

Coast Protection Board **News**

Summer 2023

The Coast Protection Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

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A note from the Presiding Member

Welcome to the second edition of the Coast Protection Board's eNewsletter. I'm Jeff Tate, the Presiding Member of the Board.



Our coasts are the most visited public land in South Australia. As we approach the end of summer, I hope you have had a chance to enjoy our coastline and the recreational benefits it provides. You are not alone - six million tourists visit our coast every year and generate an estimated \$600 million for the South Australian economy.

Beyond the stunning coastal vistas and landscapes, our coastal environment comprises a diverse and unique mix of plants, animals, soil, seas, waterways and associated habitats of high intrinsic value and ecological importance.

You may have been concerned by the large number of dead or dying juvenile carp washing up on our south coast beaches from Goolwa to Victor Harbor over the summer months. The unusually large number was due to spawning events made favourable by the recent River Murray floods. While invasive carp have a high tolerance to varying environmental conditions, they cannot survive in sea water and have died due to being carried out via the high flood water outflows. For more information on this matter, please refer to the [PIRSA website](#). This event provides a stark reminder of, and an opportunity to reflect on, the interconnectedness of our coastal and river environments.

In other recent news, you may have heard that the [Adelaide Beach Management Review](#) is now underway, with coastal engineering firm Bluecoast Consulting Engineers and community engagement specialists URPS reporting to the [Independent Advisory Panel](#) over the course of the 12-month review. The Government has committed to this scientific review which is being conducted independently of the Coast Protection Board. You can keep up-to-date with developments related to Adelaide beach management and the independent scientific review by subscribing to the Department for Environment and Water's *Our Coasts eNews* [here](#).

The Board looks forward to working with you over the coming year on some exciting projects and opportunities that will help to protect, restore and sustain our precious coastline.

Regards,

Jeff Tate



Australian Sea Lion, Kangaroo Island (Image Credit: Coast Protection Board)

Coastal & Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program - SA's Funding Success

The Australian Government's [2022-23 Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program](#) provided \$50 million for projects that aim to mitigate the impact of coast and estuarine disasters such as storm surge and coastal inundation.

South Australia was successful in securing \$6.7 million for these six project proposals:

Coastal Adaptation for South Australia (*LGA SA, DEW and CPB*) - \$3,707,000 to accelerate development and use of adaptation strategies and establish quality data and on-going monitoring for disaster risk and vulnerability assessment.

Wyomi Stage 2 Seawall Construction (*Kingston District Council*) - \$1,953,750 to extend the Wyomi rock seawall by 345m to the north and south of the existing seawall.

Encounter Bay Coastal Protection Sea Wall (*City of Victor Harbor*) - \$518,000 to create a resilient foreshore in a low-lying area under increasing risk of inundation due to storm surges and sea levels rise.

Barunga West Coastal Protection Project (*Barunga West Council*) - \$359,000 for the implementation of a range of coastal protection measures focused on coastal erosion.

Data Collection and Modelling Study: Horseshoe Bay, Port Elliot (*Alexandrina Council*) - \$112,500 to support a proactive, best-practice approach to data collection and modelling to underpin master planning and future-proofing the Bay and its intrinsic value to the community.

Lower Eyre Peninsula Coastal Adaptation and Emergency Management Strategy (*District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula*) - \$60,000 to develop coastal adaptation strategies for North Shields and Tulka and emergency management plans for Tulka and Farm Beach, identifying hazards, mitigation and management measures associated with coastal inundation risk.



Shell Beach, Yorke Peninsula (Image Credit: S Taite)

Coastal Adaptation for South Australia

The *Coastal Adaptation for South Australia* project is a significant strategic partnership program being led by the LGA SA in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water and the Coast Protection Board. The program will be delivered between 2023 and 2025 through a series of interconnected projects and activities.

The program will accelerate adaptation planning and drive a more strategic and integrated approach to coastal management across the state. The LGA has appointed an interim Program Manager to progress the current priorities, including establishing the program governance structure and detailed program planning.



Stansbury, Yorke Peninsula (Image Credit: N Pelton)

2022-23 Coast Protection Board Grant Programs - CLOSING SOON

The Coast Protection Board provides grants to coastal councils to support projects that help to sustain, restore, and protect South Australia's precious coastal resources.

Coast Protection Grants provide funding to coastal councils to manage and protect South Australia's valuable coastal assets and address climate change risks. Grants can be used for a range of protection projects and coastal hazard studies, risk assessments and adaptation strategies.

Community Participation Grants support volunteer groups to partner with local government to undertake small-scale, on-ground coastal management initiatives.

Applications for both close at midnight on Tuesday 28 February 2023.

For more information, please visit: [Department for Environment and Water - Coast Protection Board Grants](#)



Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island (Image Credit: A Turner)

Planning and Development

In accord with the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, planning authorities must refer certain development applications on coastal land to the Coast Protection Board. Most responses are issued under delegation by Department for Environment and Water staff.

DEW provides a report on development application responses at every Board meeting to monitor how Board policies have been applied and delegations exercised. The Board will consider and adjudicate on responses to proposals that are significant, controversial and/or where the applicability of Board policy is uncertain.

Summary of responses to Development Applications

Last Financial Year (1 Jul 2021- 30 Jun 2022)

Responses to Development Applications: 177

- No Objection: 168 (95%)
- Advised Refusal*: 8 (4.5%)
- Directed Refusal: 1 (0.5%) (at variance with coastal flood hazard risk policy)

**Board Policy no longer supports Advised Refusal; any Refusals are Directed.*

Year to Date (1 Jul – 31 Jan 2023)

Responses to Development Applications: 93

- No Objection: 88 (93%)
- Directed Refusal: 5 (7%) (three at variance with coastal flood hazard risk policy; two at variance with coastal biodiversity & orderly development policies)



Storm damage at Southend, Wattle Range Council (Image Credit: DEW)

Did you know...?

Saving SA's Coastal Raptors

South Australia's coastal raptors are valuable species with an important role as top-order coastal predators. Two species, the White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and Australian Eastern Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus ssp cristatus*), nest and breed in predominantly coastal locations in SA. Their presence and productivity indicates the health of the ecological communities within which they live.

Due to the low number of breeding pairs Osprey and Sea Eagle populations are now endangered in South Australia. Furthermore, recent surveys and studies have shown a significant decline in the population of both species along the SA coastline.

As they are particularly sensitive to human disturbance, a section on Coastal Raptors has been added to the [Coast Protection Board's Policy Document](#) under *Threatened and sensitive coastal species, communities and habitats* (see Appendix 3 'Guidelines for Proposed Coastal Development Outside of Urban Areas'). This policy aims to mitigate and minimise the impacts of development on SA's coastal raptor species.

DEW has also recently released a plan outlining strategies and actions to ensure the long-term conservation and recovery of these iconic species: [South Australian Recovery Plan for Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle](#).

Learn more about these emblematic, top-order predators with our resident coastal raptor expert and DEW's Principal Coastal Scientific Officer, Sharie Detmar, by watching her recent [presentation](#) to *Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries*.



Eastern Osprey (Image Credit: Andrew Brooks)

Beachcombing Guides

Cooling off in pristine coastal waters is one of the joys of summer in South Australia, but did you know that our coastline supports more than 6000 invertebrate species, 1200 algal species and 12 species of seagrass in addition to many fish, mammal and seabird populations - a number of which are found nowhere else in the world?

Beachcombing our shorelines is a great way to see some of this diversity up close and is a fun, free activity you can enjoy along South Australia's beaches all year round. There are many guides available - head to the links below for further information:

- [A Beachcomber's guide to plants and animals in South Australia's Marine Parks](#)
- [10 things to look for when beachcombing in South Australia](#)

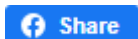
You can even log your finds at inaturalist.org.au and contribute to citizen science if you are keen. And remember, pick up any plastics you find while you're there to help support our unique coastal ecosystems and keep them healthy for future generations.



Sea Urchin (Image Credit: DEW)

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