11.1.1 Coastal Protection Funding Campaign

| Purpose of Report | To update Council on the responses received and to recommend action for going forward. |
| Director          | Chief Executive Officer |
| Author            | Chief Executive Officer |
| Disclosure of Interest | No Council officers or contractors have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration. |
| File Ref          | GF/16.85.1/7 |
| Community Plan Reference | Strategic Direction Six – Environmental Sustainability |
| Risk Assessment   | High |
| Budget Allocation 2015/16 | $ 175,000 |
| Request for Budget Variation | $ 0 |
| Budget Spent to Date | $ 20,000 approx |
| Attachments       | 1. Letter from DEWNR and Coast Protection Board Position Paper  
|                   | 2. Responses received from Councils to date |

Summary

On 14th April 2015 Council resolved to start a campaign to lobby for additional funding to assist in coastal protection works. Council wrote to 26 Councils. Nine (9) Councils have responded to date and all support Council's campaign. Correspondence was also sent to various interested parties including the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

The Chief Executive of DEWNR, Sandy Pitcher has responded by providing a copy of a recently produced Position Paper for future funding of the Coast Protection Board of South Australia. The paper calls for a 10 year funding program to be developed and does include several rural council projects such as the Beachport Salmon Hole and Rivoli Bay Groynes.

I am also advised that the Local Government Association (LGA) at its July 2015 Board Meeting considered the increasing coastal protection challenges.

I understand a joint LGA/DEWNR options paper is being developed for consideration by the LGA Board and Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources over the coming months. Therefore our campaign is timely.

Council also resolved on 11th August 2015 to "provide a Notice of Motion to be put to the LGA AGM seeking a review of State Government funding arrangements for coastal protection works with the aim of creating greater equity between rural and metropolitan areas". Feedback has indicated that the emphasis should be on greater funding, not so much the division between areas. On this basis the following Recommendations are suggested.
RECOMMENDATION

That Council: -

1. Amend resolution 12.9 of the meeting of the Council of 11 August 2015 as follows:

   The words 'greater equity between rural and metropolitan areas' be deleted and replaced with the words 'a sustainable pool of funding for coastal protection works' so that the resolution now reads:

   'That the correspondence be received and noted and that Council provide a Notice of Motion to be put to the LGA AGM seeking a review of State Government funding arrangements for coastal protection works with the aim of creating a sustainable pool of funding for coastal protection works.'

2. Support the intent of the Coast Protection Board Position Paper 2015 and advise the LGA and DEWNR of this;

3. Collate and forward all letters of support to the Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources.
**Background & Analysis**

The attached responses from various Councils all offer support to Council’s campaign for greater funding of coastal protection works.

The attached Position Paper from DEWNR lists several Wattle Range Council projects and offers a more strategic approach to coastal protection.

**Risk Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Mitigating Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Likely</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Lobby for greater financial</td>
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<tr>
<td>environmental damage</td>
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<td>assistance</td>
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**Policy Considerations**

This campaign fits with a range of work being done at the moment, including Climate Change Adaptation Planning.

**Financial Implications**

Current budgets are insufficient to cope with the existing and future demands and therefore significant State Government assistance is required.

**Legislative Implications**

These are considered on a project basis and in relation to coastal erosion can be complex and tend to cover new ground due to climate change impacts.

Regulation 21 of the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* enables the Chief Executive Officer to submit a report to the Council recommending an amendment to a resolution passed since the last periodic election of the Council.

**Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There is a growing need to understand and plan for coastal protection due to the changing environment.

**Communication & Consultation**

Broad Statewide consultation is underway in regard to this campaign.
DEWNRD-00001865

Date: 22 July 2015

Mr Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
Mildura SA 5280

Dear Mr Harriott

Re: Coastal Protection Funding

Thank you for your letter (23 June 2015) regarding Wattle Range Council's concerns about rising sea levels and increasing costs for coastal protection and care. I also note Council's intention to have the Local Government Association lobby the State Government for a specific stream of funding for rural coastal councils to manage coastal erosion.

As you are aware, the Coast Protection Board (Board), through its local government coastal management grants programme, is the primary mechanism by which the State government funds regional coast protection works in South Australia. You would also be aware that the requests for grant funding each year exceed the budget available to the Board, and that the Board therefore allocates grants using a risk assessment-based prioritisation system.

In response to these cost pressures, and at the request of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Coast Protection Board has recently prepared the Coast Protection Board Position Paper (May 2015). The Position Paper presents the Board's view of the critical coastal management challenges in South Australia and makes recommendations as to how they can be addressed.

The Minister supports the Position Paper and has asked for a copy to be provided to the Local Government Association and it be made publicly available on the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources' (DEWNR) website www.environment.sa.gov.au. I also enclose a hard copy for your information.

A key recommendation of the Position Paper is that:

"DEWNR prepare a ten year programme of coastal management initiatives to address the issues raised in this Position Paper, including identification of the required actions and associated costs, such that a submission can be made to the 2016-17 State budget process."
The Minister has endorsed this recommendation and DEWNR will be preparing the recommended investment programme in the coming months.

You will note that included in the issues the Board has asked to be addressed are those raised in your letter, namely the high priority coastal management risks that cannot be addressed under current funding levels and the need for preparation of regional coast protection / adaptation strategies that address rising sea levels.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to make comment on your campaign. For further information on this matter please contact Dr Murray Townsend, Manager Coast and River Murray Unit, DEWNR on (08) 8124 4879 or murray.townsend@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Sandy Pitcher
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Coast Protection Board
of
South Australia

POSITION PAPER

May 2015
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation has requested that the Coast Protection Board prepare a Position Paper addressing the future of coastal management in South Australia.

This Position Paper presents the Board’s view of the critical coastal management challenges in South Australia using the context of the three strategic priorities identified in the Board’s Strategic Plan 2012-2017:

- Adapt existing development to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure new development is not at risk from current and future hazards.
- Plan for resilience in coastal ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The actions the Board is taking to work towards these strategic goals are described, together with the associated risks, challenges and limitations. Case studies provide further detail for some of the typical issues being faced. Five coastal management issues that the Board considers are not able to be adequately addressed under current management arrangements are highlighted.

Three recommendations are presented for the Minister’s consideration. The Board considers that implementation of these recommendations would substantially strengthen the ability of the South Australian community and environment to respond to the current and future risks presented by coastal hazards in South Australia.

Existing Development – Current Risks

The Board’s coastal management grants programme provides funding to Councils for up to 80% of the cost of works, studies and strategies to address coastal hazards. The demand for these grants exceeds the funds available from the Board’s annual State budget appropriation (which was $491,000 in 2014-15). The Board expects this demand to increase as studies such as the Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation study (AdaptWest), and others, continue to identify development that is at risk from coastal hazards and the required mitigation works.

The Board prioritises allocation of its limited grant funding using a risk assessment methodology. The Board also provides support to Councils for studies to determine the most cost effective mitigation responses to coastal threats. In some situations (as in the Mallala Case Study presented in the Position Paper), these investigations reveal that substantial investment in protection works is not warranted and alternatives such as hazard accommodation and eventual retreat are the preferred, and more cost effective, strategies.

However, South Australia has a legacy of substantial areas of coastal development that is subject to coastal hazards such as flooding and erosion. In the majority of these cases, retreat is not feasible and protection works are the only option. Coastal protection works are expensive to construct and both the Board and local Government have limited capacity to fund the necessary works. For example, under current funding arrangements, the Board is able to provide grants totalling approximately $350,000 each year for coastal management projects in South Australia. Given that the cost to construct a typical seawall is in the order of $5,000 per lineal metre, this means that the Board’s annual grant budget can fund a total of approximately 100 metres of seawall construction across the entire state each year.

The Board can therefore only provide grant funding for a small number of projects each year and many existing risks remain unaddressed. Appendix 2 summarises current and emerging high risk coastal hazards for which mitigation strategies are not currently funded. Examples include:
• **Port Adelaide:** a 2005 study into flood risk at Port Adelaide identified that if a 1 in 100 year storm surge event occurred, the resulting flood damage costs to commercial and residential properties would be up to $28 million. This risk remains unaddressed. The Port Adelaide and Enfield Council wrote to the State Government in 2014 asking for advice on funding mechanisms and responsibilities for the required mitigation works, which are likely to cost in the order of tens of millions of dollars.

• **West Beach:** an ageing seawall at West Beach is failing. The seawall provides protection for a road, car parks, the Coast Park shared use path, the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the State government’s sand transfer infrastructure pipeline. The Board has provided a $40,000 grant to the City of Charles Sturt for emergency repairs in 2014-15, however, major reconstruction is required at an estimated cost of $1.5 million. Council is seeking funding for these works from the State Government.

• **Port Augusta:** the City of Port Augusta is protected from sea flooding by a system of levees. The levees have been constructed in stages over the last two decades with grant funding from the Board. A grant of $50,000 is being provided to the City of Port Augusta in 2014-15 for construction of a further section of the levee. One more stage is required to complete the levee in 2015-16, however, further rock armouring work will be then required in coming years to protect some partially completed sections of the levee.

• **Yorke Peninsula:** The Board is providing grant funding of $36,000 in 2014-15 to Yorke Peninsula Council to undertake a flood protection study of four of its low lying coastal settlements (Coobowie, Pine Point, Price and Port Clinton). These four settlements are known to experience sea flooding and have levees that are in poor condition, providing incomplete protection for the settlements.

• **The South East:** The townships of Beachport, Robe and Kingston have significant coastal erosion issues and have received a number of grants from the Board for erosion protection works, beach replenishment and storm damage repairs. Grants of $58,000 to DC Wattle Range, $36,000 to DC Kingston and $25,000 to DC Robe have been provided in the 2014-15 financial year, but numerous erosion issues that threaten public infrastructure and residential properties remain unaddressed.

The Board funds its activities from a Coast Protection Fund established under the *Coast Protection Act (1972).* The annual appropriation from the State budget is placed into the Fund, together with income from Development Application fees received by the Board (typically in the order of $20,000 per year). Over the last decade a balance of $450,000 has accumulated in the Fund as a result of minor differences between forecast income and expenditure.

The Board has therefore made a submission to Treasury seeking an increased expenditure authority of an additional $200,000 in 2015-16 over and above its annual appropriation. This will enable the Board to “draw down” a portion of the savings that have accumulated in the Coast Protection Fund and provide increased grant funding to Councils in 2015-16, without requiring an increase to its appropriation from the State budget.

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**Recommendation 1:** That the Minister write to Treasury in support of the Board’s request for increased expenditure authority in 2015-16 of $200,000 over and above the annual appropriation from the State budget (to draw down savings in the Coast Protection Fund).
The Board acknowledges that the State budget is under significant pressure from a number of sources and that it is not realistic to immediately fund all coastal hazard mitigation projects. However, the costs of investing in hazard mitigation are small compared with the potential costs incurred by the community if no action is taken. The Board considers that the current level of investment in mitigating coastal hazards in South Australia is insufficient. Significant known risks are not being addressed, or are only able to be addressed over long time periods due to the need to stage works to suit budgetary limitations. The level of risk continues to increase each year with rising sea levels.

A long term strategy of increased investment in coastal management projects is required to address the issues raised in this Position Paper. The increased investment should be carefully targeted at the highest priorities based on risk assessments and cost benefit analyses.

The Board therefore recommends that a ten year programme of coastal management initiatives be developed to address the issues raised in this Position Paper, including identification of the additional resources required, such that a detailed submission can be made to the 2016-17 budget process. As a minimum, the following issues should be addressed:

- **Coast Protection Board Grants**: Applications from Councils for Coast Protection Board grant funding (for projects that address coastal hazards) exceed the Board’s available budget each year. High priority risks remain unaddressed.

