



**ADELAIDE
PARK LANDS & SQUARES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
ASSESSMENT STUDY**

Prepared for the
CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE

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Adelaide Park Lands & Squares Cultural Landscape Assessment Study

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EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

There is a general community acceptance that the *Plan of the City of Adelaide*, as prepared and surveyed by Colonel William Light, is a significant attribute of the City of Adelaide. Within this Plan are the Park Lands and Squares that are the ‘green lungs’ of the municipality, but also a major community resource.

To this end the Corporation successfully sponsored the nomination for the ‘City of Adelaide Plan’ to the Register of the National Estate, as administered by the Australian Heritage Commission, in 2004. This nomination followed extensive community consultation that enabled the development of the *Park Lands Management Strategy Report: Direction’s for Adelaide’s Park Lands 2000-2037* (1999). But what was lacking from both the *Strategy* (1999) and the registration (2004) was a substantive examination of how the Park Lands and Squares had evolved and particularly what was of cultural heritage merit and significance today.

This *Assessment Study* (2007) provides a remarkable insight into the ‘making of the Adelaide Park Lands and Squares’. It reviews the historical development of each Park Land block and Squares, considers development and management themes, identifies tangible and intangible extant cultural heritage, and assesses the cultural heritage merit of components identified. More importantly it unfolds the tapestry of how and why the Park Lands and Squares have been developed the way they have, and firmly demonstrates that while the ‘Plan’ itself is of major cultural significance, so too is the process of ‘making the Adelaide Park Lands and Squares’ as well as much of the physical evidence that narrates this ‘making’.

The *Assessment Study* (2007) has applied a detailed historical analysis approach, reviewed in detail the historical development of each Park Land block and Square, and identified extant evidence of cultural heritage merit. Thereupon it has proposed policy and heritage recommendations, including considering the overall context and position of the Adelaide Park Lands and Squares against local, state, national and international cultural heritage criterion.

Whatever the recommendations and actions that evolve from this *Assessment Study* (2007), the report itself provides the answers about our relationship with the Park Lands and Squares and how it has changed, grown, and wilted over the years. It unravels the myths and narratives about the ‘making’ of this landscape and will remain a significant resource in its own right.

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