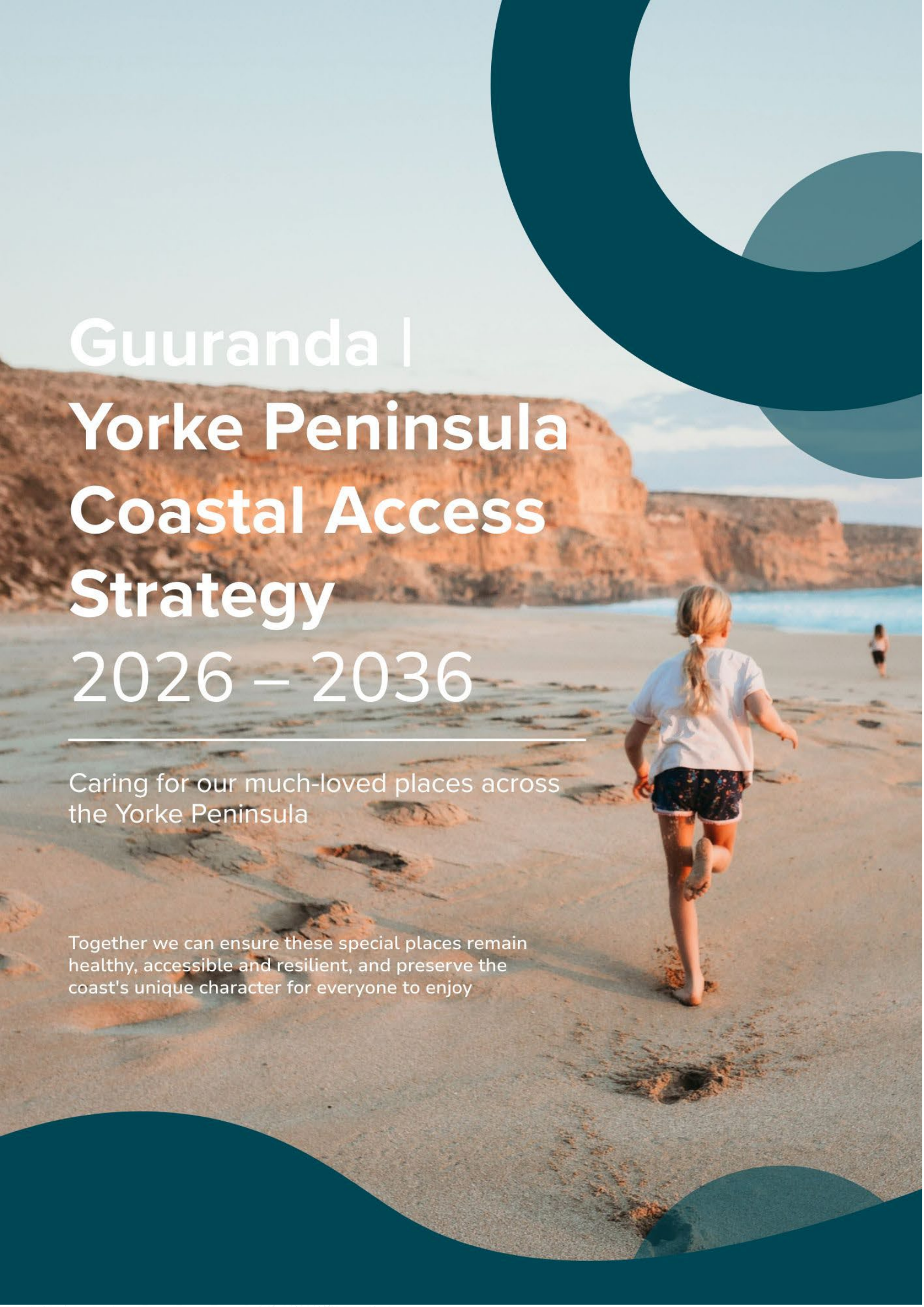


A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts, is running barefoot on a sandy beach. She is facing away from the camera, running towards the ocean. In the background, there are high, reddish-brown cliffs and a blue sky. The beach is wide and sandy, with some small pools of water. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula Coastal Access Strategy 2026 – 2036

Caring for our much-loved places across
the Yorke Peninsula

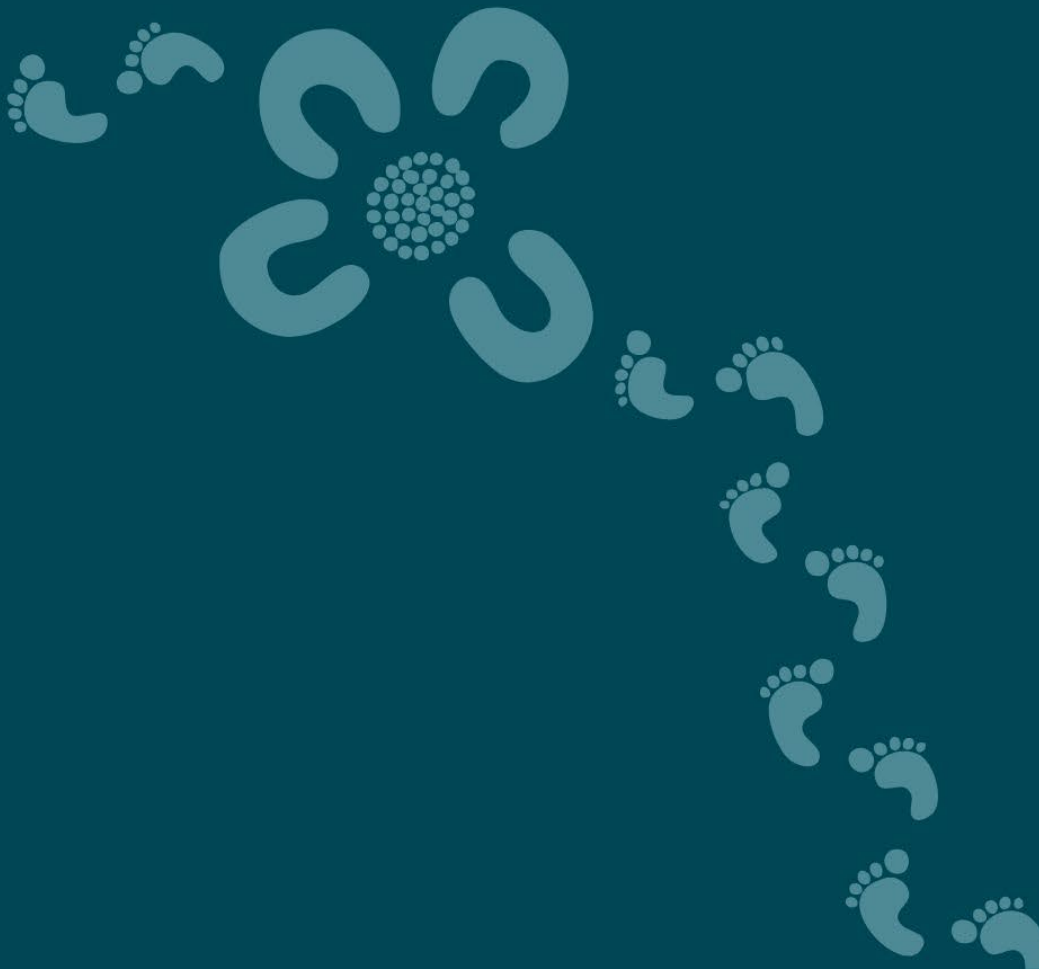
Together we can ensure these special places remain
healthy, accessible and resilient, and preserve the
coast's unique character for everyone to enjoy