- **Regional Coastal Protection/Adaptation Strategies**: Integrated coastal protection and adaptation plans are required at a number of regional settlements along the South Australian coastline. The Board currently has limited capacity to provide funding support for these projects and regional Councils do not typically have the technical or financial capacity to undertake them independently.

- **“External” sand for Adelaide’s Beaches**: Sand needs to be added to Adelaide’s beaches to offset the effects of sea level rise. Resources are not currently available for the required identification, investigation and testing of potential sources, or to fund the addition of any suitable sand thus identified to the beaches.

- **Coast Protection Structures on the Adelaide Coast**: Resources are not available to assess the current condition and maintenance/asset renewal requirements of the ageing seawalls on Adelaide’s coast, or to commence investigations into the need, feasibility and design parameters for offshore breakwaters at West Beach.

- **Development against the Board’s Advice**: Despite the Board’s legislated role in the development assessment process, some coastal development continues to be approved against the Board’s advice. This places individuals and the wider community at increased risk of incurring future costs associated with coastal hazards.

**Recommendation 2**: That DEWNR prepare a ten year programme of coastal management initiatives to address the issues raised in this Position Paper, including identification of the required actions and associated costs, such that a submission can be made to the 2016-17 State budget process.

Where projects are of a scale that are beyond the practical scope of Board funding (eg. Port Adelaide flood protection), the Board will provide advice to State Government on the hazards faced, proposed mitigation strategies, and cost-benefit analyses of action versus inaction.
New Development – Future Risks

The South Australian planning system is the primary mechanism through which the Board seeks to prevent development occurring where it is subject to current or future coastal hazards. However, despite the Board’s legislated role in the development assessment process, a proportion of coastal development continues to be approved against the Board’s advice. This places individuals and the wider community at increased risk of incurring future costs associated with addressing coastal hazards.

In response to this the Board has been advocating for increased powers of direction over development applications for which coastal hazards are a factor, including in its submission to the recent Planning Review. The Board will continue to pursue increased powers of direction and seeks the Minister’s support for this during implementation of the Government’s response to the report of the Planning Review’s Expert Panel.

If the desired improvements are not achieved through the Planning Review process, the Board may consider seeking future support from the Minister for reinstatement of prescribed activities under the Coast Protection Act to ensure that inappropriate coastal development does not add to future community costs.

Recommendation 3: That during implementation of the Government’s response to the report from the Planning Review’s Expert Panel, the Minister supports the Board’s advocacy for increased Powers of Direction for the Board over development applications where coastal hazards are a factor; and improved development plan zoning of sensitive coastal features and coastal hazards.

The Board’s policy on Coast Protection and New Coastal Development was formally adopted as South Australian Government policy in May 1991. In doing so, South Australia became the first Australian state to include climate change adaptation into its policy framework.

The sea level rise provisions of the policy have proven robust in light of subsequent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment reports. However, the Board has considered advice from an expert advisory committee and is proposing to make a number minor policy amendments. For example, it is intended to adjust the 1 in 100 year storm surge levels (used to set minimum site levels for new development) to make allowance for the measured sea level rise of approximately 100mm that has occurred in South Australia since the policy was adopted in 1991.

Agency consultation on the proposed policy amendments is expected to occur in 2015 prior to presentation to Government for consideration.

Resilience of Coastal Ecosystems

The Board will continue to promote implementation of the regional Coastal Conservation Assessments and Action Plans that have been prepared with its support across the state, including supporting further studies where appropriate to prepare climate change adaptation plans for areas of high ecological value.

The Board will also continue to engage with planning authorities in developing land use frameworks, Planning Strategies and Development Plans that recognise and allow for adaptation (including retreat and migration) of tide-dependent ecosystems. To this end the Board will continue to seek improvements to the planning system to ensure that new development does not create additional pressures on at-risk coastal ecosystems. Recommendation 3 (above) will support this process.
Conclusion

The Coast Protection Board will continue to work closely with local government to identify and mitigate coastal hazards in South Australia. The Board will also continue to pursue improvements to the planning system in an effort to ensure that new development is safe from current and future coastal hazards.

However, significant threats to existing development in metropolitan and regional areas remain unaddressed. The level of risk faced by the community and our environment is increasing as sea levels continue to rise.

The Board considers that a substantial and ongoing increase to the level of investment in coastal management and protection in South Australia is required. Preparation of the recommended ten-year strategic response to this Position Paper for consideration in the 2016-17 State budget is a crucial first step to reducing the current and future risks posed by coastal hazards.

The cost of investing in coastal risk mitigation is small compared to the potential future costs to the South Australian community and environment should these risks remain unaddressed.

Current risks: high water levels in Inner Harbour and urban flooding at Port Adelaide as a result of a coastal storm surge in July 2010.
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Appendix 1: The Coast Protection Board’s *Strategic Plan 2012-2017.*

Appendix 2: Summary Table of Unaddressed High Risk Coastal Hazards.
1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation, attended the Coast Protection Board’s meeting on 4 December 2013. The minutes from that meeting note that the Minister:

“... discussed possible further reform to the Board’s powers and amendment to the Act. Other means of control including encumbrances on titles were also discussed. The Minister requested that the Board provide him with a position paper on future coastal management including such topics as impact of sea level rise, the potential risk of planning and development in hazardous coastal areas and development of cost/benefit analysis of protection vs retreat.”

Preparation of the Position Paper was deferred during 2014 due to the state election and the subsequent Boards and Committees review. Now that the ongoing role of the Coast Protection Board (the Board) has been confirmed, this Position Paper has been prepared in accordance with the Minister’s request.

1.2 The Coast Protection Board

The Coast Protection Board (the Board) was established by the Coast Protection Act 1972. The functions of the Board as defined in the Act are to:

- protect and restore the coast;
- develop the coast for aesthetic and other purposes;
- manage and improve coast facilities under the care and control of the Board;
- report on any matters that the Minister may refer to the Board for advice; and
- undertake research regarding the protection, restoration or development of the coast.

The Board also has a statutory role to provide responses to development applications referred to it in accordance with the Development Act 1993.

The Board’s Policy Document (last revised 22 May 2012 and available online at www.environment.sa.gov.au) provides detailed guidance as to how the Board executes these functions. In particular, the Policy Document highlights that many of the Board’s functions are undertaken in partnership with the relevant local government authority, often through the provision of grant funding from the Board. This productive and long-term relationship with local government continues to be a significant factor in the Board’s ability to influence coastal management in South Australia.

1.3 Strategic Priorities of the Coast Protection Board

In November 2012 the Board updated its Strategic Plan for the five years from 2012 to 2017 (copy provided in Attachment 1). The Strategic Plan identifies the following three strategic priorities for the Board:

- Adaptation and of existing development to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change
- Ensure new development is not at risk from current and future hazards
- Plan for resilience in coastal ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change

This Position Paper describes the Board’s vision for the future of coastal management in South Australia by discussing the Board’s three strategic priorities and highlighting the issues and challenges associated with each.
2. Existing Coastal Development

2.1 Coast Protection Board Grants

South Australia has a substantial legacy of coastal development that is at risk from coastal hazards. The scale of risk ranges from small, regional shack settlements that are threatened by coastal erosion, to major metropolitan residential and industrial areas, such as Port Adelaide (refer Case Study 1 below), that are at risk of potentially severe flooding during storm surge events.

The Board works closely with Councils to identify areas at risk and to develop mitigation strategies and provides grants to Councils for up to 80% of the total cost of studies and works. This may include sea flood risk mapping projects, preparation of climate change adaptation plans, studies to evaluate alternative coastal protection options or construction of protection works such as seawalls and levees. The Board can also provide grants to Councils of up to 100% of the cost of storm damage repairs.

The Board seeks to leverage its grant funding wherever possible by providing the required State Government contribution to coastal management projects that are eligible for Federal Government funding (typically from the National Disaster Resilience Program).

The Board relies upon an annual appropriation from the State Government budget to fund its activities and also receives a small amount of income (typically $20,000 per year) from development application fees. The Board expends approximately 75% of its budget on providing grants to Councils and 25% on Board related expenses (such as land management costs for Board owned land and funding its beach monitoring survey program).

The value of grant requests received by the Board each year significantly exceeds available funds. For example, in 2014-15 the Board received grant applications for projects totalling $850,000 from its available grant programme of $350,000. The Board uses a prioritisation system to allocate grant funding to projects that address the greatest risk, but a number of high priority projects remain unfunded.

Appendix 2 summarises current and emerging high risk coastal hazards for which mitigation strategies are not currently funded. Examples include:

- **Port Adelaide**: a 2005 study into flood risk at Port Adelaide identified that if a 1 in 100 year storm surge event occurred, the resulting flood damage costs to commercial and residential properties would be up to $28 million. This risk remains unaddressed. The Port Adelaide and Enfield Council wrote to the State Government in 2014 asking for advice on funding mechanisms and responsibilities for the required mitigation works, which are likely to cost in the order of tens of millions of dollars. (Refer to Case Study 1 below for further information).

- **West Beach**: an ageing seawall at West Beach is failing. The seawall provides protection for a road, car parks, the Coast Park shared use path, the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the Government’s sand transfer infrastructure pipeline. The Board has provided a $40,000 grant to the City of Charles Sturt for emergency repairs in 2014-15, however, major reconstruction is required at an estimated cost of $1.5 million. Council is seeking funding for these works from the State Government.

- **Port Augusta**: the City of Port Augusta is protected from sea flooding by a system of levees. The levees have been constructed in stages over the last two decades with grant funding from the Board. A grant of $50,000 is being provided to the City of Port Augusta in 2014-15 for construction of a further section of the levee. One more stage is required to complete the levee in 2015-16, however, further rock armouring work will be then required in coming years to protect some partially completed sections of the levee.
- **Yorke Peninsula**: The Board is providing grant funding of $36,000 in 2014-15 to Yorke Peninsula Council to undertake a flood protection study of four of its low-lying coastal settlements (Coobowie, Pine Point, Price and Port Clinton). These four settlements are known to experience sea flooding and have levees that are in poor condition, providing incomplete protection for the settlements.

- **The South East**: The townships of Beachport, Robe and Kingston have significant coastal erosion issues and have received a number of grants from the Board for erosion protection works, beach replenishment and storm damage repairs. Grants of $58,000 to DC Wattle Range, $36,000 to DC Kingston and $25,000 to DC Robe have been provided in the 2014-15 financial year, but numerous erosion issues that threaten public infrastructure and residential properties remain unaddressed.

### Issue 1: Coast Protection Board Grants

Applications from Councils for Coast Protection Board grant funding for projects to address coastal hazards exceed the Board’s available budget each year. High priority risks remain unaddressed.

The Board acknowledges that the State budget is under significant pressure from a number of sources and that it is not realistic to immediately fund all coastal hazard mitigation projects. As such, the Board continues to prioritise its investments to ensure that maximum value is obtained from the funds available.

However, the Board is also aware that in recent decades South Australia has not experienced coastal storm damages on a scale similar to those that occurred from the 1940s to 1960s. The widespread damage to public infrastructure along the coast caused by storms during this period (as shown in Figure 1 below) was the impetus for the creation of the Coast Protection Act and the Coast Protection Board. The improved coastal management strategies put in place by the Board, together with perhaps an element of good luck with regard to the statistical variability of storms, has seen minimal coastal damage since that time.

