

World Heritage Bid - Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Update

Wednesday, 9 September 2026
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Program Contact:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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) since the last update on 25 February 2026 ([Link 1](#)).

The World Heritage Bid aligns with the City of Adelaide's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2027 (RAP) Action 5.4: 'Investigate opportunities to embed *Kaurna cultural heritage advice within Council resourcing*'.

The key remaining task required prior to submission to the State Government, in line with the UNESCO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, is to receive consent from the Traditional Owners whose lands may form part of the World Heritage property once listed to lodge the Tentative List Submission.

Since the last progress report, the Administration has:

- Revised the public website with information about the World Heritage Bid and Tentative List Submission ([Link 2](#)).
- 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.
- Substantially progressed FPIC for the Tentative List Submission with the seven Traditional Owner groups.

Additional background to these tasks was provided to the Reconciliation Committee on 5 March 2025 ([Link 3](#)).

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 22 September 2026 for consideration

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the progress update on implementation of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent process in relation to the Tentative List Submission for the World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment <i>Achieve world heritage listing of our Park Lands, and protect their national heritage listing status and pursue State Heritage listing to strengthen protections</i>
Policy	Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027 (Stretch RAP) <i>Action 1 - Establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.</i> <i>Action 5 - Create engagement protocols that enable the representation and partnership of the Kurna People</i> Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy <i>Strategy 3.1 Recognise, promote and protect sites of Kurna cultural heritage and significance and work with Kurna people to provide education to the community about these sites.</i> <i>Strategy 3.16 Progress World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.</i> Heritage Strategy 2021-2036 and Action Plan <i>1.9 Prepare tentative bid for World Heritage List nomination</i> <i>3.1 Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support, promote and share their cultural heritage and modern stories, and recognise the Kurna people as the traditional owners.</i>
Consultation	The City of Adelaide has been working with the State Government, other local government bid partners, the Federal Government and Kadaltilla. Following a Council decision on 12 March 2024, the City of Adelaide elected to lead and fund the preparation of a Tentative List Submission. Engagement with Traditional Owners commenced in June 2025, with support from SA Native Title Services (SANTS).
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	Opportunities for reconciliation created through World Heritage listing include creating a shared narrative about Traditional Owner culture and history that aligns with colonial settlement. The FPIC process aligns with the Stretch RAP as it progresses governance and engagement protocols that enable representation and partnership with Kurna and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Other opportunities include: • Strengthening trust and inclusivity with Traditional Owners. • FPIC is a principle enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Applying FPIC will position the City of Adelaide as a leader in reconciliation and ethical governance • Utilising the World Heritage Tentative List submission as a catalyst for truth-telling and greater recognition.
26/27 Budget Allocation	Administration is working to finalise project deliverables for the Tentative List Submission process through existing resources and other funding sources (see below).
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)	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 funds 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) since the last update on 25 February 2026 ([Link 1](#)).
2. The key remaining task required prior to submission to the State Government is to 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.

Traditional Owner 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 (KYAC)
 - 3.2. First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee #2
 - 3.3. Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.4. Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.5. Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.6. River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
 - 3.7. Narungga Nation 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.

Tentative List Submission

5. The Tentative List Submission document has been updated 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:
 - 5.1. 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.
 - 5.2. Updated information relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history informed by the work undertaken in 2025/26 with Traditional Owner groups.
6. 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 (DCCEEW), including:
 - 6.1. Summary of the consultation that has occurred.
 - 6.2. Signed letters of consent or evidence of support by affected persons and key stakeholders.
 - 6.3. Evidence of FPIC/support for Tentative Listing from Traditional Owners.
 - 6.4. Maps of the area being put forward for listing.
 - 6.5. Photographs of the place, which show the main elements of Outstanding Universal Value being proposed.

Next Steps

7. Finalise the Aboriginal engagement for the Tentative List Submission, seeking Consent from Traditional Owners.
 - 7.1. Noting several of the Traditional Owners do not have established governance processes, the aim is to have a decision from all seven groups in 2026.
 - 7.2. FPIC is contingent on the agreement of all participating Traditional Owner groups and their Consent. This timeframe will continue to be monitored and revised in line with the FPIC process.
8. Seek Council endorsement to submit the finalised Tentative List Submission to the State Government.
9. Finalise the marketing, communications and activation strategies and action plans for the World Heritage Bid.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Reconciliation Committee Meeting – Agenda – 25 February 2026](#)

Link 2 – [City of Adelaide World Heritage project webpage](#)

Link 3 – [Reconciliation Committee Meeting – Agenda - 5 March 2025](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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