



NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**2021
GRAND
FINAL**



**2021 GRAND FINAL SERIES
PRESENTED BY BORAL
SERIES PROGRAM**



WELCOME

On behalf of Football South Australia, I would like to welcome all clubs, officials, players and spectators to the 2021 Senior Grand Finals, proudly presented by Boral.

Firstly, I would like to thank the football community for their efforts in what has been another challenging year for all. The football community has once again, been guided by many outstanding leaders at club and association level. This leadership has resulted in the football community rebounding strongly in 2021.

This week's RAANPLSA, WNPL, State League One and State League Two Grand Finals will be played across four days. For a third consecutive year, Adelaide Comets will battle for the RAANPLSA Championship trophy. Adelaide City will be looking for redemption after Adelaide Comets stole the Minor Premiers title away with the last kick of the 2021 regular season. Salisbury Inter look to make it a treble winning season as they look to win the SA Power Network's WNPLSA Grand Final as they travel to Summit Sport & Recreation Park on Saturday to face off against West Adelaide. Both teams are looking to top off an outstanding season with Grand Final glory. Both White City and WT Birkalla have gained promotion to South Australia's top tier competition for 2022, however Thursday night sees both teams clash for the right to call themselves the 2021 State League One Champions. While Adelaide University and Vipers FC will compete in a must-see Grand Final that will see the victor earn themselves the remaining place and join Port Adelaide in South Australia's State League One for 2022.

Finally, I would like to extend a thank you to Football South Australia's valued corporate partners for their continued support who have been instrumental in helping us deliver season 2021.

On behalf of the Football SA Board and Staff, I hope you enjoy what is sure to be a great week of finals football.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Carter

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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RAA NPLSA GRAND FINAL

FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER | MARDEN SPORTS COMPLEX



Adelaide City v Adelaide Comets

Kick-Off 7.30pm



WNPLSA GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER | SUMMIT SPORT & REC CENTRE



Salisbury Inter v West Adelaide

Kick-Off 3pm



STATE LEAGUE 1 GRAND FINAL

THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER | VALO FOOTBALL CENTRE



White City v WT Birkalla

Kick-Off 7.30pm



STATE LEAGUE 2 GRAND FINAL

WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER | VALO FOOTBALL CENTRE



Adelaide University v Vipers FC

Kick-Off 7.30pm



MATCH OFFICIALS

RAA NPLSA

Referee: Daniel Goodwin
Assistant Referee: Henry Day
Assistant Referee: Andrew Kite
Fourth Official: Garry Powers
Mentee: Matthew Guerrero
Mentor: Daniel Elder

WNPLSA

Referee: Joe-Jordan Tripodi
Assistant Referee: Tom Brinkworth
Assistant Referee: Thomas Temby
Fourth Official: Gary Mooney
Mentee: Jessica Wilkinson
Mentor: Peter Van Der Zwaag

STATE LEAGUE 1

Referee: Curtis Wordsworth
Assistant Referee: Paula Orlandi
Assistant Referee: Nick Elagin
Fourth Official: Eric Ford Sestili
Mentee: Daniel Steel
Mentor: Matthew Cream

STATE LEAGUE 2

Referee: Daniel Faulkner
Assistant Referee: Ian Crossing
Assistant Referee: Alex Diamond
Fourth Official: Liam Miller
Mentee: Kingsley Green
Mentor: Ray Grima

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RAANPLSA GRAND FINAL 2021 PRESENTED BY BORAL

ADELAIDE CITY V ADELAIDE COMETS

FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER | 7:30PM | MARDEN SPORTS COMPLEX





Adelaide City

Daniel Bressan
4. Matthew Halliday
6. Bradley Corbo
8. Joseph Costa
9. Luka Chikwuba
10. Nicholas Bucco
11. Charlie Devereux
13. Lachlan Barr
14. Aladin Irabona
20. Kur Kur
19. James Boffa
21. Cristian Aloisi
23. Jai King-Byrne
40. Jed Gauci (GK)
45. Markus Orchard
77. Asad Kasumovic

