



Adelaide Beach Management Review

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Adelaide's coastline has changed over hundreds of years with development on the coast, structures that interrupt the natural flow of sand and human intervention. On Adelaide's beaches sand naturally moves northward by the wind and waves. Some beaches accumulate sand and others have experienced significant sand loss.

Adelaide's beaches have been managed for nearly 50 years, with the aim of protecting homes, businesses and infrastructure and providing sandy beaches for our community to enjoy.

Why is a review being done?

The state government is undertaking a comprehensive review of all options available for managing Adelaide's beaches focussing on the coastline between West Beach and Largs Bay.

The review aims to ensure a long-term solution is found that puts community and the environment at the core, so we can continue to enjoy our incredible beaches into the future.

What does the review involve?

A scientific review of options is being undertaken to ensure the viability and implications of each sand management option is understood, including analysis of climate change impact.

The review includes reference to previous reports and reviews undertaken for the Adelaide coastline.

Coastal residents and beachgoers also have the chance to participate in a discussion about the future of our coastline. The review includes targeted as well as broad-ranging community consultation to ensure the Adelaide community

has an opportunity to provide input, and so that a variety of views can be considered.

This includes consideration of previous engagement outcomes, such as those received regarding the Semaphore to West Beach sand pipeline project, and previous market research.

An Independent Advisory Panel has been established to advise the state government on the preferred option(s) and the community's views.

Who is responsible for the review?

An Independent Advisory Panel has been established and will report to the Attorney General, the Hon Kyam Maher MLC, who is the Minister responsible for delivering the review.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is coordinating the review process, which is being led by coastal management experts Bluecoast Consulting Engineers and community engagement specialists URPS.

How long will the review take?

The review will take approximately 12 months and is scheduled for completion by end-2023.

How can I get involved?

Coastal residents, business owners and beachgoers alike will all have the chance to participate in a discussion about the future of our coastline.

The review will include targeted as well as broad-ranging community consultation to ensure the Adelaide community has an opportunity to provide input, and so that a variety of views can be considered.

This will include online surveys and community meetings facilitated by community engagement professionals, and by written submission to the Independent Advisory Panel.

The review will include consideration of previous engagement outcomes, including those received concerning the cancelled sand pipeline project

What will happen with my feedback?

The outcomes of community engagement will be provided to the Independent Advisory Panel so that your ideas, suggestions and concerns can be considered alongside the scientific review.

Community members will also have the opportunity to talk directly to the Panel in support of their written submissions.

Your feedback will help shape the future of our coastline.

What are the beach management options being considered?

There will be a variety of possible options for the future, and lessons that can be learnt from existing approaches. Physical structures like groynes, whether large rock groynes or small sand bag groynes, have been used in the past to impact the movement of sand. Offshore reefs, breakwaters and sandbars also affect the natural movement of sand.

Sand recycling measures such as trucks and pipelines, along with the delivery of additional external sand into the system can also increase sand dune and beach volumes in critical areas.

Examples of local, interstate and international approaches will all form part of the study.

What is being done to manage our beaches in the meantime?

The beach replenishment program is critical to providing protection during storm events. DEW undertakes post-storm inspections to assess these impacts and determine what emergency beach replenishment may be needed.

While the review is completed, DEW will continue to actively manage Adelaide's metropolitan beaches with existing measures, including trucking sand to replenish West Beach and elsewhere as required.

Our southern metropolitan beaches will continue to be maintained using the existing sand recycling pipeline from Glenelg to Kingston Park.

What other works are happening along our beaches?

Revegetation of sand dunes along various sections of the coast will continue in partnership with community groups, local councils and the Coast Protection Board.

Local councils will continue to ensure beach access points are maintained, especially following high tide and storm events.

DEW will continue with active sand management where required to protect infrastructure.

Plans are also progressing on the Coast Park project, which includes a 1.3km shared-use pathway from Semaphore Park to West Lakes Shore, as well as a 1.8km stretch between Tennyson and Grange.

How much sand is needed and where does it need to be?

The metropolitan coastline is an active environment, with a northward littoral (longshore) sand drift that varies in intensity along its length.

The rate and volume varies depending on a number of factors, including weather events, tidal conditions, structures (including jetties), river outlets, dune condition, seagrass location, water depth and sandbars.

Previous modelling suggests that the net volume of sand movement along Adelaide's coastline varies between 50,000m³ and 100,000m³ per annum, up to 115,000m³ p.a.

The placement of sand along the coastline aims to assist in protecting areas where erosion occurs by providing additional buffer volumes.

What is happening with the previously approved sand pipeline project?

The sand recycling pipeline was a major infrastructure project along the length of the coast from Semaphore South to West Beach, which was similar in design and operation to the existing Glenelg to Kingston Park pipeline.

The pipeline construction was part of the Securing the future of our coastline project, and has been halted to allow for the Adelaide beach management review to occur.

Why didn't the pipeline go ahead, and is it still an option?

There was unresolved opposition to the project concerning the infrastructure to be installed, questions about the extent of the pipeline, and uncertainty about whether it would meet the sand requirements for West Beach.

The review will examine all possible options for managing Adelaide's beaches, including whether a sand recycling pipeline is feasible.

Can I engage in the review process if I've already provided feedback on the pipeline project?

Yes. Previous feedback received by DEW forms part of the review, and you are welcome to contribute again during the review process.

What budget is there for implementing the preferred solution?

The cost of managing our coastline will vary depending on the identified solution(s), and as such the outcome of the review and recommendations will inform future budget deliberations.

More information

To view more information on Adelaide's coastline and the *Adelaide Beach Management Review*, and to subscribe for updates, please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coasts