

# Kaurna Voices - Cultural Mapping Update

Monday, 26 February 2024  
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

**Program Contact:**  
Jennifer Kalionis, Associate  
Director City Culture

Public

**Approving Officer:**  
Ilia Houridis, Director City  
Shaping

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update to the Reconciliation Committee (the Committee) on stage two of Council's Kaurna Voices Cultural Mapping project (Kaurna Voices). It seeks feedback on the proposed approach to the project's launch.

A Report to the Committee on 6 September 2023 provided an update on stage one of the project, including an undertaking to provide an update on the progress of stage two to the Committee in February 2024.

Kaurna Voices is a web-based interactive map (webpage) that presents information curated by Kaurna staff members of the project partner, Southern Cultural Immersion, in an accessible format to encourage greater understanding and awareness of Kaurna culture and relationship with Country in the City and Park Lands.

The project is supported by actions in Council's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2024 to utilise Kaurna Voices to capture sites of significance in the city and North Adelaide. It also delivers on a key action of the City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan to champion Reconciliation and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures by identifying opportunities to celebrate and elevate Kaurna culture and connection to Country.

Stage two, which completes the project in its current form, involved further collection of stories and archival information, focusing on places of Cultural significance and social interest, including 20 accounts of Kaurna cultural history, four oral history interviews, and the production of two additional video recordings.

A launch is being planned to take place during National Reconciliation Week 2024.

An engagement plan to promote the Kaurna Voices webpage to schools, community groups and the broader Kaurna community. This will be developed in consultation with the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) and Kaurna networks.

---

## RECOMMENDATION

### THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Notes the work completed on the interactive web-based cultural mapping project, Kaurna Voices.
  2. Notes stage two of Kaurna Voices will go live with the project launch during National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June 2024.
-

## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<b>Strategic Alignment – Our Community</b> Champion Reconciliation and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture by identifying opportunities to celebrate and elevate Kurna culture and connection to Country.
Policy	This project is an action of the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, which states - 'utilise the Kurna Cultural mapping project to capture sites of significance in the city and North Adelaide.'
Consultation	To date, the Administration has provided an update on this project to the Reconciliation Committee and two updates to Board Members of the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation. The first stage of this project has included interviews with Kurna Elders, which Kurna staff members of Southern Cultural Immersion have conducted.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	We will continue to engage with the Kurna Community to mitigate risks associated with collecting and sharing Kurna Culture that is culturally sensitive.
Opportunities	Kurna Voices will encourage greater understanding and awareness of Kurna Culture and relationship with Adelaide Park Lands and contribute to other initiatives, including the development of the City Plan and the review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy.
23/24 Budget Allocation	\$75,000 has been allocated to stage two. This includes \$50,000 for further content, \$15,000 for further webpage development and \$10,000 for webpage promotion, including a launch.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

# DISCUSSION

## Background

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) is undertaking a cultural mapping project, Kurna Voices. The project will capture Kurna Cultural heritage through stories and research that will be communicated through a webpage.
2. The webpage will be hosted on the CoA website and incorporate a map of the city showing sites of Kurna cultural significance supported by historical text, archived images, and audio and video recordings.
3. The Kurna cultural mapping project 'to capture sites of significance in the city and North Adelaide' is an action from the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2024.
4. The Committee was first provided with a Kurna Voices and Cultural Mapping project overview at its meeting on 3 May 2023.
5. A report to the Committee on 6 September 2023 provided a further project update. This report summarised the work completed in stage one.
6. Given that Kurna Voices is a multi-staged project, there was an undertaking at this meeting to provide an update on the progress of stage two of the project to the Committee in February 2024.

## Kurna Voices Stage Two

7. Stage one was completed between January and July 2023 and has included:
  - 7.1. Video recordings featuring stories from Kurna Elders and Kurna Community members.
  - 7.2. Research and collation of existing cultural information to complement the stories and locations from the filming.
  - 7.3. Development of a Kurna Voices webpage.
8. Stage two will be completed by March 2024 and will build on the information collected during the first stage of the project by continuing to collect stories and archival information.
9. This second stage has been split into two discrete parts, focussing on research and the production of additional videos.
10. The research component of this stage has included:
  - 10.1. Research and collection of stories and archival information focusing on places of Cultural significance and social interest.
  - 10.2. Twenty additional accounts of Kurna Cultural history.
  - 10.3. Four oral history interviews consisting of audio tapes and written transcripts.
11. Two additional videos have been filmed with Kurna Community members.

## Launch

12. The launch of the completed Kurna Voices project will take place on Wednesday, 29 May, during National Reconciliation Week 2024 (27 May to 3 June).
13. The launch will include screenings of each video, a webpage preview and a live interactive presentation with interviews with project participants.
14. KYAC Board members, Kurna Elders, Kurna Community members and Committee Members will be invited to the launch.

## Next Steps

15. Following the launch, the proposed next steps for the project include:
  - 15.1. Development of an engagement plan to promote the webpage to schools and community groups.
  - 15.2. Working with KYAC to promote the project to the broader Kurna community through Kurna networks.
  - 15.3. Investigation of the development of a Kurna Voices immersive display in the City Library or Mankurri-api Kuu/Reconciliation Room.
  - 15.4. Explore grant funding or partnership opportunities to continue expanding the video library and oral history recordings.

16. CoA seeks additional feedback from the Committee on this project, including the presentation of material and ways to ensure that the project is relevant and accessible for everyone's ongoing learning and how the project might strengthen the acknowledgement and celebration of Culture and Country.

---

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil

---

- END OF REPORT -