***Subject To Change**

Coach: Paul Pezos

Assistants: Stavros Gelekis,
Angelo Paul

GK Coach: Edward Scalzi

Team Staff: Fabian Garuccio, Luis
Fernandez Astudillo



Adelaide Comets

Nathan Andijanto
Manley Barnett
Ninko Beric
Jack Bladen
Chris Christofilos
Ryan Cook
Jaiden Diamantis
Nathan Dimou
Nikolas Ikonomopoulos
Lukas Ikonomopoulos
John Karatzas
Elsie Kenney
Harry Keramidis
Adam Le Cornu
Jayden Lobasso
Anthony Mavrolambados
Scott Nagel
Lachlan Stead
Julian Torresan
Daniel Vaughan
Allan Welsh
Ryan Yates

Head Coach: Barney Smith

Assistants: James Guffogg,
Andreas Wiens

Manager: Evangelo Katsambis

Trainer: Emma Gericke

High Performance Coach:

Andrew Furner

GK Coach: Matthew Bates

RAA NPLSA I **ROAD TO THE FINALS**



Week 1

Adelaide City 0 - 1 Adelaide Comets

Week 2

Adelaide Comets 1 - 3 Adelaide City
(J. Costa 51', A. Le Cornu (OG) 81',
K. Kur 90+4')

Week 1

Adelaide City 0 - 1 Adelaide Comets
(A. Welsh 73')

Week 2

Adelaide Comets 1 - 3 Adelaide City
(Giannakopoulos 34')


Week 3

Adelaide Comets 1 - 0 Sturt Lions
(Beric 96')



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MATCH PREVIEW

After a season of ups and downs, it comes down to two: Adelaide City go head-to-head with Adelaide Comets this Friday night to find out who claims the ultimate prize in South Australian men's football.

The match firms as a particularly fascinating one given that these two sides have, in recent years, been the bridesmaids but never the brides, with Comets losing the last two Grand Finals (2019-20) and City the defeated side in the previous three (2016-2018).

A win tonight for the Black and Whites would see them crowned champions of South Australia for the first time since 2010, while the minor premiers again have a shot at winning the first league title in their history, so let's see how each of them have fared this season.

ADELAIDE CITY (2ND: 41 points, +20 GD)

In a year when few sides were able to cement themselves in the top half, City held firm at the top of the table for most of the season, at times unchallenged at the summit, as they appeared to be cruising towards a minor premiership.

It didn't quite pan out for them, however, with a slow end to the season seeing their comfortable lead at the top evaporate as Comets came from the clouds to snatch top spot in the most dramatic of circumstances.

Their recent lean record against tonight's opponents looked set to continue after a 1-0 home defeat in the first leg and a 2-0 aggregate deficit at half-time of the second, but three goals in the ensuing 45 minutes emphatically sent them directly through to the decider.

Despite the hugely encouraging result in the Semi-Final, forward Nic Bucco says that the side has been able to soak in the experience of making the Grand Final and stay level-headed over their weekend off.

"[We're] calm, composed and excited," he explained at Football SA's press event in Rundle Mall on Tuesday.

"We've been here enough times to know and understand the situation and what we have to do, so [we're] just going to enjoy it."

With their hoodoo against Comets now broken, City will enter the contest with the confidence and self-belief that they can go one step further than they've been able to in recent years and etch their name onto the South Australian honour roll.

ADELAIDE COMETS (1ST: 43 points, +14 GD)

It wasn't without its concerns, but Comets now find themselves in a third successive NPL Grand Final, and the second time in as many years they've done so off the back of a minor premiership.

That premiership was stolen from City's grasp as late as possible, after Nathan Andijanto netted in the 92nd minute of their Round 22 clash with Adelaide Olympic to secure a 3-2 victory and, crucially, send them two points clear of tonight's opponents. It was off the back of a scintillating run home that they even got themselves in a position to challenge City, whose lead neared ten points with only a few weeks left in the season, and they were able to do so to add to their trophy cabinet.

They couldn't make it count across the full 180 minutes of their Semi-Final tie, however, and were forced to grind out a nervy 1-0 win over Sturt Lions in extra-time of the Preliminary Final to seal passage to the Championship game.

