

## **KAURNA STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR MOUNT LOFTY RANGES HERITAGE NOMINATIONS**

The Kurna people are the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains, the Western Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula, from Cape Jervis in the south to Crystal Brook in the north, and we have a strong spiritual connection with this land. The Kurna People are represented by the Kurna Nations Cultural Heritage Association Inc., the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and the Kurna Warra Karrpanthi Aboriginal Corporation.

The purpose of this statement is to declare the abovementioned groups' support for the nomination for National Heritage listing of the Mount Lofty Ranges Cultural Landscape, with the aim of pursuing UNESCO World Heritage listing of this significant feature of our Traditional Lands and Sacred landscape. The Kurna people have been consulted with regard to the Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid (the Bid) since the 2 April 2014 workshop at Goolwa, and we have met periodically to work together on progressing the nomination since that time.


We acknowledge the commitment of the Bid to supporting ongoing research and engagement with Kurna and other Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups associated with the nomination area. A key purpose of our collective collaboration is to encourage awareness and education in the wider community around Aboriginal history and culture, and also our shared history since the Letters Patent established the Province of South Australia on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1836.


We understand that in telling the Aboriginal and colonial story of the Mount Lofty Ranges Cultural Landscape, heritage nominations are not always focussed on celebration. We understand that at the core of the National and World Heritage nominations is the ambition to tell the truth around the story of the South Australian experiment with free settlement, and the implementation of the Wakefield Plan. The nominations will therefore include recognition of the aspects of our shared history that we regret, and the ongoing process of reconciliation and restitution related to the impacts of that shared history on Aboriginal people, lands, and Culture. Together we aim to secure resources to initiate research, education and Cultural Mapping projects as well as Cultural regeneration projects in the Mount Lofty Ranges Region.

The Kurna will continue to collaborate with the Bid in building engagement and support among other groups of Aboriginal Traditional Owners in the region, namely the Peramangk, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri and Ngadjuri. This process of wider Aboriginal engagement has the key purpose of bringing these groups and individuals together not only for the common purpose of pursuing UNESCO World Heritage listing, but also to use the listing process to create partnerships and alliances around landscape management and Cultural regeneration, as well as job creation and economic participation.

We recognise and respect the many different layers of understanding and significance of the Mount Lofty Ranges from all perspectives – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. We will support and collaborate in the recording of this Historical, Spiritual and Cultural knowledge in order to recognise, preserve and promote the important associated heritage places.

We strongly urge the South Australian Government and its agencies, the Australian Heritage Council and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to support these aims and aspirations, to prioritise assessment of the Mount Lofty Ranges National Heritage Listing nomination and to support our aims and aspirations for World Heritage nomination of the Mount Lofty Ranges Cultural Landscape.

  
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Frank Wanganeen on behalf of Jeffrey Newchurch  
Chair, Kurna Nations Cultural Heritage Association Inc.


  
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Rodney O'Brien  
Chair, Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and Kurna Warra Karrpanthi Aboriginal Corporation

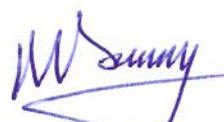
  
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Lynette Crocker  
Deputy Chair, Kurna Nations Cultural Heritage Association Inc. and Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation

Declared at the University of Adelaide on 30 November 2017



Witnessed by:

  
Mayor Bill Spragg  
PSG Chair

  
Marc Salver  
PMG Chair