

as two tribes try to achieve peace after decades of mistrust it's just not cricket

"We do understand the feedback from supporters who are quite keen on us moving to Adelaide Oval. At the end of the day we can't make that choice," said Power chief executive Mark Haysman, knowing the SANFL owns Port Adelaide's AFL licence.

SACA has problems on several fronts.

Adelaide Oval does not meet criteria to host soccer, cricket and rugby World Cup matches without boosting capacity to 50,000 through a major facelift of the venue.

Football Federation Australia must know by October if the upgrade of Adelaide Oval will proceed to include it as a FIFA World Cup bid venue.

Pressure is mounting on Treasurer Kevin Foley to confirm he will redirect \$100m in funding - previously allocated for AAMI Stadium - to Adelaide Oval.

A solution is overdue in a town with two sub-standard venues where consolidation is the only answer if no new stadium is built.

Deare dared to enlighten an expectant public and was summarily guillotined.

The "peace talks" led by AFL chief Andrew Demetriou would not continue without a sacrifice. On Tuesday SACA president Ian McLachlan appeared keen to appease the SANFL and Government, saying "it was not understandable" why Mr Deare had talked so candidly. "I believe he doesn't know why he made the comments and I can only surmise they were a symptom of his own enthusiasm," said Mr McLachlan.

Rather than resembling a bumbling operator, Mr Deare spoke eloquently during a 40-minute interview with *The Advertiser*, drawing on corporate knowledge acquired over 12 years.

In an interview published on July 25, Mr Deare talked of plans to oversee the redevelopment of a 16,000 seat Bradman Stand which would mean AFL games could be hosted by 2014 at Adelaide

Oval. Mr Deare said: "It is no secret the State (Government) has a preference for Adelaide Oval as a major venue and the FFA said this is the venue it wants World Cup soccer played at in Adelaide."

He added: "The SANFL gets this monkey off its back about the problem of the venue being too far away and attendance issues."

Swift action is now needed to spare Adelaide the ignominy of being the only mainland city not capable of hosting major sporting events.

Young South Australians will have reduced reason to remain in - or return to a city - with few jobs and fewer lifestyle options. Strong leadership is required.

Premier Mike Rann commented on his Twitter site:

“ He doesn't know why he made the comments

"Re stadium/Oval debate, my position remains the same. Codes can come and see me when they have a united, not a divided position."

Unfortunately there's deep-seated distrust that continues to derail progress towards a suitable stadium resolution.

The same government gusto that attracted Lance Armstrong to Adelaide is required to direct progress towards a world-class sports venue and associated tourism spin-offs.

Talks are scheduled to resume later this month where the SANFL must be convinced "it will be better off" by moving AFL fixtures to Adelaide Oval where it could become the senior stadium partner.

The Advertiser understands the SANFL has commissioned figures suggesting it should remain at AAMI Stadium. An independent audit will also be welcomed.

Remaining at West Lakes is ultimately counterproductive.

The SANFL commissioned engineering firm Dare Sutton Clark to report on the viability of any AAMI Stadium redevel-



opment. Expert Mike Dare was critical of AAMI Stadium as a venue, saying: "Having served for 20 years the needs of the SANFL in the various developments, I am now of the view that the stadium is, and always was, in the wrong location." Years of luxurious corporate accommodation at West Lakes enjoyed by foot-

ball officials might have eroded empathy for the plight of battlers in the outer.

Croweaters deserve a premium stadium experience.

Two old warhorses, Ian McLachlan and Leigh Whicker - with a little help from Mike Rann - have one golden chance to be bigger than Bradman and end the Stadium Wars.

FORCED TO RESIGN: SA cricket boss Mike Deare revealed details of a \$350 million plan to upgrade Adelaide Oval.

WHAT THE CHIEFS SAID

Ian McLachlan on a discussion with Mike Deare regarding negotiations with the SANFL and AFL

“ I had a long discussion about the sensitivity of all this and we were going to stop it dead no matter how much the press wants to open it up.

Deare's vision

“ If we are to be a contender on the world stage for events like the cricket and soccer World Cups or Commonwealth Games we have to have venue that can do it.

“ The SACA, SANFL and AFL have the capacity to I believe to deliver that sort of venue for the benefit of SA.

“ All I can say to those who might consider opposing the development of the Oval is that is a fairly selfish perspective. The reality is it will be for the greater good for the people of South Australia if this happens.

Crows chief executive, Steven Trigg on Deare's comments

“ SACA is kidding itself by putting this debate into the public arena - and we will not tolerate it.

SAJC Membership

member events
cocktail parties
live entertainment

includes the Skycity Adelaide Cup!

Young Membership from \$12.92 per month

ph:8295 0199 • sajc.com.au

it's playtime trackside

ALLAN SCOTT PARK

TOORNEY'S NEW

SCOTT GROUP OF COMPANIES

SAJC