

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE

02 Dec 2015

COAST PROTECTION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



**Government
of South Australia**

Coast Protection Board
Annual Report 2014-15

For further information please contact:

Secretary
Coast Protection Board
C/- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Telephone: 61 8 8124 4973
Email: DEWNRcoastprotectionboard@sa.gov.au
Website: www.environment.sa.gov.au
ABN: 36 702 093 234
ISSN: 1441-6085
ISBN: 978-1-921800-71-9

August 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES.....	5
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	5
<i>STRATEGY 1: ADAPTATION OF EXISTING DEVELOPMENT TO COASTAL HAZARDS AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE</i>	7
<i>STRATEGY 2: ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AT RISK FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE HAZARDS</i>	11
<i>STRATEGY 3: PLAN FOR RESILIENCE IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS TO ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE</i>	14
GOVERNANCE AND POLICY	15
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE).....	17
OBJECT OF THE <i>COAST PROTECTION ACT 1972</i>	17
ROLE OF THE COAST PROTECTION BOARD.....	17
FUNCTIONS OF THE COAST PROTECTION BOARD.....	17
COAST PROTECTION BOARD FUND	18
MEMBERSHIP	18
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	19
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL.....	19
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.....	19
DELEGATIONS	20
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	20
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS	20
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE.....	21
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	21
FRAUD.....	21
CONSULTANTS	21
OVERSEAS TRAVEL.....	21
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.....	21
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	21
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS	22
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993.....	22
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	22
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT.....	22
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	22
APPENDIX A - COAST PROTECTION BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2017.....	24
APPENDIX B – COAST PROTECTION BOARD POLICIES.....	25
APPENDIX C – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	26



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, section 35 of the *Coast Protection Act 1972* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, I have the pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Coast Protection Board (the Board) for the year ended 30 June 2015.

In 2014-15 the Board has contributed to the management and protection of the Adelaide metropolitan coast and the protection of regional centres such as Beachport, Robe, Port Augusta and Port Broughton from current and future hazards by providing both funding and advice to the regional councils, with which there are excellent working relationships.

The Board has continued to monitor the effects of climate change and has identified areas at risk from sea level rise. The Board is concerned that its advice on coastal hazards be incorporated into the planning systems and continues to work with planning authorities in an attempt to restrict or modify new buildings in identified coastal hazard areas.

The Board also prepared the 'Coast Protection Board Position Paper (May 2015)'. The Position Paper describes the Board's view of the critical coastal management issues in South Australia and the Board's strategic responses to those challenges. Five issues are also identified that the Board considers present significant risks to the South Australian community and environment, but cannot be adequately addressed under current coastal management arrangements. Your interest in this work and support for the preparation of a costed ten-year programme of coastal management initiatives for consideration in the 2016-17 budget process is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Foreman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Foreman
PRESIDING MEMBER
COAST PROTECTION BOARD

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Board provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) based on its strategic priorities and policies. The Board was guided by the following strategic priorities in 2014-15.

COAST PROTECTION BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN, 2012-2017

In November 2012 the Coast Protection Board (the Board) updated its Strategic Plan for the following five years - 2012-17 (refer *Appendix A*) with three strategic priorities:

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

The Board contributed to the following of South Australia's Seven Strategic Priorities:

- Creating a vibrant city.
- An affordable place to live.

It also contributed to the following 10 Economic Priorities:

- Adelaide, the heart of the vibrant state.

Collectively, the Board and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) contributed to the following goals and targets of *South Australia's Strategic Plan* (2011):

- Goal: We care for our oceans, coasts and marine environment.
- Goal: We respect and enjoy our environment.
- Goal: Governments demonstrate strong leadership working with and for the community.
- Goal: We adapt to the long term physical changes that climate change presents.
- Target 33: Government planning decisions: South Australia leads the nation in timely decisions of development applications through to 2020.
- Target 62: Climate change adaptation: Develop regional climate change adaptation plans in all State Government regions by 2016.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In May 2015 the Coast Protection Board finalised the '*Coast Protection Board Position Paper (May 2015)*' addressing the future of coastal management in South Australia. The Position Paper presents the Board's view of the critical coastal management challenges in South Australia, the actions the Board is taking to address these issues, and the associated risks, challenges and limitations. Case studies are used to provide further detail for some of the typical issues being faced. The paper is posted on the Board's website.

