

## Tentative List Submission for World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes - Progress Report

Public

**Thursday, 17 July 2025  
Board Meeting**

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### 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 (Tentative List Submission).

It focuses on the remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government:

- Review, amend and approve the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history by First Nations communities.
- Engage with and receive Consent to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities whose lands may one day form part of the World Heritage property.

Additional background to these tasks was provided to the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla) on 22 May 2025 ([Link 1](#)).

The process must adhere to the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). A summary of FPIC was provided to the Kadaltilla at its meeting held on 27 March 2025 ([Link 2](#)).

Administration has engaged SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to facilitate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Early indications from the engagement are that the timeframe for Consent, if it is to be provided, may result in the Tentative List Submission being made in February 2027 rather than February 2026 to provide a longer timeframe for relationship building.

The Tentative List Submission engagement is also being informed by the City of Adelaide's work with Deloitte / Yamagigu Consulting (yamagigu) to develop recommendations for an Aboriginal Engagement Framework for Council processes.

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### Recommendation

#### THAT THE KADALTILLA / ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY ADVISES COUNCIL

##### That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report as contained in Item 5.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 17 July 2025.
  2. Notes that through the engagement with First Nations people under the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, an indication was provided that Consent for the World Heritage Bid Tentative List Submission may require a longer timeframe for relationship building which may result in the project timeframe for submission being February 2027 rather than February 2026.
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# Implications

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| Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025 | <a href="#">Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025</a><br><b>Outcome</b> - The Park Lands are valued as a National Heritage site worthy of World Heritage Listing<br><b>Action 1</b> – Secure a commitment to pursue World Heritage listing<br><b>Action 2</b> – Develop the case for World Heritage listing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2023-2028 Strategic Plan                          | <a href="#">Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan</a><br><b>Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value</b><br><b>Objective</b> 1.4 Champion the development of World Heritage listing nomination<br><b>Initiative</b> 1.4 Regularly review World Heritage listing submission progress<br><b>Measure of Success</b> 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                                      | Work has commenced on engagement and FPIC processes with the support of SA Native Title Services (SANTS). As previously reported, the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) has indicated a lead role in the FPIC process for the World Heritage Bid and has provided early Consent for the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Resource                                          | Not as a result of this report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative                        | The World Heritage listing process is contingent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's Consent through the FPIC process. The City of Adelaide has commenced consultation and Consent processes. In the circumstance that Traditional Owners do not Consent to the Tentative List Submission, the Submission will not be accepted by the Australian Government for consideration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Design                                            | The World Heritage Listing supports the principles of Good Design, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context – Good design is contextual because it responds to the surrounding environment and contributes to the existing quality and future character of a place.</li> <li>Value – Good design adds value by creating desirable places that promote community and local investment and enhance social and cultural value.</li> </ul> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes.</li> <li>Global profile and cultural tourism business and international investment attraction.</li> <li>Creating a shared narrative about First Nations culture and history that aligns with colonial settlement.</li> <li>Greater levels of protection for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                             |
| City of Adelaide Budget Allocation                | The City of Adelaide's 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget adopted on 24 June 2025 includes a strategic project allocation of \$178,000 for the World Heritage project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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| 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                                         | <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>On 21 March 2025, the City of Adelaide made an application under the Federal Government's First Nations Heritage Grants Program Round 2 for a project to update the National Heritage Values of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout to include Kaurna heritage values. If successful, this work will inform the World Heritage Bid (post Tentative List Submission) and strengthen National heritage protections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Successful applicants were due to be announced by June 2025 but are not yet known.</p> |

# Discussion

## Background

1. 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 (Tentative List Submission).
2. It focuses on the remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government:
  - 2.1. Review, amend and approve the portions relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history by First Nations communities.
  - 2.2. Engage with and receive Consent to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities whose lands may one day form part of the World Heritage property.
3. Additional background to these tasks was provided to the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla) on 22 May 2025 ([Link 1](#)).
4. To be included on Australia's Tentative List, a Tentative List Submission must have the support of the State and Federal Government and Consent from Traditional Owners.
5. Administration has engaged SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to facilitate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
6. This engagement is also being informed by the City of Adelaide's work with Deloitte / Yamagigu Consulting (yamagigu) to develop an Aboriginal Engagement Framework for Council processes.

## First Nations Engagement

7. On 17 June 2025, SANTS, on behalf of the City of Adelaide, facilitated an information session with representatives of Aboriginal communities within the identified World Heritage Bid areas including:
  - 7.1. Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC)
  - 7.2. First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee #2
  - 7.3. Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
  - 7.4. Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
  - 7.5. Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation
  - 7.6. River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
8. Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation was invited to attend the information session however was unavailable.
9. The session was attended in part by members of the Administration to provide an overview of the project including a briefing from Duncan Marshall AM on the global context of UNESCO World Heritage and Free, Prior and Informed Consent as it relates to World Heritage.
10. SANTS facilitated a closed session with First Nations representatives to discuss the information received. It is understood that from this session:
  - 10.1. First Nations representatives will discuss the project within their communities as a precursor to larger workshops for the broader communities focussing on truth-telling and reconciliation.
  - 10.2. Attendance by Administration has been requested at the initial community sessions which will require travel to the regions by the project team.
  - 10.3. Broader community works are tentatively being planned to occur before the September 2025 Board update pending the availability of First Nations communities.
  - 10.4. Early indications from the engagement are that the timeframe for Consent, if it is to be provided, may result in the Tentative List Submission being made in February 2027 rather than February 2026 to provide a longer timeframe for relationship building.
11. Administration has commenced, with SANTS' anthropologist, an early review of the Tentative List Submission provided to the Board on 22 May 2025 ([Link 1](#)) with a view to incorporating feedback from First Nations engagement sessions as it is made available.

## Aligned Activity

12. In May 2025 yamagigu met with two Executive Members of the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), members of the City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee and held internal workshops with employees across the City of Adelaide.

13. On 16 June 2025 yamagigu attended the City of Adelaide's Executive Meeting to update on the engagement process.
14. A further session with the KYAC Board is planned for July 2025, with the recommendations report due for completion by August 2025.

#### **Next Steps**

15. Next steps for the project are summarised as follows:
  - 15.1. The City of Adelaide has allocated \$178,000 to the World Heritage Project in the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget endorsed by Council on 24 June 2025.
  - 15.2. Administration has reviewed resourcing and is commencing recruitment for a World Heritage Project Officer to assist with promotion, engagement and project management of the World Heritage Bid Tentative List Submission in 2025/26.
  - 15.3. Administration is working with SANTS to receive the feedback from the information session with First Nations people and to plan further engagements.
  - 15.4. Administration is planning a series of correspondences including to:
    - 15.4.1. Confirm State and Federal Government in principle support for the World Heritage bid and Tentative List Submission contingent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consent.
    - 15.4.2. Update local governments that are party to the Tentative List Submission part of the World Heritage bid project.
    - 15.4.3. Inform local government areas where the City of Adelaide with the support of SANTS, is working with First Nations communities.
  - 15.5. Administration is continuing to progress work to refine research and attribute mapping undertaken through the heritage internship project for the purpose of clarifying the areas that may one day form part of the World Heritage area.

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## **Data and Supporting Information**

**Link 1** – [Agenda - Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting - Thursday, 22 May 2025](#)

**Link 2** – [Agenda – Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – Thursday, 27 March 2025](#)

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## **Attachments**

**Nil**

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