



CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda and Reports

for the meeting on

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

at 6.30 pm

in the Colonel Light Room, Adelaide Town Hall

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Our Adelaide.
Bold.
Aspirational.
Innovative.

CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda, Tuesday, 3 March 2026, at 6.30 pm

Members – The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith

Councillor Snape (Chair)

Councillor Giles (Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahimzadeh, Cabada, Couros, Davis,
Freeman, Maher, Martin and Dr Siebentritt

Agenda

Item	Pages
1. Acknowledgement of Country	
At the opening of the City Community Services and Culture Committee meeting, the Chair will state:	
‘Council acknowledges that we are meeting on traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.	
And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations who are present today.’	
2. Apologies and Leave of Absence	
Leave of Absence:	
Councillor Snape	
3. Confirmation of Minutes - 3/2/2026	
That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 February 2026, be taken as read and be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.	
View public 3 February 2026 Minutes.	
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
5. Deputations	
6. Workshops	
6.1 External Presentation - Adelaide Equestrian Festival Proposal for 2026-27 Water Jump	3 - 12
7. Reports for Recommendation to Council	
7.1 Adelaide Equestrian Festival Proposal for 2026-27 Water Jump	13 - 21
8. Reports for Noting	
Nil	
9. Closure	

External Presentation - Adelaide Equestrian Festival Proposal for 2026-27 Water Jump

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

**City Community Services and
Culture Committee**

Presenter:

Kirsty Withers, Festival Director,
Adelaide Equestrian Festival

Luke Jones,
Luke Jones Architects

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

The purpose of this presentation by the Adelaide Equestrian Festival (AEF) is to present a concept design proposal to establish a new, water jump feature in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi, for use annually by the AEF.

The project would be funded and project managed by the AEF, with oversight and necessary approvals by the City of Adelaide.

The AEF is seeking to implement the project for use at its event in April 2027.

The presenters will be:

1. Kirsty Withers, Festival Director, Adelaide Equestrian Festival
2. Luke Jones, Luke Jones Architects

KEY QUESTIONS

Is there any feedback or questions in relation to this proposal?

- END OF REPORT -

ADELAIDE
EQUESTRIAN
FESTIVAL
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Victoria Park Water Jump Project

The Adelaide Equestrian Festival proposes the reforming of a shallow depression within Victoria Park to be utilised as a natural water jump for its annual event held in April.

Utilising the existing undulating ground, the proposal seeks to subtly modify the topography in a non-invasive manner, ensuring the depression is no more visually apparent than the current surrounds while maintaining the integrity and visual character of the parklands.



A VISION FOR GROWTH

The Adelaide Equestrian Festival (AEF) stands as one of South Australia's most distinctive annual sporting events, recognised nationally and internationally as a premier equestrian competition and a major driver of tourism and economic activity in the state.

