

Consultation - Adelaide Parklands Nature Positive Package

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Board Meeting

Author:

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Public

Purpose

This report provides the Adelaide Park Lands Authority / Kadaltilla with preliminary analysis of the Government of South Australia's Greener. Cooler. Wilder [Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package](#), which accompanied the announcement of the Adelaide Circuit Redevelopment Project for the purposes of the 2027 Adelaide MotoGP, on 30 August 2026.

Recommendation

THAT THE KADALTILLA / ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY ADVISES THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND COUNCIL:

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Recommends that the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Green Adelaide work in partnership with the City of Adelaide to deliver the Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package.
2. Requests that the State Government provide a report on the alignment of the Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package with the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036.
3. Requests that the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water provide the methodology used and the outcomes of any nature positive assessments relating to the Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package.
4. Seeks an update on the monitoring of the impacts on nature positive outcomes in the Adelaide Park Lands, as result of this investment, as an annual report to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority / Kadaltilla, the State Government, and the City of Adelaide.

Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036 Some of the elements of The Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package would contribute to objectives of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy.
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value Strategic Plan Alignment – Environmental Performance Strategic Plan Alignment – Management and Protection Strategic Plan Alignment – Expert Advice Whilst further details are required the initiatives proposed within Package have alignment to the Kadaltilla Strategic Plan.
City of Adelaide Strategies	Integrated Climate Strategy
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	It is understood that the State Government is progressing a series of engagements as part of the promotion of the strategy. The Adelaide Park Lands Authority / Kadaltilla were not consulted in the planning of the Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Investments outlined in the report and relating protected species and habitats should ensure compliance with the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999</i> and other relevant legislation and instruments. Should any significant earth works be undertaken, alignment with the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> (SA) should be considered.
Design	Tree removal and replacement plans are yet to be determined.
Opportunities	The opportunity to engage at key points with the Adelaide Park Lands Authority/Kadaltilla and provide updates at appropriate levels on progress and nature positive impacts should be considered.
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	Details of the timescale of the investment are to be confirmed
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

Discussion

1. As part of the Government of South Australia's Adelaide Circuit Redevelopment Project announcement, made on 30 August 2026, it released the [Greener.Cooler.Wilder. Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package](#), a \$15.0M package to deliver a series of initiatives focussed on the Adelaide Park Lands.
2. The Package is under four key themes:
 - 2.1. Greening the City
 - 2.2. Rewilding the Park Lands
 - 2.3. Revitalising the River Torrens and its Creeks
 - 2.4. Activating the Community.
3. Whilst the package was outlined as Adelaide Park Lands specific, a number of the initiatives clearly have implications beyond the Adelaide Park Lands, CBD and North Adelaide. These include:
 - 3.1. \$1.35 million in the SA Seed Conservation Centre at the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.
 - 3.2. \$250,000 donation to Nature Foundation's Climate and Nature Fund.
 - 3.3. \$4.06 million investment in water infrastructure into the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri is integral to the entire Adelaide Park Lands ecosystem and beyond.
4. Administration is advised that the details and timeframes of the individual items, which make up the package, are yet to be determined.
 - 4.1. Additionally, based on preliminary advice received, that some of the elements in the package may be intended for delivery post the first MotoGP event in November 2027.
5. On Friday 4 September 2026, a high-level briefing session on the package was provided by the Hon Emily Bourke MLC, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, where it was indicated that a working group would be established to monitor the delivery of initiatives and invitations sent to relevant stakeholders.

Nature Positive Assessment

6. No definition or information has been provided by the State Government regarding how they have determined that the Nature Positive Package would result in a nature positive outcome, triggered because of the MotoGP, nor any indication of how they will measure and monitor these outcomes.
7. Nature Positive is a global goal to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 base line and achieve full recovery by 2050.
 - 7.1. There is no indication provided to date as to how the Adelaide Park Lands Nature Positive Package aligns with the Australian Government's *Strategy for Nature 2024-2030*, nor its [Nature Positive Plan](#).
 - 7.2. The [Nature Repair Market](#) is part of the reform and is a voluntary scheme to improve biodiversity outcomes. It is unclear whether the Nature Positive Package used such a framework to measure biodiversity outcomes.

Nature Positive Package

8. The table below provides some preliminary commentary of how the Nature Positive Package aligns with the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 (APLMS).

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
GREENING THE CITY	
Increasing tree canopy cover and habitat in the Park Lands » An investment of \$5.5 million to provide an overall increase in canopy cover and understorey in the Adelaide Park Lands that is balanced with the open space	Plantings will focus on canopy cover and understorey in the Adelaide Park Lands with a focus on benefits to biodiversity areas and active transport corridors (see map of plantable spaces for canopy trees)

