

# Native Vegetation Council Communique



Government  
of South Australia



Native Vegetation  
Council

## Meeting 246: 2 August 2023

Welcome to the Native Vegetation Council (Council) Communique for meeting 246 held on 2 August 2023. The purpose of this Communique is to provide the general public with an insight into the issues being considered by Council.

### Presentations

The Council had 2 presentations at this meeting.

The presentation from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) Science Information Branch focussed on:

1. how we continue to work together to protect critical habitat
2. how we continue to work on data sets to get a stronger alignment for regulatory decision making and SOE
3. climate projections, and understanding and integrating data into Council's business.

Ms Kirsty Bevan, CEO, Nature Conservation Society of SA provided a presentation on Benchmarking South Australia's Heritage Agreement (HA) System to better protect SA biodiversity by identifying best practice models and opportunities to improve the HA system in South Australia.

### Decisions

The Council considered and approved the waving of Stage 2 and 3 Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) payment for Flinders Ports Pty Ltd in relation to application for clearance of native vegetation at Outer Harbor. The clearance related to dredging required to support widening of the channel to allow for Post-Panamax size ships to dock at Outer Harbor.

The original application anticipated that 4 ha of seagrass would be removed as a direct result of the dredging operation, with an additional 158 ha of seagrass potentially impacted due to turbidity from dredge plumes.

The application was approved subject to conditions which provided for the SEB payments to be made in 3 stages. This allowed for the Council to consider the actual impacts of the dredging operations and potentially adjust the SEB payment if the impacts were substantially different than anticipated.

The final report provided by Flinders Ports concluded that there were minimal impacts on the seagrass. As a result, Flinders Ports Pty Ltd sought for the revision of the SEB requirements.

The Council also considered an application for financial assistance to enter into a voluntary heritage agreement on the Yorke Peninsula.

The funding was required to replace boundary fencing to ensure stock is kept out of the proposed Heritage Agreement area. The Heritage Agreement aims to protect a highly diverse Sheoak low woodland featuring a population of Nationally Vulnerable Winter Spider Orchid (*Caladenia brumalis*).

The Council approved the application to establish a Heritage Agreement over an area of 44 ha, and approved expenditure of \$6,960.54 (GST inclusive).



[Photo 1 – representative photo of vegetation condition. *Allocasuarina verticillata* woodland. Photo courtesy of the Department for Environment and Water]



[Photo 2 – Orchids on the site. Photo courtesy of the landowner]

## Activity Reports

Between 31 May 2023 and 24 July 2023, 17 new compliance reports were received, taking the total active reports at end of this period to 60. Nine reports were closed during the period.

During the same period, decisions were made on 38 applications for clearance of native vegetation, out of which 37 were approved with conditions, and one was refused.

These applications resulted in 202.15 ha and 59 trees cleared, with the value of \$2,813,997.24 of financial SEB.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please feel free to contact the Native Vegetation Council:

08 8303 9777 or [nvc@sa.gov.au](mailto:nvc@sa.gov.au)

More information about native vegetation in South Australia is available from <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation>