

Councillor Snape - QoN - (Tree Loss) Nationally Heritage Listed Adelaide Park Lands

Tuesday, 9 June 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Keiran Snape

Public

Contact Officer:
Iliia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Keiran Snape will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Through briefings to Council we note the significant impact the impending Adelaide MotoGP to be hosted in 2027 will have on the Nationally Heritage Listed Adelaide Park Lands. We also have seen through this term of Council the increasing cumulative impacts of successive major State Government projects on the Adelaide Park Lands, in particular the growing number of mature, regulated and significant tree removals to accommodate these projects. Can the Administration provide their best estimation on the number of trees (including regulated and significant) likely to be removed by the State Government, through the South Australian Motor Sport Board, to deliver the MotoGP track and associated infrastructure works for the hosting of the 2027 Adelaide MotoGP? This is noting that final designs have not been made public by the South Australian Motor Sport Board.'

REPLY

1. On 19 February 2026, the South Australian Government announced it had secured a six-year hosting agreement for the Australian MotoGP, to be held on a modified version of the full-length Adelaide street circuit used during the Formula 1 era. In its announcement the State Government committed to the first Adelaide MotoGP being held in 2027.
2. At the time of the announcement, the Premier of South Australia provided an indicative track layout plan and stated that approximately 45 trees will need to be removed from the eastern Adelaide Park Lands to accommodate the new MotoGP street circuit.
3. The official MotoGP track alignment is yet to be provided to Council by the State Government.
4. To provide an estimation on the number of trees likely to be removed, Administration has mapped the existing Adelaide Park Lands and city street trees against the MotoGP circuit layout released by the State Government on 19 February 2026.

Adelaide MotoGP Circuit

5. Assuming a 12-metre wide track (the minimum standard under the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme Standards for Circuits 2026 (FIM Standards)), along with the proposed hardstand and pit straight area included with the circuit layout provided publicly by the State Government (estimated by Administration from their diagram to be approximately 11,600 square metres), Administration estimates that a total of 83 trees would need to be removed to accommodate the MotoGP circuit:
 - 5.1. City of Adelaide Street Trees: 14
 - 5.2. Adelaide Park Land Trees: 69.

6. Of these 83 trees, the City of Adelaide's records indicate:
 - 6.1. 22 have a circumference of 1 metre and above classifying them as Regulated under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*.
 - 6.2. 8 have a circumference of 2 metres and above classifying them as Significant under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*.
7. The number of trees identified is a conservative estimate and may increase based on any changes to the final design of the MotoGP circuit and can be verified once that information is provided by the State Government through the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB).

Adelaide MotoGP Circuit – associated infrastructure

8. The estimate tree removals relate only to the impact of the MotoGP circuit and new pit area. Administration anticipates that when the addition of safety fencing, gravel pits and other safety run off areas, spectator stands, commercial and corporate areas and any other associated areas required for hosting the Adelaide MotoGP, that there will be more impacts to trees and other vegetation and Adelaide Park Lands and city streets infrastructure.
 - 8.1. A conservative estimate when factoring in potential gravel pit safety areas for MotoGP riders could result in at least a further 100 trees to be removed. This increases the estimated tree removals required to host the Adelaide MotoGP for the next six years, towards 200 trees removed.
 - 8.2. It should be noted that dependant on the final Adelaide MotoGP circuit layout and the requirement for the State Government through the SAMSB to adhere to FIM standards, this number could also be higher.
 - 8.3. Additionally, based on the current MotoGP circuit layout, there are concerns relating to other vegetation, Key Biodiversity Areas, Park Lands parks, playgrounds, and a series of other community assets across the Adelaide Park Lands and the city's street and footpath network.
9. The included figures are estimates and deliberately conservative, noting that the final Adelaide MotoGP circuit design has not been made available publicly, nor to Council or its Administration.
 - 9.1. At this point in time, the Administration has no visibility on runoff and safety areas, safety fencing, stands along the new areas of track or any other associated infrastructure to firm up these estimates.
 - 9.2. In arriving at the estimates Administration has based the tree removals that are likely to be required to host the Adelaide MotoGP on the best publicly available data and cross referenced our own actual information on Adelaide Park Lands trees, along with the circuit requirements that are outlined in the FIM Standards.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 9.5 hours.
--	---

- END OF REPORT -