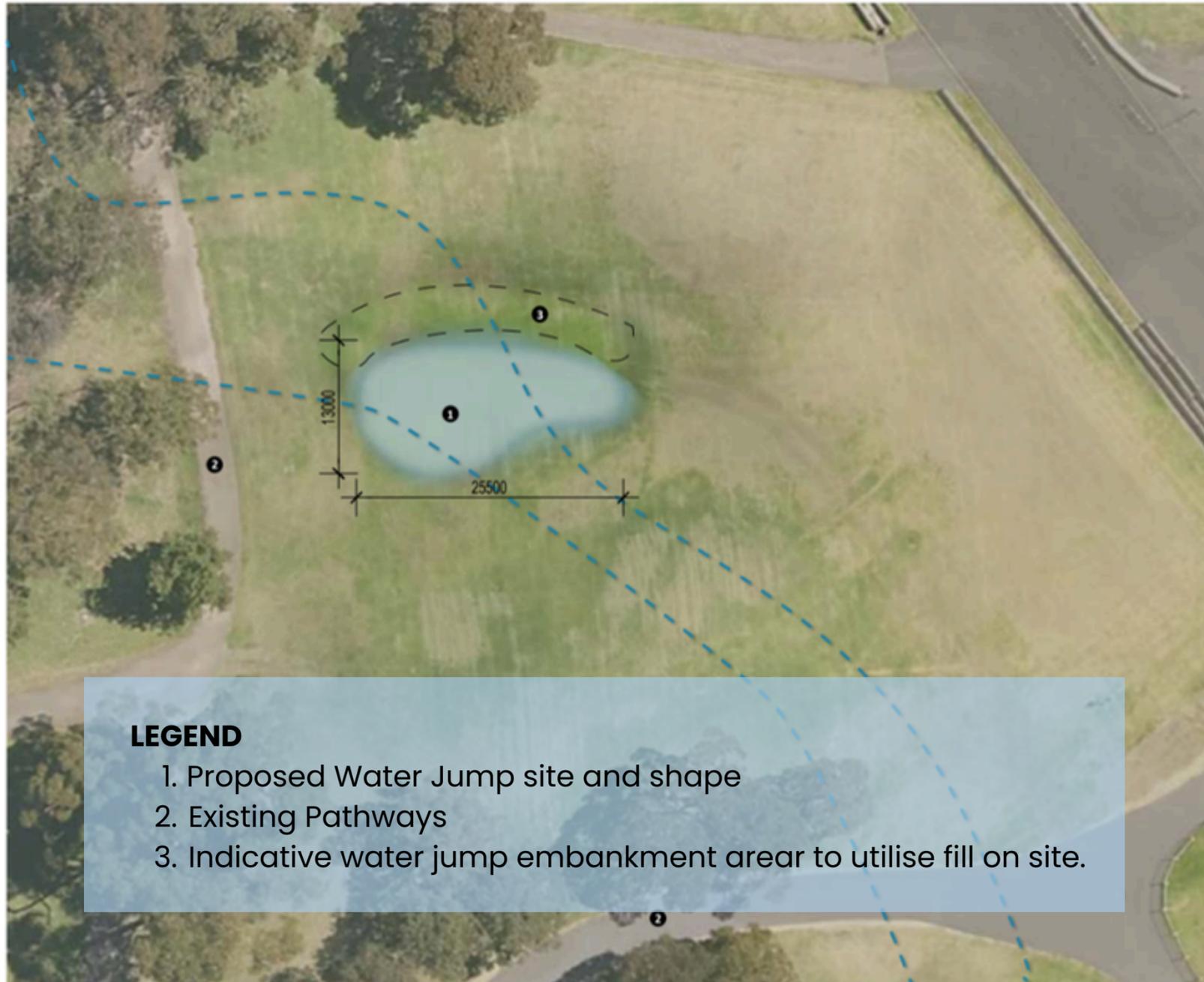
As the only **CCI5*** (5 Star) event in the **Southern Hemisphere** — and one of only seven globally alongside events in the UK, USA, Germany, and France—the Festival delivers **world-class sport**, culture, and entertainment right in the heart of Adelaide.

In 2025, the Festival welcomed over **32,000 attendees** and is now setting its sights on an ambitious yet achievable goal of reaching **50,000 attendees by 2029.**

Plans to expand the spectator footprint across **Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi** are supported by a strategic vision to develop **water jump** designed within the natural setting of the landscape.

This initiative will enable us to strengthen the Festival's **commercial appeal** and increase premium hospitality offerings.