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Narungga (traditionally spelled Nharangga) people - the Traditional Owners of Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula. We acknowledge elders past and present, and we respect the relationship Narungga people have to Country.

Aboriginal peoples' oral histories and creation stories traverse the length and breadth of Australia's lands and waters. These stories interconnect lands and waters with complex meaning and values and hold great cultural significance. We recognise and respect Aboriginal people's ownership of their stories and that they hold rights and obligations to care for Country.

Through the implementation of this strategy we are committing to supporting Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations' involvement in the management of lands, seas and waters.



Artwork courtesy
Marika Davis

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This report was prepared by URPS for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board which coordinated the regional partners in the development of this collaborative strategy.

Our collective commitment

We are committed to working together to implement this Coastal Access Strategy for Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula.

This Strategy is evidence-driven and stakeholder-supported. It has been developed collaboratively and embodies our joint aspirations for a sustainably managed coast.

It provides a roadmap to our shared vision for Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula where coastal access is enabled while protecting what we value most, including cultural heritage, coastal ecosystems, recreation and enjoyment of our beautiful coastline.

We recognise that we all have an important role to play in managing access to our coasts.

We all need to contribute in order to succeed. We will work collaboratively to implement the actions outlined in this Strategy to achieve a model for responsible and effective coastal access management that will be sustainable for generations to come.

STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Department for Environment and Water

SA's Mid North and Yorke Tourism Zone

Yorke Peninsula Council

Copper Coast Council

Barunga West Council

Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Point Peace Aboriginal Corporation



**Dhilba Guuranda-Innes
National Park**

*Photo courtesy
Bayside Glamping*

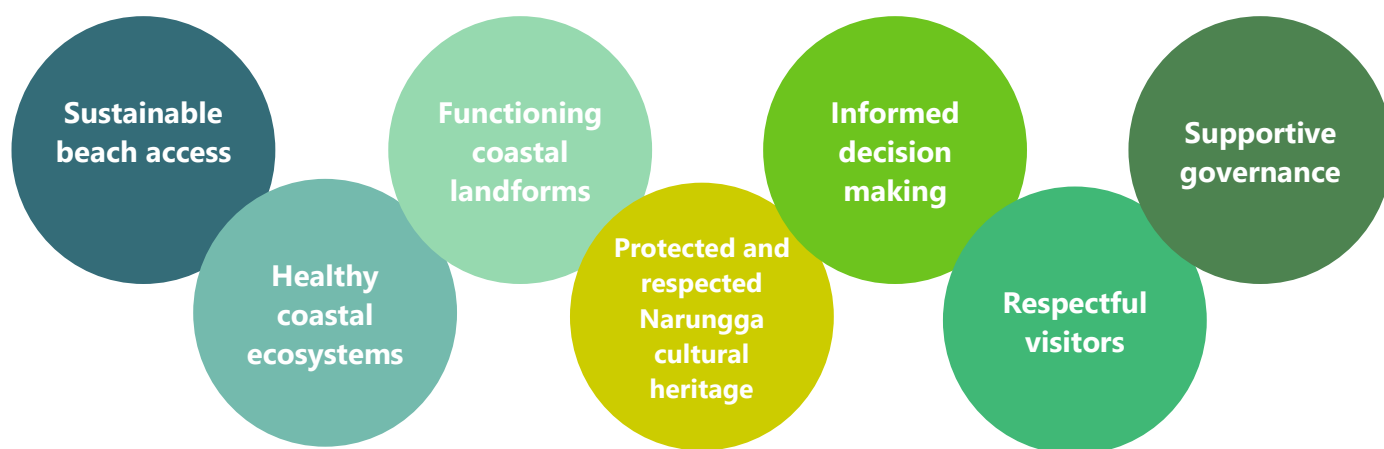
Executive summary

The Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coastline is loved by locals and visitors who have swum, fished, boated, surfed, walked and camped amongst its beautiful waters, dunes and beaches for generations. For many, access to the coast via off-road vehicles such as four-wheel drives, quad bikes and trail bikes makes these activities possible.

Coastal off-road vehicle access and unmanaged camping is having an increasingly negative impact on the Yorke Peninsula. This includes pollution, harm to plants and animals, damage to sites of Narungga cultural significance, disregard for public and private property and infrastructure, and creation of unsafe and unpleasant conditions for other visitors.

This Coastal Access Strategy aims to address these challenges to enable responsible and sustainable access to the coast while better balancing the protection of the natural environment, cultural heritage and enjoyment of the coast. The Strategy provides direction for all those with a responsibility in managing coastal access.

