

# Council battles rezoning

PLANNING Minister Paul Holloway is facing another planning backlash - this time by a council in the Supreme Court over his rezoning of the Gawler Racecourse.

Gawler Council has asked for the February rezoning of the racecourse to be set aside, claiming that Mr Holloway's decision "was affected by bias or ... there is a reasonable perception of bias".

In an affidavit attached to the claim, Gawler develop-

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ment and strategic planning director Michael Wohlstadt says the Minister failed to undertake an independent investigation into the rezoning, instead relying on submissions prepared by Adel-

aide planning firm Connor Holmes and funded by Thoroughbred Racing South Australia (TRSA).

The approved planning amendment introduces a shopping precinct into an area currently not zoned retail and has an eye on giving the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club a \$6 million land bonanza, the affidavit says.

Mr Holloway would not agree to an interview but said in a statement that the coun-

cil's claim was without merit. He said he was certain the amendment would withstand scrutiny and that the Government "will also consider all of its options in recovering any taxpayers' money spent defending this spurious challenge". "If the council genuinely supported the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club and the redevelopment of the racecourse as claimed in its news release, it would embrace the DPA and the ben-

efits it delivers to the residents of Gawler rather than wasting its ratepayers' money on a pointless legal challenge," he said.

Greens MLC Mark Parnell said the minister's decision effectively ignored the voice of the local community.

"The job of the minister is to look after the public interest and (he has) ridden roughshod over the interests of council," Mr Parnell said. He said his motion in a

parliamentary committee to disallow the amendment was rejected by Labor members. The transcript of the June 7 public meeting has not yet been released.

The dispute over Gawler Racecourse adds to a growing list of development disputes faced by the Government.

Residents of Mt Barker and Roseworthy have raised concerns about being identified for population growth over the next 30 years.

## Cooking up a storm in the gardens



**FEAST OF SENSES:** Hannah, Lily, hospitality consultant Peter Butter, Aleshya, William, chefs Simon Bryant and Michael Joseph and Jayden in the gardens.

**AMY NOONAN**

TOUCH, sight, smell and sound are four senses engaged by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Now a fifth sense will be tested - taste - with plans for a permanent kitchen garden.

Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation director Misha

Prusa said the garden would be a year-round permanent resource, demonstrating the connection with food, cooking and fresh produce.

It would add a domestic touch to the ornamental gardens and scientific plants.

It is even more important for the 25,000 school children - part of 1 million visitors

annually - who visit the garden, providing a respite from the culture of fast food.

Chef and Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation ambassador Simon Bryant said the kitchen garden would educate the mind as well as satisfy the stomach.

"The Kitchen Garden in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens

will be the place for all children to learn where food comes from and how to have a new or better edible garden," Mr Bryant said.

He said he hoped the official Kitchen Garden would germinate ideas for similar gardens in backyards, schools and community gardens around the state.

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens was opened to the public in 1857.

Inaugural superintendent George Francis was said to have been influenced by the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England and Versailles in France, as well as the style of German and Dutch gardens.

## We want low-cost housing

NINE out of 10 Australians are worried about a lack of infrastructure and affordable housing given the growing and ageing population, new research shows.

The nationwide polling, carried out by Galaxy, found more than 90 per cent believed federal and state governments needed to do more as the country's population over 65 doubles and the number of taxpayers to support them halves.

Commissioned by The Benevolent Society, the research found a majority of people backed calls for a high allocation of low-cost or subsidised housing.

## Aircraft noise watchdog

AUSTRALIA'S first aircraft noise ombudsman will take up his new position on September 1.

Ron Brent, who was previously deputy commonwealth ombudsman, will be responsible for reviewing the handling of complaints about airport noise and the efficiency of community consultation processes on airport noise.

The appointment was flagged in the aviation white paper released by Transport Minister Anthony Albanese last year.

"The new position will give communities around airports a better opportunity to follow up issues and complaints about aircraft noise," Mr Albanese said.

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