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A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria **(Attachment E)** and also available online: Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-2024.pdf

How to help your nomination be successful:

- Fill out this form with as much information as possible.
- Expand answer fields as required and append information to the form.
- Include images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos where possible.

For assistance, contact:

- Your local historical society or heritage adviser.
- Heritage SA - Assessment Officer on **8372 7521**

Please note:

- Places which have been previously nominated during the past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council, unless you can provide significant **new** information.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of place:	The Historic Eastern Park Lands Olive Belt (forming parts of King Rodney Park / Park 15 & Victoria Park / Park 16)
Former name/s:	N/A
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No

2. Location					
Street Address:	Bounded by Bartels Road to the north, East Terrace to the west and to the south, Adelaide SA 5000				
	Suburb / Town: Adelaide SA			Post Code: 5000	
LGA (Council Name):	City of Adelaide				
Land Description (if known):	Title Type: CR	Volume No: 6102	Folio No: 717	Plan Type: FP or H	Plan No: H105100
	Allotment Type: Section	Allotment No: 511 (King Rodney Park) and 512 (Victoria Park)	Hundred Name: Adelaide		
GPS Coordinates (if known):	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

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	-34.926671 (King Rodney Park) -34.928632 (Victoria Park)	138.614682 (King Rodney Park) 138.616128 (Victoria Park)

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner/s:	[redacted]
Contact person (explain relationship to property if not owner):	[redacted]
Postal Address:	[redacted]
	Suburb / Town: [redacted] Post Code: [redacted]
Phone Number:	[redacted]
Ownership History:	N/A

4. Nominator (Your details)	
Your Name/s:	[redacted]
Organisation / Position:	[redacted]
Phone No:	[redacted]
Postal Address:	[redacted]
	Suburb / Town: [redacted] Post Code: [redacted]
Email Address:	[redacted]

B. Description

5. Description of nominated place	
Description of the nominated place and its current condition:	Two groves of c. 150-year-old olive trees planted in 1872, in a grassy parkland setting adjacent to Botanic Creek and East Terrace. The trees are in excellent condition, and retain substantial, recognizable, and contiguous historic grove layouts. Generally they have a gnarled, multitrunked form, which is normal and healthy for this long-lived species.
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place and can you provide dates for these changes?	The East Terrace Glover Playground (Glover East Playspace) was officially opened on September 11, 1925. The concept was first proposed in 1924 by the former Lord Mayor and philanthropist Charles Glover. Construction on the site—including its historic cream-coloured stuccoed gabled shelter block—began later that year Various shared-use walking/cycling trails have been constructed around the trees in both parks, and fencing installed around the Glover Playground facilities over the decades, leaving the current groves largely intact for more than 150 years.
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground, and do you think an archaeological investigation should be	It is probable that sundry historical artefacts could be found under the ground, due to its long undisturbed use as a productive olive grove and recreational space.

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considered?	
Date you inspected the place:	27/9/2026
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	Yes
Current use of the place:	Productive olive grove and passive recreation
Original or former use/s of the place:	Productive olive grove and passive recreation, since 1872
Are there any current or long-term threats to the nominated place?	Yes, a proposed MotoGP circuit and other potential motorsports proposals.
Name of Builder:	State Government of South Australia
Any other information:	While individual feral olive trees are treated as environmental weeds elsewhere, this intentionally planned, culturally curated landscape functions as a vital aesthetic and historical anchor in Adelaide's globally unique Park Lands system.

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1872 Finish: 1872
Name of Designer / Architect:	William Pengilly, City Gardener
History of the nominated place:	The Historic Eastern Park Lands Olive Belt comprises the interconnected, surviving remnants of the systematic 1872 civic planting program. Carried out under the direction of City Gardener William Pengilly, and building on the original inspiration of City Gardener John Bailey in the northern parklands, they were also heavily driven by prominent agricultural pioneer Sir Samuel Davenport. This continuous belt was designed to remediate Adelaide's degraded post-settlement eastern boundary into an attractive and economically productive public asset. By the 1850s, early colonial settlement had heavily degraded some areas of the Park Lands, with extensive tree felling occurring for timber, grazing, and firewood. In response, the City of Adelaide initiated a major landscape restoration and experimental arboriculture program. Olive trees were selected because they were exceptionally hardy, drought-tolerant, and carried the potential to spark a viable commercial olive oil industry for the young colony. The 1872 planting in Parks 15 and 16 completed a deliberate, continuous historical belt of olive trees traversing the eastern Park Lands from the Adelaide Botanic Garden to South Terrace. The groves in Park 15 and Park 16 together comprise one of only two remaining areas of the originally extensive plantings that have survived intact on public land into the 21st century. They remain a unique, distinct, and highly visible piece of 19th-century landscape engineering, They currently comprise a historic landscape feature which is unique in the State in being on publicly accessible

	community land in a recreational setting, and representing the only survivors of the 1870s plantings.