The Strategy sets a vision for *looking after the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast and making sure people can continue to enjoy it, for now and for future generations*. It establishes nine principles that guide all action undertaken as part of the Strategy. Strategies and opportunities for action are organised under seven themes that describe the coastal system we want. These themes include:



The Strategy will be supported by an Implementation Plan which provides detail on associated roles and responsibilities, a prioritisation process to guide what action should be taken where, and a monitoring and evaluation process.

The success of the Strategy will require organisations to work closely together to progress the opportunities for action. The partner organisations including Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Point Peace Aboriginal Corporation, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, the Department for Environment and Water, Yorke Peninsula Council, Copper Coast Council, Barunga West Council and SA's Mid North and Yorke Peninsula Tourism Zone have committed to working together to deliver the Strategy. Narungga people are a key partner given their enduring deep connections to the Guuranda coastal system and strong involvement in the care of their Country. This collaboration will help to tackle challenges including complex and overlapping roles, responsibilities and legislation in coastal access management, limited staff and funding to resource action across such a large area, and the current scale of the issues being experienced.



 **Edithburgh**
Photo courtesy
South Australian
Tourism Commission

1 Introduction

The spectacular coastline of Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula spans almost 700 kilometres from Fisherman's Bay to Port Clinton, with beaches, cliffs, sand hills, surf, estuaries, mangroves, tidal mudflats, samphire, salt marshes and sea meadows.

The coast is loved by locals and visitors who for generations have enjoyed the beautiful beaches and the variety of opportunities for fishing, boating, surfing, walking and camping. For many locals and visitors, access to the coast via off-road vehicles makes these activities possible.

The number of people accessing the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast via vehicles is increasing every year. This has been influenced by more affordable off-road vehicles, a greater number of people interested in off-road driving, increased awareness of coastal accessibility through social media, and COVID-19 impacts encouraging local travel.

This access is having an increasingly negative impact. Off-road vehicles, unmanaged camping and inappropriate behaviour are polluting the natural environment, destroying vegetation, harming native animals, damaging sites of significance to Narungga people, disregarding public and private property and infrastructure, and creating unsafe and unpleasant conditions for other visitors.

This Coastal Access Strategy aims to address these challenges to enable responsible and sustainable access to the coast while better balancing the protection of the natural environment, cultural heritage and enjoyment of the coast.

The Strategy provides strategic direction for all those with a responsibility in managing coastal access. It identifies opportunities for better managing coastal access, along with a prioritisation process to guide what action should be taken where.

This Coastal Access Strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan which provides detail on priority actions and associated roles and responsibilities.

This Strategy has been developed based on a review of existing coastal access management plans, policy, legislation and approaches on Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula and across Australia, and in consultation with key stakeholders. Through a series of workshops and online surveys, these stakeholders contributed their specialised and local knowledge and experiences to guide the direction and content of the Strategy.

What is coastal access?

The coast can be accessed in a range of ways, including through walking, cycling, horse riding and driving.

The focus for this Strategy is **coastal off-road vehicle access**. Off road vehicles include four-wheel drives (4WDs), quad bikes and trail bikes (motorbikes).

Coastal off-road vehicle access enables other activities to occur, such as beach camping, which is also addressed in this Strategy.



**Dhilba Guuranda-Innes
National Park**

*Photo courtesy
South Australian Tourism Commission*

2 Narungga coastal connections

Narungga people are the traditional custodians of the land and sea of Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula and have deep spiritual, emotional, social and physical connections to the coast. Narungga people continue to care for the land and sea using cultural practices passed down through generations.

The creation of the two gulfs and the land of Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula, its salt lakes, cliffs, springs and dunes and the colours of the coastal landscape and the native animals and plants that live there are described by Creation stories, passed down the generations.

The coast and sea provided the Narungga people with fish, crustaceans and shellfish. Fish traps were made with large stones to trap fish on the turning tide and shellfish were collected, particularly from the inter-tidal zone. Interim Aboriginal traditional fishing rights for the Narungga People were established under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* in 2021. The Narungga Nation Traditional Fishing Agreement ensures the Narungga community is able to “enjoy, exercise and maintain Aboriginal traditional fishing practices” in a sustainable way.

The coast also provided suitable areas for living. Larger settlements as well as smaller camp sites were located in sheltered areas including in dunes and around cliffs and caves. Rock art and shell middens provide evidence of the locations of these camps and exist all along the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast.

Many burial sites are located in the sand dunes along the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast. Strong winds can expose these sites in the sand, however driving through sand dunes exacerbates erosion and has exposed burial sites in many areas.

The Narungga Healthy Country Plan has recently been developed. The Plan provides a roadmap to return Narungga People and Country to good health. Driving ‘off track’ is identified as a high threat to coastal country and cultural sites. The Plan includes a goal to actively care for all significant cultural sites by 2025.

The Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park Co-management Board was established in 2020 with the Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation. The Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park and Yorke Peninsula Parks Management Plan (2023) developed by DEW in partnership with the Co-management Board includes strategies to manage coastal access, protect sites of cultural and heritage significance and address damage caused by vehicles.

Narungga people lead biodiversity conservation work in the Wardang Island Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). A proposal to expand the IPA to include Sea Country along the west coast of Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula would allow the Wardang Island IPA ranger team to care for surrounding Sea Country and the coastal areas north and south of the peninsula near Point Pearce.



 Red-capped plover
at Balgowan

3 What we value about our coast

Locals and visitors alike highly value the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coastline for its beautiful scenery, unique environments, diversity of recreational opportunities and cultural heritage. We value:



Animals, plants and ecosystems, including migratory and resident beach-nesting, feeding and resting birds, threatened and nationally listed species, animals of Narungga cultural significance, marine life, reptiles, intertidal habitats, reefs, mangroves, samphire and dune vegetation.



Narungga cultural heritage sites, landscapes, plants and animals, artefacts, artworks and Creation stories.



Scenic, wild and unspoilt natural landscapes including beaches, cliffs, coastal vegetation, marine environments and sunsets and limited human development.



Opportunities for recreational activities including swimming, camping, fishing, walking, four-wheel driving, sightseeing, boating, surfing, birdwatching, diving, snorkelling, picnics, watching sunsets, and paddleboarding.



Townships including their businesses, events, homes, public spaces and sense of community.



