

# Consultation - 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and new Associated Motor Sport Event – South Australian Motor Sport Board

Tuesday, 2 June 2026  
City Community Services and Culture Committee

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Strategic Alignment - Our Community

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report forms part of the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB)'s consultation with the City of Adelaide for the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final (ADLGF) and another Associated Motor Sport Event, as required under Section 20 (4), *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984* (the Act) wherein the Minister may declare a specified Declared Area and Declared Period for the purposes of carrying out motor sport events. The Minister may also specify a Prescribed Works Period, during which the SAMSB may have access to the land within the Declared Area for the purpose of carrying out works for the event.

This report highlights key information relating to the two SAMSB events and notes the SAMSB's declaration includes reference to the Motorcycle Grand Prix of Australia (MotoGP) circuit redevelopment in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16), and the impacts to Key Biodiversity and Conservation Protection Zones.

The two SAMSB events for consultation under this Declaration are:

### 1. 2026 Adelaide Grand Final (ADLGF) - Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November 2026

- The proposed SAMSB Declared Area map for the 2026 event has increased by 142,920m<sup>2</sup> of Park Lands area, compared to the 2025 event. These changes are detailed in paragraph 14 of this report.
  - The SAMSB's Declared Area map includes the Butterfly Conservation Zone within the Key Biodiversity Area adjacent to the Pakapakanthi Wetlands. This is included in the 12,952m<sup>2</sup> area increase in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
  - The SAMSB's Declared Area map includes increase of 129,968m<sup>2</sup> in Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17), including areas identified as Revegetation Conservation Zones and Buffer Conservation Zones.
- The occupation of the Park Lands follows a staged approach, which begins in the central area of Park 16. The SAMSB advises that much of the Declared Area remains open and accessible for much of the Prescribed Works Period.
- The total occupation period of 159 days of the Park Lands has remained the same as in 2025.

### 2. New Associated Motor Sport Event - Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November 2026

- The SAMSB will expand 'Grand Final Week' festivities by hosting an Associated Motor Sport Event on the weekend immediately prior to the 2026 ADLGF.
- This event will be included within the same Declared Area and Prescribed Works Period, with a separate Declared Period to the 2026 ADLGF.
- Pursuant to Section 20 (1) of the Act, the specified period the Minister may declare under the Act for any event cannot exceed five days, therefore the Declared Period for the new proposed Associated Motor Sport Event will be gazetted as a separate declaration to the ADLGF.

Pursuant to Section 20 (1) of the Act, the specified period the Minister may declare under the Act for any event cannot exceed five days, therefore the Declared Period for the proposed associated motor sport event will be gazetted as a separate declaration.

The consultation period concludes 15 June 2026.

SAMSB consulted with Kadalitta on 27 May 2026 and a verbal update on their advice will be provided to the Tuesday, 2 June 2026 City Community Services and Culture Committee meeting.

Feedback is being sought on the Declared Area, Declared Period for both events and Prescribed Works Period and in the context of the impact on the Park Lands, City residents, visitors and economy.

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## RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 June 2026 for consideration

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

1. Notes the Declaration of the proposed Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the purpose of conducting the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport event as contained in this report.
2. Notes the Declared Area for the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final as shown in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026.
3. Notes the Declared Area for the 2026 Associated Motor Sport Event as shown in Attachment B to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026.
4. Notes that the South Australian Motor Sport Board advises that the increase in the Declared Area for the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final includes Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17) for event car parking facilities, as the existing area used along Fullarton Road will be unavailable due to 2027 Motorcycle Grand Prix of Australia (MotoGP) circuit redevelopment in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
5. Authorises the Lord Mayor to write to the South Australian Motor Sport Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Motor Sport Board on behalf of Council with its feedback to the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport event consultation as follows:
  - 5.1. Seeks advice on what measurable ecological thresholds or triggers the Government is monitoring in relation to motorsport activities in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
  - 5.2. Seeks the provision of independent, publicly released pre- and post-event ecological monitoring, including cumulative impact reporting over multiple years particularly in relation to the Grey Box Grassy Woodland threatened ecological community and associated biodiversity values.
  - 5.3. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board remove the area identified as the Butterfly Conservation Zone from the Declared Area from any proposed motor sport activity in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
  - 5.4. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board remove areas identified as Revegetation Conservation Zones and Buffer Conservation Zones from any proposed motor sport activity in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) and the removal of Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17).
  - 5.5. Seeks advice on the role of independent ecological experts and Traditional Owners in determining acceptable use of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi for motor sport purposes.
  - 5.6. Seeks from the South Australian Motor Sport Board, advice on an evidence-based limit on the number, duration or scale of motor sport events that Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) can sustainably accommodate each year in relation to its status as a Key Biodiversity Area.
  - 5.7. Noting the expansion of the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final, Council seeks a briefing before 15 June 2026 from the South Australian Motor Sport Board on the proposed impacts, including environmental, of the 2027 Motorcycle Grand Prix of Australia (MotoGP) on the National Heritage Listed Adelaide Park Lands.
  - 5.8. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board advise on how obligations contained within the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy, Management Agreements, Deeds of Agreement, Master Plan and biodiversity management plans are being monitored and enforced during event planning, the staging of the event,

