

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

CHARTER OF ENGAGEMENT

BETWEEN

CITY OF PROSPECT ('CITY') a statutory corporation established by the South Australian *Local Government Act 1999*

AND

THE KAURNA PEOPLE OF THE ADELAIDE PLAINS ('KAURNA PEOPLE') part of the First Nations of this continent who possessed the land according to their own laws and customs from time immemorial and which possession has never been ceded

The Spirit of the Journey

First, we come together in the spirit of *Kumunka Payintha*, or *seeking together*, to seek and find a pathway forward that we can embrace together.

But it is only by seeking to:

- look back,
- allow time for the whole truth to be told, and
- fully understand the truth at a heart level,

that we will find a lasting and just pathway forward together.

Honouring the status, culture and heritage of the Kurna people

In this journey, the City will honour the Kurna people in the spirit of *Kumunka Payintha* by:

- Being led by the Kurna Elders: respecting their guidance, and deferring to their wisdom and their priorities, throughout this journey;
- Respecting the standing of the Kurna people as part of the First Nations of this continent who possessed it according to their own laws and customs from time immemorial and which possession has never been ceded;
- Understanding that their sovereignty is also spiritual and therefore:
 - seeking to understand the Kurna peoples connection with the land, the seasons and the winds, and
 - seeking to understand the sacred, dreaming stories of the Kurna people;
- Hearing, and grieving over, the truth of the hurt and pain caused by more than 200 years of European settlement and specifically the impact upon the generations of the Kurna people as well as that which is ongoing and yet to

be remedied;

- Understanding that, by whatever means and however recognised, the Kurna people ultimately seek their voice to be heard in an ongoing, fair and truthful relationship with the whole community represented within the City;
- To that end, ensuring that this journey engages with as many in our community as possible and that it encompasses the City's existing diversity of perspectives and cultures;
- Recognising that this journey is part of a *Makaratta* process: a coming together for peacemaking and for justice after a struggle; and
- Seeking to understand in what way this journey could lead to a meaningful, authentic and substantive agreement between the City and the Kurna people that could be formally recognised and embraced across our local community by Kurna and non-Kurna peoples alike.

Coming to the journey in good faith

In bringing good faith to this journey, the City:

- Acknowledges that it comes with a willingness to meet, to hear, to understand and to grieve, but recognises that there is much ground to cover, much truth telling to be heard, and many learnings to be had, before being able to move forward together with a truly shared understanding;
- Recognises that there will need to be appropriate resources allocated to support the journey and its needs, like opportunities for truth-telling;
- Supports a Steering Group:
 - consisting of Kurna Elders, the City and agreed advisers along with interested community members of both Kurna and non-Kurna people;
 - which will coordinate the activities required to fulfil the process leading to a Charter; address and guide responses to issues, opportunities and aspirations raised throughout the journey;
 - by providing Council staff for secretariat services to support the Group, including coordinating meeting times, taking minutes (and so on).
- Understands that the timing, and holistic time frame, of this journey will be what is required for it to be authentic in every sense – it is not about arbitrarily imposed milestones or deadlines.

In response, Senior Kurna Elders will:

- Agree amongst themselves who will speak for the Kurna people in this journey and who will form part of the Steering Group;
(Representative Kurna Elders will be nominated by Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation).
- Have representatives who can commit a reasonable amount of time to the Steering Group;
- Seek to reach out to all indigenous stakeholders who should be respected by inviting their involvement in this journey and whose support will be essential to the successful creation of a Charter.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY – Mayor and Chief Executive

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE KAURNA PEOPLE – Elders

DATE