

Kadaltilla

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

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

**Wednesday, 24 June 2026
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 (Tentative List Submission).

The remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government are to:

- Finalise the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.
- Receive Consent in line with the UNESCO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Traditional Owners whose lands may form part of the World Heritage property once listed.

Since the last progress report, the Administration has:

- Maintained the public website with information about the World Heritage Bid and Tentative List Submission ([Link 1](#)).
- Undertaken the fourth and final programmed workshop with Traditional Owner groups on 16 April 2026.
- In collaboration with Traditional Owner groups, and engagement facilitators, *Indigenous2Indigenous Development Global (i2i)*, prepared all documents the City of Adelaide committed to as part of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, including:
 - The Truth-telling framework
 - FPIC Governance and Engagement Plan
 - Draft 'Aboriginal Narrative' for approval by Traditional Owners
 - Clarified the 'Consent Artefact' for each of the Traditional Owner Groups.
- Scheduled and/or met with Traditional Owner groups to seek consent to progress the Tentative List Submission.
- Revised the 2022 Tentative List Submission based on additional research and Traditional Owner engagement, with external peer review progressing.
- Promoted the Bid to the World Heritage community, by supporting Australia ICOMOS' 50 year anniversary celebrations with a Civic Event hosted by the Lord Mayor and Councillor Eleanor Freeman and Councillor Keiran Snape on 30 April 2026.
- Completed the substantial 'public mandate' stakeholder engagement programme and developed a heritage tourism approach which is currently being consulted with potential partners and tourism agencies including the South Australian Tourism Commission.
- Participated in events and early planning to position the World Heritage Bid as a foundational element to the State's Bicentenary (2036) preparations.

- Reported to the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee of Council on 2 June 2026 ([Link 2](#)).

A summary of FPIC was provided to the Kadaltilla at its 27 March 2025 meeting.

Additional background and progress toward the Tentative List Submission was provided on 22 May 2025, 28 August 2025, 18 September 2025, 27 November 2025, and 26 February 2026 ([Link 3](#)).

At its meeting on 27 May 2026, Kadaltilla resolved to request that Council consider reinstatement of the World Heritage Bid budget for 2026/27, this was noted by Council on Tuesday 9 June 2026.

Recommendation

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report as contained in Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 25 June 2026.
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Implications

<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036</p> <p>Priority: UNESCO World Heritage Bid</p> <p>Recognised as one of the most complete examples of nineteenth-century colonial planning, achieving UNESCO World Heritage status for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout would bring international recognition and attention to our region, be a source of local, state and national pride, and boost optimism and investment.</p> <p>Strategy 3.21 Progress World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.</p>
<p>2023-2028 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan</p> <p>Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value</p> <p>Objective 1.4 Champion the development of a World Heritage listing nomination.</p> <p>Initiative 1.4 Regularly review World Heritage listing submission progress.</p> <p>Measure of Success 1.4 State Government support for World Heritage listing submission by 2026.</p>
<p>City of Adelaide Strategies</p>	<p>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. It progresses commitments in the City of Adelaide’s Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 2027.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>The City of Adelaide has been working with the State Government, other local governments, the Federal Government and Kadaltilla for several years.</p> <p>Following a Council decision on 12 March 2024, the City of Adelaide elected to lead and fund the preparation of a Tentative List Submission.</p> <p>Work has substantially progressed on Aboriginal engagement and FPIC processes with the support of SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and participation by Traditional Owners.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>The World Heritage listing process is contingent on South Australian Government endorsement, Traditional Owner consent through the FPIC process, and ongoing funding by the City of Adelaide and/or other combined Bid stakeholders.</p> <p>The State Government through the Minister for Planning, copied to the Premier of South Australia, advised in correspondence dated 30 May 2026 to the Australian Garden History Society of ongoing support for the World Heritage Bid project. This correspondence was circulated to Board Members.</p> <p>In the circumstance that Traditional Owners do not consent, a Tentative Listing Submission will not be accepted by the Australian Government (or UNESCO) for consideration.</p>
<p>Design</p>	<p>The World Heritage Listing supports the principles of good design, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>

Opportunities	<p>Opportunities created through World Heritage Listing are expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes. • Global understanding of ‘systematic colonisation’ and Australia’s First Nations peoples. • Global profile and international-level economic development, including 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, and its rural settlements, guided by ‘sympathetic development’.
City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	<p>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 combined World Heritage project which includes a small consultancy budget and recruitment of a World Heritage Project Officer(s) dedicated to managing engagement with Traditional Owners and the finalisation of the Tentative List submission.</p> <p>The draft 2026/27 City of Adelaide Business Plan and Budget does not include a strategic project allocation for the World Heritage Bid project. Administration will seek to finalise project deliverables for the Tentative List Submission process through existing resources and other funding sources (see below).</p>
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 former Mount Lofty Ranges Consortium has approved the transfer of approximately \$60,000 to City of Adelaide in July 2026, being the remaining funding from a fund set up by the Consortium to contribute towards the ongoing development of the World Heritage Bid.</p> <p>In August 2025, the City of Adelaide was successful in securing a grant of \$167,710 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 Kurna Heritage Values. This project is due to commence in FY2026/27. Once complete, this work will inform the World Heritage Bid (post Tentative List Submission) and strengthen National Heritage protections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.</p>

Discussion

Purpose

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. The remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government are to:
 - 2.1. Finalise the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.
 - 2.2. Receive Consent to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Traditional Owners whose lands may form part of the World Heritage property once listed, in line with the FPIC requirements of UNESCO.

Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement

3. Administration has continued to work with SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and *Indigenous 2 Indigenous Development Global* (i2i) to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owner groups, including the fourth and final programmed workshop on 16 April 2026
4. Aboriginal community representatives invited to participate are:
 - 4.1. Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.2. First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee #2 / Mid Murray Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.3. Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.4. Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.5. Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.6. Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation
 - 4.7. River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.
5. The following key commitments made by City of Adelaide to the Traditional Owner groups have been completed:
 - 5.1. The Truth-telling framework
 - 5.2. FPIC Governance and Engagement Plan
 - 5.3. Aboriginal Narrative
 - 5.4. Clarifying the 'Consent Artefact' for each of the Traditional Owner Groups.
6. The timeframe for completing the Tentative List Submission is aiming to coincide with the end of the 2025/26 financial year as reported in February 2026, to support Traditional Owner engagement and Consent processes.
7. Meetings have been scheduled and/or occurred with Traditional Owners to seek consent to progress the Tentative List Submission.
8. Administration attended the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation Board meeting on 9 June 2026 with positive discussions regarding the consent process for the Bid.
9. Formal State Government approval will be required prior to submission of the Tentative List Submission.

Tentative List Submission Research

10. The Tentative List Submission document continues to be refined to incorporate new research and the outcomes of Traditional Owner engagement.
11. The revised Tentative List Submission is progressing for external peer review.

State and Federal Government

12. Administration is preparing correspondence to the Minister for the Environment and Water, Emily Bourke to advise of the submission of the Tentative List Submission document, pending Traditional Owner Consent. The Minister will be invited to collaborate with the City of Adelaide to progress the next stage of work, the Preliminary Assessment Submission.
13. Similarly, the Administration intends to write to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt, to advise of the Tentative List Submission, and seek Commonwealth support.

Stakeholder Engagement

14. Administration has completed the substantial stakeholder engagement programme to understand the level of public and stakeholder support for the World Heritage Bid. Administration is progressing letters of support from stakeholders to accompany the Tentative List Submission.
15. Administration is currently consulting with potential partners and tourism agencies, including the South Australian Tourism Commission, on a proposed heritage tourism strategy for the World Heritage Bid project.
 - 15.1. The premise is connecting existing heritage tourism assets around a central, inclusive, and authentic narrative about the Wakefield Settlement Pattern, encouraging tourists to visit more locations and spend longer in South Australia.

Aligned Activity

16. City of Adelaide promoted the Bid to the World Heritage community by supporting Australia ICOMOS' 50-year anniversary celebrations with a Civic Event hosted by the Lord Mayor and Councillor Eleanor Freeman and Councillor Keiran Snape on April 2026.
17. Australia ICOMOS are the Australian Chapter of the international conservation group that support UNESCO World Heritage Centre to review World Heritage nominations before they come to the World Heritage Committee.
18. Administration attended Australia ICOMOS' official celebrations and a 1-day symposium in Burra. At the symposium, Emeritus Professor Randy Stringer presented his ongoing research regarding Systematic Colonisation and the Settler Revolution to the assembled delegates in support of the World Heritage Bid.
19. Administration has participated in events and early planning to position the World Heritage Bid as a foundational element to the State's Bicentenary (2036) preparations, including discussions with key stakeholders in the History Trust SA, and South Australia's History Advocate, Dr Keira Lindsay.

Next Steps

20. Next steps for the project are summarised as follows:
 - 20.1. Finalise the Aboriginal engagement for the Tentative List Submission seeking Consent from Traditional Owners. This has been scheduled as a task for completion by end of Quarter 4, 2025/26, however FPIC is contingent on agreement by all participating Traditional Owner groups and then their Consent. This timeframe will continue to be monitored and revised in line with the FPIC process.
 - 20.2. Seek Council endorsement of the finalised Tentative List Submission.
 - 20.3. Finalise the marketing, communications and activation strategies and action plans for the World Heritage Bid.
 - 20.4. Administration will provide an updated timeline, including plans for advocacy to the Adelaide Economic Development Agency and State Government in accordance with Kadaltilla's resolution on 27 May 2026.
 - 20.5. Submit the Tentative List Submission to the State Government.

Data and Supporting Information

Link 1 – [World Heritage Bid webpage](#)

Link 2 – [Agenda – City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee – 2 June 2026](#)

Link 3 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 26 February 2026](#)

Attachments

Nil

- END OF REPORT -