As a result, coastal hazards do not currently appear to be at forefront of community awareness, even though storms of similar or greater intensity to those experienced in the mid-20th Century can be expected. The hazard, and associated potential community costs, have not diminished. In fact, as discussed in Section 2.2 below, the likelihood of significant impacts from storm surge events is increasing due to sea level rise. The Board will therefore continue to advocate for increased investment by all levels of government in the identification of coastal hazards and implementation of measures to reduce the risks posed by those hazards.

![Figure 1: Storm Damage at Henley Beach in 1953.](image-url)
Case Study 1: Port Adelaide Flooding and the Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation Study (Adapt West)

In 2005 the Board supported a major study by the Port Adelaide Enfield Council into flood risk in the Port Adelaide area. Phase 1 of the project was a detailed flood mapping study that identified that significant commercial and residential areas of Port Adelaide are currently at risk from a 1-in-100 year storm surge event. The extent of flooding will increase with rising sea levels (and ongoing subsidence of the area). An example of a flood map produced by the project is shown in Figure 1 overleaf. Areas at risk of flooding from a 1-in-100 year storm surge event under current sea level conditions are in shown blue, while future risk under different sea level rise scenarios is shown in yellow, green and red.

The study conducted a preliminary estimate of the possible damage costs associated with the modelled 1 in 100 year average recurrence interval sea flood event. Under 2005 sea level conditions the flood damages were estimated to be up to $28 million, increasing to $66 million under a sea level rise scenario of 0.3m to 2050, and up to $310 million for sea level rise scenario of 0.88m (all values in 2005 dollars).

The study also estimated that it would cost in the order of $20 – 30 million (2005 dollars) to provide flood protection for the 2050 scenario, based on a conceptual scheme involving levees and seawalls.

Stage 2 of the project assessed the existing flood protection infrastructure and made a preliminary assessment of the type of works required to address the flood risk (e.g. modifications to existing seawalls and wharves, construction of new seawalls and levees). No cost estimates were produced, but given the scale of works required, it is expected that a staged program of works over many years and costing tens of millions of dollars will be required. Port Adelaide Enfield Council wrote to State Government agencies in 2014 requesting advice on funding options for detailed design and construction of the required works.

In 2014 the Port Adelaide Enfield Council, West Torrens Council and the Charles Sturt Council (with funding support from DEWNR’s Climate Change Unit) commenced work on the Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation Study (now known as “Adapt West”). This project is being implemented as part of the South Australian Climate Change Adaptation framework.

Port Adelaide Enfield Council was advised that the adaptation project, which has a steering committee with representation from relevant State Government Agencies, was the appropriate mechanism for examining funding options for the flood protection works. As of March 2015, consultants have been engaged to prepare the adaptation plan and the initial community workshops are being held. The project is also updating the flood maps produced in the 2005 study and extending the coverage to include the neighbouring Council areas (including West Lakes).

A key task of the Adapt West project is to examine funding mechanisms and responsibilities for actions identified in the adaptation plan, which will include the Port Adelaide flood protection works. Adapt West is scheduled for completion in 2015, and it is expected that Council will once again be approaching the State Government seeking advice as to what funding mechanisms can be used for the required flood protection works. The scale of funding required, even if staged over many years, will be well beyond the budget available for the Board’s annual grants programme.
Figure 2: Example flood map from the 2005 Port Adelaide Flood Study
2.2 Sea Level Rise and Adaptation of Existing Development

Sea levels are rising in South Australia. The Bureau of Meteorology has established a highly accurate network of tide gauges around Australasia as part of its Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring (SEAFRAME) Project. Gauges were installed at Thevenard (near Ceduna) in March 1992 and at Port Stanvac (south of Adelaide) in June 1992.

From 1992 until November 2010 measured sea level rise at Port Stanvac averaged 4.7mm per year (the Port Stanvac gauge was decommissioned in 2010 with the closure of the refinery), while at Thevenard (from 1992 until August 2014) sea levels have risen an average of 5.4mm per year. While sea level rise of 5mm per year may not seem significant in itself, a general rule of thumb is that sandy coastlines will typically recede by about 50 to 100 times the amount of sea level rise. Thus, mean sea level rise of just 5mm per year, or 100mm over the last 20 years, translates to potential coastal recession in the order of 5 to 10 metres over that period. It should also be noted that sea level rise of 5mm per year since 1992 represents a significant acceleration compared with the average rise over the 20th Century of 1.5mm per year.

The Bureau of Meteorology data supports the evidence that Board members have witnessed first-hand on field trips in recent years to examine the increasing occurrence of coastal erosion issues across the state.

Increased coastal erosion has significant implications for South Australia, where coastal development has historically tended to be linear in nature and has typically occurred as close as possible to the coast, or on the coastal dunes themselves. While modern development policies seek to avoid new development perpetuating this problem, a large number of coastal settlements in South Australia exist in areas of active coastal erosion. In recent years the “Sea-change” phenomenon has seen further investment in many of these coastal settlements as shacks are converted into substantial residences. If these coastal settlements are to be retained, investment in coastal protection infrastructure will be required.

Sea level rise also exacerbates coastal flooding hazard. For example, a storm surge water level currently expected to occur on average only once every 100 years on the Adelaide coast, would occur on average once every 5 years after 0.3m of sea level rise. (State Government Policy is to allow for 0.3m of sea level rise from 1990 to 2050). Sea level rise therefore affects not only the extent of flooding, but also greatly increases the frequency of flooding for areas already at risk.

A 2009 study by the federal Department of Climate Change, “Climate Change Risks to Australia’s Coast – A First Pass Vulnerability Assessment”, found that between 25,000 and 43,000 residential buildings in South Australia, valued at between $4.4 billion and $7.4 billion, may be at risk of inundation from sea level rise of 1.1 metres. While the study was based on a number of assumptions, it is clear that sea level rise poses a significant threat to development in South Australia.

Some of the ways the Board is working to address this threat include:

- Supporting regional climate change adaptation planning projects through the provision of grant funding and technical advice. Projects have included the Northern and Yorke Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the Eyre Peninsula Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the Southern Metropolitan Adelaide Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Adapt South) and the current Western Metropolitan Adelaide Climate Change Adaptation Plan (Adapt West).

- Providing grant funding and technical advice for location specific studies in response to current coastal hazards, but that also address longer term climate change threats. Projects have included the Mallala Coastal Settlements Adaptation study (refer to Case Study 2 below for further information), the Yorke Peninsula Coastal...
Case Study 2: Adaptation Planning for Mallala Coastal Settlements

The coastal settlements of Thompson Beach, Webb Beach, Parham and Middle Beach in the District Council of Mallala north of Adelaide are low lying and subject to sea flooding and coastal erosion. Future sea level rise will exacerbate the coastal hazards already faced by these low lying settlements, particularly in relation to sea flooding during storm surge events.

A previous flood mapping project by Council (with grant funding from the Coast Protection Board and the Federal Government’s Natural Disaster Resilience Program) had identified areas at risk from flooding under current and future sea level rise scenarios. In 2014, Council (with grant funding from the Board) completed a study to identify what can be done to address the current and future risks faced by these communities.

This study used an adaptation of the Local Government Association of SA’s Coastal Adaptation Pathways Decision Map to identify and analyse the threats posed by sea level rise. Each settlement was reviewed within the following framework:

1. Establish the settlement history.
2. Analyse the existing sea-flood protection.
3. Analyse the impact of sea-flood scenarios.
4. Analyse emergency access and egress.
5. Establish profile of the assets at risk
7. Analyse possible adaptation actions

Extensive community engagement was a feature of the project, from the initial data collection phase through to the development of preferred protection and adaptation options.

Of particular note are the findings of the study in relation to Middle Beach, which has a known history of sea flooding. The report concludes that significant investment in protection works for Middle Beach is not justified from a cost benefit perspective. Instead, the consultant, community and Council have developed an approach of “accommodating” flooding in the short to medium term (to the year 2050) through measures such as minor works to minimise the damage caused by floods when they occur, and preparation of a community awareness and response plan that addresses issues such as evacuation pathways to higher ground and flood warning systems.

In the longer term (beyond 2050), and subject to monitoring of sea level rise, the report acknowledges that the ongoing viability of Middle Beach is in question. Planning measures are recommended to ensure that any new development or redevelopment at Middle Beach is of a type that can be relocated in future if necessary.
Settlements Flood Protection study (currently underway) and the Southend Adaption Plan (about to commence).

- Supporting the Local Government Association of South Australia’s development of *Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guidelines* (2014) for Councils and the discussion paper: *Defining the Sea Level Rise Problem in South Australia 2014*.

- Engaging with Federal government climate change initiatives related to coastal issues. Current projects the Board is actively involved with include two coastal research projects funded by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facilities’ project to develop a standardised national climate change adaptation planning tool.

- Implementing relevant actions from the South Australian Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

The Board has also undertaken a review of its policies in relation to new development and sea level rise to ensure that new development does not perpetuate this problem (refer to Section 3.4).

As in the Mallala case study, the Board will continue to use its grant funding programme to encourage Councils with areas currently at risk from coastal hazards to not only implement mitigation works for the current risks, but assess and plan for the longer term risks associated with rising sea levels. However, the limited resources and technical capacity of many regional Councils means that Board support is critical for the preparation of these integrated protection/adaptation strategies. To date, only the Mallala Coastal Settlements Adaptation Plan and the Yorke Peninsula Seawater Flooding Adaptation Pathways (in progress) have been undertaken.

### Issue 2: Regional Coastal Protection/Adaptation Strategies

Integrated coastal protection and adaptation plans are required at a number of regional settlements along the South Australian coastline. The Board currently has limited capacity to provide funding support for these projects and regional Councils do not typically have the technical or financial capacity to undertake them independently.

### 2.3 Adelaide’s Metropolitan Coast

*Adelaide's Living Beaches: A Strategy for 2005 - 2025* (ALB) was adopted by the State Government in 2005. It is a strategy for managing metropolitan Adelaide’s beaches from Marino Rocks in the south to Largs Bay in the north.

A major component of the ALB strategy is to collect sand from areas where it builds up and “recycle” it back to areas of erosion using sand pumping pipelines. Two sections of pipeline and related pumping infrastructure have been constructed: the Torrens Outlet to West Beach section was commissioned in December 2012 and the Glenelg to Kingston Park section in April 2013. The sand pumping project is now in its “Operate and Maintain” phase.

Other important components of the ALB strategy include maintenance dredging of the Holdfast Shores (Glenelg) and Adelaide Shores (West Beach) harbours, and recycling sand using trucks in areas not serviced by the pipeline.

While implementation of the ALB strategy is overseen by the Board, the annual ALB operational budget is administered by DEWNR from within the DEWNR budget, rather than from the Coast Protection Fund which is used to fund all other Coast Protection Board activities.
The ongoing annual operational ALB budget approved by Cabinet in September 2010 was $5.75 million per year (indexed with inflation). Whole of Government savings targets subsequently resulted in the ALB operational budget being reduced by $400,000 to $5.35 million per year (indexed). The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (AMLR NRM) Board contributes $2.3 million of this $5.35 million (from the NRM levy), with the remainder coming from the State budget.

The ALB operational budget is under pressure as a result of a number of factors including:

- Electricity costs associated with the sand pumping being significantly higher than projected (in the order of $450,000 per annum compared with the original estimate of $200,000).
- The $400,000 reduction in annual operational budget that was required to meet whole of government savings.
- A direction in 2014 from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Conservation that ALB is to contribute $50,000 per year back to the AMLR NRM Board for management of the Tennyson Dunes.
- Highly variable dredging requirements. The operational budget was based on a nominal allocation of $1.25 million per year for dredging, which is sufficient for a typical year of favourable weather conditions. However, as occurred in late 2014, storm events combined with seagrass wrack deposits can require periods of several months of intensive dredging activity at both harbours to maintain navigability. This incurs an additional cost in the order of $50,000 per week.