The remote coastline providing an atmosphere of **tranquillity, quietness, solitude and peace**.



Tourism and economic benefits as a major visitor attraction especially during summer for locals and intrastate visitors alike, particularly those seeking a low-cost holiday. The coast also plays a key role in the grain exports and fishing industries.



A great place to live, with **strong local community respect for the environment** and opportunities to be involved in local ecological protection and restoration projects.



European heritage sites and history.



📍 Touring the coastal way
Photo courtesy Frame

4 How coastal access impacts Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula

Coastal access has been having negative impacts on Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula including:

- High volume of free camping and off-road vehicles on beaches, in dunes and on clifftops especially during peak periods, resulting in crowding and a high level of impacts with limited management.
- Disturbance and destruction of Narungga heritage sites including driving and camping over culturally significant sites.
- Rubbish and pollution – dumping, burying or littering of rubbish, emptying of portable toilets in inappropriate places, toileting in the dunes, overflowing bins and oil and greywater spills.
- Damage of dune and cliff systems including damage to vegetation and resultant sand drift, erosion, creation and expansion of informal pedestrian and vehicle tracks, widening of tracks and pull-off areas
- Harm to native animals including driving over or otherwise disturbing migratory, resident and threatened shorebirds (including hooded plovers), nests and habitat, and other animals.
- Destruction of native vegetation in dunes, samphire and mangrove areas through driving, foot traffic, pollution and use of wood for campfires.
- Pest animals – rubbish and food scraps from visitors and campers attracts stray and feral cats and foxes which then prey on native species.
- Spreading of weeds in dune systems.
- Fishing – damaging inter-tidal and marine habitat, overfishing, illegal fishing in sanctuary zones.
- Trespassing and vandalism of public and private property and infrastructure, including cutting or damaging fences, gates and signage and driving on the Walk to Yorke track.
- Unsociable and unsafe behaviour of drivers and campers including dangerous driving, speeding, high noise levels, drunkenness, stealing and ignoring of signs and rules which impacts of the safety and enjoyment of other beach goers, and the safety of the campers and drivers. Local residents have been threatened and abused when calling out poor behaviour of visitors. Emergency response may be affected where safe retrievals cannot be completed.
- Destruction of the peacefulness of the natural environment.
- Fire risk from campfires during fire ban season and inappropriate use of rocket flares and fireworks.



 **Moonta Bay Jetty**
Photo courtesy
South Australian
Tourism Commission

5 Challenges to coastal access management

Coastal access management is complex. Challenges to coastal access management on Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula include:

- A **rapid increase in the number of people** using off-road vehicles to access the coast, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result of promotion on social media and improvements in vehicles. Management strategies have not kept up with this change in demand and use of the coast.
- There is **mixed messaging** between the thousands of photos on social media that show camping and 4WD'ing on beaches and the messages on beach signs and from other organisations that discourage these activities.
- Many people who access the coast may **not understand or not care** about the impact they are having on the coastal environment, heritage and other people. Many visitors may be unaware of the fragility of the environment, what rules are in place or how to reduce their impact.
- There is an **expectation** from locals and visitors for **free** or **low cost** access and use of coastal areas.
- There are a **variety of land tenures** across the coastal zone. This has implications for consistency of approach, clarity of roles and responsibilities, and powers under relevant legislation.
- The **complex suite of relevant legislation and regulations** with often overlapping application to different tenures. Although changes in legislation and regulations have potential to benefit the coast, there is often a lag in local interpretation and application.
- Many **Narungga cultural heritage sites** are not recorded, registered or protected and are being disturbed or destroyed as a result.
- Direct and indirect impacts of **climate change** impacts including sea level rise that exacerbates coastal erosion, flooding and storm damage, and hotter and drier conditions reducing the health of coastal vegetation.
- Yorke Peninsula is a **large, regional area** to manage. This has implications for ability to monitor impacts, enforce rules, and provide staff and resources appropriate to the scale of the challenges being experienced.
- There is **limited staff and funding** across relevant authorities including state agencies (Department for Environment and Water, SA Police, Department for Infrastructure and Transport), councils and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board to commit to managing access across a large and in places remote coast. This especially places **limitations on delivering regular compliance** and enforcement activities.
- **Roles and responsibilities** are complex and often overlapping.



 **Corny Point**
Photo courtesy
Kristy Billing
@gypsyandherwild

6 The Coastal Access Strategy

6.1 Vision

Looking after the
Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast
and making sure people can
continue to enjoy it,
for now and for future generations.

