

Cricket Net Relocation – Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12)

Tuesday, 7 April 2026
City Community Services and Culture Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Program Contact:
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Public

Approving Officer:
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Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek the support of Council for the relocation of existing turf wicket cricket training nets in Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12), within the Licence Area.

The project will enable the Lessee, Adelaide University, to establish a new oval and make greater use of the playing fields by its sports clubs and the broader community, including Adelaide Botanic High School students, who utilise this park for physical education.

The cricket training nets will be relocated to a site previously used for lawn tennis, which has not been utilised for this purpose since 2010. The relocation will also facilitate the replacement of the existing chain wire mesh fencing with a combination of post-and-rail fencing and new black chain wire mesh fencing around the training nets only.

The current training nets area will be returned to open Park Lands use, enabling unrestricted access when not in use by the Lessee.

This matter was considered by Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority on Thursday 26 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 14 April 2026 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL
THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves the relocation of the existing cricket nets within Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12) as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 April 2026, subject to:
 - 1.1. The proposed post and rail fencing replaced with bollards as per the City of Adelaide design suite.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community Enable community-led services which increase wellbeing, social connections and participation in active lifestyles, leisure, recreation and sport.
Policy	<u>Community Land Management Plan</u> A12.4 – Purpose for which the land is held: 'Providing sporting fields and rowing sheds, and activities in accordance with the relevant lease / licence over the land.'
Consultation	Adelaide University sports clubs and the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) informed the location and design of the redeveloped cricket nets in Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12).
Resource	This project will be managed by Adelaide University.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	This project will require Development Approval and a City Works Permit.
Opportunities	The relocation of the existing cricket nets will facilitate increased programming of the playing fields in Park 12 and improve community access to Park Lands by removing existing boundary fencing.
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	The assets associated with this project will be owned by the Lessee, Adelaide University, for the life of the Lease, which ends on 30 June 2055.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	As per the Lease Agreement, all ongoing maintenance and renewal costs will be borne by the Lessee.
Other Funding Sources	Adelaide University will fund the entire project.

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The Adelaide University (AU) has a 42-year lease (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2055) for facilities in Bullrush Park / Warnpangga (Park 10) and Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12), including a lease for the community buildings and a licence for the playing fields, which are maintained by the AU.
2. The playing fields in Park 12 include AFL and cricket ovals, a soccer pitch and two sets of cricket training nets (southern and central), as shown in **Attachment A**.
3. The southern cricket nets are hard-wicket (concrete base with synthetic turf on top) training facilities and are to be retained in situ.
4. The central cricket nets are turf-wicket training facilities and are proposed to be relocated by AU to the south-western corner of their licensed area. The relocation of these facilities will allow for the existing soccer pitch in Park 12 to be converted to an AFL/cricket oval. This would facilitate AFL and cricket programming across three playing fields in Park 12, with soccer training and matches consolidated into Park 10.
5. The relocation of the central cricket nets will enable increased use of the playing fields in Park 12 by AU's sports clubs and the broader community, including Adelaide Botanic High School students, who utilise Park 12 for physical education.

Site Context

6. The proposed relocation site is within AU's licensed area in Park 12 and includes an area formerly used for lawn tennis. The lawn tennis courts have not been used since early 2010, and access is currently restricted by a 3.6-metre-high chain wire mesh fencing. Currently the AU play tennis on the lawn tennis courts in Park 10.
7. The proposed relocation site is not accessible to the public and is sporadically utilised by the AU for non-organised sporting activities i.e. warm up area for sporting teams. In recent years the AU have identified this area as an ideal location to relocate the cricket nets. The proposed location and design of the cricket nets have been discussed with Council and Cricket Australia and funding to support the project has been sourced by the AU.
8. Beyond the fenced lawn tennis area, the site is bordered by a community building (grandstand) with adjacent car parking to the north, a mature Moreton Bay Fig tree to the west, and War Memorial Drive to the south.

Facility Design

9. The proposed new turf-wicket training nets have been designed in accordance with Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines, as shown in **Attachment A**.
10. The training nets are oriented north-south, with the turf wickets located at the northern end. This ensures the turf wickets are away from existing trees, providing optimal growing and maintenance conditions.
11. The training nets will comprise black chain wire mesh fencing that is 3.6 metres high on the western, northern and eastern sides, 4.5 metres high on the southern boundary, and black netting placed over the top. The training nets are 36m wide and 42m long.
12. When in use, retractable fencing on the western and eastern sides will extend to the southern boundary, to ensure cricket balls remain within the enclosure.
13. The existing tennis court fencing will be removed and replaced with low post-and-rail fencing to the west of the new training nets.
14. The area to the west will be an open lawn area, with seating positioned to utilise shade from the Moreton Bay Fig tree.
15. AU originally proposed that both the turf wicket and hard wicket training nets be co-located in this southwest corner of the park. Council Administration was not supportive due to the extent of construction planned for the area adjacent to the Moreton Bay Fig tree. The hard-wicket training nets will remain in situ and accessible to the community.

Access

16. The new training nets will be utilised by AU sports clubs and sub-lessees, predominantly during the summer season. The turf wickets are not publicly accessible.

Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority

17. This matter was considered by Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority on Thursday 26 March 2026. Feedback from the Board included:
 - 17.1. Suggested replacement of the proposed post and rail fencing with bollards
 - 17.2. Consider landscaping opportunities around the new cricket net location
 - 17.3. Query around possibility of retractable fencing instead of permanent mesh fencing on the southern side of the cricket net enclosure
 - 17.4. Queried what opportunities there are for accessible footpaths and high kerbing to be implemented in the area south-west of the new cricket net location (noting this area and assets fall outside Adelaide Universities' Lease Agreement).

Next Steps

18. Subject to the endorsement of the City Community Services and Culture Committee, this proposal will be presented to Council in April 2026 for consent to progress with a Development Approval application.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Adelaide University Cricket Net Relocation Concept Plan

- END OF REPORT -