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Historical sources used to support your nomination (please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate):	PRIMARY SOURCES (ARCHIVAL & HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS) 1. Adelaide City Council (1872). Minutes of the City Council of Adelaide, 1871–1873. City of Adelaide Archives, Adelaide, South Australia. [Records detailing the directives given to City Gardener William Pengilly for the 1872 planting schemes in the eastern Park Lands]. 2. Davenport, S. (1870). 'The Cultivation of the Olive and Manufacture of Olive Oil'. Papers of the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures. State Library of South Australia, Adelaide. 3. "The Park Lands Plantations." The South Australian Register, 18 July 1872, p. 5. Digital copy accessed via Trove, National Library of Australia. [Report detailing the allocation of European olive trees to the eastern parklands belt between Bartels and Wakefield Roads]. 4. "Adelaide City Council: The Olive Groves." The Express and Telegraph, 14 May 1873, p. 2. Digital copy accessed via Trove, National Library of Australia. [Progress statement on the health and curation of the 1872 olive saplings]. SECONDARY SOURCES (BOOKS, JOURNALS & LEGISLATION) 5. Sumerling, P. (2011). 'The Adelaide Park Lands: A Social History'. Wakefield Press: Kent Town, South Australia. [Chapter 3: Specific historical overview of the mid-Victorian remediation, civic greening programs, and the Davenport olive initiatives]. 6. City of Adelaide (2020). 'King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) Community Land Management Plan'. City of Adelaide: Adelaide, South Australia. [Official recognition of the site's footprint as an intact, managed "historic olive grove"]. 7. Department for Environment and Water (2007). 'History of the Olive Grove between Park and Mann Terraces'. State Heritage Branch Research Paper, Government of South Australia. [Utilised for cross-provincial context on 19th-century olive biosecurity management and civic landscaping]. 8. Jones, David S. (2007). 'Adelaide Park Lands & Squares Cultural Landscape Assessment Study'. Report prepared for the Corporation of the City of Adelaide through Adelaide Research & Innovation Ltd (University of Adelaide), Adelaide, South Australia. [The definitive historical and cultural landscape registry mapping components, including the 19th-century tree-planting matrices for Parks 15 and 16].

	9. Hill, Craig (2006). 'Adelaide's Historic Park Lands Olive Plantations'. Monograph report published by Liquid History, Adelaide, South Australia. [Available online via: http://www.liquidhistory.com.au/Papers/Adelaide%20Parkland%20olives.pdf] Detailed historical text specifically documenting the global uniqueness of Adelaide's civic olive cultivation models and providing the quantitative mapping baseline for the survival of the 19th-century municipal groves.

D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State significance - Why is this place important to the State of South Australia?

This place is of State Heritage significance because:

The Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt possesses state heritage significance as a rare, tangible manifestation of early South Australian agricultural ambition and civic environmental remediation. Planted in 1872, the grove serves as a still functional heritage asset born of 19th-century colonial resourcefulness, embodying South Australia's early adaptation to a Mediterranean climate, its pioneering steps toward establishing an olive oil market, and its evolving policy of parklands remediation and beautification.

While individual feral olive trees are treated as environmental weeds elsewhere, this intentionally planned, culturally curated landscape functions as a vital aesthetic and historical anchor in Adelaide's globally unique Park Lands system. The groves represent a rare living baseline for 19th-century botanical engineering and acclimation science, as well as a unique genetic resource of ancient European olive cultivars, which are now under threat in Europe from disease and industrial farming practices.

As historian Craig Hill writes in his paper to the 2006 Parklands Symposium, the olive groves "are as distinctive as the parklands of which they form an integral 'historic' part. With the minor exceptions of remnants of Spanish monastic groves in California and small stands of trees that have survived the encroachment of urban development around the cities of Mediterranean Europe, the Adelaide Parklands olives are unique on a global scale. Nowhere else.. ..were olives cultivated for whatever reason on public or community (municipal) ground. For the same reasons that the parklands themselves and Adelaide's squares are 'culturally significant', so too are Adelaide's olives".

