

Progress of the Tentative List Submission for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes World Heritage Bid

**Thursday, 27 August 2026
Board Meeting**

Author: Sarah Gilmour,
Associate Director Park
Lands, Policy & Sustainability

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:

- Receive Consent in line with the UNESCO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, to lodge the Tentative List Submission from the Traditional Owners whose lands may form part of the World Heritage property once listed.

A summary of FPIC was provided to the Kadaltilla at its 27 March 2025 meeting. Since the last progress report on 24 June 2025, the Administration has:

- Revised the public website with information about the World Heritage Bid and Tentative List Submission ([Link 1](#)).
- With continued support from SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and Indigenous 2 Indigenous Development Global (i2i), scheduled and/or met with Traditional Owner groups to seek consent to progress the Tentative List Submission.
- Incorporated the portions of the Tentative List Submission relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.
- Developed an updated timeline, including plans for advocacy to the Adelaide Economic Development Agency and State Government in accordance with Kadaltilla's resolution on 27 May 2026.
- Substantially progressed FPIC for the Tentative List Submission with the seven Traditional Owner groups.

Additional background and progress toward the Tentative List Submission was provided on 22 May 2025, 28 August 2025, 18 September 2025, 27 November 2025, 26 February 2026, and 24 June 2026 ([Link 2](#)).

Recommendation

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report as contained in Item 5.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 27 August 2026.

Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy - Towards 2036 Priority: UNESCO World Heritage Bid 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. Strategy 3.21 Progress World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Cultural Value Objective 1.4 Champion the development of a World Heritage listing nomination. Initiative 1.4 Regularly review World Heritage listing submission progress. Measure of Success 1.4 State Government support for World Heritage listing submission by 2026.
City of Adelaide Strategies	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.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	The City of Adelaide has been working with the State Government, other local governments, the Federal Government and Kadaltilla for several years. Following a Council decision on 12 March 2024, the City of Adelaide elected to lead and fund the preparation of a Tentative List Submission. Work has substantially progressed on Aboriginal engagement and FPIC processes with the support of SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and participation by Traditional Owners.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	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. The State Government through the Minister for Planning, copied to the Premier of South Australia, advised in correspondence dated 30 May 2026 to the Australian Garden History Society of ongoing support for the World Heritage Bid project. This correspondence was circulated to Board Members. 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.
Design	The World Heritage Listing supports the principles of good design, including: - 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. 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.
Opportunities	Opportunities created through World Heritage Listing are expected to include: - 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. • 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	Administration is working to finalise project deliverables for the Tentative List Submission process through existing resources and other funding sources (see below).
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	In July 2026, the former Mount Lofty Ranges Consortium transferred \$60,000 to the City of Adelaide, being the remaining funding from a fund set up by the Consortium to contribute to the ongoing development of the World Heritage Bid. 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. This project has commenced and is programmed for completion in 2026/27. 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.

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. Receive Consent to lodge the Tentative List Submission from five of the seven Traditional Owners whose lands may form part of the World Heritage property once listed, in line with the FPIC requirements of UNESCO.

Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement

3. Administration has continued to work with SA Native Title Services (SANTS) and Indigenous 2 Indigenous Development Global (i2i) to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owner groups, including:
 - 3.1. Kurna 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. Significant progress has been made to date. The project team had attended board meetings of five of the Traditional Owner groups, with the remaining groups' board meetings being scheduled.
5. Administration, with support of SANTS and i2i, will continue to progress discussions the Traditional Owner Groups in accordance with the FPIC Governance and Engagement Plan developed through earlier workshops with Traditional Owner groups.

Tentative List Submission

6. The Tentative List Submission document is being updated (for completion in August 2026) by World Heritage consultants Duncan Marshall AM and Dr Jane Lennon AM following research work completed in 2025/26, and to incorporate the outcomes of Traditional Owner engagement. The current draft includes:
 - 6.1. The broad range of themes that will be further evaluated and developed in the Preliminary Assessment phase of the project, and in collaboration with stakeholders and peer reviewers.
 - 6.2. Updated information relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history informed by the work undertaken in 2025/26 with Traditional Owner groups.
7. Administration has confirmed, and is collating the various attachments requested by Australia's World Heritage Branch in the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE), including:
 - 7.1. Summary of the consultation that has occurred.
 - 7.2. Signed letters of consent or evidence of support by affected persons and key stakeholders.
 - 7.3. Evidence of FPIC/support for Tentative Listing from Traditional Owners.
 - 7.4. Maps of the area being put forward for listing.
 - 7.5. Photographs of the place, which show the main elements of Outstanding Universal Value being proposed.
8. Developed an updated timeline, including plans for advocacy to the Adelaide Economic Development Agency and State Government in accordance with Kadaltilla's resolution on 27 May 2026 ([Link 3](#)).

Aligned Activity

9. Finalise the Aboriginal engagement for the Tentative List Submission, seeking consent from five of the seven remaining Traditional Owners:
 - 9.1. Noting several of the Traditional Owners do not have established governance processes the aim is to have a decision from all seven groups by the end of Quarter 1, 2026/27.

- 9.2. FPIC is contingent on agreement by all participating Traditional Owner groups and then their Consent.
- 9.3. This timeframe will continue to be monitored and revised in line with the FPIC process.
- 10. Continue to develop the marketing, communications and activation strategies and action plans for the World Heritage Bid in collaboration with stakeholders, including Adelaide Economic Development Agency, History Trust SA, Adelaide University, LGA partners, State and Federal Government and others.

Next Steps

- 11. Finalise the Aboriginal engagement for the Tentative List Submission, seeking Consent from the remaining Traditional Owners.
- 12. Seek Council endorsement to submit the finalised Tentative List Submission to the State Government.
- 13. Finalise the marketing, communications and activation strategies and action plans for the World Heritage Bid.

Data and Supporting Information

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

Link 2 – [Agenda - Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority Meeting – 24 June 2026](#)

Link 3 – [Updated Project Timeline](#)

Attachments

Nil

- END OF REPORT -