

Kadaltilla

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

Tentative List Submission for World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes – Progress Report

**Thursday, 26 February 2026
Board Meeting**

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Public

Purpose

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

The remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government are to:

- Review, amend and approve the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history by Traditional Owners within the proposed Bid area.
- Document the process taken with First Nations communities applying the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles and seek support to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Traditional Owners whose lands may one day form part of the World Heritage property.

Since the last progress report, the Administration has:

- Continued working with SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owner groups, including a third workshop on 17 February 2026.
- Finalised World Heritage Bid research sufficient for Tentative List Submission and developed a proposed Bid Boundary.
- Met with State and Federal Government Agencies regarding the Tentative List submission.
- Continued preliminary engagements with other stakeholders in preparation for the Tentative List submission and future stages.

Additional background to these tasks was provided to the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla) on 22 May 2025 ([Link 2](#)), 28 August 2025 ([Link 3](#)) and 18 September 2025 ([Link 4](#)) and 27 November 2025 ([Link 5](#)).

A summary of FPIC was provided to the Kadaltilla at its meeting held on 27 March 2025 ([Link 6](#)).

Recommendation

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report as contained in Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 26 February 2026.
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Implications

<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036</p> <p>Priority: UNESCO World Heritage Bid</p> <p>Recognised as one of the most complete examples of nineteenth-century colonial planning, achieving UNESCO World Heritage status for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout would bring international recognition and attention to our region, be a source of local, state and national pride, and boost optimism and investment.</p> <p>Strategy 3.21 Progress World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.</p>
<p>2023-2028 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan</p> <p>Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value</p> <p>Objective 1.4 Champion the development of a World Heritage listing nomination.</p> <p>Initiative 1.4 Regularly review World Heritage listing submission progress.</p> <p>Measure of Success 1.4 State Government support for World Heritage listing submission by 2026.</p>
<p>City of Adelaide Strategies</p>	<p>Achieving World Heritage listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout aligns with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Kadaltilla Strategic Plan 2023-2028, the Heritage Strategy 2021-2036 and the Adelaide Park Lands National Heritage Management Plan. It progresses commitments in the City of Adelaide’s Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>The City of Adelaide has been working with the State Government, other local governments, the Federal Government and Kadaltilla for several years.</p> <p>Following a Council decision on 12 March 2024, the City of Adelaide elected to lead and fund the preparation of a Tentative List Submission.</p> <p>Work has substantially progressed on Aboriginal engagement and FPIC processes with the support of SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and participation by Traditional Owners.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>The World Heritage listing process is contingent on South Australian Government endorsement, Traditional Owner consent through the FPIC process, and ongoing funding by the City of Adelaide and/or other combined Bid stakeholders. In the circumstance that Traditional Owners do not consent, a Tentative Listing Submission will not be accepted by the Australian Government (or UNESCO) for consideration.</p>
<p>Design</p>	<p>The World Heritage Listing supports the principles of good design, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context – Good design is contextual because it responds to the surrounding environment and contributes to the existing quality and future character of a place. Value – Good design adds value by creating desirable places that promote community and local investment and enhance social and cultural value. <p>The National Heritage Management Plan (NHMP) for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout includes a policy of pursuing World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout as a place of outstanding universal value.</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities created through World Heritage Listing are expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes. Global understanding of ‘systematic colonisation’ and Australia’s First Nations peoples. Global profile and international-level economic development, including cultural tourism business and international investment attraction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a shared narrative about First Nations culture and history that aligns with colonial settlement. • Greater levels of protection for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout, and its rural settlements, guided by 'sympathetic development'.
City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	<p>City of Adelaide's 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and Budget adopted on 24 June 2025 includes a strategic project allocation of \$178,000 for the combined World Heritage project which includes a small consultancy budget and recruitment of a World Heritage Project Officer(s) dedicated to managing engagement with Traditional Owners and the finalisation of the Tentative List submission.</p> <p>Administration has prepared a budget submission for 2026/27 to progress the next stage of the World Heritage project, which will be subject to the progress and approval of the Tentative Bid List Submission.</p>
Capital Infrastructure Projects	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	<p>The former Mount Lofty Ranges Consortium retains approximately \$60,000 in a fund set up by the Consortium to contribute towards the ongoing development of the World Heritage Bid. This funding is being retained by the Adelaide Hills Council. Administration has written to the Adelaide Hills Council and former members of the Consortium requesting the funds be transferred to the City of Adelaide to progress elements of the World Heritage bid which is in progress.</p> <p>In August 2025, the City of Adelaide was successful in securing a grant of \$167,710 under the Federal Government's First Nations Heritage Grants Program Round 2 for a project to update the National Heritage Values of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout to include Kaurna heritage values. Once complete, this work will inform the World Heritage Bid (post Tentative List Submission) and strengthen National heritage protections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.</p>

Discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Tentative List Submission for the World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes (Tentative List Submission).
2. The remaining tasks required prior to submission to the State Government are to:
 - 2.1. Review, amend and approve the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history by Traditional Owners within the proposed Bid area.
 - 2.2. Document the process taken with First Nations communities applying the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles and seek support to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Traditional Owners whose lands may one day form part of the World Heritage property.

Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement

3. Administration is continuing to work with SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owner groups, including a third workshop on 17 February 2026:
 - 3.1. Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.2. First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee #2 / Mid Murray Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.3. Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.4. Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.5. Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.6. Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.7. River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.
4. Administration has progressed key commitments made with First Nations communities including the engagement of a consultant, to:
 - 4.1. Assist in developing an FPIC strategy and governance framework for the Tentative List Submission.
 - 4.2. Draft the First Nations narrative for the Tentative List Submission.
5. Administration has engaged the national Indigenous-owned and led advisory and consulting company, *Indigenous 2 Indigenous* (i2i) to assist Traditional Owners to identify the Consent process for their respective community for the World Heritage project.
6. The Tentative List submission is being prepared in 2025/26 and was targeting submission to the Federal Government in early 2026.
7. The timeframe is now aiming to coincide with the end of the 2025/26 financial year to support Traditional Owner engagement and Consent processes.