The Position Paper highlights five coastal management issues that the Board considers are not able to be adequately addressed under current management arrangements. 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.

The Board is pleased to note that the Minister has asked DEWNR to implement a key recommendation of the Position Paper in 2015-16: preparation of a ten-year programme of coastal management initiatives to address the issues raised in the 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.

During 2014-15, the Board continued to monitor the impact of sea level rise and increasing storm damage to South Australia's coastline. The Board has maintained close working relationships with coastal councils and community groups by providing advice and grant funds for remedial and preventative works. The Board also provides technical advice and support for the preparation of regional climate change adaptation plans such as 'AdaptWest', a project that commenced in 2014-15 that is preparing an adaptation plan for the Cities of Charles Sturt, West Torrens and Port Adelaide Enfield.

The Board has continued its oversight of Adelaide beach management with provision of policy advice and through receipt of regular status reports on the implementation of the Adelaide's Living Beaches (ALB) strategy. Construction of the ALB sand pumping infrastructure, a major component of the ALB strategy, was completed in February 2013 and is now in the 'Operate and Maintain' phase. A total of approximately 137 000 cubic metres of sand was pumped through the system in 2014-15. In addition 55 700 cubic metres of sand were carted by truck to protect areas not serviced by the sand pumping infrastructure.

With increasing pressures on the coast from communities pursuing the "sea change" lifestyle and increasing risk from rising sea levels and storms, consideration of planning development applications is critical to balancing community needs against risk of existing and future threats. The Board is concerned that there remains instances of non-compliance to Board advice, particularly where there are identified hazards that could place new development and communities at future risk.

The Board continued to review relevant policies and guidelines. Provision of advice is enhanced by site visits and the Board conducted several field trips within South Australia to view key sites and establish criteria for allocation of limited resources to achieve greatest benefit. The site visits were also an important process for building relationships with key stakeholders and local councils.

Notable topics discussed in 2014-15 included:

- The Board's Position Paper: the future of coastal management in South Australia
- Murray Mouth Dredging – approval to SA Water
- Reviewing its Tourism Accommodation Policies to better facilitate good quality tourism accommodation development in coastal areas
- Mallala Coastal Settlements Adaptation Study
- Compliance activities for unauthorised developments on the coast, e.g. Ceduna Waters

- The Government's Review of Boards and Committees
- Engagement with the Planning Reforms Expert Panel
- Dry Creek Salt Fields
- Sea Level Rise
- Funds and Works Program
- Adelaide Living Beaches.

STRATEGY 1: ADAPTATION OF EXISTING DEVELOPMENT TO COASTAL HAZARDS AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategy 1 includes activities of vulnerability assessment, assisting local councils to implement protection strategies and providing advice to the Minister, local government and community on local development.

Strategic Plan Activities

- (a) Support the implementation of the Government action plan for the climate change adaptation framework for South Australia 2012-17.
- (b) Encourage and support the acquisition of a coastal Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for South Australia.
- (c) Assist governments in the coastal aspects of integrated climate change vulnerability assessments (IVA) and adaptation plans.
- (d) Assist local government to 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

IMPACT OF SEA LEVEL RISE

The Board's ongoing review of literature and sea level monitoring indicates that over the period from January 1993 to October 2014, global sea levels have risen at an average of 3.2mm/yr (Bureau of Meteorology *Annual Climate Report 2014*). The latest report from the Bureau of Meteorology's Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project (SEAFRAME) shows that the average rate of sea level rise at South Australia's Thevenard gauging station was 5.2mm/yr (from March 1992 to April 2015). Note that the Thevenard SEAFRAME gauge is now the only SEAFRAME site in South Australia following the decommissioning of the Port Stanvac SEAFRAME gauge in November 2010 with the closure of Port Stanvac refinery.

This local rate of sea level rise is significantly higher than the global mean rate. The impacts of sea level rise are well documented and include increased risk of flooding, greater impacts from storm surge events, increased coastal erosion and increased coastal groundwater levels (with possible saline intrusion into coastal aquifers). Local impacts consistent with rising sea levels are being observed, such as erosion of most sandy coasts, migration of mangroves and salt marshes to higher ground and increased wetting of cellars in coastal towns.

COASTAL SURVEY PROGRAM

Beach levels were monitored in 2014-15 at a number of locations in South Australia where the beaches buffer coastal development against storms. The Adelaide beach is one of these as 14km of foreshore does not have rock protection. Profiles at right angles to the shore are surveyed regularly to measure change. In addition, where beaches are managed through beach

replenishment programs, monitoring is required to ensure that protective beach levels are maintained. Where significant erosion occurs, extra monitoring is undertaken to help understand the problem and guide management actions. Monitoring in 2014-15 was undertaken to inform Adelaide's beach replenishment, track the erosion of key coastal areas and inform coastal management decisions across the State.

Glenelg and West Beach Harbour were regularly surveyed to monitor sedimentation. This information is used to determine dredging activities to ensure that gazetted depths are being maintained.

Regular monitoring for protection and sand management purposes was undertaken along regional locations on Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula and the South East. Special monitoring was undertaken as part of erosion investigations at Post Office Rock (near Beachport).

ADELAIDE'S LIVING BEACHES PROJECT

The Board continued to guide the implementation of *Adelaide's Living Beaches: A Strategy for 2005-2025* (the strategy). The Adelaide's Living Beaches (ALB) Project is a multi-activity project to implement the strategy which provides coast protection for the Adelaide metropolitan area. The strategy aims to maintain sand on Adelaide's beaches for both coastal protection and amenity purposes. A sand pumping system has been constructed along two of the busiest sections of Adelaide's beaches (Glenelg to Seacliff and the River Torrens outlet to West Beach) to reduce the number of sand carting trucks operating on the beaches and surrounding streets.

The Board noted key ALB activities as listed below.

Beach Replenishment by Sand Pumping

Construction of the ALB sand transfer infrastructure was completed in February 2013 and is now in its operational phase. The following sand pumping campaigns were undertaken during the 2014-15 financial year:

Source of sand	Deposit area	Volume (m³)	Campaign dates
Torrens Outlet	West Beach dunes	39 000	July – August 2014
Glenelg	Brighton to Kingston Park	50 000	September – November 2014
Torrens Outlet	West Beach dunes	48 000	April – June 2015
TOTAL		137 000	

Beach Replenishment by Sand Carting

Sand carting continues to be used to manage beaches not serviced by the ALB pipeline. The sand carting program maintains dune and beach buffers for coast protection purposes.

The following sand carting campaigns were undertaken in 2014-15.

Source of sand	Deposit area	Volume (m ³)	Campaign dates
Tennyson Estcourt House	Tennyson Dunes	4400	August 2014
Semaphore Breakwater	Semaphore Park	12 300	August 2014
Semaphore Breakwater	West Beach dunes	8900	August 2014
Semaphore Jetty	Semaphore (north of breakwater)	9700	August 2014
Torrens Outlet	Henley Beach South	7100	November 2014
West Beach harbour	Glenelg North	13 300	November 2014
TOTAL		55 700	

Harbour Dredging Services

Harbour dredging at Glenelg and West Beach is integrated into ALB's sand management for the Adelaide coast. This integrated management approach, combined with vigilant supervision and improved contract management mechanisms, has achieved significant savings. Despite several periods during which intensive dredging was required in both harbours due to storms depositing large amounts of seagrass wrack into the harbours, dredging costs for the 2014-15 year were \$1 593 000, a significant reduction compared with dredging costs that typically exceeded \$2 million per year prior to integration with ALB.

Seawalls

No seawalls were constructed under the ALB strategy in 2014-15. However, in May 2015 the Board provided grant funding of \$54 000 to the City of Charles Sturt for emergency repairs to a seawall at West Beach (near the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club). Refer to the Coastal Protection Works section below for further information.

COASTAL PROTECTION WORKS

Each year the Board adopts a works program which prioritises protection of settlements at risk from coastal hazards, using a risk management framework. This includes providing grants to local councils to build erosion and/or flood protection measures and the funding of studies and investigations to ensure the most sustainable and adaptable protection strategy is implemented. The Board provides grants to assist in the prevention of damage and loss of coastal property and assets, and to reduce potential risk and liability to government. In May 2014 the Board wrote to all coastal councils inviting applications for the 2014-15 grants programme. Grants were then allocated based on assessment of each application against a risk and benefit based prioritisation system.