A key component of the ALB strategy is to add sand to the beach system from external sources (eg. dredged from offshore sources as has occurred in the past, or from terrestrial sand deposits such as at the Mount Compass quarries). This is required to offset the effects of rising sea levels. As a result of the above cost pressures, funds are not available from within the operational budget as was originally envisaged to identify and source external sand. This is reducing the amount of sand within the metropolitan beach system, with a consequent reduction in storm buffers and an increased likelihood of infrastructure damage during severe storm events.
Issue 3: “External” sand for Adelaide’s Beaches

Sand needs to be added to Adelaide’s beaches to offset the effects of sea level rise. Resources are not currently available for the required identification, investigation and testing of potential sources, or to fund the addition of any sand thus identified to the beaches.

There is also currently no capacity within the ALB operational budget or the Board’s budget to fund any significant maintenance or reconstruction works for existing seawalls on the metropolitan coast, some of which are in poor and deteriorating condition. For example, the seawall in front of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club and adjoining areas is failing and placing not only the surf club, but the Coast Park shared use path and the ALB sand pumping pipeline at risk. The Board has been able to provide emergency grant funding of $40,000 in 2014-15 for urgent repairs, but the required reconstruction works are estimated to cost $1.5 million. The City of Charles Sturt has recently written to the State Government requesting urgent action to address this issue.

Similarly, the ALB strategy proposes that in addition to sand recycling, structures such as seawalls and offshore breakwaters may be required at particular locations along the metropolitan coast. In particular, the strategy discusses the potential need for an offshore breakwater or breakwaters at the erosion “hot spot” of West Beach in the vicinity of the Surf Life Saving Club.

Structures such as offshore breakwaters require complex design investigations, including expensive computer modelling (and potentially scale modelling) of coastal processes. DEWNR’s experience with construction of the Semaphore Park offshore breakwater has demonstrated that early and extensive community engagement processes are also required, as these types of structures can be controversial and generate strong community interest.

There is currently no capacity to undertake these investigations within DEWNR or to fund consultants to do the work.

Issue 4: Coast Protection Structures on the Adelaide Coast

Resources are not available to assess the current condition and maintenance/asset renewal requirements of the ageing seawalls on Adelaide’s coast, or to commence investigations into the need, feasibility and design parameters for an offshore breakwater at West Beach.

Once again the Board acknowledges that funds to address these issues are not readily available from the State budget, and that a longer term, costed programme of investment to address these issues needs to be prepared for Government’s consideration through the budgetary process.

2.4 Future Directions

The Board expects that the demand for works to address coastal hazards in South Australia will increase in both the short and long term. Studies such as the Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation study, the Mallala Coastal Settlements Adaptation Plan, the Yorke Peninsula Coastal Settlements Flood Protection study and others will continue to identify development that is at risk from coastal hazards and quantify the protection works required.

The Board acknowledges that the State budget is under significant pressure from a number of sources and that it is not realistic to expect to immediately fund all coastal hazard mitigation projects. However, numerous studies and reports have concluded that the cost of investing in hazard mitigation is greatly exceeded by the potential costs incurred by society if
no action is taken (refer for example to the Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change, 2006 and The Garnaut Review 2011).

The Board will continue to allocate its grant funding based on the principle of making the minimum necessary investment, at the most appropriate time, to avoid much greater future public costs. The Mallala Coastal Settlement Adaptation Plan is indicative of the way the Board uses its grants program to influence coastal management in South Australia. Council initially approached the Board seeking funding support for extensive flood protection works, but by encouraging Council (with grant funding) to undertake a detailed examination of long term options for each settlement (including cost benefit analyses, staged implementation, and consideration of climate change) a much more cost effective long term adaptation strategy has been developed.

This highlights the importance of the grants program in giving the Board influence over coastal management decisions in South Australia, particularly in regional areas of the state where Councils typically have limited technical and financial resources. An increase in the financial capacity of the Board would increase this influence, and result in a greater likelihood of best practice coastal management outcomes across the state.

At the current levels of investment in coastal management in South Australia, significant known risks are not being addressed, or are only able to be addressed over long time periods due to the need to stage works to suit budgetary limitations. The level of risk continues to increase each year with rising sea levels.

The Board considers that a long-term strategy of increased investment is required in response to the coastal management risks identified in this Position Paper. The Board’s local government coastal management grants programme, which carefully targets the highest priorities based on risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses, is the appropriate mechanism to distribute the increased investment.

The Board recommends that a ten-year programme be developed to address the issues identified in this Position Paper, including identification of the additional investment and resources required, such that a detailed submission can be made to the 2016-17 budget process. Where projects are of a scale that are clearly beyond the scope of the Board’s funding (e.g. Port Adelaide flood protection), the Board will provide expert advice to State Government on the hazards faced, proposed mitigation strategies, and cost benefit analyses of action versus inaction.

![Figure 4: Storm damage to the Beachport foreshore in August 2014.](image)
3. New Coastal Development

One of the Board’s priorities identified in its Strategic Plan 2012-17 is “Ensure that coastal development occurs consistent with the hierarchy of adaptation: avoid, accommodate, adapt.” The Board seeks to achieve this through its engagement with the planning system, and by ensuring that its policies in relation to future risks associated with climate change reflect the best available science.

3.1 The Coast Protection Board and the Planning System

As shown in Figure 5 below, the Board provides input at all levels of the state planning system, from the highest level with the various regional volumes of the South Australian Planning Strategy, through to Development Plans and the assessment of individual development applications.

![Figure 5: Coast Protection Board interaction with the planning system in South Australia.](image-url)

The Board has extensive experience in dealing with the planning system and is committed to ongoing engagement with that system.

Coast Protection Board policies, including those dealing with sea level rise, have been integrated in the general section of Development Plans across the state. However, it is also critical that coastal zones are established over sensitive coastal features and areas that are subject to unaddressed coastal hazards. Such zoning seeks to ensure that:

- sensitive coastal features are protected from the adverse impacts of development
- development is not placed in areas at risk of coastal hazards; and that
relevant development applications are referred to the Coast Protection Board and unnecessary referrals are avoided. However, an audit in 2010 revealed that across the state approximately 38% of the coastal hazard areas are outside coastal zones. The mapped coastal hazards are comprised of:

- storm surge and inland runoff areas;
- coastal sand dunes with an additional 100m inland buffer to allow for sand dune drift;
- a 100m inland buffer around erosive shorelines; and
- areas of actual or potential Acid Sulfate Soils.

The inclusion of appropriate coastal zones in Development Plans has been an ongoing, but slow and sometimes unsuccessful effort.

In relation to development assessment, the Board is particularly concerned with development being approved against the Board’s advice in regards to unaddressed coastal hazards. Previous efforts to improve that via the power of direction have not been successful. From 2004 to 2013, 276 dwellings and 126 extra allotments have been approved at odds with the Board’s advice regarding coastal hazards.

The Board strives to influence planning decisions and support studies such that coastal hazards are identified and avoided by new development, rather than having to respond to hazards once it is too late. Negative economic, social and environmental impacts will fall to the community and government when inappropriate development is damaged by coastal hazards. It is likely that major expenses will fall to government.

The Board is therefore seeking the following improvements to the planning system:

- more rigorous and immediate application of coastal zoning
- extended power of direction for the Coast Protection Board in regards to coastal hazards such as flooding, erosion and cliff vulnerability

The State Government has commenced implementing its response to the report of the Expert Panel of the Planning Reform process (discussed below). The Board seeks the Minister’s support in advocating for these improvements during the implementation process.
3.2 Response to the Planning Reform Process

The Expert Panel on Planning Reform has called for "seamless legislative interfaces". The Board supports that concept as demonstrated by its adoption of the 'one-stop-shop' concept in the early 1990s, as expressed in the Development Act 1993. The requirement for the approval of the Board for prescribed works (being coast protection works and excavation and filling of more than 9 cubic metres) was removed from the Coast Protection Act 1972.

Instead such works are defined as development and are therefore subject to the direction of the Board pursuant to the Development Act (in addition to the referral of other development to the Board originally established under the Planning Act 1982). As discussed in Section 3.1 above, one consequence of this has been the approval of some development, against the Board's advice, that is subject to unaddressed coastal hazards. The Board's view is that, even with improved coastal provisions in Development Plans, the referral of development applications together with an extended power of direction over hazard issues is still required.

If the current review of the planning system results in the Board having diminished powers in development assessment and land use zoning, the Board may seek the reinstatement of an approval requirement for prescribed works in the Coast Protection Act. Such an approval could be required for development in areas subject to unaddressed coastal hazards as well as the protection works and excavation and filling currently subject to the Board's power of direction. However it would be preferable for the referral mechanism to remain, with an enhanced power of direction for the Board regarding hazards.

**Issue 5: Development Approved Against the Board's Advice**

Despite the Board’s legislated role in the development assessment process, some coastal development continues to be approved against the Board’s advice. This places individuals and the wider community at increased risk of incurring future costs associated with coastal hazards.

3.3 Vendor’s Statements (Section 7 Searches)

In South Australia under Section 7 of the Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994 (which is administered by the Minister for Business Services and Consumers), the vendor of real property is obliged to provide to the purchaser a vendor’s statement before settlement.

The vendor’s statement must include details of all mortgages, charges and prescribed encumbrances affecting the land subject to sale along with any prescribed matters. Regulations prescribe the form and content of the statement.

The prescribed matters include land management agreements, emergency orders, fire safety notices, and enforcement notices implemented pursuant to the Development Act 1993. They also include various notices and orders implemented by Acts such as the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 and others.

It may be possible to amend the Coast Protection Act 1972 to add a provision which allows for a notice to be issued which advises of an unaddressed coastal hazard such as erosion or flood risk. The Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Regulations 2010 could then be amended to require such a notice to be disclosed on the vendor’s statement.

Such a process would need legislative and regulatory change and, based on interstate examples, may be controversial because of a perceived negative impact on property values. However, without it there is a risk that purchasers can be misled about the potential coastal hazards threatening a property.
Case Study 3: Smoky Bay Development Plan Amendment

Smoky Bay is a small coastal settlement south of Ceduna. Development is controlled under the Ceduna Council Development Plan (DP). The Coast Protection Board (CPB) has no objection to the orderly and appropriate expansion and or redevelopment of this township. However, the CPB is concerned that successive Development Plan Amendments (DPA’s) have compromised natural coastal features and resulted in development being placed in areas subject to unaddressed coastal hazards. For example:

DC Ceduna General and Coastal Development Plan Amendment (2008) – Smoky Bay

A narrow strip of land between the coast and the Smoky Bay Caravan Park, originally zoned “Urban Coastal”, was rezoned “Residential” against the advice of the Coast Protection Board via the General and Coastal DPA (2008). Coastal hazard risks were not adequately addressed in the statement of investigations, particularly coastal erosion hazard risks.

Either further investigations should have been undertaken to determine and address the coastal hazard risks by the incorporation of appropriate policy (e.g. erosion setback requirements) or alternatively the zone name should have been altered to include the word “coastal” to ensure that development proposed at this site required referral to the CPB.

Dwellings constructed on these coastal allotments are subject to unaddressed erosion hazard risks, with potentially insufficient setbacks to enable erosion protection works to be contained wholly on the private allotment. Further, dwellings may have been constructed below the Board’s minimum flood risk standard building and floor levels.

This illustrates the importance of appropriate land use zoning to avoid new development requiring future coastal hazard protection works.
Including known coastal hazards on vendor statements was in fact recommended by the *Defining the Sea Level Rise Problem in South Australia Issues Paper* prepared for the Local Government Association of South Australia in partnership with DEWNR and the Coast Protection Board. It would also enable the application of an advisory notice on land without the agreement of the owner, as is the case with encumbrances and land management agreements.