He concludes saying that to allow damage to parkland olive groves would be to diminish the cultural significance of the parklands themselves. "It is imperative, therefore, to preserve intact, by all available means, the remaining parkland olives". By so doing, the opportunities for celebrating South Australia and Adelaide as the original olive capital of Australia can be developed into the future as a fitting continuation of the Parklands life-giving role to the city.

Why heritage listing would not be a duplication.

The northern 1850s groves in Parks 7 and 8 and the 1872 eastern groves in Parks 15 and 16 1870s are not duplicates; they are two distinct, essential chapters of a rare, evolutionary timeline of public landscape design.

1. The Dynamic Value of "Landscape Evolution" vs. a "Static Snapshot"

- While the northern groves can be thought of as a static, time-capsule snapshot of the 1850s utilitarian orchards, the eastern groves represent the unique stage of integration of an agrarian landscape towards the amenity and recreational uses of a Victorian civic park.
- Protecting only the northern groves leaves an incomplete story. The eastern groves are the physical proof of how the city transitioned from utilitarian and experimental agriculture (the 1850s) to the globally celebrated "Garden City" / Park Lands beautification movement of the 1870s.

2. A Landmark of 19th-Century Civic Integration

- The groves of Parks 15 and 16 are a rare and historically significant example of highly successful multi-use integration in landscape architecture.
- The eastern groves are the earliest demonstration of how a city can absorb sport, recreation, and changing civic needs for over 150 years without destroying its heritage canopy.

3. Landscape Integrity and Scale (The "Green Ribbon")

- While the northern groves offer high structural integrity in a small, isolated pocket (c. 4 hectares), the eastern groves offer substantial landscape integrity on a civic scale.
- The continuous ribbon of the eastern groves defines the visual character of the East Park Lands, representing a visionary 19th-century municipal effort to encircle a capital city with a productive green belt - a scale that the small northern pockets do not replicate.

4. The northern and eastern groves represent complementary typologies rather than redundancies. The northern pockets preserve the initial experimental layout, while the eastern groves record the mature, scaled-up application of that experiment into integrated public space.

- The 1850s Northern Groves represent an urgent, utilitarian, institutional effort to establish a young colonial economy in a harsh environment.
- The 1872 Eastern Groves represent the moment Adelaide survived that phase. They were planted during a more confident era, designed to blend amenity and public recreation with prosperity.

8. Significance criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which a place is assessed. Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

☒ It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.	The grove directly demonstrates the evolution of the Adelaide Park Lands from a degraded and exploited post-settlement clearing into an intentionally curated public space designed for civic utility and recreation. It captures the state's early economic history, specifically the attempts to foster a Mediterranean agricultural economy in South Australia under the influence of prominent pioneers like Samuel Davenport and John Bailey. **Integrity of the Plantations:** While many individual historic olive trees scattered throughout other city parks have dwindled to just two or three survivors, David Jones distinguishes Parks 15 and 16 because they retain substantial, recognizable, and contiguous historic grove

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		layouts.
☒	It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.	Broad structural landscapes of 19th-century colonial agriculture within an inner-city capital park system are increasingly rare. The grove is an endangered cultural asset, directly threatened by proposed localized civil works and motorsports redevelopment plans.
☒	It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	**1. Structural and Scientific Research Potential** The 1872 olive groves are a living baseline for 19th-century botanical engineering and acclimation science. Imported aboard the *HMS Buffalo* in 1836 and subsequently commercialized by early colonial botanists like John Bailey and Sir Samuel Davenport, these specific trees represent an intact genetic repository of the earliest European olive cultivars (*Olea europaea*) introduced to the Southern Hemisphere. Because these specific trees have survived for 154 years through Adelaide's severe historical drought and flood cycles without modern irrigation, the grove functions as a critical, localized genetic archive. It holds untapped historical and biological data regarding how early introduced European crops adapted to the microclimate and soil conditions of the Adelaide plains (the Kaurna landscape of Ityamai-itpina). This is likely to be important as global warming increasingly impacts food production, **2. Understanding the State's "Natural History" Transformation** The Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt yields essential information regarding the dramatic ecological transition of the Adelaide Park Lands following British settlement. By the 1850s, the original native woodlands had been extensively cleared for fuel and grazing, fundamentally altering the local water table, soil stability, and biodiversity. The systematic planting of the olive belt from 1872 onward provides physical, spatial evidence of South Australia's earliest attempt at civic environmental remediation and urban agroforestry. Studying the soil profiles, root networks, and ongoing non-invasive footprint of this managed grove offers researchers an understanding of 19th-century landscape modification. It explicitly illustrates how early South Australians navigated the friction between commercial exploitation and urban environmental preservation. **3. Genetic Purity:** because these trees pre-date modern commercial hybrid cloning, they represent a pure strain of mid-Victorian agricultural stock that is increasingly rare in Europe due to disease and industrial farming. **4. Traditional Council Land Use:** The City of Adelaide still utilizes the grove for seasonal public harvesting, proving it is an active, ongoing site of longstanding cultural and agricultural practice rather than an abandoned, feral weed patch.
☒	It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	**Outstanding Intactness and Design Scale** The Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt is an exceptional survivor of what was originally a **continuous belt of olive trees** stretching across Adelaide's eastern Park Lands, from the Botanic Gardens to South Terrace. While much of that original belt has been lost, these groves remain largely structurally intact, preserving the original geometric layout and aesthetic scale intended by 19th-century landscape planners.