Club captain and three-time Sergio Melta Medallist Allan Welsh stressed the importance of the match for both sides, saying that it was set to be an exhilarating contest.

"I think we've both lost a few in recent years and both not had the best of luck in finals, so both teams are going to want this really bad," he said.

"I think it's going to be a tight one and a bit of quality will decide [the result]."

With a star-studded team and strong record across 2021 (and against City), will it be third time lucky for Comets this weekend?

HEAD TO HEAD



SEMI FINAL 2 (8/10/21):
Adelaide Comets 1 – 3 Adelaide City

SEMI FINAL 1 (2/10/21):
Adelaide City 0 – 1 Adelaide Comets

R19(28/8/21):
Adelaide City 1 – 2 Adelaide Comets

R8 (12/6/21):
Adelaide Comets 2 – 0 Adelaide City

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WNPLSA GRAND FINAL 2021 PRESENTED BY BORAL

SALISBURY INTER V WEST ADELAIDE

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER | 3PM | SUMMIT SPORTS & REC PARK





Salisbury Inter

1. Matilda Comley
2. Khal Adam Khan
5. Isabella Kouimtzis
6. Nicole Calder
7. Maria Jose Rojas Pino
8. Emily Condon
9. Angelique Vreugdenburg
10. Chrissa Pavlomanolakos
11. Nicola Frazzetto
12. Chantelle Ryder (C)
14. Emily Heazlewood
15. Sharni Tansell
16. Meleri Mullan
17. Dragana Kljajic
20. Erin Hood
23. Anna Pritchard
24. Mina Nishitani

***Subject To Change**

Coaches: Simon Catanzaro

Assistants: Brad Donovan, Darran King, Arnouluck Sirisay

Team Staff: Tamara Simeoni, Shreya Modi, Kim Hood, Colin Bajkusev



West Adelaide

Erin Murphy
Nadia Sultani
Laura Johns
Georgia Macri
Maddie DuRieu
Alison Atkins
Christie Hillyer
Harriet Burnett
Lucy Adamopoulos
Ellie Seaton
Georgie Nicola
Stefanie Lang
Elena Psaroulis
Zoe Haralampopoulos
Emily Hodgson
Justine Hall
Nicole Tilley (C)
Khatima Sultani
Siena Covino

***Subject To Change**

Coaches: Tracey Jenkins

Asistants: Alex Macdonald, Alice Gorman, Leanne Davis

Team Staff: David Lewis, Lachlan Hall

WNPLSA I

ROAD TO THE FINALS



Week 1

Salisbury Inter 6 - 1 West Adelaide
(E. Condon 6', 37', M. Rojas 10', 17', D. Kljajic 42', A. Pritchard 55')

Week 1

Salisbury Inter 6 - 1 West Adelaide
(Hillyer 57')

Week 2

West Adelaide 4 - 0 Adelaide City
(L. Johns 30', 74', A. Atkins 40', H. Burnett 78')



MATCH PREVIEW

The final day of our South Australian Grand Final bonanza shapes as a classic between the two dominant forces in women's football for 2021, as Salisbury Inter and West Adelaide duke it out on Saturday afternoon.

Against the backdrop of the state-of-the-art Summit Sport and Recreation Park in Mount Barker, this Grand Final shapes as a massive opportunity for both sides to win their first WNPL championship and is the first decider to not feature Adelaide City since its introduction in 2016.

The spectacle promises to be a fantastic one for football fans regardless of their allegiances. With so much on the line in this one match, which team will come out on top?

SALISBURY INTER (1ST: 49 points, +50 GD)

2021 has been the year of Inter thus far, with a league premiership backing up their WNPL and WSL Cup victory earlier on in the season, and they have the chance to complete an historic treble if they can get up on Saturday.

They were in and around the top two all season with West, exchanging places on several occasions, before they stormed home with a scintillating run of form that saw them collect all 15 points from their final five home and away fixtures, scoring 24 goals and conceding just four.

Their 4-1 victory over West, and the ensuing stumble that their opponents experienced in their run home, provided them the platform to push forward and clinch their first ever minor premiership on the final weekend with a resounding 7-3 victory over Adelaide University.

