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CONJECTURE: The Victoria Park racecourse grandstand.

# We all deserve our say on city

TIM LLOYD

**T**HE future of the Parklands, Victoria Park Racecourse, Victoria Square and the amenity of the city is going to be decided by a handful of voters on October 19. That hardly is democracy.

The voters are the residents, ratepayers and occupiers of city premises.

For the Adelaide City Council elections, the candidates can forget about the other 1.5 million of us in the state and focus on the few tens of thousands who stake a claim through property on the city.

The users of the city – the people who work, shop and play there or have it as a constant picture in their lives – politely are ignored.

In this most urbanised of countries, where our capital city is the central emblem of our lives, this is unfair and impractical.

Most of the people who have a passionate involvement in the shape and design of the city have little or no say in its workings.

That is even though they may travel into the city every day and spend most of their days and many of their nights there.

They probably spend most of their spare cash there, too.

Some of the hottest recent debates in SA have been about the

## HERITAGE MATTERS

extension of the tram line, the shape of Victoria Square, the operation of the Central Market and the tussle between the state and city governments over the Victoria Park Racecourse.

They are issues right up there with the River Murray crisis and urban boundaries.

The State Government would like to think it can run the city more effectively than a council but this could have the opposite effect, of the city suffering through a kind of benign neglect.

It would put a blancmange-like cushion between the voter and administration.

The Adelaide City Council's recent review of voting was because of dissatisfaction and resulted in a return to the ward system.

The review, however, never was asked to look at more radical options that would give the city a wider constituency.

What about asking the regular city users for their votes, having four councillors elected by the rest of SA, a voluntary register to vote or a snap city census for voters?



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## LEAKAGE NO CONCERN

### \$1.7bn dam backed

AN independent engineering report has backed the Queensland Government's plans for the controversial Traveston Crossing Dam.