In 2014-15, the Board provided a total of \$391 000 in grants to 12 councils across South Australia. Grant contributions were made to the following projects.

West Beach Seawall

The Board provided a \$54 000 grant to the City of Charles Sturt for emergency repairs to a seawall near the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The seawall was built in 1973 and had slumped in several sections following storms in April and May 2015. Two short sections of the seawall were reconstructed (approximately 30 metres long and 10 metres long).

Port Broughton Seawall

The Board provided a grant of \$20 000 to the District Council of Barunga West to continue the next stage of replacement works of a seawall at Port Broughton.

Port Augusta Levee

The City of Port Augusta was identified in 1991 as being at risk of flooding from extreme storm surge events, exacerbated by expected sea level rise. Since 1991 the Board has provided a number of grants to the Council for staged construction of a system of levee banks to protect the town from sea flooding. A storm tide event in May 2011 caused flooding and damage at a number of settlements on the Spencer Gulf coast and demonstrated that continued work is required to complete the levee system at Port Augusta. The Board provided a further \$50 000 grant in 2014-15 for construction of the next stage of levee works.

Wyomi Beach Protection, Kingston SE

Wyomi Beach at Kingston has a history of foreshore erosion. The Board has previously provided grants to the Kingston District Council for beach replenishment to address this erosion and provide a buffer against winter storms. The Board provided a grant of \$20 000 in 2014-15 for further beach replenishment. Council shifted 8200 cubic metres of sand from an area of accumulation further along the coast and deposited it in front of the eroding section of Wyomi Beach.

The Board also provided a grant to Kingston District Council of \$22 000 for a study to examine long-term protection options for Wyomi beach. The study has recommended construction of a rock seawall along 400 metres of the coast in the worst affected location, together with ongoing replenishment to maintain the beach in front of the seawall. Council is considering funding options for the proposed works.

Whyalla Beach Replenishment

The Board provided a grant of \$35 000 to undertake replenishment of the town beach. The sand was collected from an area of accumulation adjoining the marina and deposited along a recently reconstructed vertical concrete seawall to stabilise the seawall and improve beach amenity.

Rivoli Bay (Beachport)

The Board provide a grant of \$58 000 to the Wattle Range District Council for construction of two short sections of seawall on the Beachport foreshore that had been damaged by storm erosion in June 2014.

Robe Town Beach and Groyne

Two grants were provided to the Robe District Council in 2014-15. The first grant of \$20 000 was for beach replenishment of Town Beach to provide storm damage protection and improve beach amenity.

In conjunction with the beach replenishment, a grant of \$5000 was also provided to the Council for repair work to the Town Beach groyne. These repairs were effective in holding additional sand on the beach, which had previously been “leaking” through the groyne structure.

Yorke Peninsula Coastal Settlements – Flood Protection Study

The Board provided the Yorke Peninsula Council with a grant of \$36 000 towards a study examining long term protection and adaptation options for four coastal settlements on the eastern coast of Yorke Peninsula: Port Clinton, Price, Pine Point and Coobowie. The project is also

receiving funding from the Federal government's Natural Disaster Resilience Programme. The first phase of the project, examining existing data and preparing sea flood maps, is complete. The next stage of the project to evaluate protection and adaptations options has commenced and will be completed in 2015-16.

Elliston Cliff Stability Study

The Board provided a grant of \$12 000 to the District Council of Elliston for a cliff stability study at Elliston. The study has identified risk management actions for Council, and informed the design of a coastal trail providing public access along the coast in the Elliston area.

Victor Harbor Beach Replenishment

The foreshore along The Esplanade at Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor, continued to experience erosion that threatened community and council assets. The Board provided a \$30 000 grant to the City of Victor Harbor towards replenishment of the Encounter Bay beach. The sand was sourced from a sand quarry in the area and deposited in front of a trial section of concrete blocks that Council has installed as a "last line of defence" against future storm erosion.

Weeroona Causeway Protection Design

A causeway that provides vehicular access to Weeroona Island, immediately north of Port Pirie, is suffering erosion damage along each embankment. The Board provided an \$18 000 grant to the District Council of Mount Remarkable to support an engineering assessment of the required repair and protection works. Council is now considering funding options for the rock armouring works recommended by the design study.

