

Coast Protection Board

Minutes of Meeting 513

Date: 14 February 2025

Time: 9:30am–12:00pm

Location: DEW 81-95 Waymouth St, Adelaide, Meeting rooms 10.5 & 10.6

Welcome and Acknowledgement

The meeting welcomed Mr Paul Caica, the new Presiding Member of the Board. Mr Caica is a nominee of the Chief Executive for the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and was appointed by the Deputy Premier on 1 February 2025. Mr Caica has a distinguished background, having served as a Minister in several portfolios during the Rann and Weatherill governments, including as Minister for Environment and Conservation, the River Murray, and Water, while representing the Colton electorate. Since retiring from parliamentary duties, Mr Caica has remained actively involved in both community and business endeavors.

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 9.30am with an Acknowledgment of Country and recognised a quorum. The Board accepted the agenda and noted where decisions were required.

2. Administration

2.1 Present & Apologies

Board Members

Mr Paul Caica

Professor Bronwyn Gillanders

Professor Beverley Clarke

Ms Kathryn Galpin

Mr James Buder

Secretary to the Board

Mr David Osborn (Manager, Coast)

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Staff

Mr Mathew Ward (A/Executive Director, Environment, Heritage & Sustainability)

Ms Mary-Anne Healy (Director Climate Change, Flood Risk and Coast)

Ms Robyn Morcom (A/Team Leader, Policy & Advice)

Ms Rosemary Macchiavelli (Project Officer – Board Secretariat & Grants, Coast)

Ms Olivia D'Arienzo (Business Support Officer, Coast)

Ms Kia Ly, Hydrographic Survey Coordinator, DEW (Item 4.1.1)

Apologies

Mr Daniel Walton (A/Senior Planner)

2.2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil.

2.3 Minutes of last meeting

2.3.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The draft minutes of Meeting 512, held on 6 December 2024, were received by the Board. Mr. Osborn expressed his thanks to Professor Clarke for her contributions during the previous meeting and to Ms. Healy for her service as the interim appointee of the Chief Executive to the Board.

The Board resolved to:

Approve the minutes of Meeting 512 held on 6 December 2024.

2.3.2 Business arising from previous meeting – Meeting Action Report

Proposed amendments to the *Coast Protection Act 1972* (SA) and the District Management Plans were discussed. These proposals will be revisited at the next board meeting for further consideration and advice.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Action Items from Meeting 512 held on 6 December 2024.

2.3.3 Key Outcomes Statement

The Key Outcomes Statement from the 6 December 2024 Board meeting was tabled for noting.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Key Outcomes Statement from 6 December 2024.

2.4 CPB Meeting Dates 2025

The Board resolved to:

Approve for this years board meetings to be held every 6 weeks.

3. Strategy and Policy

3.1 Emerging Issues

Previously referred to as Environmental Scanning, further consideration is needed to determine whether this item will remain on the agenda for future board meetings.

The Board resolved to:

Note emerging issues.

Consider whether this will continue to be a future agenda item for the board to note.

3.2 Strategy

3.2.1 Update on policy and strategy review

The Board has been reviewing its policy and strategic priorities through workshops with an external facilitator (Steph Hensgen) and internal staff. This process has been on hold pending the appointment of the new Presiding Member. The minutes and outcomes of the workshops, along with the proposed strategic priorities review, have been circulated for consideration. Another workshop with the external facilitator is planned for 21 March.

It was discussed to consolidate and streamline the strategic priorities from seven to four. At the upcoming workshop, CPB and Coast Unit staff will collaborate on this topic.

The Board resolved to:

Note the progress on the CPB policy review and strategic priorities.

Approve the date of 21st March as an out of session policy review workshop.

4. Engagement and Communications

4.1 Communications and engagement strategy

4.1.1 Potential Regional Field Trip

Mr Osborn discussed the value of Board field trips, mentioning the Upper Spencer field trip planned for 2024. Two proposed field trips for 2025 are as follows:

- A single-day Metropolitan coast visit, and/or
- An overnight visit to the South East (Robe/Kingston) in May.

Mr Buder and Ms Galpin proposed incorporating First Nations engagement during the field trips. Additionally, there is a proposal to align the Metro visit with the sand pumping schedule. The CPB Secretariat will send out a poll with voting options for either a May or October field trip. Field trip dates are to be determined.

The Board resolved to:

Note the proposal for a field trip in metropolitan Adelaide in May 2025 – no overnight stay.

Approved this year's regional field trip to be arranged in the South East for a three day visit with overnight stay.

10.25am Ms K Ly entered the meeting.

4.1.2 Survey Team – Presentation

The DEW/CPB Coastal Survey Monitoring program is crucial for tracking the constant changes in coastal areas caused by climate change, storms, and human activity. This program provides a comprehensive view of coastal dynamics through continuous monitoring, including aerial and oblique imagery, onsite inspections, vegetation and seagrass assessments, and sea level rise trends. It also advises on safe navigation for West Beach and Glenelg harbors and evaluates the impacts of sand management work.

The Beach Profile Network, established in 1975, tracks coastal changes over time with over 600 profiles extending from the far west to the South Australian-Victoria border. These profiles are surveyed perpendicular to the shore and highlight areas where erosion risks have been identified.