KEY CONCEPT CONSIDERATIONS

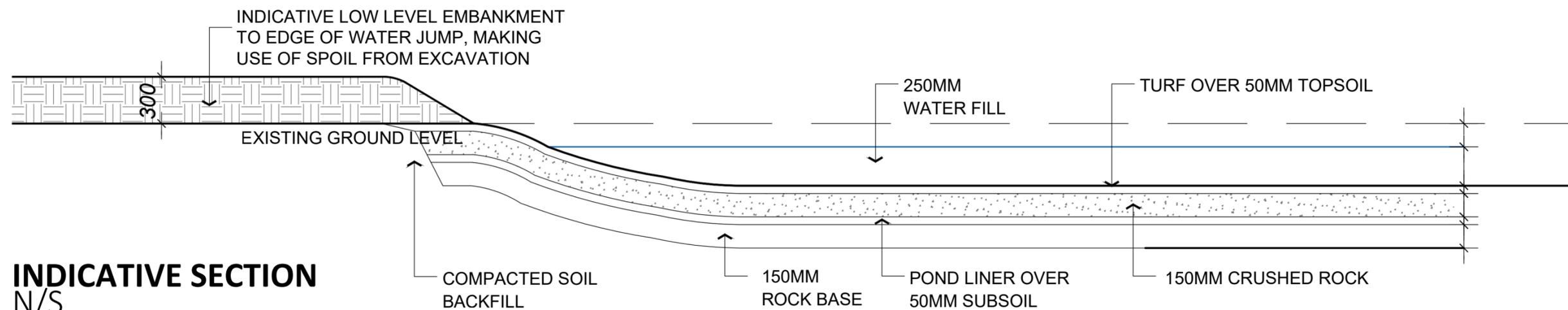
- Excavated materials will be reused on site to support and shape the profile of the depression;
- The depression will be turfed and require mowing per existing horticulture schedules;
- Measured at a maximum depth of 250mm within the depression;
- An existing inlet service is present but not identified on DBYD reports; however, it is conveniently located to allow filling via a temporary overland pipe;
- The depression can be filled with non-potable water;
- **Euca Engineering** has been engaged to design an appropriate outlet and drainage solution, with priority given to preventing any standing water outside of the event period;
- The Adelaide Equestrian Festival commits to an ongoing maintenance schedule for the drainage system to ensure it remains fully functional.



MATERIALS IN ORDER OF APPLICATION

- 150mm rock base
- 50mm subsoil
- pond liner
- 150mm crushed rock
- 50mm topsoil
- turf

IMAGE OF THE 'ICE POND' AT CHATSWORTH, UK. THESE IMAGES SHOW THE JUMP OUT OF COMPETITION. WHEN NOT IN USE, THE WATER JUMP PRESENTS AS A TURFED DEPRESSION IN THE LANDSCAPE, HERE RECENTLY TOP DRESSED IMMEDIATELY POST COMPETITION.