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☒ It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	The groves exhibit the distinct visual layout of early systematic civic landscaping. It forms part of the historical "green belt" framing East Terrace, preserving a 150-year-old aesthetic character that represents the deliberate blending of economic horticulture with parklands beautification. This attempted combination of civic remediation and economic agroforestry on public land is unique in the State. The deliberate, wide grid-spacing of the rows—specifically engineered to accommodate 19th-century horse-drawn harvesting equipment—demonstrates a high degree of technical planning. Spanning across the geographic barrier of Wakefield Road, the continuous alignment of the trees forms a powerful, historic visual anchor that defines the aesthetic heritage character of Adelaide's eastern city fringe.
☒ It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	The structural survival of these groves relied on the manual labor of 19th-century Adelaide Gaol prisoners, asylum inmates, destitute women, and orphans who were brought in to maintain and harvest the trees. The groves require protection as a unique, tangible piece of the State's labor history and the work of the colony's most vulnerable historic populations. The 150-year-old grove is a living touchstone of cultural continuity and shared labour. The City of Adelaide fosters this deep social bond by issuing domestic community harvesting permits, transforming a historic monument into an active space for communal gathering, seasonal food foraging, and grass-roots heritage preservation. The groves sit within a broader landscape inextricably woven into Kaurna spiritual and cultural identity. Nominated as *Ityamai-itpina* to honour one of the principal Kaurna elders who negotiated with early colonists, King Rodney park represents a vital spatial archive of Indigenous resistance and resilience. As a place of respect and reflection for ongoing reconciliation, it arguably deserves protection on these grounds alone.
☒ It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	The Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt possesses a strong, documented association with individuals and civic bodies of outstanding historical importance to South Australia's economic and landscape development. The site holds a special historical association with **William Pengilly**, Adelaide City Gardener (1867–1883,) who directly oversaw and was physically involved in planting these exact olive groves in 1872. During his tenure, Pengilly was tasked with transforming the early Adelaide parklands from neglected, heavily cleared, and degraded wood-gathering areas into formal civic amenities and productive agricultural landscapes. He directed the widespread planting of thousands of olive trees across various city squares and park blocks. The surviving stands in King Rodney Park and neighbouring Victoria Park stand today as the only intact example of Pengilly's implementation of the city's civic forestry vision. Damage to the olive groves would compromise the physical integrity of William Pengilly's legacy as follows: 1. Loss of direct "Living Artifacts". While documents record what Pengilly did in the city squares and other places, the olive groves

planted under his watch in 1872 are some of the only surviving living artefacts from his tenure.
2. Erasure of His Role in the "Economic Landscape" Experiment. Pengilly's era was defined by trying to make the parklands useful as well as beautiful. The olive groves represent a specific Victorian-era philosophy: establishing a Mediterranean agricultural economy to make the degraded parklands financially productive. The groves are the primary visual narrative of Pengilly as an experimental utilitarian colonial gardener.
3. Contextual Integrity. Landscape-architectural heritage is judged by integrity - how much of the original layout remains readable on the ground. Dr. David Jones emphasizes that while isolated, single olive trees survive in places like Whitmore Square or North Terrace, Parks 15 and 16 are uniquely significant because they are contiguous, recognisable grove layouts. Damage or loss of the groves would strip away the scale of Pengilly's legacy,