bump-in and bump-out, and remediation.

- 5.9. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board provides an environmental rehabilitation bond, bank guarantee or equivalent financial assurance, sufficient to cover the independent assessment, monitoring, restoration and rehabilitation of any biodiversity, habitat or natural capital impacts arising from the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport event, with the amount to be determined by an independent ecological assessment.
  - 5.10. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board confirm increased public access to the bikeways and pathways and further access considerations and advice for members of the public, during the Prescribed Works Period 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport Event.
  - 5.11. Requests the South Australian Motor Sport Board ensure the use of or the reinstatement of permeable pathways throughout the Declared Area for the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport Event.
  - 5.12. Request that the South Australian Motor Sport Board works with City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Economic Development Agency to support the visitor economy by promoting visitation to the City, with particular focus on Black Friday, 27 November 2026.
  - 5.13. Request that the South Australian Motor Sport Board facilitates improvements to public transport into and out of the City during periods of road closure for the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and Associated Motor Sport Event.
  6. Approves the South Australian Motor Sport Board request for the permanent removal of the central toilet block adjacent to the Criterium Track in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) as part their planned infrastructure works under the proposed 2026 Adelaide Grand Final Prescribed Works Period, on the condition that the South Australian Motor Sport Board provide Council the necessary funding for a new toilet block to be built in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
  7. Notes that, consistent with *Adelaide Park Lands Act* Section 9 (g) and the consultation provisions of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984*, all feedback received by Council from the community, will be directed to the South Australian Motor Sport Board and the relevant Minister during the consultation period.
  8. Notes that consistent with South Australia's biodiversity policy objectives, Australia's commitment to protect and restore biodiversity under the 30 by 30 framework, and the established Significant Environmental Benefit principle applied elsewhere in environmental regulation, major events within or adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas should be required to demonstrate a measurable net positive biodiversity outcome and avoid any cumulative decline in ecological condition over time.
  9. Notes Kadaltilla met on 27 May 2026 as part of the required consultation and will provide feedback to the State Government.
  10. Approves, in addition to the legislative consultation requirements of the South Australian Motor Sport Board, the City of Adelaide facilitate and support a representative Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group, to bring together a diverse range of community perspectives and articulate key community concerns and views on the impacts of motor sport events in the Adelaide Park Lands to the South Australian Motor Sport Board and the State Government.
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## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<a href="#">Strategic Alignment – Our Economy</a> Adelaide’s unique experience and opportunities attract visitors to our City
Policy	The Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) states that the <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984</i> provides broad powers to enable the staging of motor sport events. The CLMP notes that ‘Restrictions on public use and movement may be subject to restrictions imposed by the <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984</i> and associated motor sport events as well as other major events’. The CLMPs for Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17), King Rodney Park / Ityamai itpina (Park 15) and Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) are also policy considerations under this declaration.
Consultation	Under Section 20 (4) (c) of the <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984</i> there is a legislative obligation for the Minister, through the SAMSB, to consult with Kadaltilla and Council regarding the Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the event. SAMSB consulted with Kadaltilla on 27 May 2026 and verbal advice will be provided at this meeting. The SAMSB consultation period concludes 15 June 2026.
Resource	This activity will be facilitated within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Pursuant to powers provided under Section 20 (1) of the Act, the Minister may declare a Declared Area, Declared Period and Prescribed Works Period for the purpose of conducting the various events each year. <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i> <i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i> <i>South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984</i> <i>Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005</i>
Opportunities	The event attracts many visitors to the City, in alignment with priorities within the City of Adelaide’s Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028. Administration continues to work with the SAMSB to identify opportunities including greening (short term and long term) within the Declared Area for the benefit of the event, spectators and general Park Lands visitors.
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 Declarations referred to in this report are in reference to the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final and associated motorsport event, with the end of the Prescribed Works Period proposed to be 7 February 2027.
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