PROPOSED PROJECT SITE



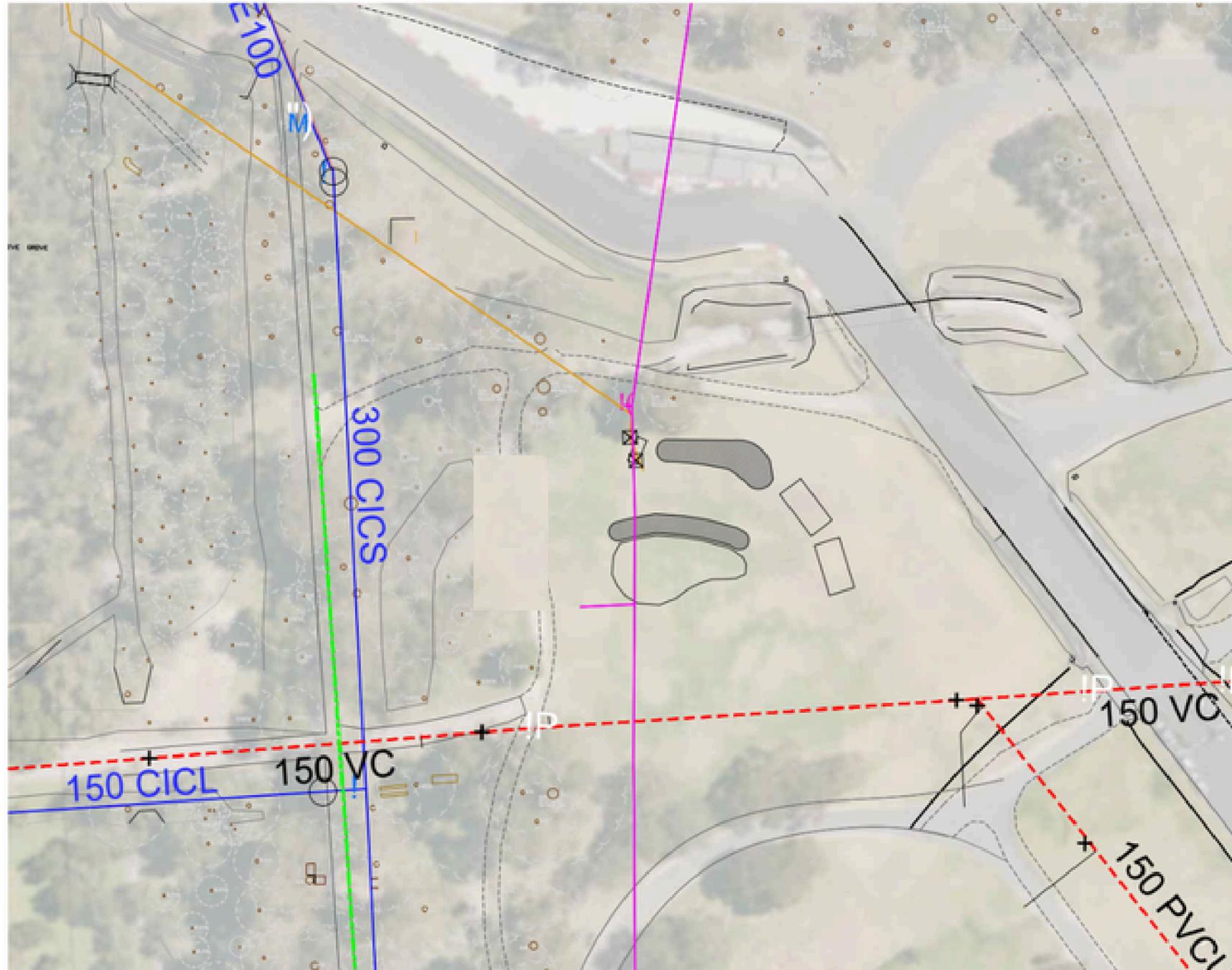
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- The overall goal is to create a depression that would be unnoticed to park users;
- The existing site is characterised by undulating ground conditions, resulting in a very uneven surface;
- The proposed works would subtly reprofile the space to create a more even and consistent area;
- We believe this will improve overall functionality while retaining the natural character of the landscape.

NON INVASIVE WATER EFFORTS



DBYD SERVICE PLAN



LEGEND

- RECYCLED WATER RETICULATION
- - - WASTEWATER RETICULATION
- WATER RETICULATION
- OPTUS UNDERGROUND OF CABLE
- X OPTUS MANHOLE / FT
- - - LIGHT COLUMNS

ISSUE	COMMENTS	DATE
P1	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	28.11.2023

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SKETCH

PROPOSED
NEW WATER JUMP

VICTORIA PARK
ADELAIDE, SA, 5000

FOR
ADELAIDE 30E

LOCATION PLAN

DATE	ISSUE NO.	SCALE
NOV 2023	P1	1:200

Do not scale off drawings, check all dimensions on site. Contractor to verify all dimensions and levels prior to commencing the works. Report all discrepancies to the Architect for direction.

DRAWING NO.

SERVICES PLAN
SCALE 1:500



EXPERT TESTIMONIAL

As the only urban-based 5-STAR horse trials in the world—and the only one hosted in the Southern Hemisphere—the Adelaide Equestrian Festival stands out as truly unique. However, one of the greatest ongoing challenges is the absence of a second water jump on the Cross Country course—a feature standard at all other 5-star events. This limitation has affected the technical progression of the course and restricted the expansion of the spectator footprint.

Currently, there is a natural concentration of spectators around Rymill Lake, underscoring the need for a second, strategically placed water feature to improve crowd distribution and elevate the viewing experience across the three parklands. This second water feature is also key to ensuring the Festival achieves the right balance in its plans to grow toward 50,000 attendances — offering greater movement and engagement opportunities for visitors.

Mike Etherington-Smith
FEI International Course Designer
Sydney 2000, Beijing 2008
Course Advisor, Los Angeles 2028



CONCLUSION

The Adelaide Equestrian Festival has earmarked \$40,000 towards this special project for the 2025/2026 financial year. Should additional funds be required, we will budget for these in the following period, we also have an extensive commercial partner and philanthropic network that have indicated a desire to support the project.

