

Cor Infinitus Returned and Services League of Australia SA Branch - Memorial Proposal

**Thursday, 27 August 2026
Board Meeting**

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Public

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a proposal from the Returned and Services League of Australia - SA Branch (RSL) to establish a memorial and support space within Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12) that provides an opportunity for conversations around mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention.

The proposal includes the installation of a small seating area, minor landscape treatment and low-scale memorial integrated within the existing Adelaide Park Lands setting. The space is intended to provide a quiet, accessible outdoor space to support returned service personnel and their families.

The RSL has committed to fully fund and project manage the project, with the City of Adelaide providing in-kind design input, oversight, site coordination and necessary approvals.

Administration has reviewed the proposal against its Memorials Operating Guidelines and completed internal consultation with relevant City of Adelaide teams. Based on the assessment, it is recommended that the proposal is supported as the memorial:

- Provides a place of reflection and community gathering in the Adelaide Park Lands.
- Is highly valued by a particular community and generally supported by the broader community.
- Is proposed to be constructed of high-quality materials with low maintenance considerations and integrated within the landscape.
- Aligns with the Memorials Operating Guidelines, Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036, and the Adelaide Park Lands Community Land Management Plan.

Recommendation

THAT THE KADALTILLA / ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY ADVISES COUNCIL:

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Endorses the proposal from the Returned and Services League of Australia for the establishment of a Veteran's support and reflection space within Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12), as contained in Attachment A to Item 5.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 27 August 2026.
2. Notes the Returned and Services League of Australia has committed to fully fund and project manage the project, with the City of Adelaide providing in-kind design input, oversight, site coordination and necessary approvals.

Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036 Supports Strategy 1.1 by providing a small-scale, community-focused space that enables social connection and reflection within the Adelaide Park Lands.
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Cultural Value 1.3 Supports recognition and appropriate activation of the Adelaide Park Lands. Management and Protection 3.2 Supports external funding contributions to deliver Park Lands outcomes. Expert Advice 4.1 Consistent with Kadaltilla's advisory role on projects within the Adelaide Park Lands.
City of Adelaide Strategies	The proposal is consistent with the City of Adelaide's Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030 under Goal 4: People are resilient: We will strengthen people's ability to respond to challenges, support each other during difficult times and build long-term resilience.
Policy	The proposal is consistent with the City of Adelaide's approach to the inclusion of commemorative elements within the Adelaide Park Lands assessed pursuant to the City of Adelaide's Memorials Operating Guidelines. The proposal is consistent with the Adelaide Park Lands Community Land Management Plan. Annexure 12 for Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12) includes in its purpose for which the land is held: <i>'Providing for informal recreation, trail, ornamental gardens and memorial gardens.'</i>
Consultation	Consultation has occurred with the RSL, and the City of Adelaide's internal Adelaide Park Lands Advisory Group. The proposed project site is within 100 metres of the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari. The Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) will be invited to review design development.
Resource	The project will be supported within existing resources. The RSL has advised it will fund and deliver the project, with City of Adelaide providing in-kind support and approvals.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The site is within the banks of the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari and excavations will be limited in depth to reduce the likelihood of cultural heritage impacts.
Design	The proposal will be guided by the Principles of Good Design, ensuring the outcome is contextually appropriate, inclusive, durable and consistent with the heritage values of the Adelaide Park Lands.
Opportunities	The proposal provides an opportunity to support veterans, emergency service personnel and their families, while contributing to the social and community function of the Adelaide Park Lands.
City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	No funding is requested from the City of Adelaide. In-kind support will be provided for design input, site coordination and approvals.
Capital Infrastructure Projects	Project to be funded and delivered by RSL. Assets will be transferred to the City of Adelaide for ongoing management following completion and managed under the Urban Elements Asset Management Plan.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Project completion is anticipated in 2027. Asset life expectancy is consistent with Adelaide Park Lands memorial infrastructure (20+ years).

Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	The City of Adelaide will maintain the site in line with asset management practices. The design precedents do not contain any elements requiring specialist care.
Other Funding Sources	The project is to be funded by the RSL.

Discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a proposal from the Returned and Services League of Australia - SA Branch (RSL) to establish a memorial and support space within Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12).