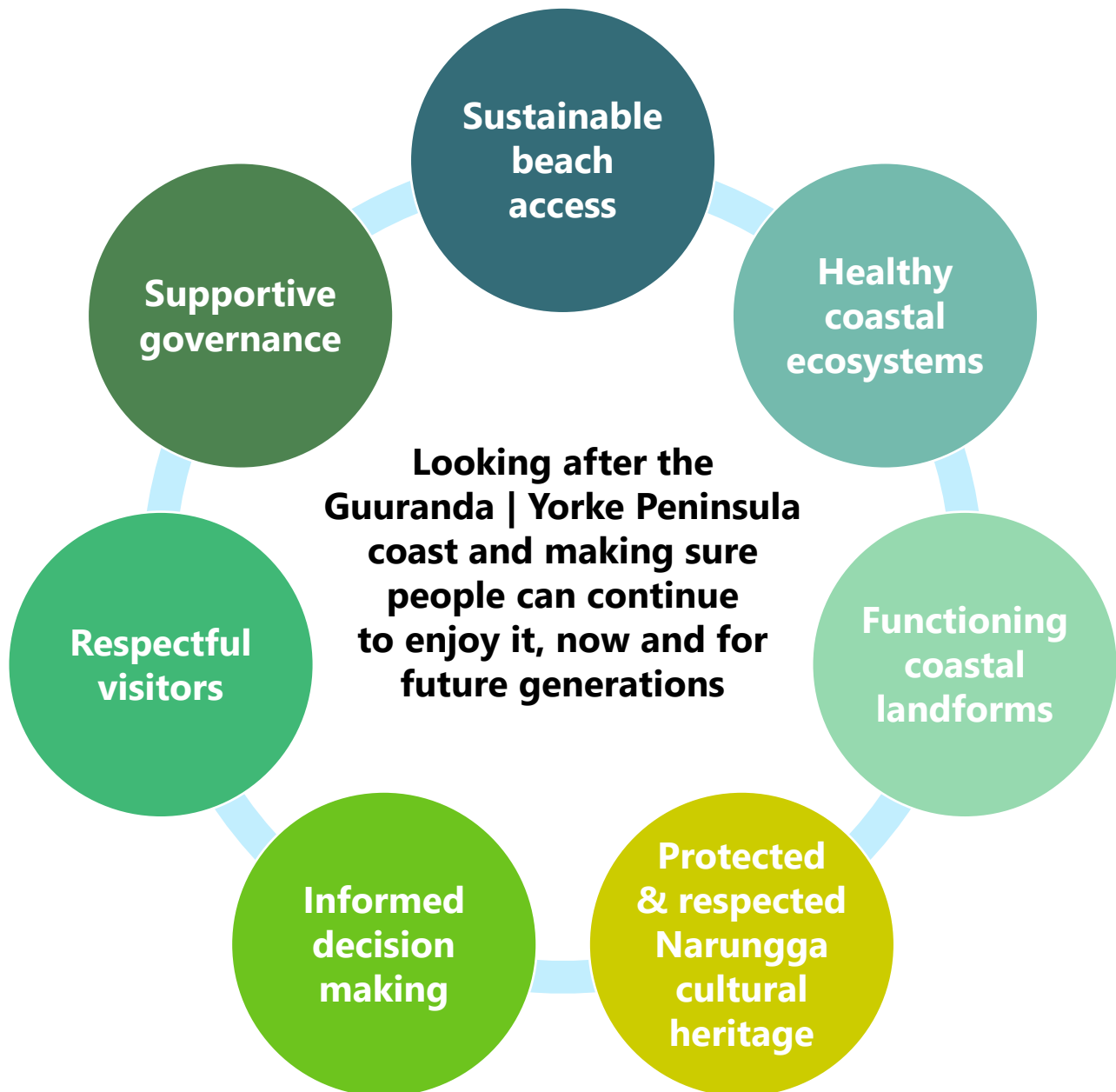
6.2 Principles

A principle is a rule of action or conduct. They tell us how to behave and help us to make decisions. The following principles will guide all actions undertaken as part of this Coastal Access Strategy:

1. Management decisions will be informed by an evidence-based approach that is transparent and communicated with all.
2. Coastal access will be managed to ensure natural coastal functions are protected, maintained, enhanced and restored so they can perform critical functions and be resilient to future change.
3. Coastal access will be managed to protect, maintain, enhance and restore ecosystems and species.
4. Biological and functional coastal values will be monitored to identify and respond to emerging risks.
5. Beaches will be managed with reference to adjoining beaches and the broader coastal environment, reflecting that all of the coast is of Narungga cultural significance.
6. Narungga cultural heritage will be preserved, protected and respected, and access management implemented in consultation with Narungga to prevent further damage to known sites.
7. Visitor awareness of natural and cultural values will be increased, generating respect for coastal environments and creating safer places to visit.
8. Designated coastal tracks will provide opportunities for people to sustainably and appropriately access Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula's coastal environments.
9. Management responses will be applied proportionate to the existing or potential risks of coastal access adversely impacting natural or cultural values.

6.3 Strategies and opportunities for action

Strategies have been arranged under seven themes. Each theme describes a desired outcome for coastal access management.



Sustainable beach access

The intent of this Strategy is to enable sustainable and ongoing coastal access to the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast. Coastal access facilitates important opportunities for cultural activity, recreation, tourism, accessibility and connection to nature for locals and is a key attraction for tourists to Yorke Peninsula. Visiting the coast is a highly valued activity for many people and has been for generations. However current access management needs to change so access can be continued in a manner that is sustainable, responsible and protects the valued features of the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast.

Evidence based decision making will underpin changes to beach access. If monitoring data indicates that adverse impacts are occurring or increasing, access points or tracks may be closed to keep people safe and protect the coast, consistent with Principle 1 and the 'Informed Decision Making' theme.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Maintain coastal access tracks that enable sustainable and appropriate coastal access	Audit coastal access tracks to identify opportunities for track closure or consolidation, aiming to reduce tracks through dune areas focusing on locations where coastal access has had adverse impacts.
	Maintain coastal vehicle access tracks that can support future use and access for recreation and boat-launching without damage to biodiversity or coastal functions. Provide clear signage to identify track locations and use infrastructure such as fences and bollards to restrict off-track access.
	Install more effective barricades on the Walk the Yorke track to prevent vehicle access along the track and to adjacent coastal areas.
Provide appropriate visitor infrastructure that facilitates coastal experiences	Audit visitor infrastructure in coastal areas (eg toilets, bins, picnic tables and boat ramps) and develop an infrastructure improvement plan that considers current and desired visitor numbers and locations.
	Provide, signpost and service rubbish bins in appropriate locations adjacent to coastal access tracks, adjusting collection to reflect visitor peaks.
Promote camping in appropriate locations	Audit coastal camping areas to identify opportunities to enhance off-beach camping and identify where camping may need to be restricted or closed to avoid environmental degradation, especially to beach-nesting bird breeding sites.
	Support tourism associations, providers and other stakeholders to provide, develop and promote appealing, well-equipped off-beach camping and other accommodation options near popular beaches.
	Work with state agencies to assess statutory obligations and the feasibility and desirability of restricting on-beach camping where necessary to manage adverse environmental impacts.

Healthy coastal ecosystems

The Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coastline is a diverse environment of beaches, dune systems, coastal heathlands, intertidal areas, samphire shrublands and flats, mangroves and salt marshes. These support national, state and regionally threatened flora, fauna and vegetation communities.

Driving and associated activities including walking and camping are resulting in a range of impacts on the natural environment. Vehicles crush plants and seeds, damage root systems, and compact soil, lowering vegetation cover and growth rates. Tyres and caravan equipment can carry soil and weed seeds, dispersing weeds which compete with native vegetation.

