

Kaurna Welcome Artwork Scoping Study

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

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Reconciliation Committee

Program Contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Reconciliation Committee with an update on the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation project, a key commitment under the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 (SRAP). Action 10.3 commits Council to co-design with Kaurna Traditional Owners a Kaurna Welcome Art Installation at the intersection of Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace, Adelaide.

The project will create a permanent, meaningful Welcome to Kaurna Country at one of Adelaide's principal gateways to the city, strengthening the visibility of Kaurna culture within Tarntanya and demonstrating the City of Adelaide's commitment to reconciliation.

The report provides guidance on the completed scoping study (**Attachment A**), a significant project milestone that transitions the project from planning to delivery (subject to funding). The scoping study establishes a culturally informed and technically feasible approach, including a preferred location within Tampawardli / Ellis Park (Park 24) on the northern side of Sir Donald Bradman Drive, a detailed cultural governance framework, commissioning methodology, an indicative budget and an implementation strategy.

Subject to funding, the scoping study provides a strong foundation for progressing the project to delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Receives the report and notes the findings and recommendations of the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation Scoping Study as contained in Attachment A and summarised in the update presentation Attachment B to Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the Reconciliation Committee held on 9 September 2026.
2. Notes that Administration will continue to investigate funding allocations, external grant opportunities and strategic partnerships to enable the delivery of the project.
3. Notes that Administration will report back to the Reconciliation Committee once funding is confirmed to discuss delivery pathways, including any implications for project scope, staging and implementation.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community The Kaurna Welcome Art Installation action supports Our Community by championing Reconciliation, celebrating Kaurna culture, and fostering an inclusive, equitable city where everyone feels welcome and connected to country.
Policy	The project is a deliverable of CoA's SRAP 2024–2027 and supports the implementation of the Cultural Policy, particularly its Reconciliation and Truth-Telling principle, by strengthening awareness of Kaurna culture and connection to Country through public art and supporting Kaurna-led cultural initiatives. The project aligns with the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy's Goal 3: Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience and contributes to the Kadaltilla Strategic Plan pillar of Cultural Value, for Kaurna cultural recognition, heritage, and wellbeing.
Consultation	The project requires a culturally respectful co-design approach with the Kaurna community and other Aboriginal stakeholders. Ongoing consultation with internal and community stakeholders includes close engagement with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) and Kadaltilla.
Resource	The project will be delivered through collaboration across the City of Adelaide, including Reconciliation, Arts and Culture, Infrastructure Delivery, Technical Design and Asset Management, with ongoing involvement from the Project Steering Group, Kaurna representatives and key stakeholders. Delivery of future phases will be subject to confirmation of project funding.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Delivery of the project requires appropriate cultural governance, adherence to cultural protocols, stakeholder engagement, statutory approvals and coordinated project management. The commissioning process will be undertaken in accordance with the City's Public Art Operating Guidelines and Creative Australia's First Nations cultural protocols. The principal delivery risk is securing sufficient funding to realise an artwork of an appropriate civic scale commensurate with the intent of the SRAP 2024–2027 action.
Opportunities	The project presents an opportunity to commission a significant public artwork co-designed with the Kaurna community and a Kaurna artist. The year 2028 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Kaurna Native Title determination. If sufficient funding is confirmed within the next six months delivery in 2028 remains a realistic target.
26/27 Budget Allocation	Nil. A 25/26 budget allocation of \$20,000 from the Public Art Capital allocation supported this preliminary investigation, cultural consultations and delivered the scoping report.
Proposed 27/28 Budget Allocation	\$140,000 provisional allocation from Public Art Capital. An indicative project budget of \$320,000-\$520,000 has been identified, with final scope and delivery requirements to be confirmed when a project or funding partner is confirmed to supplement the Council commitment.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Permanent artwork that will be a CoA managed asset with an expected lifespan of at least 25 years.
26/27 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	Opportunities to secure funding from State and Federal government programs, philanthropic partners and other grant sources will be explored.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Context

1. On 10 December 2024, Council adopted the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2027 (SRAP) ([LINK](#)), reaffirming its commitment to advancing reconciliation through practical actions that strengthen relationships, respect and opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
 - 1.1. The SRAP commits to Action 10.3: Co-design with Kaurna Traditional Owners a Kaurna Welcome Art Installation at Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace.
 - 1.2. By delivering on this action with a public artwork, Council will create a culturally significant and highly visible Welcome to Kaurna Country at one of Adelaide and the state's principal gateways, increasing the visibility and recognition of Kaurna culture within the public realm.
 - 1.3. To support the implementation of this action, the Administration established project governance arrangements and commissioned a scoping study to inform the location, cultural process, delivery methodology and indicative project budget.

Background

2. On 17 November 2025, the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation project was presented to Panpanpalya. Early cultural advice was sought, including on the proposed approach to co-design, governance and engagement.
3. At its meeting on 3 December 2025, the Reconciliation Committee received a presentation on the project, outlining its purpose, proposed location, cultural governance, commissioning process and indicative delivery approach.
 - 3.1. The Reconciliation Committee provided advice and supported the establishment of a Project Steering Group (PSG) to provide ongoing cultural guidance and oversight.
 - 4.1.1 The PSG was established with representatives nominated by the Reconciliation Committee: Ivan Tiwu Copley, Deanne Hanchett-Nicholls, Lynette Crocker and Tim Agius.
 - 4.1.2 The Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) is represented on the PSG by Chair, Tim Agius, with Mitzi Nam appointed by KYAC as proxy.