Coastal Participation Grants

The Board also funds a small 'Coastal Participation Grants' program to support ongoing local community participation in coastal management. The maximum grant amount is \$2750 and they are delivered through coastal councils to ensure that the existing close partnership between state and local government continues.

The Board issued a total of \$11 000 in Coastal Participation Grants in 2014-15, including a grant to the Marine Discovery Centre for installation of three community information signs on coastal management, and three grants to the District Council of Kangaroo Island for community revegetation projects at Vivonne Bay, Stokes Bay and Christmas Cove.

STRATEGY 2: ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AT RISK FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE HAZARDS

Strategy 2 includes activities to ensure that coastal development occurs consistent with the Board's policies, that the Board's policies and standards are maintained, and that guidance to planning authorities, developers and the community is provided. Coastal development undertaken without regard to the Board's hazard policies will be unnecessarily placed at risk from current and future coastal hazards. By ensuring compliance with the Board's policies, these risks are minimised, as is the likelihood of damage, loss of property and assets and the liability of landowners, planning authorities and government.

Strategic Plan Activities

- (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.

RESTORATION OF UNAUTHORISED DUNE CLEARANCE AT BOSANQUET BAY

In 2010 the Board successfully concluded proceedings through the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court conference process to restore 5.5 hectares of dunes and vegetation cleared without approval. The resolution included a court order requiring the developer to reconstruct dunes, stabilise and revegetate the site and undertake ongoing monitoring. Since that time the developer applied to the court to re-open the ERD Court Order - this application was refused. The developer then appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, which was upheld. The Board appealed the single Supreme Court judge's decision to the Full Court. This appeal was dismissed in May 2015. In 2014-15, the Board continues to pursue options to ensure that the area is rehabilitated in accord with the court order.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Board responded to 133 development applications referred by relevant planning authorities (Development Assessment Commission or coastal councils) in 2014-15.

The nature of development applications referred to the Board largely comprised dwellings, dwelling additions, outbuildings and land division. Other applications included tourism accommodation developments, commercial and public infrastructure developments, port facilities, coast protection works and access infrastructure, seawalls for erosion protection and a levee for flood protection.

Issues addressed by the Board in its assessment of applications included:

- planning for and managing the effects of coastal process hazards (flooding, erosion and unstable sand dunes) on vulnerable coastal land and urban areas
- protection of high conservation value coastal land, coastal biodiversity and marine waters by encouraging sustainable development practices
- minimising the impacts on coastal landscapes and scenic amenity arising from new development.

If a proposed development is likely to compromise the management and conservation of important coastal areas, or itself be at risk from coastal processes, the Board, through DEWNR officers under delegation, will consider alternative development sites or designs, and has liaised with development authorities and proponents in order to achieve more sustainable development outcomes. In some cases a proposed development is inherently at odds with proper coastal management practice and if no viable alternatives exist the Board is resolute in recommending refusal of the development application.

The Board is concerned that decisions made at odds with its advice present a risk of future damage to coastal infrastructure or buildings, incurring considerable cost upon the developer, and in many cases triggering substantial future costs to the community in the form of protection measures. The Board and DEWNR are continuing to liaise with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) to address this issue. The Board continues to examine its development policies and revise them when appropriate.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DECISION AUDIT

The Board conducted a development application decision audit for the 2013 calendar year.

The aim of the audit was to investigate the extent to which the relevant authority adopted the Board's advice when issuing a planning consent. The audit also provided a resource base for further analysis in regard to the distribution and nature of coastal development in South Australia. In summary:

- Of the 119 Decision Notification Forms (DNFs) received in 2013, 12 (10%) were not in accord with Board advice, which is slightly lower than the 2012 audit (11.8%).
- The majority of DNFs not in accord are in conflict with the Board's coastal hazard policies.
- 83 detached dwellings and 126 extra allotments have been approved at odds with the Board's advice regarding coastal hazards from 2004 to 2013.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The following coastal development proposals were declared major development in accordance with the *Development Act 1993*. DEWNR advice incorporated the Board's coastal policies.

Nora Creina Golf Course

The proposal is for two 18 hole golf courses and mixed tourism facilities on the coast, approximately 15km south of Robe. Advice was provided in response to the draft Guidelines document.

