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Multi-Code Motorsport Complex for Adelaide



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Introduction

'Adelaide Motorplex' is a private consortium that has been working on a proposal for the last 2 years to develop a \$25m Multi-Code Motorsport Complex at Gillman, near Port Adelaide (the extension of Hanson Road). The land is owned by the LMC, and is an unused parcel of land containing a Storm Water Retention area, protected flora, and a small area of wetlands.

South Australia and Victoria are the only two states that don't have such a facility, and calls have intensified in recent months for a motorsport complex to be developed that provides for the various 'codes' of the sport.

Background

The 'Adelaide Motorplex' consortium is not seeking any Government funding; rather, they wish to purchase or lease the land at commercial rates. They have met with Ministers Wright and Foley, and the Federal Member for Port Adelaide Mark Butler – who all expressed interest in the project, however, the Government's enthusiasm has since waned, following a horrific car crash on Magill Road which the media and the then-Road Safety Minister Koutsantonis tried to link to the legitimate sport of Drag Racing.

The national body for Drag Racing – Australian National Drag Racing Association Inc. (ANDRA) – are very enthusiastic about the 'Adelaide Motorplex' proposal. In particular, the prospect of using such a complex as an 'off-street' Drag Racing venue – allowing young, amateur drivers to race in a "safe, controlled environment". The merits of this as a road safety measure would have to be explored further, but certainly the interstate experience has indicated a positive impact on reducing illegal street racing.

The other 'codes' of motorsport would also be stakeholders in such a facility. Examples include Motorbikes, Jet Boats (Currency Creek is closed presently), Go Karts (a stepping stone for young drivers to other motorsport categories), and circuit racing.

The proposal being put forward also outlines an adjacent 'Industrial Park' to foster related 'cluster industries' such as the automotive industry, much like Blacktown in Sydney. The apprenticeship opportunities and flow-on economic benefits would also be explored, and the consortium is including this in their business case.

Teen Challenge have also expressed an interest in working with the 'Adelaide Motorplex' in developing Youth Mentoring Programs for troubled and disadvantaged youth. Overall, the whole concept is an exciting one.

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Consultation

Shadow Minister for Sport Terry Stephens recently visited the Perth Motorplex at Kwinana in Perth, WA (which the New South Wales facility is modelled upon). It is a magnificent facility and one which could be used as a model for the Adelaide Motorplex.

Adelaide has shown itself to be a 'motorsport mad' town, as evidenced by the enormous success of the Clipsal 500, but the city has lacked a Drag Racing venue since 2000, when the venue near Virginia ceased operating. ANDRA has spruiked the economic and tourism benefits that such a complex would bring to Adelaide and SA, with events in Sydney and Brisbane attracting up to 30,000 spectators.

The State Liberals' Position

A State Liberal Government would provide in-principle support to the 'Adelaide Motorplex' private consortium, and an undertaking that a future Liberal Government would make available the land required (for lease or purchase) for a Multi-code Motorsport Complex.

It's time for action – South Australians deserve better.



Isobel Redmond
Leader of the Opposition



Hon Terry Stephens MLC
Shadow Minister for Sport,
Recreation & Racing
Shadow Minister for Tourism