

# Heritage: Our Future

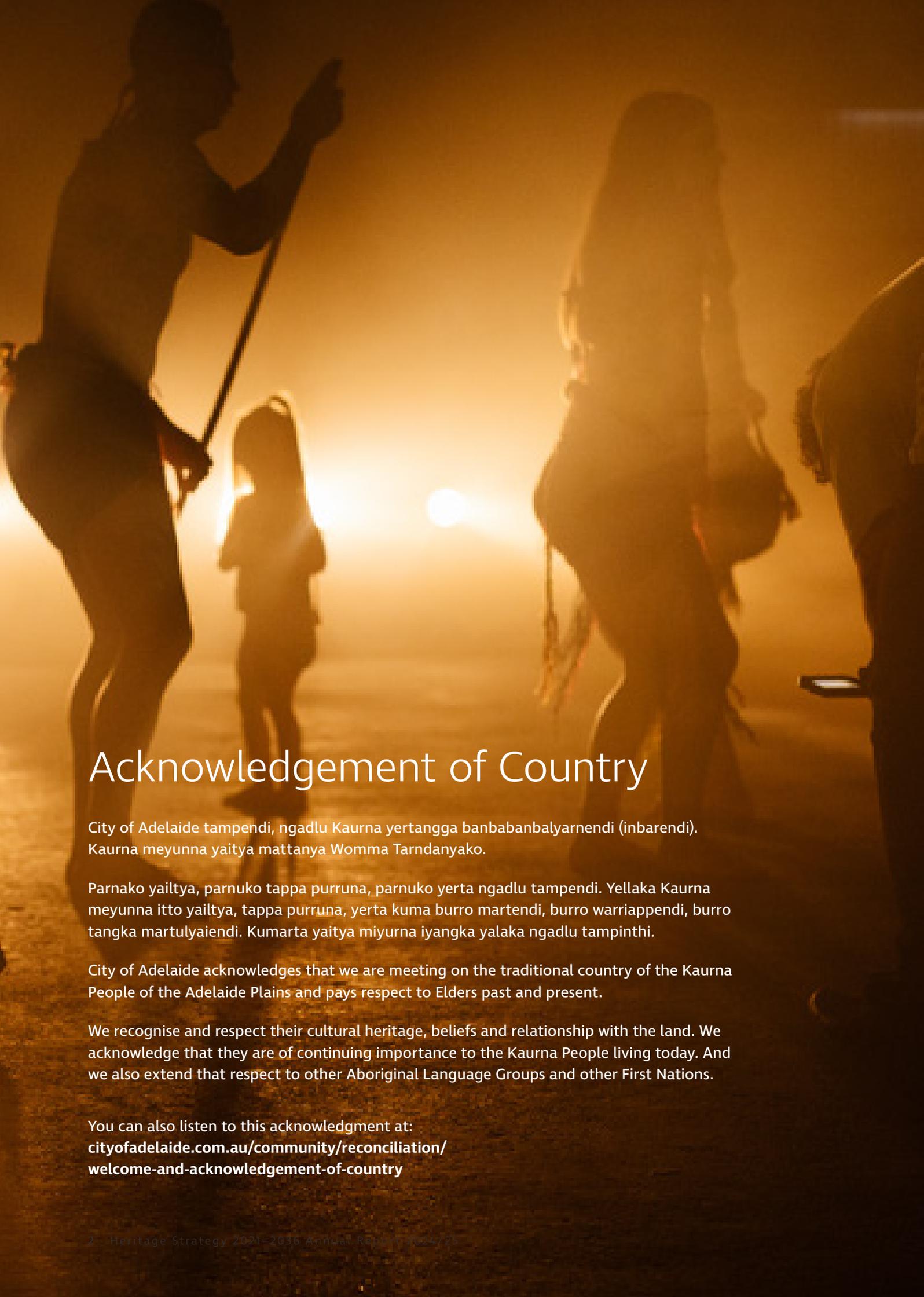
Heritage Strategy 2021–2036

2024/25 Report

Our Adelaide.  
**Bold.**  
**Aspirational.**  
**Innovative.**



CITY OF  
ADELAIDE

The background of the page features a warm, golden sunset over a flat landscape. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible against the bright light of the sun. On the left, a man stands with his arms raised, holding a long staff or spear. In the center, a smaller figure, possibly a child, stands looking towards the sun. On the right, a woman is seen from the back, carrying a large bundle or bag on her back. The overall mood is peaceful and evocative of traditional life.