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
and recreational requirements of the community. » The aim of this work is to not only increase canopy cover but also bring back to the Park Lands proper functioning ecosystems with structure that drives increased biodiversity. » A partnership worth over \$1.1 million with Trees for Life to deliver native plants (trees, shrubs, grasses) to achieve stronger biodiversity outcomes and greater community participation in nature restoration.	• The mapping within the Package is consistent with City of Adelaide material. • Locations are not predetermined and therefore opportunity exists to inform and influence the planning locations for trees for canopy cover and understorey in the Adelaide Park Lands to meet with aims in the APLMS. • There are no specific references to Green Adelaide or City of Adelaide greening/canopy targets. • The CoA Victoria Park Master Plan Implementation proposed increased greening and tree canopy (biodiversity), particularly over existing and new paths, to complement the wetlands and strategic open space areas. ○ It includes understorey planting to support biodiversity values. • A tree planting plan was prepared, approx. 500 trees to be progressively planted in Victoria Park. ○ species to be planted include River Red Gum, South Blue Gum, Norfolk Island Pine, Grey Box, Kurrajong, Dragon Tree, Bottle Tree, Claret Ash, and London Plane. • Offset tree planting locations are already required for LIV Golf and nWCH. • Neither of those major State Government projects have designated plans. • Trees for Life supply native plants for some Park Lands projects including some SECRA projects, noting this work is currently coordinated with CoA. • CoA has previously advised of a need to ensure that replacement plantings are in areas where they are needed, not just randomly within Parks and particularly in locations that already meet canopy targets, set by both CoA, Kadaltilla and Green Adelaide. • The timescale for immediate canopy loss and when that canopy would be regained, ie 15-20 years needs to be clearly communicated. • Mature trees referenced by State Government, does not equate to trees with sufficient height and canopy to provide comparable immediate amenity to those that are being removed. • Canopy replacement will not be realised for some time as a result of nWCH, NAPGC, MotoGP and the recently completed AAC redevelopment.
Rare Plants & Biodiversity Improvement » An investment of \$350,000 to enhance the biodiversity, ecological resilience and cultural value of the southeast corner of the Adelaide Park Lands through sourcing selected rare and threatened plants and undertaking an augmented planting program.	• No detail on this element. • The CoA has undertaken work of this nature in the South East corner (assuming Victoria Park/Wetlands area). • The CoA Biodiversity Program includes species recovery (mostly flora) in partnership with Green Adelaide and native seed suppliers. • Plants with conservation status are listed for each Key Biodiversity Area. Key Biodiversity Areas.

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
» By introducing regionally appropriate native plant species, including threatened, historically recorded and culturally significant species, some now absent from the Park Lands, the project will strengthen biodiversity, ecological functions while creating long-term conservation outcomes.	• 13 species of conservation significance were identified in KBA#1 (Park16/17) • The identified tree species do not include various native Eucalyptus. • CoA has undertaken a number of biodiversity surveys that could be used to inform this work. • Whilst further detail is required, the project should be consistent with: ○ The CLMP for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) which seeks to create a vibrant, flexible and sustainable recreational open space, supporting a variety of community activities whilst preserving the unique landscape and heritage qualities of the Park. ○ The Victoria Park Master Plan key targets of: ▪ Increase tree canopy by 8% to reach the minimum 30% canopy cover for the park. ▪ Measured through the Biodiversity Monitoring Framework, achieve a net increase in biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystems health ▪ Through landscape changes increase Key Biodiversity Area 1 by 30% (11,735 sqm) ▪ Through the consolidation of path networks achieve an overall reduction of hard stand / impervious surfaces.
REWILDING THE PARK LANDS	
Butterfly habitat restoration » By investing \$200,000 this project will improve habitat for butterflies in the Adelaide Park Lands area including for the Satin Azure, Golden-haired Sedge Skipper and the Chequered Copper butterfly. Species such as these have specific food plant requirements and this project aims to increase these resources across the Park Lands.	• This initiative is across the Adelaide Park Lands. • Supports habitat improvements to consequently support the identified butterfly species. • No detail on the specifics within the Package. • There is opportunity to look at listing the Butterfly species, not just the native grasses. • The initiative aligns with the CoA Biodiversity Survey work and outcomes sought through Park Masterplan documents and the relevant CLMPs across the Adelaide Park Lands. • Specifically with regard to the grassland area in Park 16, it will be replaced and expanded by an additional 180m². • It should be noted that two of the species referred to are located in other parts of the Adelaide Park Lands, not within Parks 13 to 16: ○ Satin Azure – In 2026 3 types of native mistletoe were reintroduced in Park 23 by the Biodiversity Team to increase food plant for caterpillars. Instagram ○ Golden Haired Sedge Skipper - Current host plant planting (of Cutting Grass (<i>Gahnia trifida</i>)) by the Biodiversity Team is happening in Park 17 • The Chequered Copper is within Park 16 and its current management is for the preservation of Oxalis host plants and obligate ant populations.

