

Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan update

Wednesday, 4 September 2024
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Program Contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan (draft Master Plan) (**Attachment A**), endorsed by Council on 13 August 2024 for the purposes of public consultation.

Targeted stakeholder (Phase 1) and community engagement (Phase 2) is occurring in two phases as part of the development of the Master Plan.

- Phase 1 is complete and involved meetings and on-site visits with key stakeholders from February 2024 to May 2024, and a survey open from 18 March 2024 to 15 April 2024, to inform the development of the draft Master Plan. This included a site visit on 22 March 2024 with members of the Reconciliation Committee and the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC).
- Phase 2 is open from 2 September to 7 October 2024 and is an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Master Plan.

Phase 1 consultation revealed an expectation that the draft Master Plan be bold and transformational for the west end precinct and invite increased use and enjoyment of the Square.

The draft Master Plan presents two options for a pedestrian-centred, safe, activated, inclusive and greener Square, and feedback is being sought on the preferred option through public consultation.

Following public consultation, the final Master Plan will be presented to the Council for decision at its meeting in March 2025. The next stage of the Master Plan will be detail design and costing of priority elements with a 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget allocation of \$250,000.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Notes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan as contained in Attachment A to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Reconciliation Committee held on 4 September 2024.
 2. Notes that further updates will be provided to the Reconciliation Committee as design development of the Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan progresses.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment The status, attributes and character of our green spaces and Park Lands are protected and strengthened.
Policy	The draft Master Plan responds to the City of Adelaide’s draft City Plan and is a key project in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025 and draft Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036.
Consultation	Consultation is occurring in two phases using the inform, consult, and involve levels of engagement. Phase 1 is complete and informed the development of the draft Master Plan. Phase 2 will seek feedback on the draft Master Plan from 2 September to 7 October 2024. Staging options for the Master Plan will be explored with the community through the consultation period.
Resource	The draft Master Plan provides recommendations to guide future public realm investment according to community and Council priorities.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Consideration for current electrical infrastructure upgrades, existing artwork and the ongoing programming of community events within the Square has informed the program and development of design and planning principles. The staged approach to the Master Plan seeks to manage financial sustainability for the City of Adelaide.
Opportunities	The draft Master Plan will provide a vision and framework to enhance Light Square / Wauwi and guide future investment. The draft Master Plan is seeking to address a broad range of matters from Kaurua culture, history, art, culture, greening, events and activation. The Master Plan provides an opportunity to implement sustainable, renewable and green systems, infrastructure, practices and materials in our projects.
24/25 Budget Allocation	The 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget includes \$250,000 capital budget allocation for detailed design and costing of priority elements of the draft Master Plan. Delivery will be subject to prioritisation by Council through future Annual Business Plan and Budget processes.
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Future costs to implement the Master Plan will be identified through detailed design and be listed within the schedule of new and significant upgrades for implementation from 2025/26, subject to Council decision through budget deliberations. The Master Plan and subsequent detailed design will provide Council with the opportunity to seek capital funding from external sources including the State and Federal Government. Council may prioritise its investment in delivery of the Master Plan contingent on external party funding support, such as State or Federal Government investment.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Implementation of the Master Plan and the associated implications for the Long-term Financial Plan will be considered further through the detailed design process.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	While no direct costs are associated with the Master Plan, the enhanced/upgraded and new features will require corresponding asset and ongoing maintenance budgets. These costs are subject to future budget deliberations.
Other Funding Sources	External funding sources will be sought to implement the Master Plan.