Project Delivery

The project would take no more than 2 weeks to deliver, with works proposed to be completed prior to SAMSB 2026 bump in.

Remediation

The Adelaide Equestrian Festival will be responsible for all necessary remediation of the proposed site throughout project delivery and on an ongoing basis, ensuring that the space is properly restored, maintained, and managed to support healthy turf establishment.

Kirsty Withers

Chief Executive + Event Director

mobile 0408 804 806

Email kirsty@adelaideequestrianfestival.com



Adelaide Equestrian Festival Proposal for 2026-27 Water Jump

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 3 March 2026
City Community Services and Culture Committee

Program Contact:
Jennifer Kalionis, Associate
Director City Culture

Approving Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to receive feedback on a proposal received from the Adelaide Equestrian Festival (AEF) to establish a new shallow water jump feature in Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi.

The proposal entails a change to the landscape of the Park Lands, to create a depression for a natural water feature approximately 25.5m long and 13m wide. The design is proposed to be integrated into the existing landform of the site, appearing as a turfed depression outside the event period each year. The area will remain with grass cover throughout the year and only filled with water for the event period, for approximately five days.

The project would be funded and project managed by the AEF, with oversight and necessary approvals by the City of Adelaide.

The AEF is seeking to implement the project for its event in April 2027.

Detailed designs will be presented to Kadaltilla and Council when complete.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 10 March 2026 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves the proposal from the Adelaide Equestrian Festival for a new water jump feature in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 March 2026.
2. Notes the proposal for a water jump feature would be funded and project managed by the Adelaide Equestrian Festival.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community Create fun, lively and interesting experiences.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Consultation on the proposal has occurred with Kadaltilla/Park Lands Authority and the South Australian Motorsport Board.
Resource	This project will be managed within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Site impacts will be considered and managed through the design process to ensure the water jump is integrated into the existing landscape of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi as much as is possible.
Opportunities	The proposal presents an opportunity to enhance the Adelaide Equestrian Festival which is recognised nationally and internationally as a premier equestrian competition and a major driver of tourism and economic activity in the state. The proposal also responds to its place in the Park Lands and seeks to create a finished result that does not significantly alter the proposed Park Lands location.
25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The new asset is proposed to become an ongoing feature of the Park Lands.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Any required future maintenance of the proposed water jump to ensure it remains fit for purpose would be the responsibility of the Adelaide Equestrian Festival.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The Adelaide Equestrian Festival (AEF) is recognised nationally and internationally as a premier equestrian competition and a driver of tourism and economic activity in the state. The event has occurred in the Adelaide Park Lands since 1997.
2. The event organisers have advised that the AEF is the only urban-based 5-star horse trials in the world and the only one hosted in the Southern Hemisphere. However, one of the greatest ongoing challenges is the absence of a second water jump on the cross-country course, a standard feature at all other 5-star events in countries including the United Kingdom, USA, France and Germany. This limitation has affected the technical progression of the course and restricted the expansion of the spectator footprint.
3. A key element is the development of a second water obstacle within Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi, designed to draw larger crowds, elevate the spectator experience and strengthen the events commercial and community appeal.
4. In 2025, the AEF welcomed over 32,000 attendees and has a goal of reaching 50,000 attendees by 2029.
5. The concept of a second water jump was first raised in 2017 as a way to honour the legacy of the late Gillian Rolton AM, Olympian and driving force behind the growth of the AEF.
6. The AEF currently utilises the Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka lake as its sole water feature during the cross-country event component each year.

Current Proposal

7. The proposal is to excavate soil to a depth of 400mm, which would create a depression and be covered by turf to present visually as a natural feature of the Park Lands. Further sub excavation of 300mm would be required to construct the necessary sub surface rock base and crushed rock footings.
8. When the required water is added during the event period, it would be filled to a depth of approximately 250mm.
9. The design is proposed to be integrated into the existing landform of the site, appearing as a turfed depression outside the event delivery period each year. The area will remain with grass cover throughout the year and only filled with water for the event period, for approximately five days.
10. The proposal does not include any hardstand or built infrastructure. Any temporary physical timber horse jumps would be installed for the event period only under an approved event licence, consistent with the rest of the AEF cross-country course.
11. The proposal includes the creation of permanent grassed embankments, making use of the excavated material to create a viewing edge for spectators.
12. The AEF has engaged Luke Jones Architects to draft the current concept designs contained in **Attachment A**.
13. The AEF proposes to undertake the works ahead of their event in April 2027, with civil works taking up to a maximum of two weeks.