Pennington Bay Golf Course

The proposed development is for a golf course, associated staff and tourism accommodation, residential development, supporting infrastructure and ancillary buildings, on land overlooking Pennington Bay on the southern side of Kangaroo Island. A response to the draft public environmental report was provided.

Cape Hardy Deep Sea Port

Iron Road Limited propose a deep-sea port development at Cape Hardy. The port and associated infrastructure, which includes a 150 kilometre rail line, would service significant iron ore deposits located near the town of Wudinna on the Eyre Peninsula. Advice was provided in response to the draft Guidelines document.

Cape Jaffa Anchorage

A commercial and recreational marina, waterfront land division and tourist accommodation facility at Cape Jaffa in the south-east was previously approved in 2006. A development application for a variation to the previous approval by way of a tavern/community centre was lodged this year and comments were provided in response.

STRATEGY 3: PLAN FOR RESILIENCE IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS TO ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategy 3 includes engagement with planning authorities in developing land use frameworks and planning strategies to ensure that development does not create additional pressures on at-risk ecosystems.

Strategic Plan Activities

- (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.

COASTAL CLIFF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

South Australia has considerable development located behind coastal cliffs. Erosion of the cliffs is reducing the buffer between development and the cliff edge. Coastal cliffs are also a public safety hazard with injury and deaths caused by cliff falls. Recent cliff erosion issues highlighted information gaps about cliff hazards and during 2012-13 the Board funded a project to map South Australia's coastal cliffs and classify them according to erosion hazard. The mapping shows that SA has 2069km of coastal cliffs (excluding offshore islands) that is 38% of the coast. In 2013-14 the Board prepared an information booklet, *Coast No. 37, May 2014* for councils and the public relating to managing coastal cliff hazards.

Site Visit – Eastern Eyre Peninsula

The Board field trip to Eastern Eyre Peninsula (17 September 2014) included sites within all of the Council areas between Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

The field trip provided an opportunity to view sites in which the Board had invested grant funds for coastal works and also to discuss coastal management policies and coastal processes with stakeholders (council staff and local residents) 'on the ground'. The Board field trip also provided an opportunity for Board members and DEWNR coastal management staff to meet with council staff and community members to discuss local matters and coastal issues of concern.

The Board considers it important to communicate directly with stakeholders regarding its business and this has been well received by elected members, council staff and was equally valuable to the Board.

The Board met with representatives from Whyalla Council, Franklin Harbour Council and the local Lucky Bay shack-owners group, Cleve Council, Tumby Bay Council, Lower Eyre Peninsula Council and Port Lincoln Council.

Sites visited that were of particular interest to the Board included:

- Whyalla Foreshore – viewed the foreshore where the Council has undertaken protection works and the Board has provided funding for beach replenishment as part of their works program.
- Lucky Bay – inspected the foreshore and discussed local issues with the Council and shack-owners group, including shack leases, sand replenishment and the possibility of moving the boat-ramp.
- Cowell – inspected the Cowell foreshore with Council and discussed the proposed foreshore redevelopment.
- Arno Bay – inspected the erosion near the boat harbour and foreshore redevelopment.
- Tumby Bay – inspected the foreshore including the geotextile sand bags that were installed with assistance from the Board to protect a failing seawall and discussed a protection strategy with the Council.
- North Shields – Inspected the seawall that was constructed with a grant from the Board and the continuing erosion in front of the caravan park.
- Port Lincoln – inspected the foreshore with Council and discussed a possible upgrade of a pedestrian path and upgrade to the Parnkalla trail. Drove past the land proposed for further residential development.

Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Program

Peri Coleman has attended meetings of the Steering Committee on the Board's behalf in 2014-15. The focus has been on setting up the 'Raingardens 500' project. This is a project that implements 'demonstration Raingardens' in a number of council areas to provide an example of how stormwater can have its turbidity and nutrients reduced prior to discharge to the coast. The project has now moved into its second stage, offering grant funding for local community/council groups that wish to install Raingardens in their local streets or large car parks.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

REMAKING COAST PROTECTION REGULATIONS

On 11 June 2015, the new *Coast Protection Regulations 2015* were made. Prior to this date, there were eight sets of regulations, one for each of the seven Coast Protection Districts (CPDs) and one setting out the requirements for wardens' identity cards issued under the *Coast Protection Act 1972* (the Act). The seven sets of regulations referring to CPDs each defined land constituting the coast for the purposes of the Act (there are alternative definitions within a variety of legislation for other purposes). These seven sets of regulations did not follow a consistent pattern: some sets referred to maps of questionable quality and accuracy contained within the actual regulations, whilst other sets relied upon zone and policy area-based definitions from relevant development plans prepared under the *Development Act 1993*. These maps and diverse and obscure definitions have now been replaced with one set of standardised regulations, based upon a set of high quality and accurate GIS digital maps, which have been lodged as a single rack plan with the Lands Titles Office.

