

Kadaltilla

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and Rural Settlement Landscapes – Standing Item

**Thursday, 27 March 2025
Board Meeting**

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Public

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Tentative List submission for the World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes.

Recommendation

THAT THE KADALTILLA / ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY ADVISES COUNCIL

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives and notes the report contained in Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on Thursday, 27 March 2025.
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Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025 Outcome - The Park Lands are valued as a National Heritage site worthy of World Heritage Listing Action 1 – Secure a commitment to pursue World Heritage listing Action 2 – Develop the case for World Heritage listing.
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value Objective 1.4 Champion the development of World Heritage listing nomination Initiative 1.4 Regularly review World Heritage listing submission progress Measure of Success 1.4 State Government support for World Heritage listing submission by 2026.
City of Adelaide Strategies	Achieving world heritage listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout aligns with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Kadaltilla Strategic Plan 2023-2028, the Heritage Strategy 2021-2036 and the Adelaide Park Lands National Heritage Management Plan.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Design	The World Heritage Listing supports the principles of Good Design, including: - Context – Good design is contextual because it responds to the surrounding environment and contributes to the existing quality and future character of a place. - Value – Good design adds value by creating desirable places that promote community and local investment and enhance social and cultural value. The National Heritage Management Plan (NHMP) for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout includes a policy of pursuing World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout as a place of outstanding universal value.
Opportunities	Opportunities created through World Heritage listing include: - Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes. - Global profile and cultural tourism business and international investment attraction. • Creating a shared narrative about First Nations culture and history that aligns with colonial settlement. - Greater levels of protection for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.
City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	The 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget did not allocate funding towards progressing the World Heritage Bid. Project management of the bid is currently being managed within existing resources. A budget bid has been sought for 2025/26. Funding for Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes has been provided through budget reallocation processes for 2024/25.
Capital Infrastructure Projects	Not as a result of this report

Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	The Mount Lofty Consortium (the Consortium) has noted that there is approximately \$60,000 remaining in a fund set up by the Consortium to contribute towards the ongoing development of the World Heritage bid. Until there is clarity in the World Heritage Governance arrangements, this funding is being retained by the Consortium (Adelaide Hills Council). There is no external funding source currently committed or allocated to the project. Funding opportunities will be identified in the process and sought from partners.

Discussion

Current Status

1. The City of Adelaide is continuing to liaise with World Heritage expert Duncan Marshall AM to discuss the next steps required to progress a World Heritage Tentative List Submission to align with a February 2026 timeframe.
2. The Administration has met separately with the Cultural Heritage Section, World and National Heritage Branch of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW, Cth) and the Heritage SA, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to advise of the intention to seek acceptance of a Tentative List Submission by February 2026.
3. Administration has had clear direction that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be demonstrated for all stages of the World Heritage Project.
4. FPIC is a process and methodology for undertaking early consultation and engagement to facilitate understanding and receive consent from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for proposed actions affecting their lands and communities.
5. The process must be free from coercion and allow the time and resources to enable traditional decision-making by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
6. A report regarding the use of Free, Prior and Informed Consent principles for the World Heritage project was presented at the 5 March 2025 Reconciliation Committee meeting.
 - 6.1. Administration is progressing the procurement of a report into the integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in line with Free, Prior and Informed Consent principles into Council processes.
 - 6.2. The recommendations of this report will inform the approach to engagement for the World Heritage Bid with the work targeting completion by 31 December 2025.
7. Through the Quarter 3, 2024/25 budget review process funding has been confirmed to commence engagement of SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to scope and facilitate appropriate and meaningful engagement for the Tentative List Submission with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders. This work is targeting completion by 31 December 2025.
8. Administration has prepared a substantial promotional piece on the World Heritage Bid to feature on the History Trust's social media campaign for the SA History Festival in May 2025.

Related Activity

9. Administration continues to undertake research and attribute mapping based on Duncan Marshall's report for the purposes of clarifying the areas that may one day form part of the World Heritage property.
 - 9.1. The City of Adelaide will be hosting two heritage research Master of Architecture interns through University Semester 1, 2025 to assist with the collation of information and mapping.
10. A funding application was submitted in February 2025 with the support of Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), through Round 2 of the Commonwealth Government First Nations Heritage Grants program. If successful, the grant will assist with:
 - 10.1. First Nations research and formally identifying Kurna Heritage Values of the Adelaide Park Lands that can be incorporated into the existing National Heritage listing and World Heritage bid.
 - 10.2. Providing greater recognition and protection of Kurna Heritage Values in the development of the World Heritage bid.
11. Administration is implementing the recommendations of the of the National Heritage Management Plan, through the following projects in 2024/25:
 - 11.1. A Historic Landscape and Plantings Management Plan, including identification and mapping of historic designed landscapes and plantings relating to the National Heritage Values.
 - 11.2. A desktop Archaeological Survey of the Adelaide Park Lands to identify areas with a high likelihood of uncovering remains that may contribute to our understanding of the State's history.

Next Steps

12. The next steps to be undertaken for the World Heritage Bid are to:
 - 12.1. Finalise the World Heritage Tentative List submission through the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.
 - 12.2. Complete the analysis to embed Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes into Council processes.

- 12.3. Work with SA Native Title Services to engage with KYAC and other relevant Aboriginal stakeholders to obtain their support and consent for lodging the Tentative Submission with the State Government.
- 12.4. Undertaking the formal World Heritage assessment will be subject to future budget considerations and is currently unfunded.

Data and Supporting Information

Nil

Attachments

Nil

- END OF REPORT -