

North Adelaide Public Golf Course Redevelopment - Consultation under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1998 (SA)*

Wednesday, 3 December 2025
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Program Contact:
Sarah Gilmour, Associate
Director Park Lands, Policy &
Sustainability

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the State Government's engagement under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)* (the Act) relating to the North Adelaide Public Golf Course redevelopment and to advise that the Minister has granted authorisations under sections 21 and 23 to allow excavation, removal, relocation and management of Aboriginal Heritage materials where necessary to facilitate the North Adelaide Golf Course project, subject to 31 conditions (**Attachment A**).

On 3 July 2025, the State Government initiated consultation under the Act regarding the proposed redevelopment of the North Adelaide Public Golf Course.

As the redevelopment will involve ground-disturbing works, the applicant sought Ministerial authorisations under sections 21 and 23 of the Act. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Kyam Maher MLC consulted with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal stakeholders to inform his decision.

The consultation opened on 3 July 2025 and was originally scheduled to conclude on 31 July 2025.

At its meeting held on 22 July 2025, the Council decided to request a five week extension to the consultation until 4 September 2025 ([Link 1](#)) to ensure appropriate and meaningful consultation with Aboriginal People.

The Council was concerned about the time frame and level of information provided by the State Government for the consultation and authorised the Lord Mayor to write to the State Government requesting an extension ([Link 2](#)).

Administration separately made a submission ([Link 3](#)) to the consultation on 24 July 2025 that expressed concerns about the consultation timeframes and advised of a study undertaken by the City of Adelaide in collaboration with Heritage SA to investigate the potential for subsurface deposits in the Adelaide Park Lands ([Link 4](#)).

On 5 September 2025, the Reconciliation Committee endorsed a submission out of session to the consultation ([Link 5](#)).

On 17 October 2025, the Minister provided a response to the Reconciliation Committee's submission to the consultation. The Minister has granted conditional approval under the Act (**Attachment A**) to permit the excavation, removal, relocation, and management of Aboriginal heritage materials where necessary to facilitate the North Adelaide Golf Course project, subject to 31 conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Notes that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Kyam Maher MLC, has granted authorisations under section 21 and section 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 (SA)* as contained in Attachment A to Item 6.7 on the Agenda for the Reconciliation Committee held on 3 December 2025, in relation to the State Government's proposal to redevelop the North Adelaide Public Golf Course to provide conditional approval for ground disturbing works.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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| City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan | Strategic Alignment – Our Environment <i>The status, attributes and character of our green spaces and the Park Lands are protected and strengthened</i> |
| Policy | Not as a result of this report |
| Consultation | The State Government consulted on the proposal from 3 July 2025 and provided an extension to the City of Adelaide to make a submission by 4 September 2025. |
| Resource | Not as a result of this report |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative | As the North Adelaide Public Golf Course redevelopment involves ground-disturbing works, the applicant sought Ministerial authorisations under sections 21 and 23 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> (SA). |
| Opportunities | Not as a result of this report |
| 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 | Not as a result of this report |
| 25/26 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 |

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DISCUSSION

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the State Government's engagement under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) (the Act) relating to the North Adelaide Public Golf Course redevelopment and to advise that the Minister has granted authorisations under sections 21 and 23 to allow excavation, removal, relocation and management of Aboriginal Heritage materials where necessary to facilitate the North Adelaide Golf Course project, subject to 31 conditions (**Attachment A**).

