

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 30 November

Kaurna support a significant milestone for Mount Lofty Ranges heritage bids

Today three Kaurna groups put their support behind the Mount Lofty Ranges national and world heritage bids.

Representatives of the Kaurna Nations Cultural Heritage Association (KNCHA), the Kaurna Yarta Aboriginal Corporation and the Kaurna Warra Karrpanthi Aboriginal Corporation signed a statement of support at a meeting in Adelaide this afternoon.

The statement is viewed as an important milestone by the local government consortium behind the nominations who consider that in pursuing these bids, both sides of the South Australian colonisation story (the basis of the national and proposed world heritage nominations) should be told.

Chair of the Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Project Steering Group, Mayor Bill Spragg, welcomed the support.

“Traditional Aboriginal group support is a very important step for the bid as a whole and is one of the requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention,” he said.

“We look forward to continuing to work with the Kaurna organisations, and also with other Aboriginal groups, to help secure benefits for Aboriginal people associated with the region.”

KNCHA chair Jeffrey Newchurch believes the bid’s research and cultural mapping will help uncover historical and cultural knowledge for the next generation.

“If we don’t have the heritage agenda running with our young people, the journey goes nowhere. We need young people to be an integral part of the conversation and equal drivers in creating future pathways for all our communities,” Mr Newchurch said.

Kaurna Elder Lynnette Crocker says the nominations will examine both sides of the story around the South Australian colonisation experiment.

“In truth telling there will be aspects of our shared history that we regret,” she explained. “We need to acknowledge those truths before we can walk forward together,” she said.

Background Information

Ten councils (Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Clare & Gilbert Valley, Light Regional, Mitcham, Mid Murray, Mount Barker, Onkaparinga and Yankalilla) are collaborating in the bid project to pursue National Heritage listing (Stage 1 of the bid) of those agricultural landscapes, and to lobby the Australian government to pursue World Heritage listing (Stage 2). The World bid to be submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) spans the world-renowned food, wine and tourism regions of the Barossa Valley, the Adelaide Hills, Clare and Gilbert Valley, McLaren Vale and the Fleurieu.

UNESCO listing ensures the retention and promotion of the region as a working, growing, evolving agrarian landscape under local council planning control.

The bid consortium is pursuing listing for values associated with South Australia's ground breaking colonisation experiment developed by Edward Gibbon Wakefield, John Stuart Mill, Jeremy Bentham and other influential 19th century thinkers. This is also an opportunity to tell the Aboriginal side of this story.

The bid process catalyses and unifies discussion of issues vital to the future of the region, such as sustainable farming and maintaining and enhancing the clean and green environment, as well as cultivating a sense of place, identity and community.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Media contact: Jennifer Blake, 8408 0430

Available for comment:

Mayor Bill Spragg Chair of the Project Steering Group (Adelaide Hills Council)

Marc Salver Chair of the Project Management Group (Director Strategy & Development at Adelaide Hills Council)