Project Steering Group and Cultural Governance

4. The PSG ensures the project is developed in partnership with Kaurna Traditional Owners and delivered with appropriate cultural guidance using co-design principles.
 - 4.1. The PSG met in April and June 2026 to provide cultural governance and guide the project's development throughout the scoping phase.
 - 4.2. In April 2026, the PSG endorsed its Terms of Reference and provided advice on the project's location, scale, commissioning approach and cultural themes.
 - 4.3. In June 2026, the PSG participated in a co-design workshop with Aboriginal Urban Design (AUD) and City of Adelaide staff to refine the project's vision, cultural themes and curatorial direction, informing the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation Scoping Study.
5. Concurrently, Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) received project updates in May and July 2026, including emerging themes from stakeholder engagement and progress on the scoping study.

Scoping Study and Key Findings

6. Following a competitive procurement process in April 2026, Aboriginal Urban Design (AUD) ([LINK](#)) was appointed to undertake a scoping study to inform the project's location, cultural themes, commissioning approach and delivery methodology.
 - 6.1. AUD is an Aboriginal owned and operated consultancy led by Corey and Isaiah Turner (Kaurna), with Azhrudin Coulthard (Adnyamathanha and Dieri) as Principal Design Lead.
 - 6.2. Their expertise spans Aboriginal cultural consultancy, community engagement, environmental design, landscape architecture, urban design, place-based planning and public realm projects, integrating Kaurna cultural knowledge into significant civic, education, and infrastructure initiatives.
 - 6.3. AUD has delivered projects for Flinders University, local government, state government agencies and multidisciplinary design teams.
7. The scoping study was informed by:
 - 7.1. Research into the site's history, geography, cultural significance and relationship to Kaurna Yerta.

- 7.2. Engagement with Senior Kaurna representatives, Aboriginal community members and key stakeholders.
- 7.3. Co-design workshops with the PSG and City of Adelaide staff to refine the project's vision, preferred location, cultural themes, commissioning approach and delivery methodology.
8. Completed in July 2026, the scoping study (**Attachment A**) provides Council with a clear framework for delivery of the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation, ensuring cultural process, technical feasibility and long-term asset management are considered from the outset.
9. The scoping study includes:
 - 9.1. Identification of a preferred location within Tampawardli/ Ellis Park (Park 24), together with two additional locations for potential future staged or complementary commissions, subject to funding.
 - 9.2. Technical investigations, including underground services, engineering constraints, constructability, maintenance requirements, visibility from key arrival routes and a Level 1 Cultural Heritage Investigation.
 - 9.3. A cultural governance framework and recommendations for procurement, artist commissioning and collaborative co-design to guide commissioning.
 - 9.4. Indicative project budgets, staging options and implementation pathways.
 - 9.5. Relevant outcomes are Summarised in (**Attachment B**) Kaurna Welcome Art Installation – update presentation to support the discussion.

Project Delivery and Funding

10. The scoping study recommends that the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation is a meaningful and high-profile landmark at an important city gateway.
 - 10.1. The project should create a permanent civic landmark that welcomes people to Kaurna Yerta.
 - 10.2. The project should also aspire to acknowledge Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains and celebrate an enduring connection to Country.
 - 10.3. The central cultural theme for the commission is proposed as the Red Kangaroo Dreaming.
11. The scoping study demonstrates a minimum required project budget of \$320,000–\$520,000, which reflects the recommended project scope, cultural governance requirements and the scale of comparable public art commissions.
 - 11.1. The City of Adelaide invested \$20,000 to undertake the scoping study from the Public Art Capital budget in 2025/26 and has committed a further \$140,000 within the 2027/28 Public Art Capital budget to support the project subject to the annual Business Plan and Budget processes.
 - 11.2. Administration will explore funding opportunities during 2026/27 to support project delivery at the recommended scale.
 - 11.3. Subject to securing funding, Administration will seek to maintain the project's target completion in 2028.

Public Art Commissioning Process and Co-Design Approach

12. The Kaurna Welcome Art installation will be delivered in accordance with CoA Public Art Operating Guidelines ([LINK](#)) and informed by Creative Australia's Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts ([LINK](#)).
13. The scoping study represents a significant milestone for the project and provides a commissioning and engagement framework designed to support a culturally appropriate procurement process, meaningful consultation and appropriate support for commissioned artists.
14. The timeframe for delivery of a major public art commission requires 18-24 months minimum.

Next Steps

15. Following advice and guidance from Reconciliation Committee; Administration will:
 - 15.1. Present a report to Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority on the project and preferred site.
 - 15.2. Explore funding opportunities, including external grants and partnership opportunities with State and Federal Government, and philanthropic bodies.

- 15.3. Report back to the Reconciliation Committee in early 2027 on funding outcomes and propose a delivery pathway, including project scope, staging and implementation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Kaurua Welcome Artwork – Scoping Study by Aboriginal Urban Design

Attachment B – Kaurua Welcome Art Installation – Reconciliation Committee update presentation

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