Context

2. Cor Infinitus LTD is a registered charity that delivers a national program facilitating the establishment of memorials dedicated to those that served Australia and have taken their own life.
3. The objectives of Cor Infinitus are to:
 - 3.1. Publicly acknowledge the loss suffered by families and loved ones of those who have taken their own life and provide them with a place of reflection, dignity and respect.
 - 3.2. Support the prevention of suicide.
 - 3.3. Support the de-stigmatisation of mental illness and suicide.
 - 3.4. Placement of memorials through Australia.
4. Memorials do not represent any individual person, era, or circumstance. They are anonymous and owned by all families bereaved by veteran suicide.

RSL Proposal

5. The RSL propose the creation and presence of a memorial in the Adelaide Park Lands to provide an opportunity for conversations around mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention.
6. It has identified a need for an informal, non-clinical environment to support conversations and connection in near proximity to, but outside of, the formal service settings of their head office at the Torrens Parade Ground.
7. The proposal includes the installation of a small seating area, minor landscape treatment and low-scale memorial integrated within the existing Adelaide Park Lands setting. The space is intended to provide a quiet, accessible outdoor space to support returned service personnel and their families.
8. Concept and precedent images for the proposed memorial are provided in Attachment A.
9. The RSL has indicated it will fully fund and project manage the project, with the City of Adelaide providing in-kind design input, oversight, site coordination and necessary approvals.
10. Assets are proposed to be gifted to City of Adelaide on completion for ongoing management in line with the Urban Elements Asset Management Plan.

Assessment by Administration

11. The City of Adelaide's Memorials Operating Guidelines (the Operating Guidelines) support memorials in the Adelaide Park Lands on the following basis:
 - 11.1. They provide a place of reflection and community gathering in the Adelaide Park Lands.
 - 11.2. They are highly valued by a particular community and generally supported by the broader community.
 - 11.3. Contribute to a collection of memorials reflective of a diversity of community voices.
 - 11.4. Are constructed of high-quality materials, with low maintenance considerations and are planned to be designed to be integrated within the landscape.
12. Delegation for memorials to be located on Local Government Land exist for the Chief Executive Officer and Portfolio Directors under the Permits and Penalties By-law 2024 and the Local Government Land By-law 2024.
13. Administration has assessed the proposal against the intent of the Operating Guidelines and conducted a site selection and location review to identify a space that meets the following conditions:

- 13.1. Provides for informal discussions between veterans and support services.
- 13.2. Enables quiet reflection for families and the broader community.
- 13.3. Is in proximity (short walking distance) of the RSL Headquarters located at the Torrens Parade Ground.
14. Eight locations were reviewed including five locations adjacent the Torrens Parade Ground and three locations along the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari (refer to **Attachment A**).
 - 14.1. Locations 1-3 are considered too close to the existing Royal Air Force, Vietnam War and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorials.
 - 14.2. Location 4 has been identified for another proposed major memorial.
 - 14.3. Location 5 is not considered appropriate due to the existing Dardanelles memorial which terminates the Anzac Centenary Walk visual axis.
 - 14.4. Locations 6 and 7 are considered too close to areas of high pedestrian use and community activities.
15. Based on the assessment the preferred site is Location 8 in Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12), which provides for the following site conditions:
 - 15.1. Is accessible from existing paths and parking on Victoria Drive, Kintore Avenue and the Torrens Parade Ground.
 - 15.2. Provides a level of separation from higher activity areas.
 - 15.3. Sits within an established and well-maintained passive recreation setting on the riverbank.
 - 15.4. Provides a natural vantage point over the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari for quiet contemplation.
 - 15.5. An existing pole top light at the top of the adjacent stairs provides general illumination of the area and no additional lighting is proposed.
16. The proposal is not considered a traditional memorial, but a support-focused space with a commemorative element.
17. Administration advises that should the memorial proceed, design development will require that the design is:
 - 17.1. Modest in scale.
 - 17.2. Integrated within the existing landscape.
 - 17.3. Consistent with adjacent Adelaide Park Lands character and heritage values.
 - 17.4. Consistent with Cor Infinitus memorials throughout Australia (refer precedent images in Attachment A).
 - 17.5. Include accessible seating and a memorial.
 - 17.6. Constructed in a manner to protect cultural heritage values.

Next steps

18. The following next steps are planned:
 - 18.1. Kadaltilla's advice will be provided to the Council on 8 September 2026.
 - 18.2. Pending Council decision, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Adelaide has delegation to approve arrangements for the memorial.
 - 18.3. The outcomes of the process will be communicated to the RSL.
 - 18.4. If the project is supported there will be further design development with the RSL and KYAC.
 - 18.5. The RSL is seeking installation of the memorial in 2026/27.

Attachments

Attachment A – Cor Infinitus Memorial Proposal

- END OF REPORT -