### Background

1. The 2026 Adelaide Grand Final (ADLGF) will be staged by the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) pursuant to powers provided under the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984* (the Act). Under Section 20 (1) of the Act, the Minister may declare:
  - 1.1. A specified area (consisting of public road or Park Land or both) in Adelaide, to be a Declared Area under the Act for the purposes of running the event; and
  - 1.2. A specified period (not exceeding five days) to be a Declared Period under this Act for the purposes of the event; and
  - 1.3. A specified period or periods (Prescribed Works Period) under the Act during which the SAMSB may have access to land within a Declared Area for the purposes of carrying out works in the manner contemplated by Section 22 (1a) (and different periods may be specified in respect of different categories of work).
2. Under Section 23 of the Act, the SAMSB must also take all reasonable steps to consult with and take into account representations of persons affected by their operations, including:
  - 2.1. any relevant council or any person having a right of occupation of land within a declared area; or
  - 2.2. any person occupying land immediately adjacent to a declared area; or
  - 2.3. any other person whose business or financial interests might, in the opinion of the Board, be adversely affected by the operations of the Board;
3. On behalf of the Minister responsible for the Act, the Chief Executive SAMSB wrote to the Lord Mayor on 4 May 2026. The Letter [\[Link 1\]](#) outlines the declarations for the two events and was addressed to the Lord Mayor in their capacity as Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide and as the Presiding Member for Kadaltilla.
4. On 20 May 2026 the CoA Administration received subsequent information from SAMSB including a revised map **Attachment A** showing an increase in the Declared Area for the 2026 ADLGF event within Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
5. The consultation is for two proposed motor sport events in 2026: the 2026 ADLGF (Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November 2026) and the new Associated Motor Sport Event (Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November 2026).
6. Pursuant to Section 20 (1) of the Act, the specified Declared Period the Minister may declare under the Act for any event cannot exceed five days, therefore the Declared Period for the proposed new Associated Motor Sport Event will be gazetted as a separate declaration to the ADLGF.
7. Based on the current wording of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984*, there does not appear to be a statutory cap on the number of annual motor sport events. The legislation does not specify:
  - 7.1. a maximum number of events per year,
  - 7.2. a cumulative maximum occupation period, or
  - 7.3. a cap on how often declarations can be made.
8. Historically, the Act included a limit of 'two motor sport events per financial year'. That wording existed in earlier versions of Section 20. However, amendments made in 2022 removed that restriction from the current Act.

## Event 1: 2026 Adelaide Grand Final

9. The Declared Period covers the event days as well as the day immediately prior to the event. The event dates for 2026 ADLGF are from 26 to 29 November 2026, therefore the Declared Period is from 25 to 29 November 2026 (five days).
10. The event dates for the 2026 ADLGF are at the same time as in 2025, again coinciding with Black Friday trading in the City.
11. The 2026 ADLGF Declared Area in **Attachment A** shows the boundary in red. This does not represent a physical fence line, but a boundary of potential occupation for undertaking the event.
  - 11.1. The occupation of the Park Lands takes a staged approach, commencing in a central section of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) and progressing through the build process.
12. SAMSBS advise that areas of the Park Lands within the Declared Areas are left open and accessible for large periods of time during the Prescribed Works Period.
13. The Prescribed Works Period is proposed to commence on Wednesday 2 September 2026 and conclude on Sunday 7 February 2027. The Prescribed Works Period is a total of 159 days, the same as 2025.

### Noted Changes for 2026

14. The table following illustrates the changes to the size of the 2026 ADLGF Declared Area (increase of 142,920m<sup>2</sup>) and duration of the Prescribed Works Period.
  - 14.1. 129,968m<sup>2</sup> area increase in Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17), including areas identified as Revegetation Conservation Zones and Buffer Conservation Zones
  - 14.2. 12,952m<sup>2</sup> area increase in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) including the Butterfly Conservation Zone.

