

ADELAIDE CITY

Pigeon cull call

THE Adelaide West End Association wants Town Hall to fund a CBD pigeon cull.

They said a poisoning regime is needed to protect buildings from acidic pigeon droppings and to stop birds posing a hygiene risk around eateries. In a budget submission to the council president Andrew Wallace wrote that the city's pigeon population was increasing. "With it (comes) an increased threat of building damage and mite infestations."

Pigeon droppings were eating away at buildings in lanes off Hindley St, he said.

Hundreds of pigeons congregated daily in the north-western corner of Victoria Square, where some cafe operators are so fed up they want fines introduced for feeding them. Cafe One Eight Five owner Terri Toderico said it would help reduce the impact birds have on businesses.

But council's acting chief executive Neil Brown said he was not aware of any complaints from businesses. "I don't think we would even consider fining people for feeding pigeons," he said.

TOURISM

Free bikes a big hit

Tim Williams

BOOMING numbers of tourists are exploring Adelaide on two wheels under the City Council's free bike hire program.

From January to May, 9745 Adelaide City Bikes were hired, up nearly 50 per cent from 6662 for the same period last year.

Almost three-quarters of users are tourists — 59 per cent from overseas and 14 per cent from interstate.

The figures have given Bicycle SA fresh impetus for its push to expand Adelaide City Bikes across metropolitan Adelaide.

Bicycle SA general manager Michael Bridge attributed the boom to better promotion of the scheme to tourists, new hire locations, and the expansion of the program to the Charles Sturt and Unley council areas.

"In a multitude of languages people tell us how fantastic it is," Mr Bridge said. "Every day there are stories

from people of all backgrounds and persuasions."

There are 180 bikes available across 12 city locations, 30 bikes at five places in Charles Sturt and 10 bikes at two hire venues in Unley.

Most are hired in town, Mr Bridge said. The City Council launched Adelaide City Bikes in 2005. Councils fund the bikes and Bicycle SA volunteers maintain them.

Bicycle SA is in talks with councils from Onkaparinga to Gawler to expand the scheme.

"The scheme has grown significantly since it started and we have a healthy number of bikes and locations," Mr Bridge said.

"The bigger vision is to get all councils on board to make it a metro program that has 1000 bikes."

Under the current scheme, bikes have to be returned to the point of hire. Mr Bridge said as the program expanded, the goal would be to let people leave bikes at any hire venue.



Bicycle SA general manager Michael Bridge says better promotion of the free bike scheme has led to an increase of nearly 50 per cent in hires. Picture: Sam Wundke

CHARITY

Maras on new board

EAST End landlord Steve Maras is among four prominent businessmen who have joined forces in support of children affected by conditions including autism, cerebral palsy, juvenile diabetes and epilepsy.

The Living Without Limits Foundation is a new not-for-profit children's charity organisation established by Mr Maras, Universal Motor Auctions director Phillip de Pinto, BDO Adelaide partner George Yatziis and Thales Group's Harry Tavaridis.

The quartet will officially launch the foundation at a gala dinner at the National Wine Centre on August 10.

Mr de Pinto, the organisation's chairman, said money raised would fund critical research, support children's organisations and buy medical equipment.

"My fellow directors and I are passionate about helping children faced with these impairments and also providing respite to their parents and families," he said.

For all inquiries contact foundation co-ordinator Caitlin Johns on 8212 4766.

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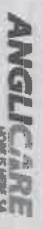
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