

The Advertiser

Let's restore a democratic right

Opinion

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1 - State

79

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FOLLOWING the introduction of the tram along King William St, north of Victoria Square, an agreement was reached between Adelaide City Council, SAPOL and the public transport division - on the grounds of safety - that, with the exception of some specified events, King William St could no longer be used for marches and parades.

At the initiative of Councillor Anne Moran, the council passed a motion supporting the use of King William St for orderly marches and protests, and directing the administration to act within this policy. The Human Rights Coalition congratulates Councillor Moran for bringing forward this motion and the council for adopting it.

However, the fact that such a restriction could have been introduced administratively without those responsible recognising the explicit compromise of the right of assembly, speaks volumes for the profile of human rights in Australia.

Democrat MLC Sandra Kanck introduced a Private Members Right of Assembly Bill in the Legislative Assembly on July 23, with the objective of protecting the right of assembly in South Australia.

However, as she stated in doing so, it would be tidier and far more effective for SA to follow the ACT and Victoria in introducing our own legislated Charter or Bill of Rights.

* JOHN ROLLS,

Chair, Human Rights Coalition

Inc, Adelaide.