# Acknowledgement of Country

City of Adelaide tampendi, ngadlu Kurna yertangga banbabanbalyarnendi (inbarendi).  
Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya Womma Tarndanyako.

Parnako yailtya, parnuko tappa purruna, parnuko yerta ngadlu tampendi. Yellaka Kurna  
meyunna itto yailtya, tappa purruna, yerta kuma burro martendi, burro warriappendi, burro  
tangka martulyaiendi. Kumarta yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinhi.

City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Kurna  
People of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We  
acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna People living today. And  
we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

You can also listen to this acknowledgment at:  
[cityofadelaide.com.au/community/reconciliation/  
welcome-and-acknowledgement-of-country](https://cityofadelaide.com.au/community/reconciliation/welcome-and-acknowledgement-of-country)

# Introduction

Council adopted the Heritage: Our Future, Heritage Strategy 2021-2036 in 2021 providing a heritage management framework for 15 years with a vision to 'Enable the full economic, tourism, cultural, community and sustainability potential of our built and cultural heritage to be realised'.

The Heritage Strategy is centred on three key outcomes, and fourteen objectives:

Outcome 1 'Our city's heritage is effectively protected.'

Outcome 2 'Heritage is valued by our people and our communities.'

Outcome 3 'Our city is renowned for its heritage'.

## Our Vision

Enable the full economic, tourism, cultural, community and sustainability potential of our built and cultural heritage to be realised.



## Strategic partnerships

Delivery of the Strategy's objectives relies on partnerships with government, industry, cultural and educational institutions, and our community for the identification, understanding, measuring and celebration of our built, cultural, and natural heritage.

The Heritage Strategy is delivered through the City of Adelaide's operating budget. Funding for initiatives above existing service levels are determined annually by the Council through the City of Adelaide's Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

An annual one-page implementation plan sets out the commitments for each financial year. In 2024/25, 12 commitments were identified and Council invested over \$1,744,000 (including a one-off \$250,000 State Government contribution for the Heritage Incentives Scheme) in project funding to deliver against year one of the plan. This report provides highlights and an annual statement of achievement against the 2024/25 commitments.

Of the 12 commitments identified in the implementation plan, the following assessment of status is provided:

- Nine are complete
- Three are progressing for completion in 2025/26.

The City of Adelaide delivered or substantially progressed delivery against all three outcomes in the Heritage Strategy.





# Capital City Leadership

## World Heritage Tentative List Submission

World Heritage listing has been a long-term ambition of the City of Adelaide. The UNESCO World Heritage listing process involves multiple stages with the Council focused on the Tentative List Submission as the first step in the process.

The draft Tentative List Submission prepared by expert heritage consultants Duncan Marshall AM and Dr Jane Lennon AM is well progressed. To be included on Australia's Tentative List, a Tentative List Submission must have the support of the State and Federal Government and Consent from Traditional Owners.

The City of Adelaide has undertaken a rigorous review of best practice for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

FPIC is a process and methodology for undertaking early consultation and engagement to facilitate understanding and receive consent from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for proposed actions affecting their lands and communities.

In 2024/25 the City of Adelaide is working with SA Native Title Services (SANTS) to facilitate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and Yamagigu Consulting to develop an Aboriginal Engagement Framework.

Preliminary conversations and an overview of the project has been provided to Aboriginal communities within the identified World Heritage Bid areas including:

- Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC)
- First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee #2
- Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
- Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation
- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.

