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Photo 6: Seacliff (Johnny Kamma)

Government
of South Austra ia

Department for Environment and Heritage

Adelaide's Living Beaches

A Strategy for 2005–2025

Government
of South Austra ia

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Adelaide's coastline is a special asset and an inspiration to many local residents and visitors. Our beaches are beautiful, sandy and a part of our lifestyle – but they are under constant threat from erosion.

The challenge

Our southern and central beaches are eroding because sand is being pushed north along the coast by waves.

If we don't keep sand on the beaches, rock and clay will be all that remains, and roads and houses along the coast will inevitably be damaged by storms.

For more than 30 years, beaches affected by erosion have been replenished by carting sand in trucks from areas in the metropolitan beach system where it builds up.

However, the cost of managing our beaches continues to grow because of dwindling local sand sources, seagrass loss, rising sea levels, and the need to bypass sand around the harbours at Glenelg and West Beach.

In addition, the community has expressed concerns about the noise and interference caused by sand carting.

The solution

Adelaide's Living Beaches is a strategy that will keep sand on Adelaide's beaches for recreation, amenity and protection purposes while reducing the amount of sand carting required. In the long term, the strategy is expected to reduce the cost of managing Adelaide's coastline by about 20%.

How it works

The strategy works in five ways:

1. Southern and central beaches will continue to be replenished with sand to maintain the sandy foreshore and protect coastal infrastructure.
2. Sand will be recycled from north to south using a pipeline system, which will minimise the need for sand carting using trucks.
3. Sand will be brought in from sources outside the metropolitan beach system to tackle the ongoing loss of dune volume and beach width caused by sea level rise.
4. Structures such as breakwaters and groynes will be built in a few critical locations to act as sand traps.
5. Sand management at the Glenelg and West Beach harbours will be linked more effectively with the beach replenishment program.

The strategy will be phased in over five years, commencing with trials of the pipeline system. Consultation with the community will take place before any permanent systems are installed.

For a copy of the strategy phone (08) 8124 4882 or visit www.coasts.sa.gov.au.

Photo 1: Henley Beach in 1953
Photo 2: Henley Beach in 2002
Photo 3: Sand discharge pipeline operating at Noosa, Queensland
Photo 4: Sand trapping effect of the trial breakwater at Semaphore South
Photo 5: The harbours at West Beach and Glenelg