Table 1 – Comparison Table

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Size of the Declared Area (within the Park Lands)</b>	Approximately 705,000m <sup>2</sup>	Approximately 703,000m <sup>2</sup>	Approximately 766,000m <sup>2</sup>	Approximately 754,537m <sup>2</sup>	Approximately 897,457m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Duration of the Prescribed Works Period</b>	196 days (First year of the event's return)	154 days (28 August 2023-28 January 2024)	161 days (19 August 2024-26 January 2025)	159 days (3 September 2025-8 February 2026)	159 days (2 September 2026 -7 February 2027)
<b>Addition of Declared Areas (within the Park Lands)</b>	-	Within Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)	Within Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)  Within Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)	Beaumont Road and associated carparking	Within Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17) Within Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16)
<b>Reduction of Declared Areas (within the Park Lands)</b>	-	Within Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16) - Southern end	Within Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) (the Quentin Kenihan Inclusive Playspace)	Within the northwest area of Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)	Beaumont Road (North) and associated carparking

15. The SAMSBS has advised that the increased 2026 ADLGF Declared Area is in part to enable works along Fullarton Road associated with the 2027 Motorcycle Grand Prix of Australia (MotoGP), which have not been specified.
16. The consultation letter the Chief Executive SAMSBS wrote to the Lord Mayor on 4 May 2026 [\[Link 1\]](#), includes reference to the 2027 Motorcycle Grand Prix of Australia (MotoGP).

- 16.1. In reference to the 'Declaration of the Declared Area', the letter includes reference to the following change to the 2026 Declared Area: "*Inclusion of Park 17 for event car parking facilities as the existing area used along Fullarton Road will be unavailable due to MotoGP circuit redevelopment*".
17. Administration notes that the extent of the civil works for MotoGP in Park 16, and any other Park Land in the Declared Area, has not yet been provided to Council or Kadaltilla.

#### **Event 2- 2026 Associated Motor Sport Event**

18. In 2026, the SAMSB is also presenting a new Associated Motor Sport Event to be held in King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) and Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14).
19. This is intended to expand 'Grand Final Week' festivities by hosting an Associated Motor Sport Event on the weekend immediately prior to the 2026 ADLGF, across three days from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November 2026. This event will be included within the same Declared Area and Prescribed Works Period, with a separate Declared Period to the 2026 ADLGF.
20. The Declared Period covers the event days as well as the day immediately prior to the events. The event dates for the new Associated Motor Sport Event are from 20 to 22 November 2026, therefore the Declared Period is from 19 to 22 November 2026 (four days).
21. The Declared Area for the new Associated Motor Sport Event, to be held in Park 14 and Park 15, is shown in **Attachment B**. This does not represent a physical fence line but a boundary of potential occupation for undertaking the event.
22. The Declared Area for the events in 2026 incorporates:
  - 22.1. The new Associated Motor Sport Event, to be held in Park 14 and Park 15.
  - 22.2. Continued exclusion of the Quentin Kenihan Inclusive Playspace from the Declared Area, allowing it to remain open to the public.
  - 22.3. Addition of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) area including in the Butterfly Conservation Zone.
  - 22.4. Addition of Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17). It is understood use of this area is for the facilitation of car parking for the weekend of the ADLGF event but the detail of this is to be confirmed
  - 22.5. Removal of Beaumont Road (North) and associated carparking, and incorporation of Beaumont Road (South) compared to the 2025 event declarations.

#### **SAMSB Consultation and Other User Impacts:**

23. Other users that the SAMSB must take into account in relation to Section 23 of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984* (outlined in paragraph three of this report) include:
  - 23.1. Residents and local businesses that are impacted through proximity to the Declared Area and event activities. SAMSB in the delivery of their events can impact residents and local businesses with noise, road closure, parking restrictions, and access to the Park Lands.
  - 23.2. Section 23 (3) of the Act requires the SAMSB to consult with 'any person occupying land immediately adjacent to a declared area', or 'any other person whose business or financial interests might, in the opinion of the Board, be adversely affected by the operations of the Board'.
  - 23.3. The events will also impact commercial businesses, CoA lease and licence holders, and community users of the Eastern Park Lands.
  - 23.4. Criterium Track and Cycling Events users
    - 23.4.1. The Criterium Track is a purpose built offroad cycling facility and the only one of its kind servicing metropolitan Adelaide. Criterium racing is traditionally held in the summer months, on weeknights, taking advantage of daylight saving.
    - 23.4.2. This event will have an impact on the ability of cycling organisations to hold a full criterium season with the track not being available for over three weeks (including the 2026 ADLGF and associated motor sport event dates).
    - 23.4.3. The SAMSB have advised they will meet with AusCycling before the Prescribed Works Period commences, to set timeframes for use of the Criterium Track pre and post event. Where possible the SAMSB will accommodate use of the Criterium Track for night racing up until it is determined by SAMSB that it is no longer safe to do so.
  - 23.5. Community use of the skate park and 3-on-3 basketball courts in Park 15.
  - 23.6. Community use of the Glover East Playground.