Proposed Location and considerations

14. The water feature is proposed for an area in the northwest of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi, as shown by the red cross in *Image 1*.
15. This area is not currently utilised under any ongoing Park Land lease or licence.
16. The proposal has been shared with the South Australian Motorsport Board.
17. The Masterplan for Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi does not envisage such a proposal, however the Masterplan recognises the AEF historical and current use of the park and also includes the aim to “Expand the diversity of offerings through developing site infrastructure that supports a range of events of various scales and a diverse range of passive recreational opportunities”.

Image 1.



Design and Operational Considerations

18. Appropriate nearby water sources and draining methodology will need to be investigated and agreed as part of stormwater engineering advice through the detailed design process.
19. The City of Adelaide (CoA) would require final engineering and designs to be provided by AEF, to consider that water does not stand in this location throughout the year.
20. All costs for construction, remediation (in accordance with CoA standards), water (for filling and draining) are to be covered by the AEF.
21. The CoA would maintain the proposed area in line with current service levels however would take no responsibility for adequate maintenance of the water jump components. Any damage to or required remediation of the proposed features would be the responsibility of the AEF.

Next Steps

22. Subject to Council confirming support for the water jump proposal, Administration will write to the AEF advising them of the outcome.
23. Work would continue between AEF and CoA to finalise design, engineering and operational considerations and requirements, ahead of any works commencing.
24. All works will be subject to:
 - 24.1. Operational agreement between CoA and the AEF on a suitable water filling and draining arrangement.

- 24.2. Final detailed designs being presented to Kadaltilla and Council.
 - 24.3. Agreement between CoA and the AEF on when the works would occur.
 - 25. The works are proposed to occur ahead of the 2027 AEF event.
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Adelaide Equestrian Festival Water Jump Proposal and Concept Designs

- END OF REPORT -

VICTORIA PARK (PAKAPAKANTHI)