The Board will continue to work with the Local Government Association to investigate the feasibility of implementing this process.

### 3.4 Sea Level Rise Policy Review

The Board’s policy on *Coast Protection and New Coastal Development* was formally adopted as South Australian Government policy in May 1991. In doing so, South Australia became the first Australian state to include climate change adaptation into its policy framework.

The policy includes requirements for new development to make allowance for future sea level rise. The policy’s sea level rise allowances (safe from 0.3m of sea level rise and able to be protected from a further 0.7m) were based on the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in 1990.

The sea level rise provisions of the policy have proven robust in light of subsequent IPCC assessment reports. However, the Board has considered advice from an expert advisory committee and is proposing to make a number minor policy amendments. For example, the Board is recommending that the 1 in 100 year storm surge levels (used to set minimum site levels for new development) be adjusted to make allowance for the measured sea level rise of approximately 100mm that has occurred in South Australia since the policy was adopted in 1991.

Agency consultation on the proposed policy amendments is expected to occur in 2015 prior to presentation to Government for consideration.

### 3.5 Future Directions

The South Australian planning system is the primary mechanism through which the Board seeks to prevent unsustainable development occurring, that is where it would be subject to current or future unaddressed coastal hazards. However, despite the Board’s legislated role in the development assessment process, it is evident that some coastal development continues to be approved against the Board’s advice.

In response to this, the Board has been advocating for increased powers of direction for some time, including in its submission to the current Planning Review. The Board will continue to pursue increased powers of direction.

The Board will also continue to advocate for improved development plan zoning of areas with sensitive coastal features subject to coastal hazards.

If the desired improvements are not achieved through the Planning Review process, the Board may consider seeking reinstatement of prescribed activities under the *Coast Protection Act* to ensure that inappropriate coastal development does not add to future community costs.

The Board notes that it has been advised that at the end of the 2014-15 financial year there will be a reduction of one planning position within the Coast and River Murray Unit of DEWNR that provides technical and administrative support to the Board. This is required to achieve whole-of-government budget savings. The Board has concerns that the remaining
planning staff will by necessity be focussed on processing development application referrals to meet legislated timeframes, and that this will reduce the input that can be made to more strategic planning processes.
4. Coastal Ecosystems

4.1 Coastal Conservation Assessments and Action Plans

South Australia is fortunate that many significant terrestrial coastal areas and near-shore islands are within the state’s parks system or Crown reserves. Nevertheless, work remains to ensure that significant coastal heaths, samphires (salt flats) and mangroves are properly protected and have the capacity to adapt to changes in climate. While beaches and dune systems are common in South Australia (59% of the shoreline length), their fragile nature makes them also an issue of concern.

In recent years the Board has worked in close partnership with regional Natural Resource Management Boards to prepare Coastal Conservation Assessments and Action Plans across the coastal areas of the state. These plans establish coastal conservation priorities for places and areas within each region, and identify actions to address threatening processes for specific locations as well as broader threats across coastal areas. They have also established coastal databases in map and table form as a tool for ongoing adaptive management.

The Northern and Yorke Coastal Conservation Assessment has recently been used as the basis for the preparation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for sites of high ecological value in the region. The Board will continue to partner with Councils and the regional Natural Resource Management Boards.

4.2 Coastal Ecosystems and the Planning System

Coastal areas of high ecological value and conservation significance should be protected from development and zoned accordingly. Within the terrestrial parts of the coastal zone, the area and shape of allotments can be important for facilitating the management of environmentally sensitive areas and minimising the impact of development on the coastal environment.

Providing the space for landward migration of coastal ecosystems in response to future sea level rise is also of critical importance to the ongoing survival of these important ecosystems. As discussed in Section 3, the Board seeks to promote these outcomes through appropriate zoning of sensitive coastal features.

*Figure 7: Development adjoining a sensitive coastal environment at Fisherman Bay on Yorke Peninsula.*
4.3 Future Directions

The Board will continue to promote implementation of the regional Coastal Action Plans, including supporting further studies where appropriate to prepare climate change adaptation plans for areas of high ecological value.

The Board will also continue to engage with planning authorities in developing Regional Planning Strategies and Development Plans that recognise and allow for adaptation (including retreat and migration) of tide-dependent ecosystems. To this end the Board will continue to advocate for improvements to the planning system (as discussed in Section 3) to ensure that new development does not create additional pressures on at-risk coastal ecosystems.
5. Conclusion and Summary of Recommendations

This Position Paper has discussed the current and future coastal management challenges in South Australia and how the Coast Protection Board is responding to those challenges using the three strategic priorities identified in its Strategic Plan 2012-2017:

- Adapt existing development to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure new development is not at risk from current and future hazards.
- Plan for resilience in coastal ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Coast Protection Board will continue to work closely with local government to identify and mitigate coastal hazards in South Australia. The Board will also continue to pursue improvements to the planning system in an effort to ensure that new development is safe from current and future coastal hazards.

However, a number of issues have been identified in this Position Paper that the Board considers represent significant and ongoing risks that are not being adequately addressed under current coastal management arrangements. These issues are summarised in Section 5.1 below.

The actions that the Board recommends be taken to mitigate these risks are summarised in Sections 5.2 and 5.3. All of the Board’s recommendations are summarised in Section 5.4.

5.1 Unaddressed Risks

The Board has identified the following five coastal management issues that it considers present significant risks to the South Australian community and environment, but are not currently able to be adequately addressed:

- **Coast Protection Board Grants**: Applications from Councils for Coast Protection Board grant funding for projects to address coastal hazards exceed the Board’s available budget each year. High priority risks remain unaddressed.

- **Regional Coastal Protection/Adaptation Strategies**: Integrated coastal protection and adaptation plans are required at a number of regional settlements along the South Australian coastline. The Board currently has limited capacity to provide funding support for these projects and regional Councils do not typically have the technical or financial capacity to undertake them independently.

- **“External” sand for Adelaide’s Beaches**: Sand needs to be added to Adelaide’s beaches to offset the effects of sea level rise. Resources are not currently available for the required identification, investigation and testing of potential sources, or to fund the addition of any sand thus identified to the beaches.

- **Coast Protection Structures on the Adelaide Coast**: Resources are not available to assess the current condition and maintenance/asset renewal requirements of the ageing seawalls on Adelaide’s coast, or to commence investigations into the need, feasibility and design parameters for an offshore breakwater at West Beach.

- **Development against the Board’s Advice**: Despite the Board’s legislated role in the development assessment process, some coastal development continues to be approved against the Board’s advice. This places individuals and the wider community at increased risk of incurring future costs associated with coastal hazards.
5.2 Funding Recommendations

The Board appreciates that the Government faces ever increasing and competing demands on finite financial resources. The Board therefore prioritises the allocation of its funds based on the level of risk that will be addressed. The Board also encourages and supports investigations into coastal hazards, not only because they identify future vulnerabilities and identify the most cost effective mitigation strategies, but also because they guide the Board and councils on the most suitable time to implement protection works and the required amendments to Development Plans to avoid perpetuating the problem. Actions in response to sea level rise are not needed state-wide overnight.

Nevertheless, rising sea levels, increasing development pressure on existing coastal settlements (the Sea-change phenomenon), and major works being identified in studies currently underway, will all contribute to increased future demand for assistance from the Board.

The Board funds its activities from the Coast Protection Fund established under the Coast Protection Act (1972). The annual appropriation from the State budget is placed into the Coast Protection Fund together with income from Development Application fees received by the Board (typically $20,000 per year). Over the last decade a balance of $450,000 has accumulated in the Coast Protection Fund as a result of minor differences between forecast income and expenditure in each financial year.

The Board has therefore made a submission to Treasury seeking expenditure authority for an additional $200,000 in 2015-16 over and above its annual appropriation. This will enable the Board to “draw down” the savings that have accumulated in the Coast Protection Fund and provide increased grant funding to Councils in 2015-16, without requiring an increase to its appropriation from the State budget. The Board recommends that the Minister write to Treasury supporting the Board’s submission.

In the longer term, the Board considers that a strategic programme of increased investment in coastal management projects is required to address the issues raised in this Position Paper. The increased investment should be carefully targeted at the highest priorities based on risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses.

The Board therefore recommends that a ten-year programme be developed that addresses the issues identified in this Position Paper, including identification of the additional resources required, such that a detailed submission can be made to the 2016-17 budget process.

Where projects are of a scale that are beyond the practical scope of Board funding (eg. Port Adelaide flood protection), the Board will provide advice to State Government on the hazards faced, proposed mitigation strategies, and cost benefit analyses of action versus inaction.

5.3 Planning Recommendations

The Board made a detailed submission to the Planning Review’s Expert Panel in 2014, seeking to ensure that the Board’s policies are reflected in planning decisions in coastal areas of the state. The Government has recently developed its response to the Expert Panel’s report. During implementation of the Government response, the Board seeks the Minister’s support for increased powers of direction for the Board and improved Development Plan zoning of areas with sensitive coastal features or subject to coastal hazards.

If the desired improvements are not achieved through the Planning Review process, the Board may consider seeking future support from the Minister for reinstatement of prescribed activities under the Coast Protection Act to ensure that inappropriate coastal development does not add to future community costs.
5.4 Summary of Recommendations

This Position Paper presents three recommendations for the Minister’s consideration. The Board considers that these recommendations, if implemented, would substantially strengthen the ability of the South Australian community and environment to respond to the current and future risks presented by coastal hazards in South Australia.

The Board recommends that:

- the Minister write to Treasury in support of the Board’s request for increased expenditure authority in 2015-16 of $200,000 over and above the annual appropriation from the State budget (to draw down savings in the Coast Protection Fund);

- DEWNR prepare a ten-year programme of coastal management initiatives to address the issues raised in this Position Paper, including identification of the required actions and associated costs, such that a submission can be made to the 2016-17 State budget process; and

- during implementation of the Government’s response to the report from the Planning Review’s Expert Panel, the Minister supports the Boards advocacy for increased Powers of Direction for the Board over development applications where coastal hazards are a factor; and improved development plan zoning of sensitive coastal features and coastal hazards.
APPENDIX 1

Coast Protection Board Strategic Plan 2012-2017
Coast Protection Board Strategic Plan 2012-2017
November 2012

Vision
The sustainable use of the South Australian coast for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment.

Strategic priorities

1. Adaptation of existing development to coastal hazards and the impacts of climate change.

Actions:
   b) Encourage and support the acquisition of a coastal DEM for SA.
   c) Assist Governments in the coastal aspects of integrated climate change vulnerability assessments (IVA) and adaptation plans.
   d) Assist Local Government devise, prioritise and implement protection strategies for coastal settlements.
   e) Provide advice to the Minister, Government, local government and the community on adaptation of coastal development.

2. Ensure new development is not at risk from current and future hazards.

Actions:
   a) Ensure that coastal development occurs consistent with the hierarchy of adaptation: avoid, accommodate, adapt.
   b) Seek increased powers to control development potentially at risk from coastal hazards.
   c) Maintain the currency and relevance of Coast Protection Board policies, including allowances for sea level rise, by reviewing as appropriate.
   d) Seek the Government’s adoption and inclusion of these policies in SA’s development control system.
   e) Continue to engage with the emergency management sector to exploit areas of joint interest regarding the impacts of climate change on coastal development.
   f) Prepare guidance for planning authorities, developers and the community on appropriate landscapes and criteria for specific types of development (i.e. marinas, ports, boat ramps).
   g) Provide advice to the Minister, Government, local government and the community on sustainable coastal development.