Tentative List Submission Research

8. Since the last update, the intern research project has been substantially completed and reviewed. The research verified that no substantial colonial sites had been overlooked and that initial assumptions were correct.
9. The specific period for the World Heritage Bid has been confirmed as 1829 to 1857, relating to the formulation of South Australia's Radical Philosopher roots in England and concluding when South Australia was granted representative self-government.
10. Consequently, the boundary for the Tentative List Submission, which is intended to contain only the highest integrity and most authentic elements of the Systematic Colonisation scheme, has been confirmed.
 - 10.1. The boundary includes representative samples of the three types of colonial survey:
 - 10.1.1. Town Acres and Harbour: Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout National Heritage Place, and Port Adelaide State Heritage Area and their interconnection (Port Road).
 - 10.1.2. Rural Sections: McLaren Vale Character Preservation Area marginally enlarged to the east to include Hahndorf State Heritage Area.
 - 10.1.3. Regional Special Surveys: Barossa Valley Character Preservation Area marginally enlarged west to include Gawler/Church Hill State Heritage Area.

- 10.2. Additionally, three areas demonstrating specific elements of the implementation of the scheme are included for further investigation into their thematic relevance, namely:
 - 10.2.1. Glenelg/Holdfast Bay, early surveyed township and including sites such the 'Old Gum Tree'.
 - 10.2.2. An area historically known as the North West Bend, incorporating Morgan and neighbouring Nor'West Bend Station, as well as the early colonial outpost/contact site known as Moorundie which is believed to also include the wreck of one of the colonial survey vessels.
 - 10.2.3. Burra Mines State Heritage Area, relating to the most successful mineral exploration site of the period.
- 10.3. A plan of these areas is available on City of Adelaide's bid website ([Link 1](#)) and is available to be incorporated into the Tentative List Submission.

State and Federal Government

11. At its meeting on 18 September 2025, in response to queries from Kadaltilla Board Members, an undertaking was given that following the announcement of the new Minister for Climate, Environment and Water of South Australia (the Minister), the Administration proactively engage with the Minister in relation to the Tentative List Submission for World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes.
 - 11.1. The Presiding Member wrote, providing background on the World Heritage project and State Government support, and inviting Minister Hood to meet and discuss the project in correspondence dated 29 September 2025. At the time of Agenda publication, a response had not been received.
 - 11.2. Once State Government support is reconfirmed, correspondence will be sent to the Federal Government providing an update on the Tentative List Submission and FPIC processes.
12. Administration has met with representatives of the National and World Heritage Section of the Federal Government Department for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss their priorities for Australia's World Heritage List and the relative timeframes for future stages.
13. Administration met with Heritage SA, to provide an update on the World Heritage Bid project. Heritage SA has offered to assist in reviewing and advising on the Tentative List Submission drafts as they are developed.

Stakeholder Engagement

14. Administration has continued preliminary engagements with other stakeholders in preparation for the Tentative List submission and future stages, including preparation of a draft stakeholder analysis and engagement plan.
15. Administration has held meetings with heritage advocates, tourism industry advocates, and tourism managers from a range of aligned councils, and completed targeted site visits to interpretive centres to benchmark and align the City of Adelaide's current interpretation of the settlement/World Heritage story.
16. Preliminary engagement indicates:
 - 16.1. Potential for South Australia to position itself with a mature and balanced narrative around colonisation and Traditional Owner stories and culture as part of the World Heritage project in time for the Bicentenary in 2036.
 - 16.2. Collective support for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout to be highlighted as central to South Australia's colonial cultural landscape.
 - 16.3. Potential future opportunities to align the World Heritage project with South Australia's Regional Destination Plans and experiences associated with wine, food, tourism, arts, culture and events.
17. Administration will now focus marketing and engagement within City of Adelaide boundaries to fully identify opportunities and specific outcomes for the City of Adelaide LGA, its residents and those who do business here.

Aligned Activity

18. Administration attended the 2025 Australia ICOMOS Conference in Ballarat from 17-19 November 2025, because its themes of 'Battlefronts' and 'Un-Settling' are pertinent to the combined World Heritage Bid.
19. The conference reflected on the lived experiences of First Nations peoples and the significant role that current heritage projects need to play in advancing reconciliation and truth-telling.
20. At this conference, the substantial opportunities for Adelaide to host a future Australia ICOMOS conference, to highlight the three South Australian Bids, namely *Australian Cornish Mining Sites: Burra and Moonta, Flinders Ranges*, and *Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes* were discussed.

Next Steps

21. Next steps for the project are summarised as follows:
 - 21.1. Administration is continuing to work with SANTS to progress key commitments made with First Nations communities as part of Consent processes.
22. Future steps for the World Heritage Bid project include:
 - 22.1. Initiating economic research concerning the World Heritage Bid and the benefits for South Australia.
 - 22.2. Submitting the Tentative List Submission to the South Australian Government, for on-submission to the Australian Government.

Data and Supporting Information

Link 1 – [World Heritage Bid webpage](#)

Link 2 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 22 May 2025](#)

Link 3 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 28 August 2025](#) (adjourned from 17 July 2025)

Link 4 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 18 September 2025](#)

Link 5 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 27 November 2025](#)

Link 6 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 27 March 2025](#)

Attachments

Nil

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