NEW WATER JUMP
CONCEPT PROPOSAL

ADELAIDE EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2025

CONCEPT

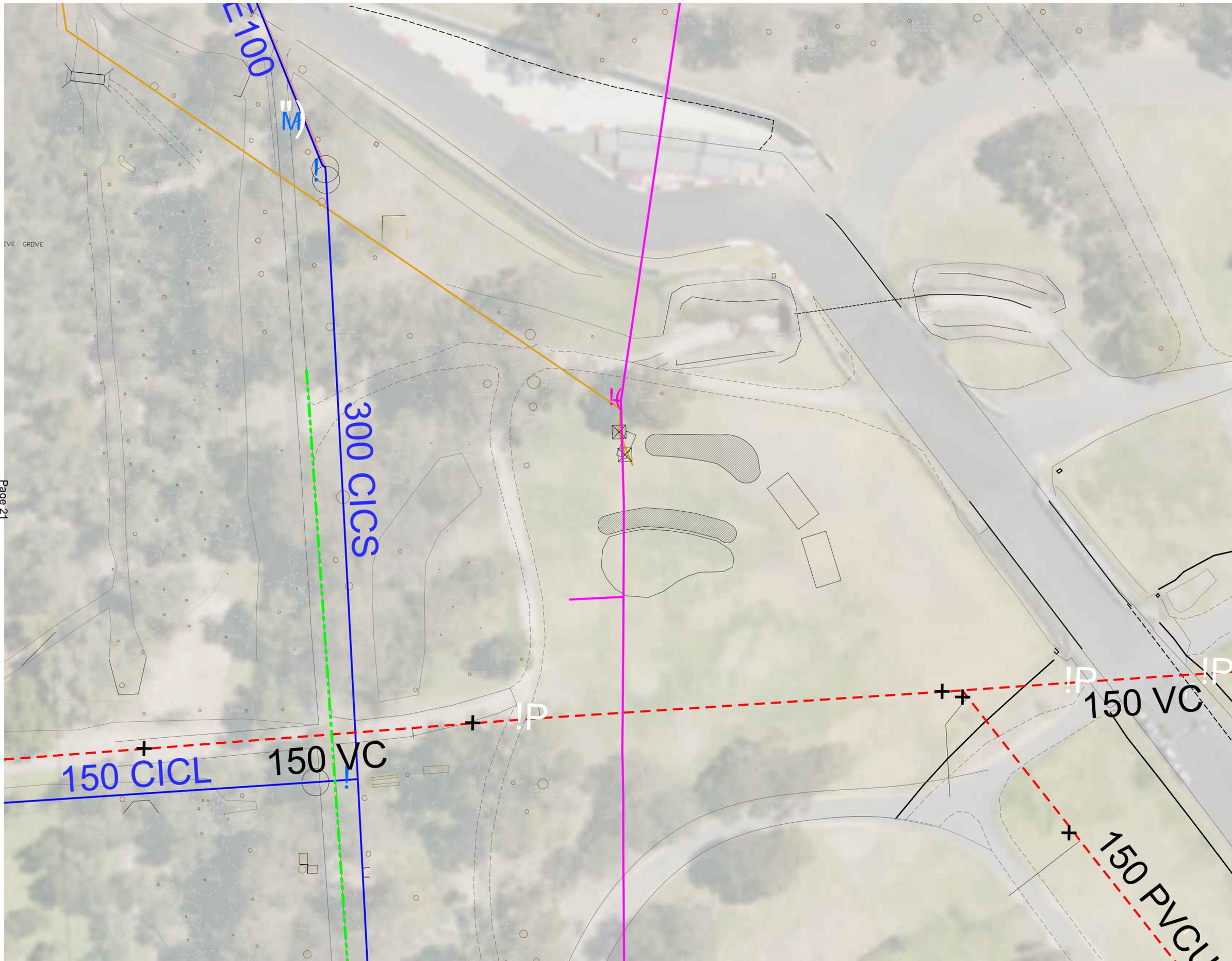
WATER JUMP PROPOSAL

LEGEND

- 1 PROPOSED NEW WATER JUMP CONCEPT - PROPOSED WATER FEATURE IDEALLY LOCATED AT THE BASE OF THE EXISTING EMBANKMENT
- 2 BITUMEN RUNNING TRACK
- 3 PROPOSED TEMPORARY GRANDSTAND AREA
- 4 PROPOSED BROADCAST AREA
- 5 INDICATIVE POP-UP FOOD/SHOPPING AREA
- 6 INDICATIVE SPECTATOR EMBANKMENT AREA TO UTILISE FILL ON SITE
- 7 INDICATIVE WATER JUMP EMBANKMENT AREA TO UTILISE FILL ON SITE
- 8 INDICATIVE WATER INLET POINT. NON POTABLE WATER ONLY REQUIRED
- 9 INDICATIVE WATER OUTLET POINT. CONNECT TO SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE FOR OUTLET TO EXISTING OVERLAND STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

--- XC COURSE UP TO CCI5* LEVEL





LEGEND

- RECYCLED WATER RETICULATION
- - - WASTEWATER RETICULATION
- WATER RETICULATION
- OPTUS UNDERGROUND IOF CABLE
- OPTUS MANHOLE / PIT
- - - LIGHT COLUMNS

ISSUE	COMMENTS	DATE
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SKETCH

PROPOSED
NEW WATER JUMP

VICTORIA PARK
 ADELAIDE, SA, 5000

FOR
 ADELAIDE 3DE

LOCATION PLAN

DATE: NOV 2025 PAPER SIZE: A2 SCALE: 1:200 ISSUE NO: **P1**

Do not scale off drawings; check all dimensions on site. Contractor to verify all dimensions and levels prior to commencing the works. Report all discrepancies to the Architect for direction.

DRAWING NO:

SERVICES PLAN

SCALE 1:500