That imperious form continued into the finals, as they romped to a 6-1 demolition of the league's second-placed team in the Qualifying Final and seal direct passage to this weekend's Mount Barker showcase.

It all seems to have clicked under coach Simon Catanzaro, who returned from a stint coaching in Barcelona to take the reins at Inter this season and has helped steer their ascent up the table.

Inter's success is down in large part to their productivity in front of goal and attacking talents like Cote Rojas, Emily Condon and Dragana Kljajic, but their solidity at the back is not to be understated, boasting the stingiest defensive record in the competition in the minor round.

Having started the season with a barren trophy cabinet, could Inter end the season with three pieces of silverware?

WEST ADELAIDE (2ND: 45 points, +31 GD)

Like Inter, 2021 has seen West cement themselves amongst the league's elite, rarely looking in any remote danger of being shifted from their comfortable place in the top two of the WNPL all year.

A disappointing end to the year saw their tight grip on top spot loosen and slip, before a 6-1 thrashing at the hands of tonight's opponents in the opening week of finals football knocked the wind out of them further.

Entering their cutthroat Preliminary Final with City, they'd won just one of their previous six matches and were at risk of being dumped out, but rallied to regain some form with a confidence-boosting 4-0 victory that sent them through to the final two.

Skipper Nicole Tilley, who finished third in the league's Golden Boot with some truly remarkable efforts throughout the season, said that there's been plenty to take from their recent bruising encounters with Inter.

"(We've learnt that) there's no time to not be switched on," she explained.

"In both of those games, [the damage] has happened in the first half, so 4-0 or 5-0 (down) at half-time, obviously it was a bit of a shock but the second halves we've either won or drawn, so [we need to make] sure that doesn't happen."

Like their opponents, West are flush with creative players who've contributed throughout the season, with Tilley, Georgia Macri, Laura Johns and Mawa Sumaoro all getting amongst the goals this season.

The big question that lies ahead of West is whether they can find a way to keep Inter out early on and break through for a memorable title win, which they'll be backing themselves in to do this weekend.

HEAD TO HEAD



Qualifying Final (08/10/21):
Salisbury Inter 6 – 1 West Adelaide

Round 18 (11/09/21):
West Adelaide 1 – 4 Salisbury Inter

Round 14 (6/08/21):
Salisbury Inter 1 – 1 West Adelaide

Round 7 (5/06/21):
West Adelaide 1 – 2 Salisbury Inter

WNPL & WSL Cup Round of 16 (30/05/21):
West Adelaide 0 – 2 Salisbury Inter

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STATE LEAGUE 1 GRAND FINAL 2021 PRESENTED BY BORAL

WHITE CITY V WT BIRKALLA

THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER | 7:30PM | VALO FOOTBALL CENTRE





White City

Jacob Butler Bowden

Deale Chamberlain

Jace Cummins

Shannon Day

Nikola Jokic

Matthew Jones

Evan Kounavelis

Thomas Love

Kyle Markham

Nikola Markovic

Antonios Natsiopoulos

Charhine Noujaim

Karl Phelps

Jordan Pudler

Stefan Simic

Shane Tobias

Hayden Walter

Coach: Damian Mori

Assistant: Gyawe Salley

Manager: Constantinos Tsaconas

Physio: Sachin Prakash Kumar



WT Birkalla

Chris Ashwood

Roger Bark

Noah Benouzekri

Michael Camacho

John Paul Cirillo

Tyreece Conway

Liam Conway

Fitz Conway

Daniel Crossing

Chris Goddard

Carol Goddard

Nick Harpas

Chris Higgins

Simon Jensen

Thomas King

David Makridis

Calvin Mbarga

Jake Monaco

Peter Nolan

Will Plush

James Polli

Anthony Quici

John Solari

Yasmin Sudic

Luca Trimboli

Roger Williamson

Charlie Yul

Coach: Jason Trimboli

Assistant: George Katsaneris, Carmen

Lauriello

Trainer: Mahesh Kuppusamy

STATE LEAGUE 1 | MATCH PREVIEW

Thursday night sees White City and West Torrens Birkalla battle it out for the State League One Championship in what shapes as a pre-cursor to the 2022 NPL season.

