

Kadaltilla

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

World Solar Challenge 2025 – South Australian Motor Sport Board Event Consultation

Public

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Board Meeting**

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Purpose

This report seeks Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla)'s advice on the proposed declarations for the World Solar Challenge (WSC) 2025, which will be presented to the City Community Services and Culture Committee on 3 June 2025, and any feedback relating to:

- The Declared Area, being the Park Lands area proposed to be used as part of the event.
- The Prescribed Works Period, being the period of event setup and removal.
- The Declared Period, being the proposed period of event operation.

The WSC has been running in the City of Adelaide since 1987. Held every two years, this race sees solar-powered vehicles travel 3,000 km from Darwin to Adelaide, finishing in Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga. Primarily a design competition, the event drives the development of energy-efficient vehicles as part of the global challenge to decarbonise mobility.

The event dates for 2025 are from 24 to 31 August.

Under the *South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)* section 20(1), the Premier of South Australia (Premier) may declare a specified Declared Area and Declared Period for the purposes of carrying out motor sport events. They may also specify a Prescribed Works Period, during which the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) may have access to the land within the Declared Area for the purpose of carrying out works for the event.

Before the Premier can declare the area, the period and the Prescribed Works Period, they must first consult with the City of Adelaide (CoA) and Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla).

The Premier will consider the advice of Kadaltilla and the CoA when declaring the Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the WSC.

The proposed duration of occupation for the WSC 2025 is the same as what was declared for the WSC 2023. There is also no increase in the size of the declared areas. The 2023 event was held in October, the 2025 event will be held in August.

Recommendation

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Notes the declaration of the declared area, declared period and prescribed works period for the purpose of conducting the World Solar Challenge 2025 event.
2. Authorises the Presiding Member to write to the Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Motor Sport Board on behalf of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority with its feedback on the consultation for the proposed area for the World Solar Challenge event and the proposed period of time that works for the event will cover, including:

- 2.1 Thanks the South Australian Motor Sport Board for bringing this world class international event to the City of Adelaide and notes the positive sustainable outcomes this event supports.
 - 2.2 Asks the South Australian Motor Sport Board to keep public pathways, footpaths and bike lanes as open and accessible as is practicable throughout the prescribed works period and declared period.
 - 2.3 Asks the South Australian Motor Sport Board to consider the need and impact of temporary fencing in Victoria Square / Tartanyangga and where it is required, ensure the fencing and overall location is presented with high regard to aesthetics and public presentation.
 3. Notes that Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority's advice will be presented to the City Community and Culture Committee on Tuesday 3 June 2025.
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Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025 The Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy supports promoting the Parks Lands as visitor and tourist destination (Strategy 1.3.1).
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value
City of Adelaide Strategies	Economic Development Strategy 2024 – 2028: Goal 1: More than the gateway to South Australia. Integrated Climate Strategy 2025: Goal 2: A net zero city Goal 4: Transition to a decarbonised economy Goal 5: A climate leading city council
Policy	The Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga recognises the use of the Square for events to attract visitation. The CLMP for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) recognises the use of the bitumen area for alternative sport and event uses.
Consultation	Under section 20 (4) (c) of the <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)</i> there is a legislative obligation for the Premier, through the SAMSB, to consult with Kadaltilla and Council regarding the Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the World Solar Challenge event. The SAMSB consultation period is open and concludes 11 June 2025. The letter to the Lord Mayor dated 29 April 2025 references a response date of 6 June 2025; however a request has been sent to the SAMSB seeking an extension to the consultation period until 11 June 2025. SAMSB have confirmed acceptance of the extension.
Resource	This activity will be facilitated within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Pursuant to powers provided under the <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)</i> section 20 (1), the Premier may declare a Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the purpose of conducting motorsport events. Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects Sites of Importance within the Declared Area are: - Cultural Marker as part of Reconciliation Plaza. - Alice Dixon Tree and Sculpture.
Design	National Heritage Management Plan (NHMP) Nil Tree removal and replacement Nil
Opportunities	In reference to the Economic Strategy and the City of Adelaide's goal for a thriving visitor economy, the World Solar Challenge (WSC) not only attracts participants and audiences from all over Australia and the world, however the event champions sustainable transport and showcases innovation and engineering.
City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report

Capital Infrastructure Projects	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The declarations referred to in this report are in reference to the WSC, 2025 event only, with the end of the Declared Period proposed to be 3 September 2025.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

