from Adelaide Oval.

*“The new bridge, which will be constructed on the site of the old one, will be 222 ft. long [37.18 metres] and 132 ft. wide [40.23 metres] ... For Adelaide, however, there will be a distinction associated with the structure, for it will be the widest concrete bridge in the world.”*

(*The Mail*, 5 Oct 1929, p 16)

*“The bridge was built to avoid congestion of crowds coming from football and cricket matches on the Adelaide Oval.”*  
(*The Brisbane Courier*, 6 March 1931, p 9)

#### Adelaide Oval Attendances

50,962	1933	Third Test (Bodyline series)
44,885	1939	Port v Torrens
53,473	1946	Norwood v Port Adelaide
47,000	1946	Victoria def. South Australia
50,489	1950	League grand final
41,579	1952	penultimate match/major round
52,632	1953	Victoria def. South Australia
62,543	1965	Port Adelaide v Sturt (SANFL Grand Final)

To imply that South Australia has somehow de-evolved to the pre–1930s era when the city lacked sufficient width of bridge for Adelaide Oval crowds is unsubstantiated.

Parliamentarians are in a position to assist the Alliance in furthering urgent reform of the State’s development regime, and disallowance of the *Development (Riverbank Footbridge) Variation Regulations 2012* is the next step towards restoring the proper role of communities in South Australian planning, and for orderly and proper development of the City of Adelaide.

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