INNOVATION AND DIFFERENCE:
city planning in Adelaide from 1972 until 1993 within the
historical framework of the politics of City/State relations from 1836

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
The University of Adelaide

28 November 2010
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ABSTRACT

INNOVATION AND DIFFERENCE:
city planning in Adelaide from 1972 until 1993 within the
historical framework of the politics of City/State relations from 1836.

This thesis is about the successful integration of strategic and statutory planning for the City of Adelaide during the period 1972 until 1993. It is a historical perspective of the City from the founding of Adelaide and South Australia in 1836 and their development until 1972; and then on the politics of planning in the City from October 1972 until December 1993. There are four themes in this thesis. In addition to the theme of integration, I will argue that the heritage of the City arising from Colonel Light’s Plan in 1836, particularly the Park Lands, made Adelaide different from the other capital cities in Australia. Through the influence of key individuals there was a particular relationship and balance of power between the City and State in terms of their respective power and the governance of the City. I will argue that in the 1960s the policies of the Council and the statutory provisions of the State’s Metropolitan Development Plan contributed to a considerable loss of residential population from the City. These issues provided reasons for major reform in 1972 when an innovative system of Interim Development Control was introduced and a Planning Study of the City subsequently carried out. After agreement between the City and the State an innovative and different legislative approach to city planning in an Australian capital city was introduced. I will argue that this legislation, which provided for a joint City/State planning authority for Adelaide, enabled critical political decisions to be made which facilitated the re-establishment of an inner city residential population. But it also maintained the City’s role and function as the centre of the metropolitan area. I will also argue that planning legislation specifically for the City in 1977 was important as it not only provided for the continuation of a joint City/State authority, but also for five-yearly City Plans within which strategic and statutory approaches to city planning were integrated. This situation continued until 1993 when after a State Planning Review the separate legislation was repealed for political and technical reasons. Thus, after twenty-one years of innovation and difference in the City of Adelaide, a new State planning system was introduced partially modelled on the approach taken in the City.
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ABBREVIATIONS

Note: ‘The Corporation of the Council of the City of Adelaide’ is the legal entity which comprises the Council of elected members and the City administration.

ABC  Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ACC  Adelaide City Council
ACT  Australian Capital Territory
AESC  Adelaide Electric Supply Company
ALP  Australian Labor Party
ASER  Adelaide Railway Station and Environs Redevelopment
BCC  Brisbane City Council
BLF  Building Labourers’ Federation
BOMA  Building Owners and Managers’ Association
CADC  City of Adelaide Development Committee
CAPC  City of Adelaide Planning Commission
CBD  Central Business District
CCoA  Corporation of the Council of the City of Adelaide
CEO  Chief Executive Officer
CE&P  City Engineer and Planner
City  City of Adelaide
COAHAC  City of Adelaide Heritage Advisory Committee
CPO  Chief Planning Officer
CRA  Civic Reform Association
CSO  Crown Solicitor’s Office
DAC  Development Assessment Commission
DCC  Darwin City Council
DE&P  Department of Environment and Planning
DFC  Desired Future Character Statement
DMS  Donovan, Marsden & Stark
DPAC  Development Policy Advisory Committee
DURD  Department of Urban and Regional Development
ETSA  Electricity Trust of South Australia
HCC  Hobart City Council
HOBAC  Height of Buildings Advisory Committee
IDC  Interim Development Control
IDO  Interim Development Order
LCL  Liberal and Country League
LOMHAC  Lord Mayor’s Heritage Advisory Committee
MATS  Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study
MCC  Melbourne City Council
MDP  Metropolitan Development Plan
MMBW  Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works
NCDC  National Capital Development Commission
NSW  New South Wales
NT  Northern Territory
ohi  Oral History Interview
PCC  Perth City Council
QLD  Queensland
RAIA (SA)  Royal Australian Institute of Architects (South Australia)
RAIA (NSW)  Royal Australian Institute of Architects (New South Wales)
RAPI  Royal Australian Planning Institute
SAHC  South Australian Heritage Committee
SAHT  South Australian Housing Trust
SCC  Sydney City Council
SDP  Supplementary Development Plan
SGIC  State Government Insurance Commission
SPA  State Planning Authority
SPO  State Planning Office
State  The Provincial and subsequent Colonial and State Governments of South Australia
TAS  Tasmania
TFA  Transferrable Floor Area
USA  United States of America
USC  Urban Systems Corporation
VHC  Victorian Housing Commission
VIC  Victoria
WA  Western Australia
WRAG  Woolloomooloo Residents Action Group
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Michael Llewellyn-Smith and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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(Michael Llewellyn-Smith)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to many individuals who have assisted me in the preparation of this thesis:

Professor Nancy Pollock-Ellwand was my original Principal Supervisor and encouraged me to think about the topic in the broader international and Australian context.

Dr Susan Shannon has remained a Co-Supervisor throughout the whole period of research and provided encouragement, support and guidance, particularly in relation to the oral histories.

Associate Professor Rob Foster (Department of History and Politics) joined the Supervision Panel as a Co-Supervisor when there was a change in direction of the research and the situation in Adelaide was examined within the historical framework of City/State relations.

Associate Professor David Jones became my Principal Supervisor after Professor Pollock-Ellwand left the University of Adelaide. I am particularly grateful to him for taking on this responsibility at a late stage in the research and providing guidance and support which enabled the thesis to be completed.

Thanks are also due to my professional colleagues Steve Hamnett and Donna Ferretti for providing constructive advice on some early drafts and a possible structure for the thesis.

Associate Professor Samer Akkach (Post Graduate Co-ordinator) has been a constant source of support and encouragement throughout the preparation of the thesis for which I am grateful.

Michial Farrow provided invaluable assistance for me to access all the information relevant to my research contained in the Adelaide City Archives.

Kystyna Luczak, George Clarke’s widow, kindly provided me with copies of all his personal papers in relation to his work in Sydney and Adelaide which were important sources of information.

I am most grateful to the 47 interviewees for making the time available for me to interview them, for commenting on the draft record of the interview and then approving and signing the final version.

My wife, Ida, acknowledged my assistance in the preparation of her doctoral thesis at the University of Sydney nearly 40 years ago. I thank Ida for her sustained encouragement and practical technical support at this time in my life without which this research could not have been carried out.