The groves have a strong association with the **Corporation of the City of Adelaide** during a critical period of 19th-century municipal governance. Prompted by civic leaders, the council used these specific sites to spearhead a transformation of the eastern parklands—turning a deforested, heavily degraded urban wasteland into a productive, ornamental civic asset. The layout of the Park 15 and 16 groves remains a physical manifestation of the council's dual 19th-century policy of economic experimental agriculture and Victorian civic beautification. As food systems become increasingly unstable in a warming future, a return to agroforestry in public spaces is a field to which urban councils may seek to return.

The plantations bear a strong association with the pioneering work of **Sir Samuel Davenport (1818–1906)**, a figure of significance in South Australian history. Considered the "Father of the Olive Industry" in the colony, Davenport used his prominent platform as a politician and President of the Adelaide Chamber of Manufactures to passionately champion Mediterranean horticulture including in the public parklands. The 1872 establishment of this grove reflects Davenport's philosophical advocacy that *"South Australia can, therefore South Australia should"* cultivate the olive as a core economic pillar.

E. Additional Information

9. Images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos

A full range of images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place being nominated within a map or plan
- high quality images of the place
- a list and description of the images being provided (including file name, subject, date created, author and copyright holder (if known)

Paste images here or attach separately:

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Figure 1: Boundary Plan of the Nominated Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt

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Figure 2. Olive trees in the Park 15 (King Rodney Park) section of the Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt

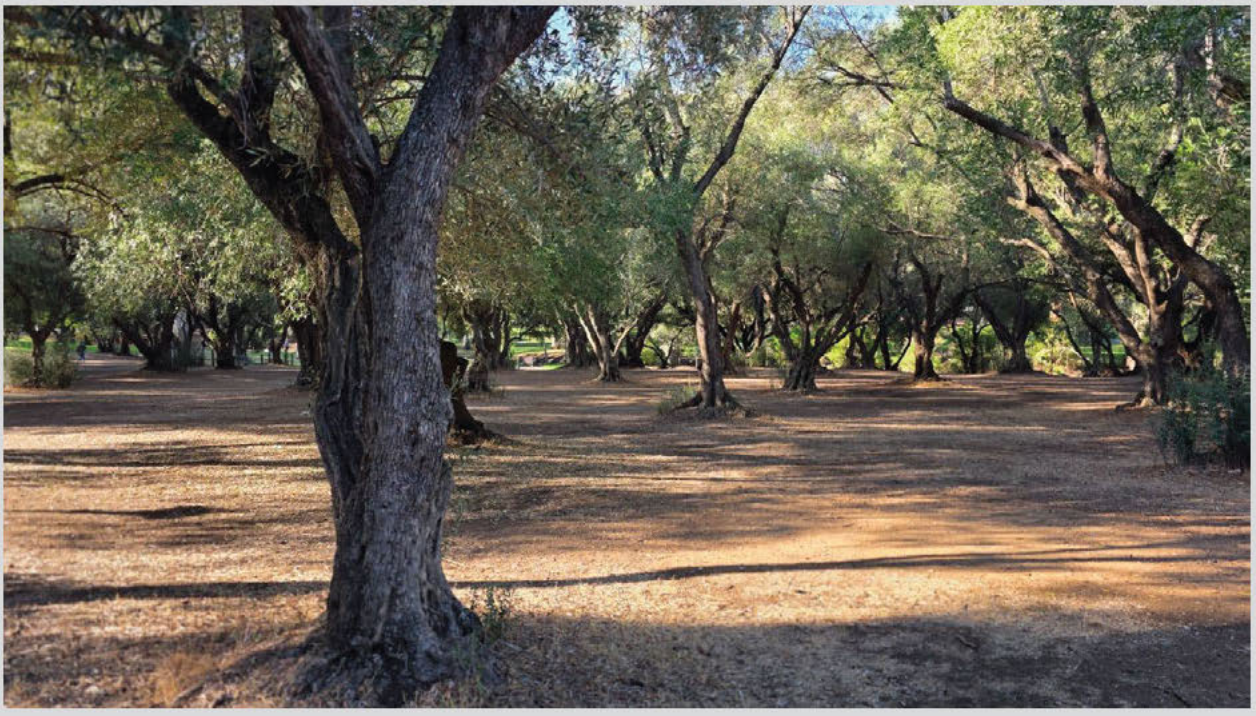

Figure 3. Olive trees in the Park 15 (King Rodney Park) section of the Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt