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
	Clarity will be required on the approach that will be taken to replace and expand the grassland and how this is proposed to be managed in relation to legislative requirements and protections under EPBC Act and other relevant legislation and what obligations will fall back to Council.
Support the Grey-headed Flying Fox camp in Botanic Park » An investment of \$90,000 for cooling infrastructure to support the Grey-headed Flying Fox camp in Botanic Park will assist in building the resilience of this nationally threatened species to the impacts of a warming climate.	- This investment is likely outside of the Circuit area - Rymill Lake in Park 14 has had improvements to aid wildlife (fauna) to climb out of the Lake in circumstances of extreme heat, where the Flying Fox may enter the Lake for relief - The Botanic Gardens/Adelaide Zoo is where habitat needs to be 'regenerated' – however this is not clear from the announcement - There was no indication that this investment will be extended to other locations across the APL where the Flying Fox may stop to access water (for example Rymill Lake) - CoA (Park Lands Planning) are represented on the Grey Headed Flying Fox Stakeholder Working Group along with State Government agencies DEW, Green Adelaide, ZoosSA, and SAPN, Adelaide University
REVITALISING THE REIVER TORRENS AND ITS CREEKS	
Revitalising the River Torrens » The River Torrens is integral to the entire Adelaide Park Lands ecosystem and beyond. A \$4.06 million investment in water infrastructure aids in the rewilding and revitalisation of the River Torrens, including the reintroduction of many native species (plants, animals, insects, invertebrates) that previously inhabited the system prior to European settlement, including but not limited to Platypus. » By investing in aquatic and riverbank revegetation, this can play an important role in freshwater streams by reducing erosion and improving water quality, contributing to the food web, and providing shelter and breeding habitat for aquatic fauna.	- No specific details on this element within the Package. \$4.06 million Revitalising and Rewilding the River Torrens including the reintroduction of many native species including the Platypus - The CoA utilises the Green Adelaide - River Torrens Recovery Grant to support removal of invasive weeds (Madeira Vine) along the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari. - Green Adelaide has previously indicated the Platypus is likely to be reintroduced to parts of the River Torrens that sit outside of the CoA boundary. - CoA would seek that the Torrens Lake is one of the priority sites for revegetating riverbank to stabilise soils and improve biodiversity and amenity and new water infrastructure. - Confirmation that some of this investment would support flows into the Torrens is sought.
Stormwater Infrastructure » By investing \$1.1 million in stormwater management asset infrastructure throughout the urban catchment flow attenuation and pollutant removal before discharge to the River Torrens, this will help increase overall	\$1.1 million for stormwater management asset infrastructure to reduce flow and remove pollutants before they reach the River Torrens - No significant detail available at this point in time.

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
water quality, ecological condition and control water flows. » This could include the use of TreeNet inlets, which are designed to direct stormwater from roads into what is often the driest zone in the urban environment, the 'nature strip' – guiding root growth, and less root damage to kerbs and footpaths.	CoA Background - As part of the Botanic Creek Restoration (Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grant receipt of \$198,000) project a range of improvements were proposed to reduce excess nutrients along the Botanic Creek system which extends from Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi to Rundle Park / Kadlitpina. These included: - Detention basin / rain garden(s) – fed by an east west low flow offtake from the trunk drain from the proposed Fullarton Rd GPT to improve water quality entering the Botanic Creek system from City of Burnside. - GPT designed but not installed yet – removed from scope due to budget constraints. - Kerb tree inlets along East Terrace - Planting within the creek bed to stabilise, improve visual amenity and reduce flow velocity once planting is established - Providing natural rock work to formalise the creek waterline <i>edge</i> - Works have commenced in King Rodney Park / Ityamaitpina.  Park 14 GPT North of O'Bahn alignment not yet installed.
ACTIVATING THE COMMUNITY	
Grassroots Grants Program » \$1 million boost for the Grassroots Grants Program for individuals, volunteers, community groups, recreation clubs, and other bodies to deliver local projects for a Greener, Cooler, Wilder community and Adelaide Park Lands. » With grants available between \$2,000 and \$200,000 per application for projects that produce good biodiversity outcomes.	- No detail on this element within the Package. - Details still being finalised for the Grant Guideline by Green Adelaide, who will continue to administer the grant program. Background - Round 7 was open 30 March 2026 to 25 May 2026 - Green Adelaide's Grass Roots program for 2026 is closed with applicants to be notified in October 2026. - Budget for 2026 was \$1.0 Million. - Grass Roots is in addition to the Cooler, Greener Wilder grants.
SA Seed Conservation Centre » An investment of \$1.35 million in the SA Seed Conservation Centre at the Botanic Gardens	A focussed investment specific to the SA Seed Conservation Centre.

Announcement	APLMS Alignments and Opportunities
and State Herbarium for an uplift in key infrastructure, collection of more seed stock, and engagement in a shared plant conservation effort.	Seed Conservation Centre, Green Adelaide and CoA Biodiversity Team already work in partnerships for seed collection and seed propagation.
Nature Foundation's Climate and Nature Fund » A \$250,000 donation to Nature Foundation's Climate and Nature Fund, to match their \$250,000 seed funding. This will have the opportunity to grow through the organisation's attraction of philanthropic money.	\$250k donation to nature Foundation's Climate and Nature Fund - No specific details on how it will be used, other than a boost to the existing funding held by the Foundation.

9. It should be noted that as part of the MotoGP project there will be a 10:1 replacement for every removed tree, resulting in a net increase of 3,393 trees in the Adelaide Park Lands. All replacement trees will be mature stock, ranging from 45L to 200L.

Attachments

Nil

- END OF REPORT -