3. Plan for resilience in coastal ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Actions:
   a) Engage with planning authorities in developing land use frameworks, Planning Strategies and Development Plans that recognise and allow for adaptation (including retreat and migration) of tide-dependent ecosystems.
   b) Ensure that development does not create additional pressures on at-risk ecosystems.
   c) Assist in the development of adaptation plans for coastal ecosystems, based on the IVAs.
   d) Provide advice to the Minister, Government, local government and the community on sustaining coastal ecosystems.
APPENDIX 2

Summary Table of High Risk Unfunded Coastal Management Issues
# Summary of High Risk Unfunded Coastal Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>COUNCIL</th>
<th>RISK</th>
<th>ESTIMATED MITIGATION COST</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port Adelaide Flooding</td>
<td>Port Adelaide - Enfield</td>
<td>Flooding of public and private assets including residential and industrial development. Damages from a 1 in 100 year sea flood event estimated at up to $28 million (2005 dollars), increasing to $66 million by 2050 (assuming 0.3m of sea level rise).</td>
<td>$10 to $20 million</td>
<td>The 2005 flood mapping is currently being updated and expanded to include West Lakes as part of the Western Adelaide Region Climate Change Adaptation Plan (AdaptWest). Flood protection options have been identified but not yet detailed design. Pt Adelaide has written to State Govt requesting advice on funding strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Beach seawall</td>
<td>Charles Sturt</td>
<td>Failure of seawall and resultant erosion is threatening West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, the ALB sand transfer pipeline, car parks, the Esplanade and the Coast Park shared use path.</td>
<td>$1.5 million</td>
<td>This seawall was constructed in 1973 and is now failing. A grant of $40,000 has been provided in 2014-15 for short term emergency repairs. Significant reconstruction is required and Council has requested funding from the State Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Adelaide Beaches – addition of externally sourced sand.</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>The progressive reduction in sand volumes on metropolitan beaches will increase the risk of storm damage and reduce public amenity (loss of beach width).</td>
<td>$400,000 per annum</td>
<td>Sand from external sources is required to be added to the metropolitan beaches to address sand “leakage” from the system and the effects of sea level rise. The annual budget for implementation of the Adelaide’s Living Beaches strategy has been reduced by $400k per annum to meet savings targets. This has removed the ability to add external sand to the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Augusta levee construction</td>
<td>CC Port Augusta</td>
<td>Flooding of residential and commercial properties during storm surge events.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Ongoing staged contribution to levee construction to mitigate current sea flood risk. Final stage through boat ramp car park (western side of gulf) is likely to be constructed in 2015-16. Further stages will be required to add rock armour to earlier stages that were not armoured.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Yorke Peninsula Coastal Settlements Flood protection.</td>
<td>DC Yorke Peninsula</td>
<td>Flooding of residential properties during storm surge events.</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>Grant funding of $36,000 has been provided in 2014-15 to Yorke Peninsula Council for a flood protection study of four of its low lying coastal settlements (Coobowie, Pine Point, Price and Port Clinton). The Federal Govt and Council are providing matching funding. These four settlements are known to experience sea flooding and have levees that are in poor condition, providing incomplete protection for the settlements. The estimated mitigation costs are preliminary at this stage pending the outcomes of the study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeroona Island Causeway erosion protection.</td>
<td>Mount Remarkable</td>
<td>Erosion of the causeway (road) threatens to cut off access to Weeroona Island (north of Port Pirie).</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>A $20k grant has been provided to Council in 2014-15 for a design study to investigate options for protecting side slopes of Weeroona Island causeway. Mitigation costs are preliminary pending the outcomes of the study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beachport - Post Office Rock erosion control</td>
<td>Wattle Range</td>
<td>Erosion threatens to undermine the Bowman Scenic Drive road at Beachport within 5 years.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Investigations required to determine whether to protect the road or relocate (abandon). Either option will be expensive. Estimated mitigation cost is preliminary pending further investigations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beachport and Southend - general foreshore protection</td>
<td>Wattle Range</td>
<td>Significant foreshore erosion occurs every winter during storm conditions.</td>
<td>$50,000 per annum</td>
<td>A grant of $58k has been provided to Council in 2014-15 for repairs and extensions to rock seawalls in Beachport. This is typical of previous financial years and is expected to be required for the foreseeable future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southend Adaptation Study</td>
<td>Wattle Range</td>
<td>Ongoing coastal erosion and sea flood risk threatens development.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>A 2014-15 grant of $20k was provided to Council to undertake a study to determine the long term future for the Southend settlement. The settlement is low lying, subject to erosion and potentially sea flooding in future as the erosion progresses. The study was deferred due to delays to the related Rivoli Bay coastal processes study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Victor Harbor Foreshore Protection</td>
<td>Victor Harbor</td>
<td>Foreshore erosion in Encounter Bay threatens the shared use path, car parks and the road.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>A grant of $30k has been provided to Council in 2014-15 for beach replenishment to address the erosion. However, the longer term solution involves extension of the rock seawall further east to protect the area that is actively eroding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port MacDonnell foreshore erosion</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Foreshore erosion threatens the coastal shared use path and public open space.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Extension and reconstruction of the existing rock protection works is required. Council will be applying for grant funding in 2015-16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingston - Wyomi Beach protection works</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Foreshore erosion threatens a shared use path, the road and residential properties.</td>
<td>$20,000 per annum</td>
<td>A grant of $30k has been provided to Council in 2014-15 for beach replenishment to address the erosion. A further grant of $16k has also been provided to examine potential longer term solutions. The estimated mitigation cost is based on ongoing beach replenishment as it is likely that hard protection works will be cost prohibitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Pirie City Council levee construction</td>
<td>Port Pirie</td>
<td>Flooding of public open space and residential and commercial development.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Modifications to a section of levee through the foreshore reserve that is too low. Design options still being considered by Council. Estimated mitigation cost is nominal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Kilda levee works</td>
<td>Salisbury</td>
<td>Flooding of public open space and residential and commercial development.</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>CC Salisbury is designing the required works (and estimated costs) to complete flood protection strategy. Estimated mitigation cost is nominal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo Island - American River levee works</td>
<td>Kangaroo Island</td>
<td>Flooding of residential properties</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Required mitigation works have been identified in a study. A grant was previously approved by the Board for this project, but implementation has been delayed due to community opposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mallala Coastal Settlement Flood Protection strategy – Parham, Thompson Beach, Webb Beach and Middle Beach.</td>
<td>DC Mallala</td>
<td>Flooding of residential properties.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>DC Mallala has undertaken a study (with CPB assistance) to plan for the long term protection / climate change adaptation options for its coastal settlements. Implementation of the identified mitigation works will be staged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Germein Levee</td>
<td>Mount Remarkable</td>
<td>Flooding of the Port Germein township.</td>
<td>$1.2 million</td>
<td>Levee works identified in a study that was undertaken with the support of the Board. Council does not have sufficient resources to proceed with implementation and is investigating funding options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaford Cliff Stabilisation works.</td>
<td>Onkaparinga</td>
<td>Erosion is threatening to undermine car parks and the road.</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>Council is undertaking stage 1 in 2014-15 without Board support but is seeking grant funding for stage 2 in 2015-16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whyalla beach replenishment</td>
<td>Whyalla</td>
<td>Foreshore erosion is threatening the caravan park and car park for the main town beach.</td>
<td>$50,000 per annum</td>
<td>A grant of $35k has been provided to Council in 2014-15 for beach replenishment in front of the seawall that was also constructed with Board assistance. This replenishment will be required on an annual basis to prevent undermining of the seawall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Broughton seawall</td>
<td>Barunga West</td>
<td>An old vertical concrete seawall that protects public open space along the Port Broughton seawall has failed.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>A grant of $20k was provided in 2014-15 for replacement of a section of the failed seawall. Ongoing staged reconstruction is required of the remaining failed sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robe Town Beach replenishment.</td>
<td>Robe</td>
<td>Erosion threatens residential properties that abut the foreshore.</td>
<td>$20,000 per annum</td>
<td>A grant of $20,000 has been provided in 2014-15 for replenishment of Town Beach. Council have indicated they wish to consider construction of a seawall at this location, however, the cost is likely to be prohibitive and ongoing replenishment will be required to maintain a storm buffer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Sheryl

Thank you for your follow up email in relation to rural roads funding.

An agenda item regarding this matter and also the matter of funding for rural coastal councils was put to Council on 20 July 2015 with the following resolution being the outcome:-

1. That Council support the concerns of the Wattle Range Road Safety Group in regards to the need for a greater priority for funding for rural roads, by writing to the relevant Ministers, Members and persons mentioned within the resolution of the Wattle Range Council.

2. That Council support the campaign by Wattle Range Council for a specific stream of funding for rural coastal councils to manage coastal erosion, by writing to the LGA requesting that they lobby the State Government on this matter.

3. That the Mayor write to the Mayor, Wattle Range Council in his role as South Australian representative to the Australian Coastal Council's Association, inviting them to join us and other coastal councils in our efforts to gain better support for coastal councils.

We are in the process of preparing relevant letters in relation to 1. and 2. A letter re 3. was sent to Mayor Peter Gandolfi on 31 July 2015.

Kind regards
Margaret Terrell
Executive Assistant to the Chief
Executive and Mayor
Alexandrina Council

Ph: (08) 8555 7000
Fax: (08) 8666 3603
Email: margaret.terrell@alexandrina.sa.gov.au
Web: www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au
Consultation: mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au

PO Box 21 | 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa SA 5214

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31 July 2015

Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
MILLICENT SA 5280

Dear Peter

Coastal Protection Funding

Council is in receipt of your letter dated 24th June 2015, seeking Council’s support to campaign the Local Government Association of South Australia to lobby the South Australian Government for a specific stream of funding to assist Rural Coastal Councils to manage coastal erosion.

At Council’s ordinary meeting held on the 15th July 2015, Council resolved to advise the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) that the District Council of Ceduna supports the Wattle Range Council’s request that the LGA lobby the South Australian Government on behalf of Councils, for specific additional funding to assist Rural Coastal Council’s to manage coastal erosion and protection.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience on (08) 8625 3407.

Yours sincerely

G.M. (Geoffrey) Moffatt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Telephone: (08) 8625 3407
Email: gmoffatt@ceduna.sa.gov.au
CMA:cae: File 10.85.1.8;
Ref iLT31075,

27 July 2015

Mr Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
MILLICENT SA 5280

Dear Peter

Coastal Protection Funding and Road Safety

I refer to your letters dated 24 June 2015 and 23 June 2015 respectively in respect to the abovementioned matters.

The Wakefield Regional Council resolved at its meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2015 to support the Wattle Range Council in the campaigns in respect to additional funding for coastal protection, and redirection of the O'Bahn funding to regional roads.

As such, I advise that I have now written to the Local Government Association seeking them to lobby the State Government for a specific stream of funding for rural coastal councils. As you would be aware, Council has foreshore at Port Wakefield, and whilst it does not suffer directly from significant erosion, there are a range of projects that could be undertaken to protect and enhance the foreshore precinct, if more funding was available.

In respect to the road safety issues, Council has delegated me to write to Minister Mullighan, Hon Tony Piccolo, Hon Geoff Brock and Mr Roger Cook AM outlining support to have the O'Bahn tunnel project cancelled and in its place, to identify and endorse suitable road safety projects in regional SA. We have significant roads under our management and with the withdrawal of funding from the Federal Government, it is now more than ever, critical to increase local funding to manage and maintain a safe road network.

Council thanks Wattle Range Council for its proactive approach to these matters and bringing them to our attention.

