

## 1.5 tonnes of rope removed from beach in Innes National Park

A large bundle of nylon rope weighing about 1.5 tonnes has been removed from Gym Beach in Innes National Park, through the combined efforts of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), the RAAF and the local community.

DEH Senior Ranger John Gitsham said the rope was washed up and wedged on the reef of the remote beach during a large king tide.

"The rope needed to be removed because otherwise it could have washed back into the ocean during the next king tide and become a hazard for marine life and ships," Mr Gitsham said.

"This was easier said than done – Gym Beach is a remote area of Innes National Park, with no vehicle access to the beach, so removing the rope posed a serious problem.

"We couldn't remove the rope by land with vehicles, because the surrounding sand dunes are environmentally sensitive and we need to protect the area's biodiversity.

"We also couldn't burn the rope, because it was nylon and would have caused a toxic plume, and we couldn't remove it by boat, because it would have been too dangerous.

"Eventually we decided to cut the rope into smaller pieces to make it easier to remove," Mr Gitsham said.

"The RAAF, who were visiting Innes National Park for a week, offered to cut the rope up as a staff bonding exercise, which was really appreciated.

"We were then going to lift the pieces out with a small helicopter we had planned to use for maintenance work on Althorpe Island.

"However, in the meantime a group of local landholders that live next to the park, and who often voluntarily collect litter from Browns and Gym Beach, found the cut up bundles and started to remove some of it themselves by foot.

"They have since created some wonderful artistic and practical objects with the rope, which shows great initiative.

"All of the remaining rope was later removed by helicopter.

"The beach is now clear of the rope, which is a great outcome for all concerned," Mr Gitsham said.

### Media contacts

#### John Gitsham

Senior Ranger, Yorke District  
Northern and Yorke Region  
Phone 08 8854 3206  
Mobile 0408 824 546

#### Stephen Cox

Media and PR Officer  
Corporate Communications  
Phone 08 8204 9109  
Mobile 0423 822 992

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)