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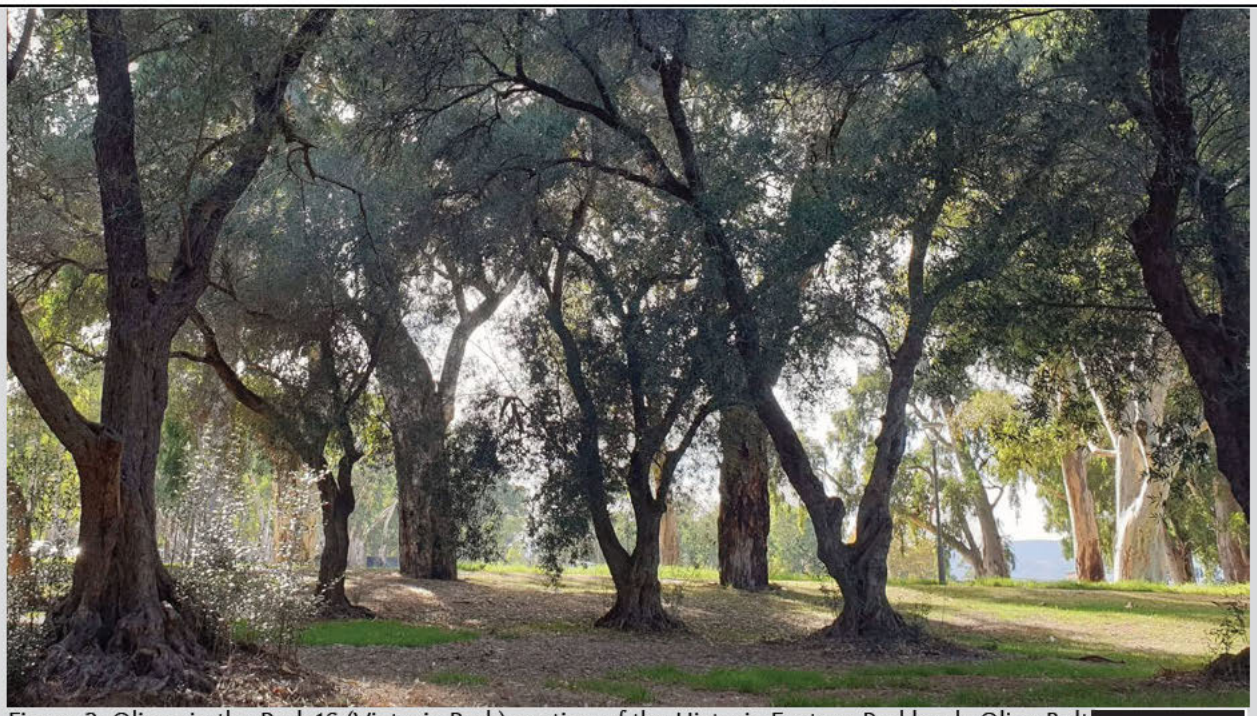

Figure 3: Olives in the Park 16 (Victoria Park) section of the Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt [redacted]

[redacted]



Figure 4: Olives in the Park 16 (Victoria Park) section of the Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt [redacted]

[redacted]

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Figure 4: Olives in the Park 16 (Victoria Park) section of the Historic Eastern Parklands Olive Belt adjacent to Botanic Creek [redacted]

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released, unless authorised or required under the privacy principles.

I do not want my personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

I, [redacted] nominate the following place: Park 15 (King Rodney Park) and Park 16 (Victoria Park) Historic Olive Groves, referred to together in this application as the "Historic Eastern Parkland Olive Belt", for listing on the South Australian Heritage Register.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Signature: [redacted] Date 6/10/2026

Nomination Form Checklist

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Please check that your nomination includes:

- ☒ a clear indication of the place's location and significant elements within it, by marking points and boundary lines on a map;
- ☒ a history of the place explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination (which help supports arguments of cultural significance);
- ☒ a clear description of the nominated place;
- ☒ a Statement of Heritage Significance, explaining why the associated State Heritage Place is important to the State of South Australia;
- ☒ photograph/s of the object;
- ☒ Have you discussed your nomination with a heritage assessment officer before submitting?

Please forward your nomination form to the
Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council
Via email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au
Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**