Work will continue in 2025/26 to progress the Tentative List Submission.

# Outcome 1

## Our city's heritage is effectively protected

A heritage system that enables equitable, streamlined and transparent processes for heritage listing and protection.

### Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ Initiated updates to the Historic Area Statements for the existing Historic Area Overlays within Adelaide and North Adelaide.
- ✓ Progressed investigations into new Historic Areas within the City Living Zone.
- ✓ Undertook a program to investigate heritage listings for vulnerable and at-risk 20th Century Heritage Places, including a city overview identifying 700 places and a detailed investigation of approximately 60 shortlisted places.
- ✓ Progressed the World Heritage Bid for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes through developing governance arrangements, undertaking investigations and engaging with Traditional Owners on the Aboriginal narrative.
- ✓ Through Council's submission to the State Planning Commission on the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, the City of Adelaide continued to advocate to the State Government to include the Adelaide Park Lands as a State Heritage site.

### Project Highlights

#### Planning Code Amendments

Historic Area Statement updates were undertaken to strengthen protections under the Planning and Design Code. These statements also identified Representative Buildings to provide greater clarity in the assessment of development applications.

Investigations were undertaken into the feasibility of creating a new Historic Area in the City Living Zone. The investigations suggest there is potential for an area that reflects the 19th Century housing that is responsible for the ongoing low scale historic character of the area.

#### 20th Century Heritage Survey

The City of Adelaide, with the support of Hosking Willis Architects, undertook a formal heritage survey of significant 20th Century heritage buildings. This work will be progressed in 2025/26 via a Code Amendment.

#### National Heritage Management Plan Implementation

Council approved the National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout in November 2023 and received endorsement from the Australian Heritage Council in August 2024. The NHMP was finalised in September 2024 and made publicly available via the City of Adelaide website.

In 2024/25, three implementation projects were funded:

#### Heritage Designed Landscapes and Historical Plantings of the Adelaide Park Lands

A management plan identifying and spatially mapping historical designed landscapes and plantings in the Adelaide Park Lands was undertaken. This is being integrated into organisational processes and management systems, such as Forestree.

## Archaeological Survey of the Adelaide Park Lands

An Archaeological Survey and Report, with spatial mapping of potential archaeological sites, was undertaken by the City of Adelaide in partnership with Heritage SA, and Alex Moss of Maritime Heritage Surveys. The resource covers the City of Adelaide and is being used to inform City of Adelaide's infrastructure and development projects.

Historical archaeological sites include the material remains that humans leave behind. These can be artefacts, features, remnant structures or ruins, organic compounds and ephemeral traces. Intact sites still exist in the context of their original locations and could be found on the ground surface or buried beneath.

The main risks to archaeological sites are development involving excavation, which can include any form of excavation. Any form of disturbance reduces the integrity of the archaeological site and the quality of information that can be gleaned from the remains.



# Outcome 2

## Heritage is valued by our people and our communities

Our heritage places are well preserved and utilised, and appreciated for their strong contribution to Adelaide's vibrancy and culture.

Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ Administered the Heritage Incentives Scheme with Council allocating approximately \$1.39 million, supporting 65 projects.
- ✓ Continued the Heritage Advisory Service, which provided expert advice to internal and external stakeholders, heritage owners and developers.
- ✓ Revised and expanded the City of Adelaide Built Heritage Management Policy, including that relating to unprotected historic elements within the public realm and Adelaide Park Lands (stone kerbing, bollards, historic markers, etc).
- ✓ Partnered with education providers and Heritage SA (State Heritage) to deliver specialised trades training to support the next generation of heritage tradespeople.
- ✓ Developed a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Adelaide Town Hall.

### Project Highlights

#### Adelaide Town Hall Restoration

Adelaide Town Hall (constructed 1863-66) is located at 128 King William Street, Adelaide SA 5000. It was designed by Edmund Wright of Wright and Woods architects through a competition and is made up of several individual buildings which together are listed on the South Australian Heritage Register.