A fitting finale to the season with the decider being contested by the top two in the league, the match is firming as an exciting one for the neutral between two sides who've put together some entertaining performances throughout the year.

The winner walks away with a piece of silverware to their name as a handy bonus to their promotion to the top flight of South Australian football, so who's it going to be?

WHITE CITY (2ND: 45 points, +21 GD)

It was a heartbreaking end to the season for White City, whose State League One Premiership was snatched away in injury time by Birkalla as they slid to second on goal difference at the end of the final round.

They didn't take long to rebound from missing out on automatic promotion, however, as they dispatched the minor premiers 4-0 in the first leg of their Semi-Final before grinding out a 1-1 draw to seal their passage to the Grand Final.

Their top-flight status for 2022 was confirmed a week later when Birkalla dashed Modbury Jets' hopes of an immediate return to the NPL, allowing them to enter this week's contest with more clarity.

Kyle Markham was the chief destroyer in their Semi-Final first leg triumph, netting a hat-trick as they all-but ended the tie after just 90 minutes to take his season total to 12 goals in 17 matches in the State League this year.

They'll be hoping for more of the same in the Grand Final and have had the wood over their opponents in their four previous encounters this year (two wins to one), so will enter the game full of confidence.

WT BIRKALLA (1ST: 45 points, +26 GD)

It's been a brilliant season for Birkalla, as they rebounded from an eighth-place finish in 2020 to clinch top spot in the most dramatic of circumstances thanks to a William Plush winner in the 91st minute of their Round 22 match against Para Hills Knights.

The win pushed them ahead of White City on goal difference, who could only manage a 0-0 draw against Adelaide Victory, to seal their return to the NPL for the first time since 2018.

Their work isn't done yet, though, and after an emphatic 5-1 aggregate defeat to tonight's opponents over their Semi-Final, they rebounded and stayed in the hunt for further silverware thanks to a Nicholas Harpas brace in their 2-1 triumph over the Jets last weekend.

The love has been shared in front of goal for Birkalla this year, with Calvin Mbarga (9 goals), Luca Trimboli (8) and Tyreece Conway (7) all enjoying productive seasons as part of the best attacking team in the competition (45 goals scored).

They'll be wary of their record against White City entering the contest, but will draw on their win in Round 20 which accounted for three of their opponents 17 goals conceded all season and provides a blueprint for victory in the Grand Final.

STATE LEAGUE 1 | ROAD TO THE FINALS



Week 1

White City 4 - 0 WT Birkalla
(Love 22', Markham 26', 59', 70')

Week 2

WT Birkalla 1 - 1 White City
(Kounavelis 64')

Week 1

White City 4 - 0 WT Birkalla

Week 2

WT Birkalla 1 - 1 White City
(Makridis 54')

Week 3

WT Birkalla 2-1 Modbury Jets
(Harpas 28', 71')



HEAD TO HEAD



SEMI FINAL 2 (9/10/21):
WT Birkalla 1 – 1 White City

SEMI FINAL 1 (2/10/21):
White City 4 – 0 WT Birkalla

R20(4/9/21):
WT Birkalla 3 – 1 White City

R9 (19/6/21):
White City 2 – 1 WT Birkalla

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STATE LEAGUE 2 GRAND FINAL 2021 PRESENTED BY BORAL

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY V VIPERS FC

WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER | 7:30PM | VALO FOOTBALL CENTRE





Adelaide University

Sam Bowman
Johnny Corbo
Marcus Francesca
Alessio Frisina
Raff Frisina
Harley Giles-Stubna
Roan Gillam
Kirill Gretchko
Matthew Hiern
Alex Jacob
Mohan Karthigeyan
Brad Macgowan
Dominic Matricciani
Nick Menechella
Jordan Merlino
Fabio Migliaccio
Nathan Niutta
Liam Oates
Josh Roberts
Steve Savino
Craig Shearer
Ilario Spano
Dwayne Stacey
Victor Thach
Oliver Totani
Owen Whitehouse
Kristian Zefi

