

# West Beach Sand Replenishment

## November - December 2025

### What works are taking place?

Up to 30,000m<sup>3</sup> of additional sand is being delivered to West Beach via the access ramp just north of the Adelaide Sailing Club and distributed along the beach from the ramp to an area just north of the West Beach Surf Club (Rockingham Dunes). Sand delivery for this stage of works will be complete by 12 December 2025.

### Why are the works taking place?

Keeping our metropolitan beaches sandy and ensuring that there is a large enough sand buffer on the beach to protect infrastructure like homes, businesses and roads, requires ongoing management.

Wind and wave action naturally moves sand northward along Adelaide's coastline in a process called longshore drift. This is a common occurrence in beaches around the world. Infrastructure built in the past has created barriers to this natural movement, therefore having an impact on where sand is building up - or not building up - on respective sections of the beach. At West Beach, sand moves away from the active beach zone at approximately 90,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) per year on average, depending on seasonal conditions.

A commitment has been made to restore West Beach by 2030 with 550,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand from outside of the Adelaide metropolitan beach system. The quarry sand delivery is part of the ongoing management to maintain West Beach.

So far, delivery of quarry sand has occurred in two stages:

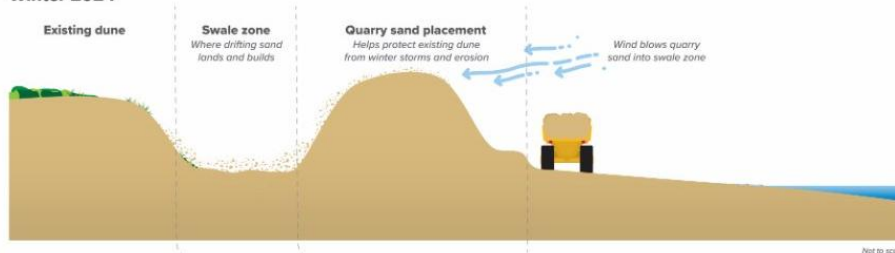
- Stage 1: 100,000m<sup>3</sup> at West Beach commenced end July and completed mid-December 2024 (complete)
- Stage 2: 100,000m<sup>3</sup> at West Beach commenced early February and completed in June 2025 (complete)

### How is sand being placed?

The aim is to evenly distribute the sand on the beach from Adelaide Sailing Club to West Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Sand is placed as close to the existing dune as possible, and the tide and winds help naturally shape the beach. If erosion hot spots emerge then those areas are targeted with additional sand deliveries.

Cross section of West Beach dune system

#### Winter 2024



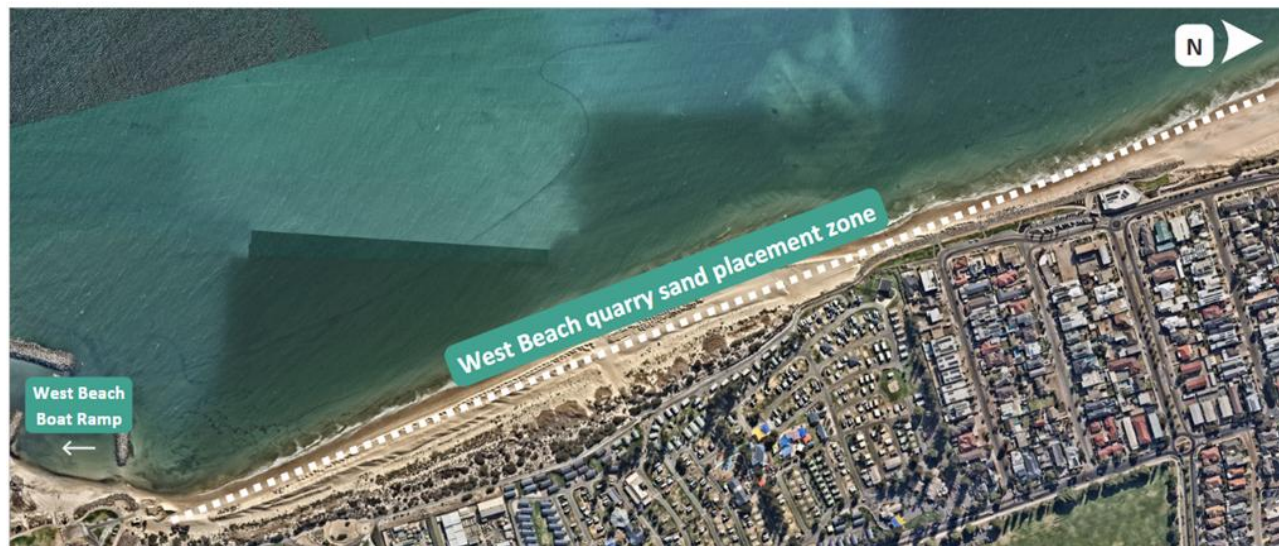
#### Summer 2024-25



## Where are the works taking place?

Sand will be placed on the beach between the Adelaide Sailing Club and the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, and if needed, at the Rockingham dunes just north of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Trucks will access the beach via the Adelaide Sailing Club ramp.