- 23.7. Use of the three playing fields and cricket nets in Park 15 used for school and community sport, including post-event impacts due to playing surface remediation requirements.
- 23.8. Community use of the disc golf facility in Park 15.
- 23.9. Existing commercial lessees of the Victoria Park Grandstand, Victoria Park Social Club and Kiosk Lola, with trading encumbrances on the lessees, if they choose to be involved in the event.
- 23.10. Seasonal hire users of the playing fields in Park 16 and Park 17. Park 17 has not previously been included in the Declared Area and impacted licensees should be fully consulted.
- 23.11. Parkrun, a free community running event held every Saturday morning in Park 16.
- 23.12. A number of events proposed to be held in the Park Lands.
- 23.13. Significant number of visitors and casual users who recreate in Park 16 every day.
- 24. CoA Administration recommends that the SAMSB write to all these operators to ensure they are well informed of the planned impacts and respective dates, with details on who to contact with any questions.
- 25. It is recommended that, in addition to the legislative consultation requirements of the SAMSB, the City of Adelaide establish, facilitate and support a representative Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group. The purpose of the Reference Group would be to bring together a diverse range of community perspectives and articulate key community concerns, enabling Council to proactively present informed community views to the SAMSB and the State Government.

#### **Additional Issues Arising from the Consultation:**

##### **A. Native Vegetation Area and Native Grass Restoration Site**

- 26. The impacted Park Lands include one of the most significant biodiversity areas within the Adelaide Park Lands, containing remnant woodland ecosystems that once covered much of the Adelaide Plains.
- 27. The southern section of Park 16 is recognised as Key Biodiversity Area 1 (KBA1) in the CoA Biodiversity Survey Summary Report (Summary Report) ([Link 2](#)), supporting native grasslands, wetlands, butterfly habitat and environmentally sensitive conservation zones that provide important ecological connectivity for native plants and wildlife within an increasingly urbanised city.
- 28. Findings in the Summary Report demonstrate the success of ongoing revegetation and habitat restoration efforts, with increased species diversity, expanded habitat distribution and the return of native fauna through wetland creation and ecological management.
- 29. The Summary Report ([Link 2](#)) notes that the endangered ecosystem Grey Box Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-Eastern Australia, and 11 plant species of conservation significance were identified in KBA1 including:
  - 29.1. Mount Lofty Speedwell (Endangered) *Veronica derwentiana* ssp. *Homalodonta*
  - 29.2. Wavy Marshwort (Rare) *Nymphoides crenata*
  - 29.3. Swollen Spear-grass (Rare) *Austrostipa gibbosa*
  - 29.4. Native Sorrell (food for the Chequered Copper Butterfly caterpillar) *Oxalis perennans*
- 30. The Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands is a threatened ecological community listed under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It represents a distinctive woodland and grassland ecosystem once widespread across southeastern Australia, now severely fragmented by agriculture and urban development.
- 31. In 2011, the CoA entered into a Deed with the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 205 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* to protect Grey Box Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands occurring in Park 16 (KBA1). The Deed requires Council to protect and improve the native vegetation in the designated area.
  - 31.1. Clause 5.1.4 of the management agreement obliges Council to make third parties aware of the agreement; specifically, Council must: *“Take all reasonable measures to make any third party using the facilities adjacent to the Native Vegetation Site aware of the requirements of this Deed and the requirements of the approved management plan”.*
- 32. There is a Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi Remnant Vegetation Management Plan (2018) in place between the City of Adelaide and the Minister for Environment and Conservation and that both parties consider the vegetation at the site to be within the definition of the endangered ecosystem listed under the EPBC Act.

