

Kadaltilla

Standing Item: Update on the World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Park Lands and Rural Settlement Landscapes

Thursday, 27 April 2023
Board Meeting

Author:
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Lands, Policy & Sustainability

Public

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the Joint World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes.

Recommendation

That Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report contained within Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla held on 27 April 2023.
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Implications

<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025 Outcome – The Park Lands are valued as a National Heritage site worthy of World Heritage Listing. Action 1 - Secure a commitment to pursue World Heritage listing. Action 2 - Develop the case for World Heritage listing.</p>
<p>2020-2025 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Environment 2.1 - Design, protect and enhance landscape values and design qualities.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>The World Heritage listing of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes seeks to landmark the site and protect the area for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities created through World Heritage listing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding and recognition of the significance of Adelaide and its rural settlement landscapes • Global profile and 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.
<p>City of Adelaide Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The expected cost of the World Heritage bid process is in the order of \$500,000 (financial year 2023/2024 to 2026/2027, subject to outcomes of Council's budgeting process). A budget of \$150,000 has been proposed for 2023/2024 to undertake First Nations engagement and development of the tentative list submission.</p>
<p>Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Other Funding Sources</p>	<p>There are no external funding sources currently committed or allocated to the project. Funding opportunities will be identified in the process and sought from partners.</p>

Discussion

Background

1. City of Adelaide is partnering with the State Government and local councils of the Mount Lofty Ranges to progress a World Heritage nomination that encompasses the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout and the rural settlement landscapes of the Mt Lofty Ranges.
2. The joint nomination recognises the colonial settlement model and the settlement system that enables a story to be told that includes the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people. Truth-telling about the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people is an important and necessary part of progressing the nomination.
3. Dr Duncan Marshall AM who is a renowned global expert in Cultural World Heritage nominations has been engaged to advance the World Heritage nomination.
4. Dr Marshall has advised that the nomination could meet the World Heritage requirement for Outstanding Universal Value and satisfy up to three World Heritage criteria.
5. The proposed rationale for World Heritage listing, which will be refined through the process, is:

The nineteenth century property comprising Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes, including the early Adelaide plan, is of Outstanding Universal Value as exceptional evidence of the Wakefield systematic colonisation model, an important and influential model in the history of European free migration and colonial settlement. It is the most complete realisation of British colonial settlement planning in the world, and/or a major achievement of such colonial planning.
6. The State Government wrote in support of the nomination in February 2023 as an important milestone to enable the nomination to progress.
7. Council replied reinforcing the importance of a strong bi-partisan commitment and financial support from State and Local Government and raising concerns that major development in the Park Lands severely compromise the values of the National Heritage Listing and will have a significant and unacceptable impact on the Park Lands.
8. [Link 1](#) provides a summary of the World Heritage Nomination Process outlining the actions that have been carried out to date and further actions to achieve a successful listing.
9. The Kadaltilla members portal has been updated and provides links to relevant documents.

Current Status

10. The joint City of Adelaide / Mount Lofty Ranges Working Group met on 28 March 2023. This is an officer level working group attended by Adelaide Hills, Gawler, Mount Barker, Onkaparinga and Barossa Councils representing the Mount Lofty Ranges, City of Adelaide and a representative from the Department of Environment and Water (DEW).
11. Advice from DEW based on extensive experience with the Flinders Ranges World Heritage bid is that the Tentative List process could take between 4 years and 7 years.
12. DEW advise the key to the success of the process is the establishment of an appropriate governance structure to progress the nomination and provide a pathway on how the World Heritage Bid will be managed. At the meeting DEW shared the Flinders Ranges governance roadmap to inform the joint bid governance structure.
13. DEW also shared the Australian Heritage Council's policy on Free Prior and Informed Consent for involvement of First Nations peoples in the bid.

Next Steps

14. To progress the World Heritage Bid the World Heritage rationale will continue to be developed and finalised. The key to the bid's success is the governance process and integrating First Nations input into the governance structure and engagement strategy to ensure their perspectives are heard.
15. The Working Group is in the process of developing a project brief on how to best engage with Aboriginal people and seek their support through a Memorandum of Understanding. Once support has been established, the project will focus on the development of a First Nations narrative in partnership with the communities. The narrative will add important context into the colonisation story to add value to the truth-telling and inform the Tentative Listing submission.
16. The Working Group is progressing the establishment of a World Heritage governance structure to progress the nomination and provide the pathway on how the World Heritage Bid will be managed.
17. The Working Group will meet again in May 2023 to finalise the governance structure for approval by the respective bid partners.

18. City of Adelaide will continue to seek contribution of funds from partner Councils and the State Government, and identify external funding opportunities.

Attachments

Nil

- END OF REPORT -