Yours faithfully

Cate Atkinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
27/07/2015

Mr Mark Searle
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Local Government Association
GPO Box 2693
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mark

RE: Wattle Range Council – Coastal Protection Funding Submission

The District Council of Elliston considered correspondence received from the Wattle Range Council in regards to supporting their request to lobby your association on behalf of Councils for additional significant funding to assist Councils to deal with coastal protection at its recent meeting held on the 21st July 2015.

Council resolved to support the Wattle Range Council campaign to have your association lobby the State Government for a specific stream of funding for rural coastal Councils to manage coastal erosion.

This Council has a considerable coastline of 150 km in length which is an important asset for tourism, recreation fishing, the wild catch industry, fauna and wildlife. The coastal area needs to be maintained in an ongoing sustainable manner, therefore any future funding assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

Phil Cameron
Chief Executive Officer
22 July 2015

The Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
Millicent SA 5280

Dear Peter

Subject: Letters of Support

I refer to your letters regarding coastal protection funding and rural & regional road funding and advise that Council has agreed to write to the relevant Minister supporting your position.

Yours faithfully

Chris Blanch
Chief Executive Officer
Dear Peter

RE: COASTAL PROTECTION FUNDING

I refer to your letter of 24 June 2015 seeking lobbying support for significant additional Government Funding to assist councils to deal with coastal protection.

We support your intention but a more effective way of getting the issue onto the SA Local Government Association agenda may be to put the matter forward as a motion to the AGM of the Association later this year.

Like yourselves, we are experiencing challenging erosion problems during high tides and storm surge events. We are trialling a number of short-term options to arrest erosion problems, however success will only be temporary.

In 2013 the Council commissioned a study to identify the impacts of sea level rise, to determine the most vulnerable sections of coastline and to establish a program and cost of works to address current and future coastal impacts. Over the next 30 years we face a bill of $17.5 million (in today's dollars) in public infrastructure investment to defend our vulnerable areas. We have no opportunity to retreat. This cost estimate does not include raising our stormwater outfalls.

The City of Victor Harbor has been a member of the National Sea Change Task Force since it was established more than 10 years ago. The Task Force recently changed its name to the Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. and they have a new website www.coastalcouncil.org.au which you may wish to view. Currently Mayor Keith Parkes of Alexandrina Council and Deputy Mayor Pat Chigwidden of the City of Victor Harbor are the South Australian representatives on the Association Executive.

Victor Harbor has found the Association to be a valuable and supportive network. Over the years the Task Force has achieved much in the following areas –

- Access to various Federal and State Politicians and Senior Government Bureaucracy to plead the case for coastal councils and to access information and research that has been conducted;
Acted as a significant lobbyist in the push for greater Federal funding access which culminated in the Regional Development Australia Fund;

Initiated and accessed various research projects into climate change and sea level rise;

Engaged the Bureau of Meteorology to present on past climate trends and future projections;

Researched population growth impacts on coastal councils and sourced demographic expertise (Graham Hugo and Bernard Salt) for information, advice and to present at forums;

Considered the legal issues surrounding climate change impacts on private infrastructure;

Received presentations from the Insurance Industry on current and future assessment of risk associated with sea level rise;

Researched the incidence of and impacts associated with second homes (holiday homes) in coastal communities (the hidden population), and successfully lobbied for appropriate questions to be added to the next Census to collect this data. Such data may be valuable in pursuing a greater proportion of grant funds for coastal councils;

Maintained a watching brief on (and contributed to) coastal policy as it has developed at the Federal level and State by State;

Influenced collaboration between researchers who were often conducting similar research unbeknown to the parties involved. A research portal was subsequently established;

Considered social, environmental and economic consequences of coastal issues;

Given exposure to best practice in coastal management;

Presented case studies of approaches to disaster management.

An annual conference, which rotates between the states, has provided exposure to much of the above and more. Our Council has attended most of the conferences that have been held and have always come away feeling we are better equipped to consider our challenges and that we are not alone. Membership of the Australian Coastal Councils Association is scaled according to population and we currently pay around $1,300 per annum.

If membership or conference attendance interests you, I refer you to the contact details on the Association website. Alternatively, I am sure Mayor Parkes or Deputy Mayor Chigwidden would be happy to discuss the Association with you.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Maxwell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
EDITORIAL: All Levels of Government Should Share Cost of Coastal Management

Welcome to the first issue of the Australian Coastal Councils Association newsletter. The Association, which commenced operations on 1 July, replaces the National Sea Change Taskforce. As an organisation representing the interests of coastal councils we will be advocating for a more equitable share of resources needed to manage and maintain the coast effectively. We believe it is about time the nation as a whole contributed to the cost of maintaining our beaches and other coastal assets, which are enjoyed by all Australians, rather than leaving it to coastal councils and their ratepayers.

Australia is a coastal nation, with all of the state capitals, most of the nation’s industrial assets and more than 85% of the population located in the coastal zone. The coast is our most highly-prized natural asset, but we have no co-ordinated national approach to managing this important asset for the benefit of future generations. As our members know, coastal councils are attempting to deal with enormous challenges which are beyond their financial capacity. These challenges include extensive coastal erosion, maintenance and restoration of the nation’s beaches, clean up and recovery from severe weather events and restoration of coastal habitat.

When you consider that local councils receive only 3.4% of Australia’s taxation revenue, while the Federal Government receives 81% and the states and territories 15%, it is clear that councils simply do not have the resources needed to deal with such a massive task. Many coastal councils have to find tens of millions of dollars for works such as beach renourishment, retaining walls and other measures to combat coastal erosion but have restricted sources of funding available.

In the week prior to completing his term as Chair of the Victorian Coastal Council, on 30 June, Jon Hickman called on the Andrews State Government to provide substantial funding towards the cost of protecting the Victorian coast over coming decades. He told The Age that part of the revenue the State government is to receive from leasing the Port of Melbourne should be allocated to addressing the impact of climate change and population growth on the state’s coastal assets. The lease is expected to raise up to $7 billion over 50 years.

The call for more State government funding for critical coastal works reflects growing concern among coastal councils at the rapidly mounting costs associated with managing the nation’s 36,000 kms of coastline. These costs are currently left almost entirely to local councils. Gaining a more equitable share of resources to help coastal councils undertake these works will be one of the priority issues to be tackled by the Australian Coastal Councils Association.

Barry Sammels Chair, Australian Coastal Councils Association and Mayor, City of Rockingham
Powerful Alliance Formed To Promote Common Ground on Climate Change

An alliance of major business, union, environment, investor and social organisations has been formed with the objective of ‘putting the climate policy debate on common ground and offering a way forward’.

The alliance, called the Australian Climate Roundtable, includes the Australian Aluminium Council, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Australian Council of Social Service, the ACTU, the Australian Industry Group, the Business Council of Australia, the Energy Supply Association of Australia, the Investor Group on Climate Change, the Climate Institute and WWF Australia.

The organisations in the Roundtable have been meeting in secret for more than a year to discuss how to tackle the issue. “This is born of collective frustration,” Matthew Warren, the chief executive of the Energy Supply Association of Australia, told The Guardian.

A statement issued by the Roundtable said the organisations had come together ‘because climate change and climate policy both impact our missions and our members.’ The statement went on to say: ‘We believe Australia should play its fair part in global efforts to avoid 2° centigrade and the serious economic, social and environmental impacts that unconstrained climate change would have on Australia.’

In an effort to put an end to the political debate on climate change the alliance has identified a set of principles to guide future Australian climate policy. The principles include that climate change should:

• drive domestic abatement wherever it is efficient and internationally recognised across all sectors of the Australian economy;
• make use of internationally recognised abatement from overseas to ease the transition towards net zero emissions;
• recognise the strategic importance of reducing emissions from the energy sector in achieving the overall goal; and
• use any revenue resulting from climate policy to address legitimate needs directly related to climate policy, and otherwise be returned to businesses and individuals.

The principles demand a policy that allows Australia to play a fair role in limiting global warming to 2°C and eventually achieves no net greenhouse emissions – meaning more emissions are taken out of the atmosphere or bought from overseas than emitted by activities in Australia.

John Connor, the chief executive of the Climate Institute, said the aim of the alliance is to ‘reset the tumultuous debate and try to establish a civil and constructive discussion.’ “We are offering ourselves as a sounding board for all parties to test and discuss their policies,” he said.

Jennifer Westacott, chief executive of the Business Council of Australia, said: “There is now overwhelming common ground on the need for a more certain and meaningful approach to emissions reduction”.

Surf Coast Shire Pilots Sustainable Fish Initiative

A national initiative to promote the use of sustainable seafood in local restaurants and other food outlets is being piloted by Surf Coast Shire Council, on Victoria's west coast, in association with the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS).

The Good Fish Project aims to encourage chefs, restaurants and food professionals to serve customers with sustainable seafood options. Twelve restaurants in the Surf Coast area have already signed up to the project.

Surf Coast Shire Mayor Cr Margot Smith said that adopting the Good Fish Project was a natural progression in the Council’s commitment to environmental leadership and innovation.

“The Surf Coast Shire Council is very proud to be partnering with the Australian Marine Conservation Society to pilot the Good Fish Project,” said Cr Margot Smith. “With concern for overfishing, the state of our oceans and the impact of climate change on food security, it is even more important that we know the seafood we eat is responsibly sourced.”

The AMCS has supported the project with conservation advice and information on issues relating to fisheries and sustainability. Surf Coast Shire staff have provided knowledge of the local restaurant industry and have used local networks to build support for the program with restaurants and the wider community.

As part of the Good Fish Project, chefs and consumers can download Australia’s Sustainable Seafood Guide. The user-friendly guide enables searches for fish by name or according to where the fish is caught or farmed in Australia.

It uses a traffic light system to show which species of seafood are a ‘better choice (green), which ones are better to eat less (amber) and those which should be avoided (red). The guide is available either as a phone app or online at – www.sustainableseafood.org.au

Examples of fish on the 'better choice' list include wild Australian Salmon, farmed Australian prawns and barramundi, mussels and King George Whiting. 'Eat less' species include farmed salmon and Trout, blue grenader and Tiger Flathead. Species on the 'avoid' list include Wild Barramundi from QLD, Shark, Bigeye Tuna and Orange Roughy.

According to Ms Tooni Mahto of the AMCS, the Good Fish Project will assist with the long-term viability of the fishing industry. “We want to ensure that the seafood we love now will be around for the next generation,” she said.

Seafood sold with a third-party certification of sustainability is likely to cost more than non-certified seafood, due to the costs of the certification process. Research conducted by the Marine Stewardship Council, however, has found that 39% of people surveyed said they were prepared to pay more for certified seafood.

Australian seafood tends to be more expensive than imported fish, as Australian fisheries regulations can increase prices, but when given the choice between imported or Australian fish customers are often prepared to pay more for the Australian produce.

More information about the Good Fish Project is at – www.goodfishproject.com.au
Sunshine Coast Council Approves $7.7m Levy for Environment

The Sunshine Coast Council has approved a $7.7 million Environment Levy Program for 2015-16, part of which will be used to buy, protect and enhance environmentally significant land. The Council's total budget allocation for environmental management in 2015-16 is $74 million.

Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson said the region’s environment was central to the local way of life and the investment would protect and enhance its natural assets for future generations to enjoy.

The levy program is a primary funding source for the Council’s long-term strategic approach to management of the local biodiversity, waterways and coastal foreshores. It involves a levy of $60 per rateable property, which remains unchanged for the new financial year.

Since being established in the early 1990s, the Environment Levy has funded the purchase of more than 2,761ha of land on the Sunshine Coast for conservation purposes. In 2013-14 the Council spent $6.13m on four new reserves totaling 398ha in area.