In 2023, the City of Adelaide commenced a \$4.6m project of façade restoration and conservation works at the Adelaide Town Hall guided by heritage experts to conserve the famous city landmark.

Conservation works included cleaning, repairing cracks and stone, repointing mortar and addressing water drainage.

"The City of Adelaide is the oldest council in Australia and as custodians of this exquisite building, it is our responsibility to invest in the conservation of the Adelaide Town Hall," Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide.



## **Heritage Incentives Scheme**

The City of Adelaide has one of Australia's most substantial heritage grant schemes, the Heritage Incentives Scheme (HIS). The HIS is essential in preserving, improving and enhancing the heritage fabric of the City of Adelaide, enabling many of the city's iconic and important heritage buildings to be restored and improved for productive ongoing use.

The HIS provides reimbursements for documentation and specialist conservation works to non-government owners of State and Local Heritage Places. After 35 years of operation, the nationally awarded HIS has provided more than \$20 million to support over 3,000 conservation projects, demonstrating significant value to heritage preservation.

In 2024/25, the State Government provided a \$250,000 contribution to the HIS to support incentive payments for State Heritage Places. The funding assisted in the delivery of seven projects, including stabilisation works to Brougham Place Uniting Church, a dilapidation survey for Ruthven Mansions on Pulteney Street and conservation works to several residential places.

## **Economic Value of Built Heritage in the City of Adelaide**

The City of Adelaide worked with SGS Consulting to prepare an updated report on the Economic Value of Built Heritage in the City of Adelaide, which found:

- For every \$1 invested in the HIS, \$1.94 of benefits are generated to the South Australian community.
- The total economic impacts of the HIS are \$528 million in regional value added, supporting in the order of 6,740 jobs (medium scenario) annually.

## **Built Heritage Management Policy & Operating Guidelines**

Council's policy suite for heritage management was updated and now reflects broader heritage matters, including public realm elements, designed landscapes, historic trees, archaeology, and built heritage in the city, North Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.

This work is supported by the continuing development of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) datasets to ensure historic elements can be easily located and integrated into the City of Adelaide's project planning.

## **Heritage Trades Training**

The City of Adelaide partnered with Heritage SA to provide a seminar and two-day practical workshop on the importance and use of traditional lime mortar in the repair of historic buildings. The workshop was run by the national lime mortar expert, David Young OAM and each session was held at a Heritage SA venue, the Torrens Drill Hall and Adelaide Gaol respectively.

## **Asset Management Plans**

The City of Adelaide has substantially finalised draft Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) for all of City of Adelaide heritage listed assets. Having CMPs for each of these assets will allow for better heritage outcomes and guide any proposed changes. The CMPs will be finalised in 2025/26.

# Outcome 3

## Our city is renowned for its heritage

We will share our stories with visitors and engage business, residential, cultural and educational communities about our city's heritage.

### Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ Continued the Heritage Promotion Program, which includes digital engagement, the development of walking and cycling tours, and the administration of the iconic Blue Heritage Plaques program.
- ✓ Continued to be a major sponsor of the SA History Festival, also contributing digital and guided tour offerings.

### Project Highlights

#### History Festival

South Australia's History Festival (the Festival), led by the History Trust of South Australia, was held from 1 May to 31 May 2025.

The City of Adelaide was again the major event partner providing \$31,000 in sponsorship funding.

In 2025, the Festival offered 597 events across South Australia presented by approximately 360 event organisers. 23% of all events were held within the City of Adelaide, 64% of which were free of charge (or by donation) to participate and 38% were new offerings to the Festival in 2025.