Coach: Michael Matricciani
Assistant: Adrian D'Aloia
Team Manager: David Savino



Vipers FC

Adam Bahati
Sonny Calabria
Lucas Candelerio
Alex Cosmidis
Diego Garcia
Alexi Geogokoloulos
Gergis Ibrahim
Rama Kamugisha
Dion Karagiannis
Justin Kearns
Tucky Koulis
Dimi Kourlis
Lee Lockett
Dejan Markov
Johnn Moore
Athanasios Morakis
John Papapetros
Patrick Pietrosanti
Phil Saridakis
Owen Skanes
Paul Soloman
Mark Tolba
Joqhim Torres
Anthony Vakitsidis
Flynn Wilson

Coach: Maged Ibrahim
Assistants: Rami Ahmed, Ali Chetin,
Johnathon Mountzouris
Trainer: Vishnu Tikku

STATE LEAGUE 2 I

MATCH PREVIEW

The first of our four-night Grand Final bonanza pits Adelaide University and Vipers FC against one another in a battle to secure promotion to State League One in 2022.

Both sides have everything to play for tonight with not only a championship on the line, but also the final promotion spot (the first being taken by Port Adelaide as the minor premiers).

The match promises to be a spectacle between two of the top scoring sides in the division throughout the year, both of whom ended the season with very healthy goal differentials, so we're counting down the hours to find out who it'll be.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY (2ND: 51 points, +29 GD)

The end to the season wasn't what Uni had hoped for, with their 1-1 draw with Seaford Rangers on the final day and Port Adelaide's thumping victory over Gawler Eagles causing them to miss out on the minor premiership and automatic promotion as a result.

They hit the ground running in their Semi-Final, though, comfortably accounting for the Pirates 3-1 in the away leg and 1-0 at home to earn themselves a week off and a second chance at securing passage to the second tier in the South Australian football pyramid.

One of the stories of the season was the signing of Michael Matricciani as Head Coach, who moved from Adelaide City in the NPL to help Uni achieve promotion and has already comfortably improved on their fifth-place finish and second-round finals exit from last year.

Where Uni have also excelled this season is in their fixtures against their Grand Final opponents, being the only team in the league to not concede against them at all this season, so they'll draw confidence from their past performances and strong finals form.

Tonight's Grand Final could be the first big step in Matricciani's reign at Uni, with promotion and a championship firmly on the agenda.

VIPERS FC (4TH: 37 points, +23 GD)

It's been an almighty run to the Grand Final from Vipers, who've been able to grind out three successive cutthroat finals victories to give themselves a fighting chance of promotion against the odds.

They first edged past Seaford on penalties, having been unable to fully capitalise after their opponents went down to ten men in the 17th minute and nine at the start of extra time, before an own-goal was the difference maker the next week against Noarlunga.

Vipers claimed their biggest scalp in the Preliminary Final, bundling minor premiers Port Adelaide out of the finals in straight sets on their home deck thanks to an early Joaquin Torres strike that proved to be the winner.

For a side that scored 55 times and conceded 32 in 22 minor round matches, the three goals scored and just one conceded in over five hours of finals football since speak to their defensive solidity and ability to grind out results when they're needed most.

Although it seemed unlikely a few weeks ago, Vipers now find themselves just 90 minutes away from experiencing State League One football in 2022, an opportunity which they won't roll over for as they prepare to best Uni for the first time this season tonight.

STATE LEAGUE 2 | ROAD TO THE FINALS



Week 1

Port Adelaide 1 - 3 Adelaide University
(Bowman 11', Giles-Stubna 51', Macgowan 67')

Week 2

Adelaide University 1 - 0 Port Adelaide
(Gretchko 18')

Week 1

Vipers FC 1 - 1 Seaford Rangers (3-2 on penalties)
(J. Torres 62')

Week 2

Noarlunga United 0 - 1 Vipers FC
(K. Rowe (OG) 44')

Week 3

Port Adelaide 0-1 Viper FC
(J. Torres 21')



HEAD TO HEAD



Round 15 (01/09/21):

Adelaide University 1 – 0 Vipers FC

Round 4 (08/05/21):

Vipers FC 0 – 2 Adelaide University



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