BOARD POLICIES

The Board maintains a suite of coastal management policies to be applied by DEWNR (refer Appendix B).

COASTAL ACID SULFATE SOILS

The Board's policy on Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils has been applied to a number of coastal development proposals and has identified certain risk hazards. Risk sites have included land divisions, roads, marinas and landfill and developers have been cooperative in taking remedial action to reduce and manage such hazard.

The Board provided a contribution to the National Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils newsletter publication in 2014-15.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In accordance with the Board's policies, DEWNR contributes to the development of the various components of the Government's planning strategy. In 2014-15 that included providing comments in response to the updating of *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide (2010)*.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

In accordance with the Board's policies, DEWNR responded to reviews of Development Plans through the statutory Development Plan Amendment (DPA) process, with input into one Strategic Directions Report, five Statements of Intent and five draft DPAs. The Board also provided a response itself to one Statement of Intent and three DPAs.

That advice sought to ensure that development should not be placed in areas at risk of unaddressed coastal hazards or on sensitive coastal features. This is in accord with the standard strategy of seeking to ensure that land is included in coastal zones and that land without coastal hazards and features is excluded from coastal zones.

OTHER PLANNING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Board provided a written response to the Expert Panel of the Planning Reform's Report: *Our Ideas for Reform*. The Board sought:

- the more rigorous and immediate application of coastal zoning
- an extended power of direction for the Coast Protection Board in regard to proposed developments subject to coastal hazards
- fixed processes for regulatory review including rigorous consultation with affected agencies and testing of outcomes.

The Board's Presiding Member, Mr Graham Foreman, and Mr Murray Townsend of DEWNR also met with Mr Brian Hayes, the Chair of the Panel, and Mr Stephen Hains and Ms Simone Fogarty, both members of the Panel, at a meeting on 23 October 2014.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

The Board is established under section 6 of the *Coast Protection Act 1972* (the Act).

OBJECT OF THE COAST PROTECTION ACT 1972

The object of the *Coast Protection Act 1972* is to provide for the conservation and protection of the beaches and coast of this State; and for other purposes.

ROLE OF THE COAST PROTECTION BOARD

The Board is a body corporate pursuant to section 6(2) of the Act and is subject to Ministerial control and direction pursuant to section 7 of the Act. The Board is responsible for the Act with functions including the protection, restoration and development of the coast, carrying out research, and reporting to the Minister. The Board's powers include those to carry out works and acquire land.

The *Development Act 1993* and its Regulations establish requirements for specified coastal development applications to be referred to the Board by the planning authority for its advice or direction.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COAST PROTECTION BOARD

Section 14 of the Act defines the functions of the Board.

- (1) The functions of the Board are as follows:
 - (a) to protect the coast from erosion, damage, deterioration, pollution and misuse;
 - (b) to restore any part of the coast that has been subjected to erosion, damage, deterioration, pollution or misuse;
 - (c) to develop any part of the coast for the purpose of aesthetic improvement, or for the purpose of rendering that part of the coast more appropriate for the use or enjoyment of those who may resort thereto;
 - (ca) to manage, maintain and, where appropriate, develop and improve coast facilities that are vested in, or are under the care, control and management of, the Board;
 - (d) to report to the Minister upon any matters that the Minister may refer to the Board for advice;
 - (e) to carry out research, to cause research to be carried out, or to contribute towards research, into matters relating to the protection, restoration or development of the coast;
 - (f) to perform such other functions assigned to the Board by or under this or any other Act.

Under the Act, the Board has power to:

- carry out authorised works
- remove sand
- acquire coastal land, with the approval of the Minister
- deal with its land, with the approval of the Minister
- enter land.