There is strong evidence that vehicles on beaches are contributing to the decline of migratory and resident birds, with the nationally vulnerable hooded plover (*Thinornis cucullatis*) a particular concern. Vehicles impact shorebirds by disturbing nesting, feeding and roosting sites, crushing nests, hatchlings and chicks, colliding with adult birds, and creating wheel ruts that form a barrier to chick movements and foraging.

Driving on beaches can compact the sand, reducing the diversity and abundance of the many invertebrate fauna such as tiny sea-snails, shrimp, crabs, clams and insects that live in the sand and vegetation. This can also prevent birds and fish from readily accessing their food sources.

Crushing of vegetation by vehicles results in loss of food resources and roosting and nesting habitats for birds and other animals. Littered food, fish scraps and bait from beachgoers can attract foxes and cats, which prey on shorebirds. Leakage of oil and other pollutants from vehicles can impact on marine animals on the beach and in the water.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Protect and restore coastal habitats	Restrict access to coastal areas in high ecological condition or that are important bird roosting or breeding habitats through fencing and other environmentally and visually sensitive physical barriers.
	Restore and rehabilitate coastal areas degraded by vehicle impacts including through sand management and revegetation.
	Work in partnership with community groups to revegetate dunes, cliffs and informal tracks with native species.
Limit beach access when resident shorebirds are nesting or migratory birds are visiting	Apply seasonal or part-seasonal beach closures or access restrictions, including restricting off-leash dog and horse access, at beaches where hooded plovers have previously nested and monitor for new locations.



Functioning coastal landforms

Stunning cliffs, surf beaches, estuaries, rocky reefs, long low-energy beaches, mangroves and samphire flats make up the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coastline. Driving over these landscapes can cause irreversible damage.

Vehicle traffic can crush or uproot vegetation, weakening its ability to hold sand in place. This disruption of vegetation leads to increased dune sand drift and beach erosion and reduces the coastal systems' ability to withstand wave action and storm surges. This can lead to erosion and inland flooding with potential to damage coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

The weight and pressure exerted by vehicles compact sand, making it denser and less permeable. This prevents vegetation growth and leads to further erosion. It can also change the beach profile, affect infiltration and impact natural sand movement and distribution.

Driving on dunes can cause physical damage to their structure, including flattening of slopes and creation of tracks and depressions. These weaken the integrity of the dune system, making it more susceptible to erosion and collapse during extreme weather events. Dunes serve as natural reservoirs of sand which replenish beaches. Driving on dunes disrupts these natural processes by redistributing sand. This disruption can lead to localised decreases of sand resources, exacerbating erosion on beaches and compromising their ability to provide coastal protection.

Driving on cliff edges can lead to undermining and eventual collapse, with associated danger to people, loss of habitat and impact to cultural sites.

Limiting vehicle access to vulnerable coastal landforms will enable them to retain their important role in the landscape. Evidence based decision making and a risk-based approach will underpin processes used to prioritise management efforts, consistent with the principles of this Strategy.

Education and awareness raising will play an important role in helping the community better understand the vulnerable nature of our coast and encouraging people to understand and respect access restrictions designed to protect vulnerable areas.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Map coastal dune areas to inform management	Map and classify integrity of dune areas to enable prioritisation of management efforts and identify thresholds or tipping points for management intervention. Identify monitoring requirements to maintain accurate classification of dune integrity to inform adaptive access management.
Restrict access around and rehabilitate vulnerable coastal landforms	Restrict access to dune areas through fencing and other physical barriers.
	Restrict vehicle access and foot traffic to samphire and intertidal areas where access is impacting the condition of valued habitats.
	Work in partnership with community groups to fence and revegetate disturbed or degraded coastal areas to facilitate their rehabilitation.
	Manage coastal cliffs as vulnerable landforms supporting unique species and manage access tracks along the coast to protect vegetated buffers and prevent further cliff erosion.

Protected and respected Narungga cultural heritage

All of the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast is of significance for Narungga people. There are land formations and songlines that cover the entire peninsula, as well as particular places and features of cultural significance.

For Narungga people, maintaining the health of Country is essential for spiritual, physical, and mental wellbeing. A deep connection and sense of responsibility to care for land and sea sustains a living connection to Country.

Narungga people are key partners of this Strategy and will be involved in decision making about its implementation.

Dhilba Guuranda Innes National Park is co-managed under the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park Co-management Board.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Protect coastal cultural heritage sites	Protect coastal cultural heritage sites through access restrictions and closure of adjacent tracks.
	Support Narungga to undertake cultural mapping of the coastline to identify, record and/or register cultural sites, to better understand and protect culturally significant sites.
Support Narungga management of the coast	Support the employment of Narungga rangers to deliver coastal management and clearly identify their roles and capacity to assist with compliance.
	Investigate opportunities for co-management of Bird Island and around Cape Elizabeth.
	Support the expansion of the existing Wardang Island Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and advocate for additional funding to employ more IPA Rangers.

Informed decision making

Evidence-based decision making is the basis for any effective program of works. Using robust and defensible data to inform decision making ensures that implementation is targeted and effective. Monitoring and the use of monitoring data to adjust action as required through an adaptive management approach is central to this, consistent with this Strategy's Principles.

Managing complex coastal issues across a large rural coastline with limited personnel and resources is a challenge. Using a consistent prioritisation approach supported by key stakeholders and the community will help to ensure that the right actions are being implemented in the places that need it most.