Discussion

Background

1. The World Solar Challenge (WSC) is a biennial event first run in 1987, recognised globally as one of the world's great engineering challenges focused on renewable energy and development of related technologies.
2. Teams, usually comprising of university and secondary students, traverse 3,000 kilometres from Darwin to Adelaide in an energy efficient electric vehicle designed, engineered, and built with their own hands. The 2025 event will attract over 38 Teams from across 19 countries with approximately 1,000 team members and volunteers.
3. Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga has been the traditional finish line for this international event, with its central location and open-air layout helping to attract visitors.
4. The event is staged by the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) pursuant to powers provided under the *South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)*. Detailed in section 20(1) of the Act, the Premier of South Australia (Premier) may declare:
 - 4.1. A specified area (whether in or outside of Adelaide, and whether or not consisting of or including public roads or parkland or both) to be a Declared Area under the Act for the purposes of the event, and
 - 4.2. A specified period (not exceeding five days) to be a Declared Period under this Act for the purposes of the event, and
 - 4.3. A specified period or periods (Prescribed Works Period) under the Act during which the SAMSB may have access to land within a Declared Area for the purposes of carrying out works in the manner contemplated by section 22 (1a) (and different periods may be specified in respect of different categories of work).
5. On behalf of the Premier, the Minister responsible for the *South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)*, the Chief Executive, South Australian Motor Sport Board wrote to the Lord Mayor on 29 April 2025. The letter in [Link 1](#) outlines the Declarations for the WSC 2025 event and was addressed to the Lord Mayor in their capacity as Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide and as the Presiding Member of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla).
6. The proposed Declared Area in [Link 2](#) and [Link 3](#) includes Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16), and a public road Reconciliation Plaza.
7. The Declared Period covers the event days for the official finish line portion of the event. The dates for the 2025 WSC event are 24-31 August 2025. The proposed Declared Period is 27-31 August 2025.
8. Feedback is being sought on the proposed Declared Area, Prescribed Works Period and Declared Period. Any feedback provided will be presented to the City Community and Culture Committee on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

9. The deadline for consultation feedback on the proposed declarations is 11 June 2025.

Declared Area

10. The Declared Area for the WSC 2025 event, as provided by the SAMSB, takes in two specific areas within the City of Adelaide (CoA):
- 10.1. Both the north and south event spaces within Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, as well as Reconciliation Plaza connecting the two spaces, to facilitate the official finish line for the event.
 - 10.2. The hardstand in Park 16 to facilitate a pack-down area for teams travelling interstate or internationally. SAMSB have advised that while there is a larger area shown to facilitate fence lines, the intention is to only use the hardstand areas as part of the event.
11. The SAMSB advise that the size and scale of the Declared Area is required to enable the safe and successful delivery of the WSC event. It is noted that there is no increase to the declared area, the prescribed work period or the road closure period, compared to the WSC 2023 event.
12. Public access to the Declared Area, in particular the main pathways, will be provided for as long as possible during the Prescribed Works Period, with restrictions to specific areas being managed in a staged approach. SAMSB will develop a community information plan under the guidance of the CoA Adelaide Event Guidelines.

Prescribed Works Period

13. The Prescribed Works Period for the set up and removal of the event is proposed as follows:
- 13.1. 22 August 2025 until 3 September 2025 for Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga,
 - 13.2. 26 August 2025 until 3 September 2025 for Victoria Park / Pakapaknathi (Park 16).
 - 13.3. 25 August 2025 until 1 September 2025 for Reconciliation Plaza.

Impacts on other Park Land Users

Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga

14. As referenced in the linked documents in para 6 of this report, Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga will be closed to the public in its entirety from 22 August 2025. This is similar to the way other event activity is conducted within the Square. Reconciliation Plaza will be closed from 25 August 2025 for 8 days.
15. In Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, the majority of impacts will be to the casual users who use the location as a recreational space, during the work week or as a thoroughfare. Where pathways access is impacted, signed detours will be in place.

Victoria Park / Pakapaknathi (Park 16)

16. Park 16 will be mainly impacted in the central hardstand area only. A small portion to the north of the hardstand, along Wakefield Street, will be closed to the public for 9 days from 26 August 2025.
17. Major public thoroughfares in Park 16 will remain accessible to park users, with minimal impact to public access or commercial operators. The majority of public pathways and areas remain unimpeded. The Declared Area will result in the closure of small parts of the criterium track at certain times. Consequently, targeted consultation with cycling clubs and other formal users will occur in advance of the event.
18. Across both sites, advance notification signage will advise the public of closure dates, times, and locations and contact details for further information

Remediation

19. The CoA will continue to work with the SAMSB to minimise impacts to the Park Lands from the event.
20. Any required remediation of the Park Lands as a result of the area being impacted by the WSC 2025 will be at the cost of the SAMSB. Traditionally, the required remediation from this event has been minor.

Attachments

Nil