

THE \$1 CENTURY-LONG SELL-OFF

“I believe Walker Tower 2 is an ***unprecedented act of civic vandalism and apparent backroom dealing***.” Said Craig Pickering, independent candidate for the upper house and founder of Community Development Advocacy SA.

In his opinion, this private deal **cries out for an independent public inquiry, including possibly ICAC, so secretive and bizarre are the details:**

- **The State Government handed over the civic heart of Adelaide to a Sydney developer on a 100-year lease for a laughable \$1 a year,**
- **A 3-storey building was secretly morphed into a 38-storey corporate monolith without meaningful public consultation,**
- **The media release for this project was allegedly suppressed, the only radio interview was on the day before consultation closed,**
- **Notification emails about the consultation only sent to those on the PlanSA mailing list, not sent widely to the public,**
- **The Federal Heritage Council's letter warning of EPBC Act obligations was excluded from the planning panel's consideration,**
- **Walker Corporation is exempt from paying any Adelaide City Council rates on this massive commercial venture,**
- **55,000 square metres of office floor space dumped into a public parkland precinct when the CBD suffers from a 16% office vacancy rate,**
- **The developer has been permitted to aggressively commence excavation and construction while critical planning conditions and "reserved matters" remain entirely unresolved,**
- **Adelaide's long-awaited and much needed open cultural plaza has been removed for an inexplicable extension of the CBD.**

“The South Australian Government has effectively gifted Adelaide's cultural and democratic heartland to an interstate developer. This represents a staggering betrayal of the public trust, trading a globally significant, publicly owned precinct for private corporate gain under a shroud of extreme secrecy and highly questionable planning processes.”

“This is not progress; this is the privatisation of our city's planning laws and the erasure of our national heritage.” Craig Pickering said.

Media enquiries:

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Independent Candidate for the Legislative Council, March 2026

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