Environment Portfolio Councillor Jenny McKay said the Council will spend $2.3 million in 2015-16 on buying, protecting and enhancing environmentally significant land. “This will add to our conservation estate,” Cr McKay said.

“This year alone, we’ve seen how important these purchases are, with the discovery of endangered species such as the water mouse and the giant barred frog. On other newly purchased properties we’ve identified some remarkable and unique wetlands.”

Cr McKay said the Levy enables investment in environmental champions of the future through programs such as Kids in Action. "We’ve also allocated $450,000 towards monitoring and research projects that will build our knowledge and help us protect and enhance biodiversity,” she said.

"Community groups who work tirelessly for the environment can continue their valuable work with an $845,000 investment through partnership and grant programs.

"Healthy waterways continue to be a theme with $620,000 allocated to coastal rehabilitation and $300,000 towards the Maroochy River Rehabilitation Project.

Cr McKay said the program also included $470,000 which will be invested in pest management projects including a pest action and engagement program.

"These projects will take us further towards our vision to become Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse," she said.

More information on the program can be found on the Council’s website at - http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held in Sydney on Thursday 17 September. It will be the first AGM held under the new name for the organisation – the Australian Coastal Councils Association.

The AGM will be held in conjunction with a Coastal Forum, which will include an opportunity for members to make input into the development of the Association’s updated coastal policy platform.

The forum will also include a workshop on implications of sea level rise for property values and consequential impacts for coastal councils. The workshop will be facilitated by environmental lawyer Andrew Beatty, of Beatty Legal, and Peter Dempsey of Dempsey Valuation and Advisory, a firm specialising in valuation and advice in relation to real estate assets.

Further details of the Annual General Meeting will be distributed to members shortly.

Nominations — Association Committee of Management

The biennial election of state representatives to the Association Committee of Management will be held at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday 17 September.

Nomination forms will be distributed to members on Monday 3 August. Nominations will close on Friday 4 September and will only be accepted from representatives of councils that are financial members of the Association for 2015-16.

Expressions of Interest to host 2016 Australian Coastal Councils Conference

The Association’s Committee of Management has decided that the 2016 Australian Coastal Councils Conference will be held in Western Australia. The event will be held in May 2016, rather than March, when it has been held in previous years, to avoid a clash with local government elections in Queensland.

The Association is calling for expressions of interest (EOI) from WA coastal councils who are members of the organisation and would be interested in the having the event held in their local government area.

A call for expressions of interest is to be distributed to WA member councils during the first week in July. Councils submitting an EOI will be invited to provide information on the proposed venue, catering arrangements, social events including the Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner, accommodation options and airport access and transfers.

New Web Address for Association

To mark the change of name to the Australian Coastal Councils Association the organisation has established a new web address at www.coastalcouncils.org.au The web site is being updated with news items on a regular basis. Member councils are invited to submit items for the web site or newsletter to – info@coastalcouncils.org.au
IN BRIEF

WA Government provides funds for homes at risk from coastal erosion

The West Australian government is allocating $2 million from Royalties for Regions funding to save homes threatened by coastal erosion at Seabird, 100 kms north of Perth. The homes were originally 20 mts from the water's edge but are now much closer. A local cliff overlooking the beach is also crumbling, posing a hazard to people as well as properties and power lines. There are 13 properties at risk, including one owned by the town's General Practitioner, who has closed his practice in preparation for leaving the town. Mike Aspinall, the Gingin Shire President, said he had been delighted when local MLA Shane Love called him to confirm the funding. Engineering firms commissioned by the Shire and residents have developed various possible solutions – a foreshore rock wall, a sandbag wall, an offshore reef or extensive sand replenishment. The Shire is calling for expressions of interest from coastal experts to advise on the environmental impacts of these works.

Wetlands better at sequestering carbon than trees — Marine Ecologist

Coastal wetlands are capable of sequestering carbon more than 40 times faster than trees and keep the carbon from escaping for much longer, according to a leading marine ecologist. Dr Peter Macreadie is an Australian Research Council Fellow who has recently completed the first major survey of ‘blue carbon’ stocks along 2000 kms of Victorian coastline. "Wetlands are able to sequester carbon for thousands of years, whereas a tree will breakdown and release its carbon after a couple of hundred years at most," he said. Dr Macreadie has recommended that coastal developers should be obliged to pay to offset air pollution from the tonnes of ancient carbon released into the atmosphere when wetlands are drained and dug up. He said current legislation designed to protect coastal ecosystems is vague and does not take into account the recent discovery of the amount of carbon captured in wetlands.

Sunshine Coast Shortlisted for Innovative Regions Award

The Australian Technologies Competition has shortlisted the Sunshine Coast as one of three finalists for the Innovative Regions Award, which recognizes the Australian regions that provide the most supportive environment for emerging technology companies. The other two shortlisted regions are the Hunter Region in NSW and the Greater Adelaide region, in South Australia. The Sunshine Coast was recognized for programs including its Business Gateway, Innovation Centre and Smart City Framework. The judges considered factors including existing programs, networking opportunities, the celebrating of failure and links with research, business and investors. Sunshine Coast Mayor, Mark Jamieson, said the nomination was a recognition that the region is building on its enviable lifestyle to also create an environment where industries of the future can thrive. The Innovative Regions winner will be announced on 20 October.

Nominations Invited for 2015 Victorian Coastal Awards

The Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) is inviting nominations for the 2015 Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence. Nominations close on 2 August. Jon Hickman, the outgoing Chair of the VCC, said the Awards acknowledge the achievements of people who have played a significant role in protecting and enhancing the values of the Victorian coastal and marine environment.

Anyone can nominate for the Awards, including individual community members, groups, schools, committees of management, government agencies, designers, builders and architects.

Nominations are invited in the following categories - Natural Environment; Education; Planning and Management; Design and Building; Community Engagement; and Outstanding Individual Achievement. Nominations close at midnight on Sunday 2 August. Further information and nomination forms are available at – www.vcc.vic.gov.au

NEW ASSOCIATION CONTACT DETAILS

TEL 03 9399 8558
ADDRESS PO Box 550, Williamstown VIC 3016
EMAIL info@coastalcouncils.org.au
WEB www.coastalcouncils.org.au
21 July 2015

Peter Harriott
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
Millicent SA 5280

Dear Peter

Re: Coastal Protection Funding

I refer to your correspondence dated 23 and 24 June 2017 seeking support for the SA Local Government Association (LGASA) to lobby the State Government to increase funding to the Coastal Protection Board. This matter was discussed at the meeting of Council held on Friday 17 July 2015 with the following resolution adopted:

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the request by the Wattle Range Council in respect of lobbying for additional funding for coastal protection work; and

2. Write to the Local Government Association of South Australia to lobby the State Government to consider the long term implications of the South Australian coastline in respect of rising sea levels and the need to increase the level of grant funding made available through the Coast Protection Board.

Please find enclosed a copy of our letter to the LGASA.

The key aspect identified in the report to Council was not that there was a lack of approved projects for regional local governments but that the pool of funds has increased marginally over the past 10 years. By way of example in 2003-04 the grants to Councils totalled $305,500. In 2013-14 the total was $379,000. This represents an increase of approximately 25% over 10 years.

On face value that average annual increase of 2.5% is commendable however the extent of the reactive and proactive coast protection work faced by local government is increasing through community expectation and in many cases by incidence of physical degradation of the coastline. The increasing perception and demand far exceeds a nominal 2.5% per annum.
Our Council has identified several important projects that will be required within the next 5-10 years and whilst we have been successful in the past, our concern equals your Council’s, in that the pool of funds available will continue to diminish in real terms and the number of projects and their costs will increase disproportionately.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the CEO, Mr Rod Pearson should any queries arise.

Yours faithfully

ALEX DOUGLAS
DIRECTOR WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE
(Encl: letter)
21 July 2015

Mr M Searle
Acting CEO
Local Government Association South Australia
GPO Box 2693
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mark

Re: Coastal Protection Funding

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula writes in support of a request by the Wattie Range Council to seek the assistance of the Association to lobby the State Government to increase the amount of funding to the Coast Protection Board for local government projects.

The Coast Protection Board has demonstrated a history of supporting regional projects however the Board can only allocate the funds provided by the State Government. The 2015-16 State Budget lists Coast Protection Grants and transfers at $403,000 up from $393,000 from the year before. This nominal 2.5 to 2.8% increase in the pool of funds is of concern due to the increasing community perception that their respective Council has an obligation to protect their private property in addition to public facilities from coast line degradation.

Along with the increased community perception is the very real issue of increasing evidence of damage to coastlines adjoined urban development. Degradation is also occurring in inaccessible locations but does not cause the same level of angst.

If the State Government is not financially capable of increasing funding for coastal protection work to assist local governments, then the State Government should seriously look at the means by which local government is protected from future legal liability, where private land owners attempt to seek damages for loss of amenity, land value and physical property.

With all of the discussion on climate change, irrespective of individual personal views, the general public is being bombarded with articles in the media about the issue. Like it or not, the effect is that there is an awareness of a risk of change that could lead to damage and therefore as and when
9 July 2015

Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
MILLICENT SA 5280

Dear Peter

RE: COASTAL PROTECTION FUNDING

I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence received 26 June 2015 regarding Coastal Protection Funding.

The District Council of Mount Remarkable encompasses a large stretch of coastline on the Westside of its council boundary and realises climate change is a factor in the deterioration of its coastline. It is very aware of the impost rising sea levels and strong storm surges are having on the coastline and Council’s budget.

As you would appreciate having to repair the damage is a costly exercise both financially and time and is a huge impost on small councils with limited resources.

I can confirm Council acknowledges that the issue needs to be addressed sooner rather than after the fact and on this basis I advise the District Council of Mount Remarkable will support the Wattle Range Council campaign to have the LGA lobby the State Government for a specific stream of funding for Rural Coastal Councils to manage coastal erosion.

Yours sincerely

WAYNE HART
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
10 July 2015

Mr. Mark Searle,
Acting Chief Executive Officer,
Local Government Association,
GPO Box 2693,
ADELAIDE  SA  5001

Dear Mark,

RE: Wattle Range Council — Coastal Protection Funding

My Council has been made aware of the above Council’s approach to the LGA requesting the Association lobby the State Government to establish a significant additional funding stream to assist coastal councils to deal with coastal protection.

At its meeting on 8 July 2015, my Council resolved to support Wattle Range. Only last year, the Lucky Bay Shack-owners incurred expenditure of approximately $90,000 in order to have a coastal erosion protection feasibility study completed. The outcome of this study identified any protection works would be prohibitive for both the shack owners and Council.

A specific funding stream would assist greatly; consequently Council strongly supports Wattle Range Council.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Barnes
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Wattle Range Council
8 July 2015

Mr Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer
Wattle Range Council
PO Box 27
MILLCENT SA 5280

Dear Peter

Re: Coastal Protection Funding

I refer to your letter of 24 June 2015 concerning 'Coastal Protection Funding'.

On Monday 6 July the Whyalla City Council adopted its new Strategic Plan and Item 3.2 of the Plan asks that we obtain and provide information on climate change and its potential impact on such matters as sea level rises.

Further we will shortly commence an oceanographic study with a view to addressing a beach erosion problem at our City Foreshore area.

On the basis of the above, we are happy to support your campaign for the Local Government Association to lobby the State Government for a specific stream of funding for Rural Coastal Councils to manage coastal erosion.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Local Government Association.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Peter Peppin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Copy to: Mark Searle, Acting Chief Executive Officer, LGASA

Ref: File 2-20