A temporary project site hut will be set up adjacent the ramp. Trucks and machinery will occupy parking areas at Adelaide Sailing Club during works and will remain parked in designated areas on weekends. Heavy machinery will also remain on the beach at the end of the boat ramp overnight, on weekends and public holidays.





## When are the works taking place?

The current stage of quarry sand delivery began in early November and is due for completion by 12 December 2025, subject to weather and operational requirements. Delivery will occur between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and will not take place on weekends, public holidays or during school holidays.

## What is the active beach zone?

The "active beach zone," also known as the active coastal profile or littoral active zone, is the part of the beach where sand is constantly being moved and redistributed by waves, tides, and wind. Watch the video about coastal monitoring on our website: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts/protecting-coastal-environment/monitoring-beaches-coast>

## Why is seagrass wrack being placed on the beach?

When possible, seagrass wrack is also used during beach replenishment works. Wrack contributes to the protection and stabilisation of the shoreline and coastal dunes by serving as a physical barrier between the sea and the dune system. This is achieved by effectively reducing the amount of wave energy that reaches the toe of the dune and providing a degree of protection to the foreshore. In particular, its fibrous composition is thought to contribute to and enhance the formation and stabilisation of coastal sand dunes by acting as a trap that binds drifting sands, reduces erosion, and provides nutrients to aid dune plant growth. Image of seagrass wrack at West Beach 2025



## What impact will the works have on community?

While the works are underway, heavy machinery and approximately 80 trucks per day will frequent local roads, the Adelaide Sailing Club carpark, and the beach between the Adelaide Sailing Club and the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, on weekdays between 7am and 5pm.

Residents and beachgoers should take care during works and follow safety signage. Trucks must give way to any other traffic on the beach, including pedestrians and animals. Traffic spotters will be in attendance to support public safety at the coastal path cross over.

DEW meets regularly with the Adelaide Sailing Club and the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club to manage operational matters and any overlaps with beach events and activities.

We acknowledge the impact the truck deliveries are having on local communities, clubs and businesses at West Beach and thank them for their patience and understanding while the works take place.

## Who is driving the trucks and what speed should they be going?

Sand movement works on Adelaide's beaches are undertaken by a contractor on behalf of DEW. Safety is of paramount importance when undertaking works along our beaches. As such, the contract includes stringent conditions regarding the speeds that the equipment (trucks and other machinery) can operate at when moving along the beach. Speed of vehicles on the beach shall not be greater than:

- 40 km/h unless within 50 metres of any person or animals
- 25 km/h between 10 metres and 50 metres of any person or animals
- Must stop within 10 metres of any person or animal

These truck speed limits are compliant with the recent changes to the *Road Traffic Act 1961*. The department also has a supervisor monitoring compliance with these conditions. Like cars and other vehicles, trucks may also be equipped with dash cams and GPS monitoring.

## What measures are in place to protect the environment?

DEW works closely with Birdlife Australia prior to and during beach replenishment operations to minimise any potential impacts on Red-capped and Hooded plovers during breeding season. DEW is updated regularly by Birdlife Australia with regards to shorebird activity along the metropolitan coastline. If required, DEW contracts the services of a trained Birdlife spotter who remains present on the beach during operations.

The sand from quarries needs to have certain characteristics to be suitable for beach replenishment. The sand also needs to have a low percentage (less than 0.5%) of silt and clay particles to avoid adding fine material to the marine environment after the sand is placed on the beach.

Regular testing is undertaken of the quarry sand being placed and sand composition must meet strict Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines.

## What happens after these works are complete?

The long-term approach for restoration and recycling has not been finalised and once a decision has been made by Government this will be communicated to impacted communities.

### More information

Information about Adelaide beach management is available on the Department's website:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts>

Videos showing how West Beach is being restored:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts/managing-adelaides-beaches/faqs/delivering-external-sand-to-west-beach>

Sign up to Our Coastal News:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts/contact-us>

If you require further information, please contact Dave Primer, Community Engagement Advisor – Coasts via email [David.Primer@sa.gov.au](mailto:David.Primer@sa.gov.au) or phone 0448 169 428