

TREES NOT TESLAS

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Community Rallies On the Steps of Parliament to Oppose the Sale of Tonsley Green Space to Tesla

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Today a group of 25 community members gathered outside of Parliament House to express their concerns over the council's decision to ignore the 95% disapproval rating – from respondents in their own community feedback report – and revoke the community status of Chestnut Court Reserve in order for the land to be sold to Tesla.

Community members were invited to speak, and gave impassioned speeches about the need to maintain our natural environment, expressed their desire for public land to remain in public hands, and their concerns about both Tesla as a company and their billionaire Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

Placards were on display, stating such messages as: “No Nazis, More Trees”, “Tesla = Union Busters” and “No Nazi Profits on Community Lands” .

Community member, Robyn stated that: “Nearly 25% of comments in the community consultation report had some form of redaction taken out of them, whether or not that was simply just the word ‘nazi’ or talking about Tesla's history of union violations and labour rights violations - that's all been redacted, for some reason. Communities' concerns are being censored pretty much directly to hand over a nice little clean report that shows that Tesla is a good company, a good investment and we should give our public land to them... A couple of them stuck out, one from a community member from within Marion City Council said ‘my grandpa died fighting the nazis over the 1940's, I really hope my grandchildren don't need to die fighting nazis as well’.”

This was followed by Councillor for the City of Marion, Sarah Luscombe, saying that: “People are not separate from our environment, we're part of it, and if we sell off community land we're selling off part of ourselves. We're selling off our habitat, we're selling off our tree canopy. Rather than treating contamination we're concreting over the problem... I would call upon Joe Szakacs to think very carefully about the decision that is in his hands and his office's hands at the moment and the implications that this has not just for Chestnut Court Reserve, but what this says about us as people and what we're willing to compromise on”

Community member, Mar, said that: “I am a third generation Holocaust survivor. My family has lost all of my great aunts and uncles in the Holocaust, mostly in the Warsaw Ghetto. I have seen this country do a lot in the name of anti-semitism, I have seen the police shutting down protests, I have seen targeting of minorities, people of colour, Palestinians, queer people, in the name of shutting down anti-semitism. I have seen free speech laws and protest laws rolled back in the name of anti-semitism. I have seen people silenced, I have seen universities take away academics' jobs, take away their freedom to publish academic work. I have seen an international trans student almost getting deported in the name of

so-called anti-semitism because she called for a free Palestine *and yet* we are letting a nazi take over public land.

The rally ended with the community chanting “say it loud, say it clear: Elon Musk’s not welcome here”; a call for the Minister for Local Government, Joe Szakacs, to reject the revocation and sale of this publicly owned green space and to prevent the expansion of Tesla facilities into the surrounding community, and thereby prevent the influence of billionaire Elon Musk on the City of Marion, and the Government of South Australia.

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Thank you very much if you came out today. If you covered us live, please send us any of your coverage!

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