

Updated Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kurna Yarta Protocol

Wednesday, 25 February 2026
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the updated Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kurna Yarta Protocol (the updated Protocol) (**Attachment A**) for approval following feedback from the Reconciliation Committee on 3 December 2025.

In December 2025 the Committee asked for a statement that acknowledges the enduring presence, culture and governance of the Kurna People prior to the establishment of Native Title. Accordingly, the Protocol has been amended to include:

- A Kurna History section highlighting the enduring connection Kurna people have to Country. This includes references to generations of care for Country, ongoing relationship with Country and the addition of an image depicting the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri from 1850.
- A new map of the Kurna Native Title determination area to improve readability and user friendliness.
- An illustration which details the distinction between Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country.
- Updated decision tree graphic on when a Welcome or Acknowledgement of Country is appropriate, to reflect graphic design of the updated Protocol.
- A QR code that references the City of Adelaide's public website and provides resources (resources pack) to support implementation of the updated Protocol.

Per discussions at the Reconciliation Committee meeting in December 2025 the updated Protocol has been graphically designed, the website content has been updated ([Link 1](#)), and a supporting resources pack (**Attachment B**) has been developed to assist Administration with consistent and culturally respectful application of the updated Protocol.

This report seeks endorsement of the updated Protocol document for use across the organisation. Pending the Reconciliation Committee's advice, the updated Protocol will progress to Council for decision on 10 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves the Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kurna Yarta Protocol as contained in **Attachment A** to Item 6.2 on the Agenda for the Reconciliation Committee held on 25 February 2026, to replace the Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol adopted by Council on 26 June 2012.
2. Notes the associated resources as contained in **Attachment B** to Item 6.2 on the Agenda for the Reconciliation Committee held on 25 February 2026, to support implementation of the Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kurna Yarta Protocol.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to make minor typographical, technical and other amendments to the document as contained in Attachment A to Item 6.2 on the Agenda for the Reconciliation Committee held on 25 February 2026.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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| City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan | Strategic Alignment – Our Community An inclusive, equitable and welcoming community where people feel a sense of belonging. |
| Policy | This report proposes to replace the Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol adopted by Council on 26 June 2012 (Link 2) with an updated Protocol (Attachment A). The proposal aligns with the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 – 2027, as follows: 8.1 Increase employee understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols. 8.2 Review and communicate a cultural protocol document (tailored for all local communities we operate in), including protocols for Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country. |
| Consultation | The updated Protocol was discussed at the Reconciliation Committee meeting on 3 December, with advice provided to inform its further development. |
| Resource | Not as a result of this report |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative | Not as a result of this report |
| Opportunities | Not as a result of this report |
| 25/26 Budget Allocation | Budget allocation of \$30,000 from the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 – 2027 implementation budget. |
| Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation | Not as a result of this report |
| Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset | The updated Protocol will be reviewed in four years. |
| 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 |

DISCUSSION

Purpose

1. This report presents the updated Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kurna Yarta Protocol (the updated Protocol) (**Attachment A**) for approval following feedback from the Reconciliation Committee on 3 December 2025.
2. The Committee provided the following advice to inform the Protocol's further development:
 - 2.1. Include a Kurna history statement that acknowledges and reflects the enduring presence, culture and governance of Kurna People prior to the establishment of Native Title, recognising their continuous connection to Kurna Yarta.
 - 2.2. Develop supporting resources and guidance materials to assist Administration, Council Members and the public on the consistent and culturally respectful application of the Protocol.
 - 2.3. Table the updated Protocol and associated resources at the 25 February 2026 Reconciliation Committee meeting for endorsement and subsequent presentation to Council on 10 March 2026.

Key amendments to the updated Protocol

3. Key amendments to the protocol since it was last considered by the Reconciliation Committee on 3 December 2025, include:
 - 3.1. A Kurna History section highlighting the enduring connection Kurna people have to Country. This includes references to generations of care for Country, ongoing relationship with Country and the addition of an image depicting the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri from 1850 (refer to page 3 of the updated Protocol).
 - 3.2. A new map of the Kurna Native Title determination area to improve readability and user friendliness (refer to page 5 of the updated Protocol).
 - 3.3. An illustration which details the distinction between Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (Page 11).
 - 3.4. Updated decision tree graphic on when a Welcome or Acknowledgement of Country is appropriate, to reflect graphic design of the updated Protocol (refer to page 13 of the updated Protocol).
 - 3.5. A QR code that references the City of Adelaide's public website and provides resources (resources pack) to support implementation of the updated Protocol (refer to page 18 of the updated Protocol).
4. The updated Protocol has been graphically designed by We Create Print Deliver, the designers responsible for developing the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2024–2027 artwork.
5. The design of the Protocol draws directly from this artwork, ensuring visual alignment with the City of Adelaide's broader reconciliation branding and reinforcing a consistent identity across reconciliation-related documents and materials.

Supporting materials

6. Supporting materials and information sources have been updated to reflect the updated Protocol, as follows:
 - 6.1. Updates to the visual presentation of the City of Adelaide's website to align with the graphic design and branding of the updated Protocol, ensuring consistency across digital and print materials.
 - 6.2. Revisions to the language and structure of the City of Adelaide's website content to improve clarity, accessibility and cultural appropriateness.
 - 6.3. Updates to the Acknowledgement of Country content, including the inclusion of a Kurna language Acknowledgement, developed to support respectful and accurate use.
 - 6.4. The inclusion of links to the updated Protocol and supporting resources, while retaining access to the previous Protocol for reference and transparency.

Resources pack includes

7. A comprehensive resources pack (**Attachment B**) has been developed to support Administration and stakeholders in the consistent and culturally respectful implementation of the updated Protocol. The pack includes:
 - 7.1. The graphically designed updated Protocol document, available in print, reflecting the artwork and branding of the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2027.

- 7.2. An email signature template, with a link on the City of Adelaide website to the resource, to enable Administration to include an Acknowledgement of Country in their digital communications.
- 7.3. A double-sided Acknowledgement of Country “A-frame” card, designed for display in City of Adelaide offices, meeting spaces, and public areas to reinforce the recognition of the Kaurna People as Traditional Custodians of Kaurna Yarta.
- 7.4. A personalisation postcard, allowing Administration to engage with the Protocol in a meaningful and accessible way, supporting awareness and understanding of cultural protocols.

Communications

8. To support the implementation of the updated Protocol and ensure clear, consistent messaging across the organisation and the broader community, comprehensive communications plans have been developed.
 - 8.1. Internal communications plan: An internal communications plan has been prepared to guide how the updated Protocol and supporting resources are introduced and promoted to Administration and Council Members. This plan outlines key messaging, timing, and channels including ENews, The Next Edition and SharePoint.
 - 8.2. External communications plan: An external communications plan has been prepared to inform the community, stakeholders, and partner organisations of the updated Protocol. This plan ensures that the City of Adelaide communicates its commitment to reconciliation and its respect for Kaurna People in a consistent and culturally appropriate manner, using its website and social media platforms.

Training

9. As discussed at the December 2025 Reconciliation Committee meeting, training will be offered to Council Members to support them in delivering an Acknowledgement of Country, including how to personalise the Acknowledgement and how to deliver it in the Kaurna language.
10. Administration will be supported to personalise Acknowledgements through a training video available on the intranet.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [City of Adelaide – Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kaurna Yarta Website](#)

Link 2 – [City of Adelaide – Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Guideline](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kaurna Yarta Protocol 2026

Attachment B – Acknowledgement and Welcome to Kaurna Yarta Protocol 2026 – Resources Pack

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