33. In consideration of the obligations to comply with the Federal EPBC Act or make notifications, the Act requires that the Minister responsible for the SAMSB and the 2026 ADLGF and Associated Motor Sport Event, to make a self-referral under the EPBC Act in relation to this significant area and event and taken steps to prepare an environmental impact assessment and heritage impact assessment.
34. The information provided by the SAMSB does not indicate whether the responsible Minister has made a self-referral under the Federal EPBC Act associated with the listed threatened ecological community for assessment of whether the proposal constitutes a controlled action.
35. The SAMSB's 2026 ADLGF Declared Area map (**Attachment A**) shows the location of the Native Vegetation Management Area, enclosed by a low-lying fence which restricts vehicle access, but does not limit large scale people movement and potential pedestrian damage.
36. Predicted impacts on the site due to pedestrians from the 2026 ADLGF will require additional site protection. It is recommended that this protection be at the cost of the SAMSB.
37. A Native Grass Restoration Site exists immediately south of the Native Vegetation Management Area. The location of this area is also shown in the area map [[Link 3](#)].
38. It should be noted that the 2026 ADLGF Declared Area within Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17) also contains areas defined as Revegetation Conservation Zones and Buffer Conservation Zones through the CoA Biodiversity Survey [[Link 4](#)]. The *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984* may authorise occupation and control of land for an event, but it does not necessarily extinguish independent environmental or heritage obligations arising under other laws.
39. The Act contains specific override powers that can displace normal protections and controls applying under the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* during declared motor sport events. Repeated and expanded use that effectively permanently alters the Park Lands may exceed that purpose.
40. Consistent with South Australia's biodiversity policy objectives, Australia's commitment to protect and restore biodiversity under the 30 by 30 framework, and the established Significant Environmental Benefit principle applied elsewhere in environmental regulation, major events like the 2026 ADLGF and new Associated Motor Sports Event within or adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas should be required to demonstrate a measurable net positive biodiversity outcome and avoid any cumulative decline in ecological condition over time.
41. The long-term success of major events within the Adelaide Park Lands depends not only on statutory approvals but also on maintaining community trust and social licence. Recent controversies relating to environmental impacts within the Park Lands demonstrate that decisions affecting biodiversity and cultural values are subject to heightened public scrutiny. Accordingly, environmental safeguards should be designed to demonstrate that biodiversity outcomes are independently verified, transparently reported and demonstrably improved over time.

### **B. Butterfly Conservation Zone**

42. [Link 4](#) shows the Butterfly Conservation Zone, which is within the Key Biodiversity Area adjacent to the Pakapakanthi Wetlands.
43. The Chequered Copper Butterfly *Lucia limbaria* and its caterpillar food plants were found in Park 16 in 2011.
44. This butterfly species is considered rare and of biological significance by butterfly experts and ecologists.
45. The extent of the primary habitat for the Chequered Copper Butterfly has been mapped and is shown in [[Link 3](#)].
46. The CoA continues to manage the conservation of this rare butterfly colony and its caterpillar food sources, in this Key Biodiversity Area.
47. Since the discovery of the butterfly in Park 16, CoA has communicated its concerns to the SAMSB in relation to the motor sport event's impacts on the butterfly conservation zone. The impact of heavy vehicle movements and potential damage from pedestrians if southern sections of Park 16 and 17 are used for car parking is a particular and ongoing CoA concern. It is recommended that additional protection be at the cost of the SAMSB.

### **C. National Heritage Listing**

48. The Adelaide Park Lands are National Heritage listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.
49. Park 16 is especially sensitive to cumulative impacts because it is within the National Heritage boundary and parts contain remnant ecological values.

50. Under the *EPBC Act*, actions likely to have a significant impact on National Heritage values may require referral and Commonwealth approval.

#### **D. Remediation**

51. Section 22 of the Act states that the SAMSB must comply with reasonable conditions determined by a relevant council or any person having a right of occupation of the land or any part of the land, and these conditions may:
- 51.1. Section 22 (3 a) limit or prevent any unnecessary or reasonably avoidable interference with or damage to the land or anything growing on or built on the land
  - 51.2. Section 22 (3 e) without limiting a preceding paragraph, that provide for the management, protection or rehabilitation of land (including land outside the declared area that may be affected by the Board's activities).
52. Assessment and remediation of the infrastructure and turf areas impacted by the 2026 ADLGF and associated motor sport event will occur in a staged approach as infrastructure is removed. The SAMSB covers annual costs associated with required remediation.
53. Land Management activities in Parks 16 and 17 includes Cultural burning. This activity is closely aligned with the City of Adelaide's strategic commitments outlined in the Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027, the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 and the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030.