The City of Adelaide registered 32 events providing a broad range of self-guided trails, exhibitions, digital offerings, tours, talks and workshops including:

- Roaring Start on Hutt Street: Old Crock's Run event
- Guided tour through the south-west corner of Adelaide with our heritage architects
- Kurna Voices: Cultural mapping of the Adelaide Park Lands online resource
- Karrawirra Pari Explorer mobile app
- AdeLOL Podcast presenting 'Adelaide's Silliest City Stories'
- Trailblazer on the Beat: Kate Cocks Walking Tour
- Good Times: Music Memories and Moments in Adelaide Exhibition

Events were presented by teams across the City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Economic Development Agency. All events were well attended with most completely booked out well in advance. Based on

post event surveys, all events were well received by the public with great interest in attending the Festival again in 2026.

"Thank you so much for another fantastic History Festival walk in the city. My husband and I find them at an easy pace and packed full of information and stories. Places we would never know about otherwise. Thank you for your research, knowledge and friendly presentation.

We have now done each corner of the city with you over the last few years, plus more. We hope you can find another area next year for us to explore!"

South-West Adelaide: a guided experience participant.

#### Blue Heritage Plaques Program

The Blue Heritage Plaques Program continues to be rolled out across the City of Adelaide. To date, over 850 plaques have been installed via the program.

Nine new larger worded plaques and three new smaller 'Local Heritage Place' plaques were installed in 2024/25, with a 17 further plaques in progress. The City of Adelaide assisted several local Councils or historic groups to establish similar programs.

#### Digital Engagement

The City of Adelaide continued the Heritage Promotions Program, including social media. Monthly Facebook posts profiling HIS projects, including the scope of conservation works and a progress photograph or video to show works underway, are achieving an average reach of 8,800 views per post.

Weekly Flashback Friday posts, highlighting history of the heritage listed place, a link to the Heritage Places of Adelaide online database and featuring an archival photograph are achieving an average reach of 11,300 views per post. The top five Flashback Fridays posts in 2024/25:

- Houses, 62–70 Lefevre Terrace (53,300 reach)
- Liberal Club Building, North Terrace (49,800 reach)
- Terrace Shops (Gladys Sym Choon), Rundle Street (37,500 reach)
- Offices, 11–13 Bentham Street (32,800 reach)
- Shell House, North Terrace (32,600 reach).

## Walking and Cycling Trails

Themed self-guided heritage walking and cycling trails for Adelaide and North Adelaide explain the history and significance of heritage places along the way in engaging formats.

There are currently 15 trails with the most popular being 'Market Meander' and 'Marvellous Mansions, Cottages and Castles' with over 2000 digital downloads and hard copies being taken by visitors to the city each year.

A new trail is currently being developed for delivery in 2025/26 that highlights heritage-listed places in the cultural precinct along North Terrace and the surrounding north-east corner of the city including the Botanic Hotel, former Synagogue, former Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange, Tandanya, Ruthven Mansions and Scots Church. This trail aims to support the future relocation of the Adelaide Visitor Information Centre to North Terrace.

# Annual Scorecard of Achievement

## 2024/25 Commitments

- ✓ Complete 20th Century Heritage Survey (Stage 2) and commence a Planning Code Amendment
- ✓ Progressively deliver Conservation Management Plans for Council's heritage assets
- Complete the update to the Historic Area Statements and seek to initiate a new Code Amendment to identify new Historic Areas
- Progress Tentative Listing for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes World Heritage Bid
- ✓ Undertake Geographical Information Systems mapping of historic elements in the public realm through the Public Realm Policy Review
- ✓ Deliver the Heritage Incentives Scheme
- ✓ Review Council's Heritage Promotion Program
- ✓ Continue to sponsor and support the History Festival
- ✓ Administer Council's Heritage Plaques Program
- ✓ Achieve endorsement of National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout by the Australian Heritage Council
- ✓ Complete a Designed Landscapes and Historic Plantings Management Plan, and an Archaeological survey of potential sites within the Adelaide Park Lands
- Continue to advocate to the State Government to establish the Adelaide Park Lands State Heritage Area

**Icon Key:** ✓ Complete | ● In progress (for completion in 2025/26)



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