



Securing the future of our coastline

PROJECT UPDATE

FAQs – Quarry sand delivery to West Beach

April 2021

- The state government has announced that up to 250,000 cubic metres of sand from land-based quarries will be delivered to West Beach in 2021.
- Using quarry sand for the first phase of the mass replenishment will ensure that large volumes of sand are delivered to West Beach before the end of the year while investigation of other potential sand sources continues.
- This is part of the state government's \$48.4 million *Securing the Future of our coastline* project, which includes a commitment to deliver a large quantity of sand (500,000 cubic metres) to West Beach from outside of Adelaide's beach system.

When is the quarry sand being delivered? How long will it take?

- The likely timing for the delivery of quarry sand is from July to December 2021. Final details in relation to timing will be available in coming months as contracts are awarded.
- Prior to this sand will be moved from Semaphore to West Beach commencing in May 2021.

What about offshore sources of sand?

- Sand is a finite resource and there is a limited amount of sand in Adelaide's beach system.
- Historically the Port Stanvac offshore deposits have been used to replenish Adelaide's beaches. But detailed investigations in 2020 have found that the remaining sand at Port Stanvac isn't suitable for beach replenishment. It's too fine, and the silt and clay content is too high. The risk of a plume occurring during dredging is just too high.
- Using quarry sand for the first phase of the mass replenishment will ensure that large volumes of sand are delivered to West Beach before the end of the year while investigation of other potential sand sources continues.
- A successful trial was conducted at West Beach in December 2020 which demonstrated that commercial quarries are a viable source of high quality external sand with low environmental risks.

What about the impact of trucking?

- Adding a large volume of sand to West Beach will dramatically improve the quality of the beach, requiring a large number of truck movements to deliver the sand.
- We acknowledge that trucking can cause disruption for local residents, however, by doing the hard work now during the colder months, we can ensure there's amazing sandy beaches ready for the whole community to enjoy come summer time.
- We will continue to work closely with the West Beach community during planning and delivery of the works to minimise disruption.

Where will the quarry sand come from?

- The sand will be sourced from licensed quarries in South Australia.
- Sand was trialled last year from quarries located in Golden Grove, Mt Compass, Wellington and Clinton on the Yorke Peninsula.
- Further information will become available as contracts for the supply of sand are awarded.

What routes will the trucks use?

- To minimise community disruption, it is expected that the majority of the quarry sand will be delivered via the West Beach Parks boat harbour at the southern end of West Beach.
- Competitive tender processes are being used to purchase the quarry sand. Trucking routes will be finalised in consultation with the community and once contracts have been awarded to quarry sand suppliers.

How do you know that quarry sand is suitable for beach replenishment?

- A successful trial was conducted at West Beach in December 2020 which demonstrated that commercial quarries are a viable source of high quality external sand with low environmental risks.
- Quarry sand is readily available and does not have the potential environmental risks associated with dredging sand from offshore sources.

Is quarry sand clean and safe?

- Quarry sand is a known source of clean, high quality sand with low environmental risks.
- The sand sources are from naturally occurring sand deposits and are not from any waste or recycled products. The sands are available for purchase by the public.
 - The sands are screened to the desired sizing and then washed to remove silt and clays leaving a very clean natural sand.
 - The mining and processing of these sands are monitored under EPA and extractive licences and comply with the relevant Acts.

Can any type of sand go onto the beach?

- No, the sand we are looking for both from quarries and from offshore sources needs to have certain characteristics to do the job of beach and dune stabilisation.
- Coarser sands (larger grain sizes) are better because they are heavier and are less likely to be moved along the coast by wind and waves.
- The sand also needs to have a low percentage of silt and clay particles so that plumes aren't caused after the sand is placed on the beach.

Will quarry sand bleach and blend in?

- Yes, the sand will bleach after being exposed to the sun and seawater.

What community engagement is occurring?

- We will continue to work closely with the West Beach community during planning and delivery of the works to minimise disruption.
- We are working closely with a community reference group formed for the *Securing the future of our coastline* project.
- The department is also concurrently progressing the design and delivery of the sand recycling pipeline from Semaphore to West Beach with a draft design expected later in 2021 for public consultation.

More information is available on the department's coasts website at environment.sa.gov.au/coasts.