#### **E. Master Plan for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)**

54. The CoA has managed the Park Lands, including Park 16, since 1852 on behalf of the people of Adelaide and the state of South Australia. Over the last 174 years, the CoA has made a significant financial contribution to the care and management of the Park Lands, including the Eastern Park Lands.
55. On 9 July 2024, Council endorsed the Park 16 Master Plan.
56. On 23 September 2025, Council noted the advice of Kadaltilla from the meeting of the Board held on 18 September 2025, in relation to Park 16 Master Plan Implementation Projects.
57. A key consideration within the Master Plan for Park 16 is exploring opportunities for short term and long-term greening in the northern section of the park, which falls within the Declared Area.
58. New trees were planted in Park 16 following the 2024 motor sport event and will continue to be planned in line with the agreed Park 16 Master Plan Implementation Projects.

#### **F. SAMSB Request Removal of Toilet Block**

59. Subsequent to the formal consultation letter from the Chief Executive, the SAMSB has informally requested the removal of the central toilet block adjacent to the Criterion Track in Park 16 as part their planned infrastructure work under the Prescribed Works Period.
60. Any such request would need to be considered for decision by Council.
61. This is a decision for Council and would need funding from external sources, as the building is not considered in the current CoA four-year Asset Management Plan.

#### **G. Public Path Access Restrictions**

62. SAMSB advises that to maintain public access to the Park Lands for as long as possible, the event uses a staged build methodology, which leaves the erection of fencing and particularly the closing of sections, as late as possible.
63. SAMSB advises that the two east-west footpaths through Park 16 between Fullarton Road and Halifax Street will remain open for as long as possible during the Prescribed Works Period.
- 63.1. To facilitate the safe and timely delivery of the 2026 ADLGF, there will be a requirement to periodically close one of these paths.
  - 63.2. The SAMSB notes that at least one path will be open at all times except for the seven days prior to the Declared Period and seven days post the Declared Period. There will be additional short closures during high-risk construction works.
64. The SAMSB will develop an event signage plan that informs users of the Park Lands of access changes, path closure times and dates as well as alternative access routes. This will be complemented by planned website notifications, advising the public what will be inaccessible and for what period.

## H. Road Closures

65. Historically, there are a number of road closures associated with the ADLGF and there will be impacts to road users who travel east-west through or into the City. Detours are put in place during this time and are monitored to ensure efficiency. Impacts to travel times will be expected during peak times as conditions change.
66. The duration and nature of the road closures are noted as being similar to the 2025 event.

## I. Economic Impact

67. The Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA) provides the SAMSB with multiyear funding for the ADLGF through the Events and Festivals Sponsorship Program of \$30,000 per year across a three-year agreement, through 2025-2027.
  - 67.1. Funding is intended to support and enhance the 'Grand Final Parade' element of the event. The 'Grand Final Parade' features Supercar drivers travelling through city streets under police escort before arriving at Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga for a driver signing session, which is free for the public to attend.
68. In May 2026 the State Government reported that the 2025 event's economic benefit exceeded \$100 million. The methodology behind this calculation is unknown, as is the specific economic benefit for the City and North Adelaide.
69. In 2026 the ADLGF will again coincide with Black Friday trading in the City, as it has done in 2023 and 2025. AEDA reported in its 2025 Quarter 2 Report that the 2025 Black Friday sales saw city-wide expenditure stable across the weekend compared to the 2024 Black Friday weekend although retail expenditure city-wide was down 3.5%.
70. The 2025 Black Friday foot traffic numbers were impacted by the 18.8mm of torrential rain that fell in Adelaide. Trading on the Saturday was up 19% on 2024 and up 6% on 2023 (the last time Black Friday weekend coincided with the Adelaide Grand Final car race).

## Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority

71. Kadaltilla met on 27 May 2026 to consider the declarations as part of the consultation, and an update will be provided to the Committee by the Presiding Member.

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## DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Link 1** – Letter from Chief Executive, SA Motor Sport, Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the Lord Mayor

**Link 2** – City of Adelaide Biodiversity Survey Summary Report 2024

**Link 3** – Map of the 2026 Adelaide Grand Final changes to the Declared Area and the Park Lands Protection Areas following update provided by SAMSB on 20 May 2026

**Link 4** – City of Adelaide Key Biodiversity Area 1 Map

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## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A** – Map of the Proposed 2026 Declared Area – Adelaide Grand Final

**Attachment B** – Map of the Proposed 2026 Declared Area – Associated Motor Sport Event

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- END OF REPORT -