

Kadaltilla

Standing Item: Update on the World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and Rural Settlement Landscapes

**Thursday, 25 May 2023
Board Meeting**

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Public

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the Joint World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes.

Recommendation

That Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report contained within Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla held on 25 May 2023.
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Implications

<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025</p> <p>Outcome - The Park Lands are valued as a National Heritage site worthy of World Heritage Listing.</p> <p>Action 1 - Secure a commitment to pursue World Heritage listing.</p> <p>Action 2 - Develop the case for World Heritage listing.</p>
<p>2020-2025 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2020-2025 Strategic Plan</p> <p>Strategic Plan Alignment – Environment</p> <p>2.1 - Design, protect and enhance landscape values and design qualities.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>The World Heritage listing of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes seeks to landmark the site and protect the area for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities created through World Heritage listing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes • Global profile and 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.
<p>City of Adelaide Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The expected cost of the World Heritage bid process is in the order of \$500,000 (financial year 2023/2024 to 2026/2027, subject to outcomes of Council’s budgeting process). A budget of \$150,000 has been proposed for 2023/2024 to undertake First Nations engagement and development of the tentative list submission.</p>
<p>Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report.</p>
<p>Other Funding Sources</p>	<p>There are no external funding sources currently committed or allocated to the project. Funding opportunities will be identified in the process and sought from partners.</p>

Discussion

Background

1. City of Adelaide is partnering with the State Government and local councils of the Mount Lofty Ranges to progress a World Heritage nomination that encompasses the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout and the rural settlement landscapes of the Mt Lofty Ranges.
2. The joint nomination recognises the colonial settlement model and the settlement system that enables a story to be told that includes the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people. Truth-telling about the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people is an important and necessary part of progressing the nomination.
3. Dr Duncan Marshall AM who is a renowned global expert in Cultural World Heritage nominations has been engaged to advance the World Heritage nomination.
4. Dr Marshall has advised that the nomination could meet the World Heritage requirement for Outstanding Universal Value and satisfy up to three World Heritage criteria.
5. The proposed rationale for World Heritage listing, which will be refined through the process, is:
The nineteenth century property comprising Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes, including the early Adelaide plan, is of Outstanding Universal Value as exceptional evidence of the Wakefield systematic colonisation model, an important and influential model in the history of European free migration and colonial settlement. It is the most complete realisation of British colonial settlement planning in the world, and/or a major achievement of such colonial planning.
6. The State Government wrote in support of the nomination in February 2023 as an important milestone to enable the nomination to progress.
7. Council replied reinforcing the importance of a strong bi-partisan commitment and financial support from State and Local Government and raising concerns that major development in the Park Lands severely compromise the values of the National Heritage Listing and will have a significant and unacceptable impact on the Park Lands.
8. The Kadaltilla members portal provides links to relevant documents.

Current Status

9. The 21st triennial General Assembly (GA2023) and International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 2023 Scientific Symposium will be hosted by Australia ICOMOS in Sydney from 31 August to 09 September 2023.
 - 9.1. An abstract on the 'Settlement Landscapes in South Australia', submitted by Duncan Marshall, has been accepted for presentation at the Scientific Symposium.
 - 9.2. The World Heritage Committee is expected to attend the General Assembly and is an opportunity to showcase and promote the potential future World Heritage listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout and the Mt Lofty Ranges.
 - 9.3. City of Adelaide allocated one of its heritage architects Simon Carter, who has experience working with the Burra Charter, to the World Heritage project. Simon will be attending the GA2023 Scientific Symposium on the City of Adelaide's behalf.
10. City of Adelaide has sent correspondence to the Adelaide Hills Council, as the lead for the councils of the Mount Lofty Ranges, advising of City of Adelaide's 2023/2024 budget proposal for the World Heritage Bid and seeking commitment from the bid partners to progress at pace on 2023/2024.
11. City of Adelaide has sent correspondence to the State Commission Assessment Panel, State Planning Commission, Office of Design and Architecture and the relevant Ministers to advise that the State Government has supported the development of a World Heritage Tentative list submission and that the impact on the National Heritage Values should be a consideration in the assessment of all future applications within the City of Adelaide.
12. Administration is in discussion with the Commonwealth Heritage Branch in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCEEW) regarding strengthening protections for the National Heritage values of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout through a [Conservation Agreement](#) between the National Government, State Government and City of Adelaide.

Next Steps

13. A meeting with the Working Group has been scheduled for 29 May 2023 to finalise the governance structure for approval by the respective bid partners. This includes ensuring senior membership to drive timely decision making and seek to improve the proposed timelines where possible.
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Attachments

Nil

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