

Friends of Willunga Basin inc.

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21/01/2010

The Editor
Southern Times

Council Name

Onkaparinga – what a beautiful name, it rolls off the tongue like the river that rolls around its bends as it drifts to the sea. Yet the new 'Onka', which rhymes with Tonka, plonka, stonka, Willy Wonka and is reminiscent of the sound of a snorting pig, also appears to show us that the Council is bent on infantilising us all, that 'Onka' is a la-la land where there are no adults and people speak to each other in sms chat.

Friends of Willunga Basin would like to remind readers and Council that in 1997, when our merging councils tried to foist the urban-wasteland-like name of 'City South' on us, FOWB collected 144 pages of signatures opposing that name – that was about 2,500 people! When the name Onkaparinga came up there was strong community support and it has been accepted and enjoyed ever since. Certainly the community doesn't go around calling our city 'Onka'. While we are aware that this is not a move to change the full name we believe that the proper name should be the one used in Council's publicity.

Those of us who live in places like Willunga, Kangarilla and Aldinga mostly love our names, we manage their multi syllables just fine and with pride, and we certainly don't think of ourselves as living in Willa, Kanga or Dinga! While the City of Onkaparinga may like its abbreviated PR-generated name, it looks more and more like a triumph for corporate-speak and the PR crew.

David Gill, Secretary FOWB