There are opportunities to work with other stakeholders and the community in the collection, use, sharing and accessing of data. Existing and expanded monitoring programs and their data can be used to help demonstrate the success of management actions

Draft Strategies	Opportunities for action
Monitor coastal environments to inform adaptive management	Develop and implement a consistent regional program to monitor access threats and natural values to support adaptive management and seasonal protections for migratory species.
	Encourage community members to support implementation of the coastal monitoring program.
Develop a consistent approach to prioritise coastal areas for protection and restoration	Develop networks and support engagement with other coastal land managers around South Australia and Australia to build knowledge of new and emerging management responses to explore or trial on Guuranda Yorke Peninsula.
	Work with project partners to develop a process to classify current coast ecological integrity and restoration potential to inform future access management

Respectful visitors

The stunning coastline is a major tourism drawcard for Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula. It is important that visitors are educated, encouraged, enabled and, if necessary, enforced to treat the coastline with the respect it deserves so that it can continue to provide recreational, natural and cultural value for current and future generations. Effective communication and community participation will help to build a culture of stewardship for the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast. Education will help build awareness and understanding of the vulnerability of the coast and promote and encourage low impact visitation to help make this the norm, consistent with Principle.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Raise awareness and educate locals and visitors to build respect and increase responsible and safe coastal visitation	Develop a communications strategy with regional stakeholders to share key messages and information about the coast relating to: - Cultural heritage values associated with coastal areas (with Narungga) - Natural values including habitat for rare, threatened and migratory species - Coastal functions - The sensitivity of the coast and vulnerability to disturbance - How to be a “low impact” coastal visitor (including reference to the coastal visitor access code) - Responding to online (social media) promotions that conflict with the strategy.
	Deliver key messages and information through a range of mechanisms including social media, newspaper articles and push messaging before visitor peaks.
	Continue to support stakeholders such as tourist providers and 4WD clubs to share key messages about coastal protection from the communications strategy.
	Develop a coastal visitor access code that contains information on how to be a “low impact” coastal visitor. Build on existing codes such as the NPWS ‘Leave no trace’, the Coastal Driving Code of Practice and Trail Users Code of Practice.
	Improve provision of consistent signage to share contemporary messages and information at popular coastal locations.
Use digital technologies to share current, accurate and responsible information	Investigate digital technologies that can support information provision and how to limit or remove unauthorised tracks from online maps.
	Investigate use of cell broadcasts or sms or push notifications to share important information.
	Investigate the development of a coastal access app that includes maps of accessible areas and information about coastal protection.

Supportive governance

There are many organisations with responsibilities to manage coastal access on Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula however these are often not well understood, and management responses are limited by inadequate funding, resources and legislative backing. There are significant opportunities to improve governance of coastal access management. This includes improved collaboration and accountability, increasing resourcing, and exploring new models for more effective coastal access management.

The collective commitment of the partner organisations to work together in coastal management will enable more to be done within a resource constrained environment and will be critical to success.

Strategies	Opportunities for action
Support a consistent and cooperative approach to coastal land management	Work with all coastal land managers to develop a process or mechanism to work together to deliver this Strategy consistently and cooperatively and facilitate regular communication.
	Engage with and include local stakeholders and community groups in planning on-ground coastal management actions.
	Celebrate good news stories and learnings from coastal access management projects with the community and stakeholders.
Support partnerships and community involvement to contribute to coastal access management	Encourage and support private landholders to prevent illegal access through their land and support compliance where appropriate.
	Strengthen partnerships between Narungga, community groups, landholders, and government bodies to enhance coordinated efforts in protecting coastal biodiversity.
Increase enforcement and penalties to deter bad behaviour	Clarify opportunities to penalise non-compliant behaviour for different land tenures and increase resources for compliance, especially during peak periods and in areas with high natural and cultural values, to send a strong message to coastal visitors that behaviours that result in damage or destruction to coastal environments will not be tolerated.
Explore opportunities to employ permits, legislative or policy change or alternate funding sources to better support coastal access management	Explore the feasibility of a peninsula-wide coastal access permit that could provide an alternate source of funding for coastal management.
	Investigate the use of legislative provisions or increased penalties to prevent access to vulnerable or fenced areas.
	Explore opportunities to consolidate land tenure where appropriate to simplify compliance and management.
	Investigate new funding models or income streams including user pays, levees, grant and other funding from the Federal Government that could increase resources available for management and compliance.



7 Implementing the Strategy

7.1 Roles and responsibilities

In South Australia, there is a complex legislative framework relating to driving on beaches with a range of Acts and overlapping responsibilities. The tenure determines which legislation applies and which agency has jurisdiction. This varies across the region, and beaches often have different tenure between the high and low tide marks. There is no single authority that has responsibility for beaches across Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula, and there is often no single authority that has responsibility for an entire beach. This creates challenges for a coordinated management approach. The jurisdictions and responsibilities of the various coastal land managers have been summarised in the table below.

Agency/organisation	Jurisdiction
Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC)	The Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation is the prescribed body corporate that holds the native title for Guuranda Yorke Peninsula. The Determination of native title provides non-exclusive rights to camp, hunt, use water, hold meetings, perform ceremony and protect cultural sites. The maps depicting Native Title Land associated with the determination show native title exists along most of the coast.
Department for Environment and Water (DEW)	Responsible for the protection and management of unallocated Crown land via the <i>Crown Lands Management Act 2009</i> , and parks proclaimed under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> , and <i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i> . DEW is responsible for administering the <i>Coast Protection Act 1972</i> that establishes the Coast Protection Board, which has a general responsibility for the conservation and protection of the State's beaches and coast.
Local Government (Yorke Peninsula Council, Barunga West Council and Copper Coast Council)	Responsible as landowners, owners of some roads which may enable coastal access and managers of foreshores, parks and reserves on Local Government land (i.e. land that is owned by or dedicated to Council). Under the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> councils can make by-laws over land in their care and control and set expiation fees for offences against by-laws.
Department of Infrastructure and Transport	Responsible for unparcelled land below the 'mean high water mark' (out of Council area), some roads which may enable coastal access, and beaches that fall under the definition of road related areas. DIT is also responsible for a number of public boat ramps and small boat harbours. Responsible for determining speed limits on roads and road-related areas as per the <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i> .
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board	Support the management of natural resources including the coastal environment pursuant to the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> . Key responsibilities of the Board related to coastal land include: • Coordination of volunteer activities, track closures, erosion protection, rehabilitation of dunes and other coastal areas. • Support Narungga and other stakeholders to access resourcing to undertake land management activities and people management strategies as identified in the Strategy. • Contribute resources where possible to take actions to drive positive change.