DISCUSSION

1. The City of Adelaide has developed a Master Plan with the input of Oxigen Landscape Architects (Oxigen), and subconsultants Yellaka – Karl Telfer, for Kaurna cultural inputs and Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA), for strategic transport inputs.
2. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan (draft Master Plan) (Attachment A), endorsed by Council on 13 August 2024 for the purposes of public consultation.
3. The draft Master Plan (Attachment A) presents two options for a pedestrian-centred, safe, activated, inclusive and greener Square and feedback is being sought on the preferred option through public consultation.
4. Targeted stakeholder and community engagement is occurring in two phases as part of the development of the Master Plan.
 - 4.1. Phase 1 is complete and involved meetings and on-site visits with key stakeholders from February 2024 to May 2024, and a Your Say Adelaide survey open from 18 March 2024 to 15 April 2-24, to inform development of the draft Master Plan. This included a site visit on 22 March 2024 with members of the Reconciliation Committee and the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC).
 - 4.2. Phase 2 is currently underway and is an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Master Plan from 2 September to 7 October 2024.
5. Following public consultation, the final Master Plan will be presented to the Council for decision at its meeting in March 2025. If endorsed, the next stage of the Master Plan will be detailed design and costing of priority elements with a 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget Allocation of \$250,000.

Draft Master Plan

6. The draft Master Plan is based on three themes:
 - 6.1. Theme 1 – Greener – to increase green space and tree canopy for cooling, biodiversity and amenity.
 - 6.2. Theme 2 – Safer – to increase the attractiveness of the Square as a destination and place of wellbeing and provide more space for active transport and other uses while reducing traffic impact.
 - 6.3. Theme 3 – Inclusive – to reflect diverse cultures, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and create an accessible space for residents, students, businesses and visitors.
7. To achieve these themes, two options are presented as follows:

Option	Key Changes	Metrics
1	Bold transformation of the road network by relocating north-south traffic to eastern side of the Square to create a more pedestrian centred, safe, activated, inclusive and greener Square	4,096m ² (22%) reduction in hardstand 9% increase in green space 30% increase in tree canopy 14% increase in space for biodiversity 35% increase in open lawns for open activity spaces
2	Expansion of the central open space through removal of two vehicle slip lanes	2,895m ² (15%) reduction in hardstand 4% increase in green space 25% increase in tree canopy 13% increase in space for biodiversity 20% increase in open lawns for open activity spaces

8. The draft Master Plan’s themes and principles are addressed through the following 11 strategies:
 - 8.1. Greening: Direction on increasing green space, tree canopy, water sensitive urban design, diverse native species gardens and succession management of existing trees.

- 8.2. Resilience and Climate Change: Direction on providing cool spaces in summer and low emissions and circular economy material and products.
- 8.3. Pedestrian Movement: Direction on improving safer access around and through the Square.
- 8.4. Vehicle Movement: Direction on shifting from a vehicle dominated space to more useable open and green space.
- 8.5. Lighting: Direction on improving lighting for safety and site character.
- 8.6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture: Direction on cultural aims and outcomes.
- 8.7. National Heritage Values: Notes the colonial lens that has shaped the current Square and consideration of recommendations of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout Draft National Heritage Management Plan.
- 8.8. Access and Inclusion: Direction on universal access and improving safety for increased use.
- 8.9. Events and Programming: Direction on creating an attractive destination for events and cultural programs.
- 8.10. Public Art: Direction on inclusive approach to public art including Aboriginal public art and temporary artworks and performances.
- 8.11. Technology and Innovation: Direction on technologies to enhance visitor experience and understanding of the space.

Master Plan Staging

9. The draft Master Plan provides recommendations to guide future public realm investment according to community, stakeholder and the City of Adelaide's priorities.
10. General project staging for implementation of a master plan includes a planning, design and delivery stage.
11. The draft Master Plan is a concept, and its implementation is unfunded and subject to future annual business plan and budget processes.
12. The design stage will commence in 2024/25 and continue in 2025/26. To inform the design stage a Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan working group will be established to provide input on the subject areas of art, climate change, culture, access, greening, inclusion and infrastructure.

Next Steps

13. Public consultation on the draft Master Plan is open from 2 September to 7 October 2024.
14. Staging options for delivering the Master Plan will be explored with the community through the consultation period.
15. Following public consultation, the final Master Plan will be presented to the Council for decision at its meeting in March 2025.
16. The next stage of the Master Plan will be to commence detailed design and costing of priority elements with a 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget allocation of \$250,000.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Light Square / Wauwi Master Plan for public consultation