

Council Member
Councillor Carmel Noon

Public

Contact Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Carmel Noon will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Noting that under the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005, the Adelaide Parklands Management Strategy and the City's Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) our Parklands are intended to be accessible to all people - a community asset intended for enduring public use and enjoyment - not exclusion, therefore can the Administration please advise:

1. Why Rymill Park has been fenced off since 22 January 2026, approximately two months prior to the commencement of the Fringe Festival, and the rationale for the timing of the fencing.
2. What approvals and authorisations were provided to permit fencing for this duration, including:
 - o The decision-making process
 - o Any conditions placed on early site occupation
3. Why pedestrian access through Rymill Park has been restricted to a single opening at the western end, and whether consideration was given to:
 - o Maintaining east–west pedestrian permeability
 - o Access for residents and pedestrians from the eastern end of the City
4. What assessment was undertaken of the impacts on public access, particularly for:
 - o Daily commuters
 - o People with mobility limitations
 - o Residents of the eastern end of Adelaide
5. Whether alternative access routes or mitigation measures were considered or implemented to minimise disruption to public movement through the Park Lands during this extended period.
6. Given the extended duration of fencing, can officers advise whether future events will be required to demonstrate how public access through the Park Lands will be maintained wherever practicable?'

REPLY

1. Fencing of Rymill Park commenced on Thursday 22 January 2026 for the event bump-in period. This start date was four weeks prior to the Adelaide Fringe/Gluttony opening on Thursday 19 February 2026.
 - 1.1. This period of bump-in is commensurate to an event of this size and scale, which is one of the largest events held in the City of Adelaide (CoA) annually with significant patronage.

- 1.2. As an Arts Venue Hub with over 200 shows, the event requires the construction of 13 temporary entertainment venues and 32 catering outlets, amongst many other event offerings and supporting infrastructure.
- 1.3. The Park Lands occupation period for the event in 2026 was consistent with previous years.
2. Approvals for this Event were given under a five year licence agreement approved by Council in 2024 for the period of 2025 - 2029. A subsequent annual event notice details fencing and other operational requirements and is informed by the Community Land Management Plan and the Adelaide Event Guidelines. Conditions include elements such as staged bump-in and agreed work hours for any activities likely to cause disturbance.
 - 2.1. The event bump-in was a staged process allowing public access to pathways and areas of the Park, as long as it was deemed safe to do so.
 - 2.2. The full event site was fenced off entirely from Tuesday 27 January 2026, approximately three weeks prior to the Adelaide Fringe opening. At this time detour signage was installed by the Event to advise the public of alternative walking and cycling routes.
 - 2.3. Once the event opened to the public for a period of 4.5 weeks during the Adelaide Fringe, the Park and its pathways remained accessible during the event operating hours, with four accessible entry and exit points [\[Link 1\]](#) available on all sides of the park.
3. Public access and safety through the Park Lands is always taken into consideration during an event period.
 - 3.1. Pedestrian access is restricted within an event site when the area is considered a work and construction zone, with heavy machinery, large trucks, cranes and other work being undertaken. This is consistent with work health and safety requirements for any such activities.
 - 3.2. Access around the perimeter of the Park and into/out of the city was maintained along footpaths and bike lanes at all times.
 - 3.3. East West access was not impacted along footpaths, bike lanes or roads as a result of the Gluttony event in Rymill Park.
 - 3.4. Alternative routes were available while the Parks Lands' pathways were disrupted. There are sealed, accessible footpaths surrounding the Park which remain accessible at all times and allow East and West travel around the Park Land, including for people with mobility limitations
 - 3.5. These routes can be less of a direct passage but do maintain east west pedestrian permeability.
4. Maintaining public access through the Park Lands is always preferable and is at the forefront of CoA discussions with event organisers. However as recognised within the *Adelaide Parklands Management Strategy - Towards 2036*, this is not always possible during major event occupation periods as public safety needs to be considered and prioritised.
5. The *Adelaide Parklands Management Strategy - Towards 2036* also includes:
 - *The Adelaide Park Lands should be held for the public benefit of the people of South Australia, and should be generally available to them for their use and enjoyment (recognising that certain uses of the Park Lands may restrict or prevent access to particular parts of the Park Lands).*
 - *Acknowledging that certain uses may temporarily restrict or prevent access to particular parts of the Adelaide Park Lands ensures that uses such as ticketed events can occur.*

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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