

Aboriginal Ranger Program

Tuesday, 3 September 2025
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an opportunity to shape the development of the Aboriginal Ranger Program as a strategic initiative that advances reconciliation, cultural heritage protection, environmental sustainability, and Aboriginal employment.

The workshop seeks input on the key cultural values, protocols, and responsibilities that should guide the Aboriginal Ranger Program, so it genuinely reflects and respects Aboriginal ways of Caring for Country in the context of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Strategic Alignment

The Aboriginal Ranger Program contributes to the City of Adelaide's Strategic Plan 2024-2028:

- Our Community – Increasing Aboriginal participation in civic life and strengthening cultural connections.
- Our Environment – Protecting and enhancing the Park Lands using sustainable and culturally informed practices.
- Our Corporation – Supporting a diverse workforce, including the target of at least 2% Aboriginal employment by 2027.

The program delivers on multiple pillars and actions in the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027:

- Opportunities (Actions 15.1 & 15.2) – Recruiting the inaugural Aboriginal Ranger position and collaborating with Kaurna to integrate First Nations perspectives into Park Lands and waterways management.
- Opportunities (Action 12) – Supporting Aboriginal employment, retention, and professional development.
- Respect (Actions 8 & 14) – Embedding Kaurna cultural practices, such as cultural burns, into land care.
- Relationships (Actions 1 & 5) – Strengthening partnerships with KYAC and Aboriginal stakeholders through co-design and cultural protocol integration.

The Aboriginal Ranger Program contributes to the goals of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 and the City of Adelaide's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 – Resilient, Protected, Sustainable, relating to Caring for Country.

KEY QUESTIONS

Committee Members are invited to consider:

1. The specific activities Ranger(s) could undertake, including cultural and/or environmental land management and guided cultural tours at sites within the Adelaide Park Lands (where appropriate).
 2. Key individuals or organisations to be engaged for advice on heritage, culture, and Caring for Country.
 3. How the Program can support all generations – from young people to Elders.
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