

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

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

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City Community Services and Culture Committee

Program Contact:

Jennifer Kalionis, Associate
Director City Culture

Approving Officer:

Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's advice on the proposed declarations for the World Solar Challenge (WSC) 2025 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.

The event is managed by the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) under the *South Australian Motor Sport Act (1984)*.

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 motorsport events. They may also specify a Prescribed Works Period, during which time the SAMSB may have access to the land within the declared area for the purpose of carrying out works for the event.

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 Area. The 2023 event was held in October; the 2025 event will be held in August.

Council feedback is being sought on the WSC 2025 Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period and in the context of the impact on the Park Lands, city residents, visitors, and the economy.

The WSC 2025 consultation was considered by Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla) at its meeting held on 22 May 2025.

The advice of Kadaltilla and the City of Adelaide will be considered by the Premier as part of the declaration consultation process for the event.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 10 June 2025 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT COUNCIL

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. Notes the advice of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority at its meeting of 22 May 2025 and that Kadaltilla will be providing a submission to the consultation.

3. Authorises the Lord Mayor to write to the Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Motor Sport Board on behalf of Council with its feedback to the consultation and provides the following feedback and advice:
 - 3.1. That Council notes the declaration of the Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the purpose of conducting the World Solar Challenge 2025 event.
 - 3.2. Asks the South Australian Motorsport Board to keep public pathways, footpaths and bike lanes as open and accessible as is practicable throughout the Prescribed Works Period and Declared Period.
 - 3.3. Asks the South Australian Motor Sport Board to consider the need and impact of temporary fencing in Victoria Square / Tartanyangga and where it is needed, ensure the fencing and overall location is presented with high regard to aesthetics and public presentation.
 - 3.4. 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.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Economy The City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024- 2028 includes an outcome that Adelaide's unique experiences and opportunities attract visitors to our City.
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 (WSC) event. Following extension of a negotiated consultation period, the SAMSB consultation period for WSC 2025 concludes 11 June 2025.
Resource	This activity will be facilitated within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Pursuant to powers provided under <i>the 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.
Opportunities	In reference to the Economic Strategy and the City of Adelaide's goal for a thriving visitor economy, the WSC not only attracts participants and audiences from all over Australia and the world, but the event also champions sustainable transport and showcases innovation and engineering. The event aligns with goals under the City of Adelaide's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030.
24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	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.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
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 assisting with promoting visitor attendance to the event.
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)* (the Act). Detailed in section 20(1) of the Act, the Minister may declare:
 - 4.1. A specified area (consisting of public road or Park Land or both) in Adelaide, 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 Act, the Chief Executive, South Australian Motor Sport Board wrote to the Lord Mayor on 30 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 Declared Area, Prescribed Works Period and Declared Period to be provided to the SAMSB by 11 June 2025.

Declared Areas

9. It is noted that there is no increase to the Declared Area, the Prescribed Works Period or the road closure period, compared to the WSC 2023 event. 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.
10. The Declared Area for the WSC 2025 event, as provided by the SAMSB, takes in two specific areas within the City of Adelaide:
 - 10.1. Both the North and South event spaces within Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, as well as the Reconciliation Plaza roadway to connect the two spaces, to facilitate the official finish line for the event.
 - 10.2. The hardstand area of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (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 hard stand areas as part of the event.

Prescribed Works Period

11. The Prescribed Works Period is proposed as follows:
 - 11.1. 22 August 2025 until 3 September 2025 for Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga.
 - 11.2. 26 August 2025 until 3 September 2025 for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
 - 11.3. 25 August 2025 until 1 September 2025 for Reconciliation Plaza. The road will be closed during this period.

Impacts on Other Park Land Users

Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga

12. Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga will be utilised for the event from 22 August 2025 until 3 September including the closure of Reconciliation Plaza from 25 August to 1 September. This is similar to the way other event activity is conducted within the Square.
13. 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 / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)

14. 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.
15. Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) will be 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.

Reconciliation Plaza Road closure

16. The closure of this road is permitted for a number of significant events each year. Road closure notifications will be put in place in advance of the closure period and impacted stakeholders will be notified through direct engagement and advance notifications. Traffic signals can be adjusted to facilitate vehicle access around the square.
17. Detours are able to be placed around the closure of Reconciliation Plaza without significant issue and lanes are able to be redirected to increase the flow of traffic from arterial roads around the square.
18. The Adelaide Central Market Authority has been notified of the proposed road closure.

Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority

19. Kadaltilla met on 22 May 2025 to consider the proposed Declarations as part of the consultation and resolved to advise the following to Council and the State Government:
 - 19.1. That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:
 - 19.1.1. Notes the Declaration of the Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the purpose of conducting the World Solar Challenge 2025 event.
 - 19.1.2. 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:
 - 19.1.3. 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.
 - 19.1.4. 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.
 - 19.1.5. Asks the South Australian Motor Sport Board to consider the need and impact of temporary fencing in Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga and where it is required, ensure the fencing and overall location is presented with high regard to aesthetics and public presentation.
 - 19.1.6. Notes that Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority's advice will be presented to the City Community and Culture Committee on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Remediation

20. The CoA will continue to work with the SAMSB to minimise impacts to the Park Lands from the event.
21. 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 has been minor.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Letter from South Australian Motor Sport Board

Link 2 – Declared Area – Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga

Link 3 – Declared Area – Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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