

Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group

Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

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Public

Approving Officer:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval of the draft Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group (CRG) Terms of Reference (ToR) as contained in **Attachment A**.

This report and the draft ToR respond to a decision of Council on 9 June 2026 which approved for the City of Adelaide to facilitate and support a representative Eastern Park Lands CRG, 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.

This report provides an update on this decision and a draft ToR for the proposed Eastern Park Lands CRG for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves the Terms of Reference for the Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group, as contained in Attachment A to Item 12.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 28 July 2026.
 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make any necessary typographical or syntactical amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	An Eastern Park Lands CRG will 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 City of Adelaide, South Australian Motor Sport Board and the State Government.
26/27 Budget Allocation	Funding has not been provided within the 2026/27 Business Plan and Budget to support the administration of the Eastern Park Lands CRG. The budget will be determined through a Council approved procurement process which will commence on approval of the ToR.
Proposed 27/28 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
26/27 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Once the budget is refined through the procurement process, Administration will determine whether this can be prioritised within the 2026/27 budget or if a Q1 budget review and request is required.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. The Eastern Park Lands are central to Adelaide's identity as a major festival city, accommodating longstanding events and festivals that attract local, national and international audiences and make a significant contribution to the city's cultural life and visitor economy.
2. Given their proximity to the East End district, the Eastern Park Lands also play an important role in supporting surrounding businesses, hosting events and festivals, and reinforcing Adelaide's identity as the 'City in a Park'.
3. The City of Adelaide is a strong supporter of events and recognises their significant cultural, social and economic value, with 185 major events held in the City's Park Lands and roads in 2025/26.
4. The Eastern Park Lands remain a public civic space with a finite carrying capacity, currently hosting up to 15 major events each year, including the bp Adelaide Grand Final. As such, there are competing interests to be balanced, particularly where recurring events affect local amenity, access, environmental outcomes, cultural identity and perceptions of fairness in the allocation and use of public space. Maintaining community confidence and social licence requires careful consideration of the needs of residents, businesses, event organisers and other city users.
5. Tensions arise where the governance and use of the Eastern Park Lands are not balanced with commensurate consideration of community interests, particularly in relation to access to, control over and benefit from public space during major events.
6. City of Adelaide (CoA) residents have raised significant concerns regarding the staging of motorsport events within the CBD and Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi, particularly in relation to:
 - 6.1. Extended closures of public Park Lands and public roads
 - 6.2. Environmental impacts
 - 6.3. Perceived shortcomings in community consultation and engagement.
7. At the Council meeting on 9 June 2026, Council resolved the following:
 - 7.1. *'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'.*
8. Council has directed Administration to undertake this consultation, notwithstanding the requirement under Section 23 (3) of the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984* for the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSBB) 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'.
9. A representative Eastern Park Lands CRG would bring together stakeholders who fairly represent the issues and interests across the breadth of the community to generate balanced input into the management of the Eastern Park Lands.
10. The Eastern Park Lands CRG can be an effective conduit for community insight, enabling more equitable, transparent, and well-informed decision-making.

Draft Terms of Reference

11. The Draft Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group Terms of Reference is contained in **Attachment A** for approval.

Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group Membership

12. The CRG is intended to represent a broad range of community interests and views specific to the Eastern Park Lands and roads. For this CRG, the 'Eastern Park Lands' are defined as:
 - 12.1. Rundle Park / Kadlitpina
 - 12.2. Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka
 - 12.3. King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina
 - 12.4. Victoria Park / Pakakakanthi
 - 12.5. Carriageway Park / Tuthangga

- 12.6. Any other Park Land declared for use by a motorsport event under the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984*.
13. Proposed members for the Eastern Park Lands CRG are yet to be confirmed. In the selection of members, CoA will seek to incorporate a diverse range of perspectives, with the intention of selecting members from a range of sectors including:
 - 13.1. Residents
 - 13.2. Businesses
 - 13.3. Environmental sector
 - 13.4. Events
 - 13.5. Established precinct and/or resident groups
 - 13.6. Representation from surrounding Councils
 - 13.7. First Nations representation.
14. It is proposed that the group have a maximum of 12 -15 members.
15. The CRG will be chaired by a representative invited by the CoA.
16. This group will be facilitated by the CoA through an experienced and skilled community engagement facilitator.

Next Steps

17. Administration will commence a procurement process to engage a community engagement facilitator and seek nominations for a group of 12-15 representatives for initial meetings in late August/September.
18. Advice from the group will be sought on any upcoming motorsport event declarations and operational activity in the Eastern Park Lands and provided to Council in Committee Reports.
19. Any additional reporting to Council will be provided through E-news updates.
20. After a 12-month period, Administration will present a report to Council which will review the impact of the group in supporting community feedback to major events.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group Terms of Reference

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