Data collected is available to scientists, engineers, planners, councils, and the public as needed. The Coast Unit has been developing the South Australian Coastal Beach Profile Monitoring Portal to upload and share this data online.

Additionally, the program collaborates with Geoscience Australia through the Coastline app, providing the complete survey dataset to help validate their model. Other notable projects include:

Provided example of other work:

- Eyre Peninsula Saltmarsh Survey (2019), which monitors saltmarshes to detect sea level changes.
- Clifftop surveys, which track beach, dune dynamics, and cliff erosion over time.
- The Rods program, which has been running since 1988, uses brass rods hammered into the seabed to measure sediment elevation changes over time.

The Board resolved to:

Note the presentation from the survey team.

10:45am Ms K Ly left the meeting.

4.2 Relationships Radar

The Presiding Member discussed observations regarding public attitudes toward beach management options and highlighted the need for clear communication on the matter.

The Board resolved to:

Consider the strategy to relationships radar for future meetings.

4.3 Correspondence and Media Reports

4.3.1 Correspondence

The Board resolved to:

Note the correspondence report.

4.3.2 Traditional and social media

The Board resolved to:

Note the media summary provided.

4.4 Biodiversity Bill 2025

Mr Osborn thanked Ms Morcom for her assistance in coordinating the response to the consultation phase of the Biodiversity Bill. The CPB supports the Bill and notes that it will prompt changes to the Coast Protection Act, adding a provision that requires consideration of the Biodiversity Act.

The Board resolved to:

Approve the draft letter addressed to the Biodiversity Unit to be signed by the Presiding Member and sent to the Biodiversity Unit Act by the COB 18 February 2025.

5. Operations

5.1 Manager's Report

Mr Osborn flagged staffing challenges within the Coast Unit, noting that efforts are underway to recruit multiple new staff members. The CRC Steering Committee is ongoing, with Professor Clarke continuing to represent the Board. The CHAP Guidelines and their respective compendiums are also ongoing, as is the LGA grants program.

The Adelaide Beach Management Review (ABMR) will remain an ongoing pressure for the next few months.

Mr Osborn highlighted DEW's involvement in the Coastal Ambassadors Program, and Coast Unit staff member Mr Dylan Stone provided a presentation on sand management. Additionally, the restoration of the rock revetment at Witton Bluff is being partially funded through the a CPB grant and has attracted media attention. A stop work order was initiated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), but work has since resumed.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Manager's Report

5.2 Coastal Programs and Management Report

Beachworks will recommence next week, starting 17 February, with the delivery of 100,000 cubic metres of quarry sand to West Beach. Planned work at Semaphore South will move sand from the Semaphore breakwater and combine it with seagrass to rebuild eroded dunes.

Sand pumping at Glenelg is scheduled to begin on 29 April. The team is working with the contractor to muffle diesel engine noise.

Green Adelaide, in collaboration with the Coast Unit, is planning for community forum in April regarding the management of the Torrens Outlet.

The Presiding Member inquired about the maintenance of the sand pipeline. The pipeline has a 25-year design life, and it is currently halfway through its lifespan.

The Board resolved to:

Note the update on coastal programs.

5.3 Planning and Development Report

5.3.1 Report on DA responses

5.3.2 Significant Development Proposals

The Presiding Member suggested removing redundant items from the Significant Developments report

The Board resolved to:

Note the Development Applications Activity Report.

Note the Significant Development Proposals.

6. Budget and Finance

6.1 Finance Report

The Board was informed about the budget, with an anticipated slight underspend. Consideration will be given to how to allocate these funds at the next meeting.

A proposal was made to have the Board sponsor the National Coasts and Ports Conference as the Platinum sponsor, with the intent to increase the visibility of the CPB and position the Board as a leader in coastal management. The forum is scheduled for late August in Adelaide.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Finance Report.

Approved for DEW to lodge an application form on behalf of the board for platinum sponsorship.

6.2 Update on Grants Program – Reference to Action Item from Meeting 512

The council grants have been fully expended, with a slight underspend in community grants. A question was raised about whether some councils receive more grant funding from the CPB than others. A summary of grants per council was requested, and Robyn Morcom provided a report covering the last three years. It was noted that some councils may not be fully aware of the funding available, and more engagement is planned.

Regarding in-kind versus cash contributions, this has not been historically tracked, but it will be included in the grants application process from this grant cycle onward.

Multi-year grants, which can be spread across two or more years, may make grants more accessible to smaller councils, though they could be challenging to manage.

Consideration is being given to bringing the grants program forward in the upcoming financial year and announcing the opening of the program earlier.

The adoption of SmartyGrants to manage the grants process was discussed.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Finance Report.

Consider the adoption of the SmartyGrants for the management of grants and present options out-of-session or at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

The Point Lowly cuttlefish access point was referenced, noting the Board conducted a site visit last year during the field trip. A task force has been formed to report through DEW and Whyalla city council, aiming to present a unified voice to the government regarding cuttlefish management. The immediate priority is to implement safety measures and improve access.

Meeting close 12:20pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday 28 March 2025.



Presiding Member of the Coast Protection Board

Date: