

Coast Protection Board Meeting

August 2025

Key outcomes

The Coast Protection Board (the Board) held Meeting 517 on 1 August 2025 at the offices of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), 81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide. The meeting minutes will be released on the Board's [webpage](#) following their confirmation at the next meeting.

Key outcomes from Meeting 517 included:

- **Climate Ready Government**

Diane Favier, A/Director Climate Change, Flood Risk & Coast, provided an update to the Board on DPC Circular 7 – Climate Ready Government, which outlines requirements public agencies must comply with. The Board resolved to add reference to Climate Ready Government under Priority 2 of its Strategic Plan and add Climate Ready Government as a standing agenda item.

- **Presentation from the Coast Science Team**

Ms Alison Turner, Acting Principal Coastal Scientific Officer, provided the Board with an overview of the Coast Unit's long-term seabed monitoring (rods) program. The program utilises a series of 1.6 metre brass rods inserted into the seabed at a depth of 1 metre along the Adelaide metropolitan coast, to measure changes in seabed elevation and seagrass coverage. There are currently 6 rod profiles comprising 200 data points. Data is used to ground-truth remote sensing measurements such as hydrographic survey data, as well as inform other government and academic research programs such as seagrass restoration, blue carbon and developing new seagrass mapping techniques such as the SmartSat project which seeks to assess live seagrass cover and species using satellite-based hyperspectral imagery.

- **Presentation from the Reconciliation Team**

Mr Ashley Millar, Manager of the First Nations Partnerships and Reconciliation Team, provided the Board with an overview of the Reconciliation Team in managing the Department for Environment and Water's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) deliverables and Close the Gap commitments. Action areas of the previous RAP included strengthening First Nations partnerships, employment outcomes for Aboriginal staff, and facilitating access to cultural practices on public land. The Reconciliation Sub-Committee of Executive is responsible for the implementation of strategic initiatives and policies to assist DEW in achieving these objectives. The previous RAP had 90 objectives, 66 of which were complete, 16 are ongoing and 7 are delayed but expected to resume. The Department for Environment and Water is primarily focused on Close the Gap objective 15 – relationships with land and waters (Native Title rights). DEW engagement involves park management, facilitation of

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major projects, interpretive signage, co-management of Boards and informing First Nations groups of changes to Acts or other plans that affect them. The Board noted potential future engagement opportunities through Ashley Millar and his team in furthering the Board's First Nations engagement priority.

- **Update on Harmful Algal Bloom**

Dr Matthew Ward, Director Biodiversity Science, Coast and Information DEW briefed the Board on an update regarding the algal bloom. Dr Ward pointed out that DEW is playing a key role in supporting the governments response and understanding of the bloom. This has included supporting coastal water testing arrangements, communications and engagement and citizen science. South Australians now have a dedicated website for everything algal bloom. Additionally, information sessions are available to support DEW staff with the impact of the algal bloom on compassion fatigue. The Board emphasized its dedication to a unified, cross-government approach to safeguarding SA public health and environmental integrity.