Background

2. On 3 July 2025, the State Government initiated consultation under the Act regarding the proposed redevelopment of the North Adelaide Public Golf Course.
3. This followed the gazettal of the *North Adelaide Public Golf Course Act 2025* (SA), which confirmed the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) applies to the site.
4. As the redevelopment will involve ground-disturbing works, the applicant sought Ministerial authorisations under sections 21 and 23 of the Act.
5. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Kyam Maher MLC consulted with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal stakeholders to inform his decision.
6. The consultation opened on 3 July 2025 and was originally scheduled to conclude on 31 July 2025.
7. At its meeting held on 22 July 2025 Council resolved to request a five week extension to the consultation until 4 September 2025 ([Link 1](#)) to ensure appropriate and meaningful consultation with Aboriginal People. Accordingly, the Lord Mayor wrote to the State Government requesting an extension ([Link 2](#)).
8. Council identified the following key issues in relation to the consultation:
 - 8.1. The absence of a concept plan for the Application Area within the consultation materials, which would indicate the location and type of proposed construction.
 - 8.2. The need for Administration to prepare a submission and seek an extension to allow adequate consideration of the potential impacts.
9. Administration separately made a submission to the consultation on 24 July 2025 that expressed concerns about the consultation timeframes and that the Reconciliation Committee had not been afforded a specific opportunity to be briefed ([Link 3](#)).
10. The submission advised of a study undertaken by the City of Adelaide in collaboration with Heritage SA to investigate the potential for subsurface deposits in the Adelaide Park Lands.
 11. The study was an implementation project under the National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout that was funded and delivered by the City of Adelaide in 2024/25 and shared with the Reconciliation Committee on 7 May 2025 for awareness and information ([Link 4](#)).
 12. The State Government's Consultation Information Pack was updated on 30 July 2025 to include a summary of a cultural heritage assessment undertaken in 2023 by Neale Draper and Associates.
 13. This assessment, attributed as an unpublished report prepared for the City of Adelaide, was developed in consultation with Kaurna representatives and pertains to part of the Application Area.
14. Reconciliation Committee endorsement of a submission to the consultation was sought out of session to meet the extended deadline and was finalised and forwarded on 5 September 2025 ([Link 5](#)), reaffirming the Committee's commitment to supporting processes that protect and uphold Aboriginal cultural heritage.
15. The submission also conveyed the Committee's intention to continue working collaboratively with the State Government, seeking outcomes that are respectful, informed, and culturally appropriate.
16. On 17 October 2025, the Minister wrote to the Committee Chairs regarding the State Government's application for authorisations under sections 21 and 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) for the North Adelaide Golf Course Redevelopment (**Attachment A**).
17. The Minister advised that Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) had undertaken consultation on the application, including public notices, direct engagement with Aboriginal parties, and seeking advice from the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee.
18. After considering the feedback received, along with other relevant materials and advice, the Minister granted the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) authorisations for a period of ten years to undertake works that may uncover, disturb, or impact Aboriginal heritage.

19. The Minister acknowledged the area's deep cultural and historical significance for Kaurna People, particularly the Pirltarwardli site (6628-503), as culturally and spiritually important both before and after colonisation.
20. In approving the authorisations, the Minister imposed 31 conditions, including requirements to:
 - 20.1. Establish a *Protected Area* over the Pirltarwardli site, with only limited maintenance and safety works permitted.
 - 20.2. Consult and engage regularly with the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) and key Kaurna Traditional Custodians.
 - 20.3. Develop a *Cultural Heritage Management Plan* in collaboration with KYAC and AAR prior to any ground-disturbing works.
 - 20.4. Offer KYAC opportunities to participate in heritage surveys, provide cultural awareness training, and engage heritage monitors.
 - 20.5. Ensure heritage management oversight by qualified archaeologists.
 - 20.6. Provide regular consultation logs, annual progress reports, and compliance with AAR's Aboriginal Sites and Remains Protocols.
21. The full list of conditions is provided in **Attachment A**.
22. The Minister emphasised DPC's obligations under the *Burial and Cremation Act 2013* (SA) and encouraged continued engagement with KYAC to protect heritage and explore employment opportunities within the project.

Next Steps

23. Administration will continue to update the Reconciliation Committee as information is shared by the State Government on progress with the redevelopment of the North Adelaide Public Golf Course.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Council Agenda – Tuesday, 22 July 2025 - MoN - Aboriginal Heritage Consultation](#)

Link 2 – [Lord Mayor Letter to Hon Kyam Maher MLC - North Adelaide Golf Course Redevelopment – 25 July 2025](#)

Link 3 – [City of Adelaide Submission - Aboriginal Heritage Act - North Adelaide Golf Course Redevelopment - 24 July 2025](#)

Link 4 – [Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout National Heritage Management Plan, Archaeological Assessment](#)

Link 5 – [City of Adelaide – Reconciliation Committee Submission- Aboriginal Heritage Act - North Adelaide Golf Course Redevelopment - September 2025](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – State Government authorisation under sections 21 and 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) for the North Adelaide Golf Course Redevelopment