Agency/organisation	Jurisdiction
Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation (PPAC)	The Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation represents the community at Point Pearce, working in collaboration with the Aboriginal Land Trust to manage local projects, services and activities.
Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT)	The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) established by the <i>Aboriginal Land Trust Act 1966</i> holds in trust, titles of existing Aboriginal Reserves including at Point Pearce on behalf of and for the benefit of Aboriginal South Australians. The ALT is currently responsible for administering the Wardang Island Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).
Native Vegetation Council	Responsible for providing permission to clear native vegetation and monitoring any unauthorised breach (clearance, damage) of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> (and <i>Biodiversity Act 2025</i> once in effect)
South Australia Police	Responsible for policing the manner in which a vehicle is driven on any road or road related area including foreshores, parks and reserves on Local Government land. Responsible for enforcing road rules such as investigating breaches of the road rules including speeding, drink driving, unregistered vehicles, and defective vehicles; investigating vigilante or sabotage behaviour; damage to private property; and violence.
Private landholders	Owners of private parcels of coastal land.

In addition to these organisations with jurisdictional responsibilities, SA's **Mid North and Yorke Tourism Zone** has an important role to play in the implementation of this Strategy and are a partner to the Strategy. The Mid North and Yorke Tourism Zone is the key regional organisation responsible for increasing the profile of the region and have a really important role in promoting responsible coastal access to visitors.

Coastal Driving Code of Practice

The Coastal Driving Code of Practice was developed by DEW to set out clear guidelines to protect coastal environments and encourage sustainable and responsible beach driving habits.

Key points of the Code:

Know before you go

Be prepared – research where you are going, the conditions you will be driving in and the rules that apply.

Good behaviours conserve our coasts

Respect rules and guidelines to minimise your impact on the environment and heritage.

Best-practice coastal driving

Drive safely and to the local conditions to protect yourself and other beach users.

Know your vehicle

Know your car, its limitations and its safety features to ensure you drive safely and appropriately in coastal environments.

Respect for others

Always consider how your behaviour impacts others' experience of coastal areas.

Legislative mechanisms and consequences

You can be fined or prosecuted for breaking the law when driving in coastal environments.

7.2 Implementation Plan

A 3-year Implementation Plan will be developed by the partners to this Strategy.

It will:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities for priority projects and programs over the next 3 years to progress the strategies
- Identify funding requirements and potential funding sources to deliver these projects and programs
- Allow each partner organisation to identify their responsibilities
- Identify opportunities for community involvement in the delivery of projects and programs

Provide guidance on monitoring and evaluation of the projects and programs.



Gleesons Landing Campground

Photo courtesy

Christopher Morrison

7.3 Prioritising actions

Prioritising the opportunities for action in this Coastal Access Strategy will allow delivery partners to identify where to focus attention or resource allocation for inclusion in the Implementation Plan.

Some opportunities will be implemented at particular locations (such as revegetation of disturbed areas), and others are region wide (such as track or infrastructure audits).

Prioritisation for the Implementation Plan to deliver this Strategy will be undertaken at two scales; location specific or region wide.



 **Wallaroo Holiday Park**
Photo courtesy
Yorke Peninsula Tourism

Prioritising location specific action

The location specific prioritisation approach considers the values and threats present at a particular location, consistent with principle 9 (see Section 6.2). The proposed approach to prioritisation of coastal access actions is described in the table below. A higher score will indicate a greater priority.

Local value or threat	Score and descriptor		
	1	2	3
Presence of dunes	Not present		Present
Conservation value/priority (as identified in 2020 N&Y Coastal Action Plan)	Low	Medium	High
Species of conservation status or presence of inter-tidal reefs / near-shore rocky reefs or mangrove or samphire	Not present		Present
Narungga cultural sites	Not present	Expected	Known sites present
Recreation value	Low	Medium	High
Evidence of physical impacts of vehicles on coastal cultural values	Low	Medium	High
Evidence physical impacts of vehicles on natural coastal values	Low	Medium	High
Impacts of rubbish left by coastal visitors	Low	Medium	High
Current or risk of coastal erosion or flooding issues	Low	Medium	High
Frequency of dangerous or inappropriate behaviour	Not occurring	Occurring infrequently (less than once a month)	Occurring commonly (more than once a month)
Vehicles contributing to spread of pest plants in coastal areas	No evidence	Suspected to be occurring or high risk from adjacent pest plant populations	Clear evidence of current problem

Prioritising regional action

The regional prioritisation approach considers how the opportunity could contribute to achieving the Strategy's vision.

The approach to prioritisation is described in the table below, with each criteria scored from 1-3. A higher score will indicate a greater priority.

Contribution to vision	Score and descriptor		
	1	2	3
Likelihood the opportunity will build visitor awareness about natural and cultural coastal values	Unlikely	Maybe	Very likely
Level of additional information or data provided through opportunity to support evidence-based decision making or adaptive management	Limited information contributed through opportunity to support decision making or adaptive management	Moderate contribution	Significant contribution to support decision making or adaptive management
Opportunity to increase involvement of Narungga in coastal access management	Limited opportunity	Moderate opportunity	Significant opportunity
Resource requirement to implement	High	Medium	Low
Opportunity for community groups or individuals to contribute to access management	Limited opportunity	Moderate opportunity	Significant opportunity
Is the opportunity a foundation action, i.e. the first step with a secondary action to potentially follow.	Not a foundation activity	Foundation activity	

7.4 Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Monitoring and evaluation are essential parts of delivering any plan, project or program. Undertaking monitoring and evaluation will help the partners, stakeholders and community understand if the vision and strategies are being progressed and assist in refining action to optimise outcomes. It also ensures accountability and provides information to share with partners and stakeholders to demonstrate program value.

As projects and programs are implemented, an evaluation process will be undertaken to determine:

- How effective was the project/program in achieving its intended outputs and outcomes?
- To what extent did the project/program contribute to the relevant goals, and what other things helped or hindered its implementation?

Once implementation commences, a 3-yearly evaluation of the Strategy will occur that will consider:

- To what extent has the Strategy been implemented and contributed to the vision for responsible stewardship and informed access management to preserve and improve the Guuranda | Yorke Peninsula coast for future generations?
- What changes/support are/is needed to ensure that the Strategy best provides an effective framework for action and stakeholders can effectively work together towards implementing those actions?





Prepared by URPS for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
which coordinated the regional partners
in the development of this collaborative strategy.

www.landscape.sa.gov.au



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