COAST PROTECTION FUND

The Coast Protection Fund (the Fund) is established under section 29 of the Act. Pursuant to section 29(3) the following monies shall be paid into the fund:

- (a) all moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the fund;
- (b) all moneys received or recovered by the Board in pursuance of the provisions of this Act

The Fund shall be applied by the Board towards the costs incurred by the Board in the administration of the Act (section 29(4)).

MEMBERSHIP

The Board consists of six members. Members are appointed in accordance with section 8(1) of the Act.

As at 30 June 2015 Board membership was as follows:

Member	Appointed Pursuant to the following section of the Act
Mr Graham Foreman (Presiding Member)	8(1)(a) Nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR). Appointed 27 November 2003. Reappointed Presiding Member (24 May 2012 - 23 May 2016)
Ms Anita Allen	8(1)(b) Nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport, and Infrastructure (DPTI). Appointed 6 May 2015
Mr David Lake	8(1)(c) Nominee of the Chief Executive, South Australian Tourism Commission. Appointed 1 October 2010
Ms Anita Crisp	8(1)(d)(i) Member with expertise in local government. Appointed 7 May 2011. Reappointed by the Governor (24 May 2012 – 23 May 2016).
Dr David Walker	8(1)(d)(ii) Member with knowledge of and experience in technical problems of coastal protection. Appointed by the Governor (24 May 2012 - 23 May 2016)
Ms Peri S J Coleman	8(1)(d)(iii) Member with knowledge of and experience in biological sciences and environment protection. Reappointed by the Governor (8 May 2015 – 7 May 2019).

During the reporting period Mr Peter Hollister resigned from the Board (at the February 2015 meeting). The Board wishes to thank Mr Hollister for his efforts and contributions during his time on the Board and wishes him well in his future endeavours. Ms Anita Allen, Acting Manager Strategic Investment, was appointed to the Board on 6 May 2015 as the nominee of the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport, and Infrastructure (DPTI).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 18 of the Act enables the Coast Protection Board to appoint such advisory committees as the Board considers necessary for the purpose of providing the Board with expert advice on matters pertinent to the protection, restoration or development of the coast.

A Local Government Advisory Committee was operational during the 2014-15 financial year in order to assist with the allocation of funds to projects and to provide additional comment on local government matters.

The Local Government Advisory Committee includes members with local government expertise from both urban and rural coastal Councils and from the Local Government Association. The Committee members are:

- Mr Adam Gray, Local Government Association.
- Mr Stephen Goldsworthy, District Council Yorke Peninsula.
- Ms Cheryl Connor, City of Marion and Chair of the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee (to October 2014).
- Cr Robert Randall, City of Charles Sturt and Chair of the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee (from April 2015).

In October 2014 Ms Cheryl Connor resigned as Chair of the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee resulting in a resignation from the Advisory Committee. In April 2015 Councillor Robert Randall replaced Ms Cheryl Connors on the Advisory Committee.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of nine general Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

A field trip was undertaken by the Board in September 2014 to the Eastern Eyre Peninsula.

Attendance by appointed members at the general meetings:

Member	Meeting Attendance	Comments
Graham Foreman	9	
Peter Hollister	5	Other commitments, resigned at February 2015 Meeting
Peri Coleman	5	Other commitments
David Lake	7	Other commitments
Anita Crisp	7	Other commitments
David Walker	8	Other commitments
Anita Allen	1	Other commitments, appointed in May 2015

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Board has no staff of its own. Under sections 12 and 13 of the Act, DEWNR's Strategy and Advice Group provides support to the Board by provision of Coast and River Murray Unit staff and a Secretary for governance and administration.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Coast Protection Board from the Coast and River Murray Unit within the Conservation and Land Management Branch, Strategy and Advice Group of DEWNR.

DELEGATIONS

In accordance with section 13 of the Act, the Board has delegated operational activities to be performed under Board policies and guidelines by DEWNR staff employed in the Coast and River Murray Unit, Conservation and Land Management Branch.

In addition, the Board has delegated its powers under section 37 of the *Development Act 1993*, to provide advice or direction on development applications to the relevant planning authority to defined roles within DEWNR.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Coast Protection Board members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

	Per 4 hour session	Out of session
Presiding Member:	\$258	\$64.50 per hour
Members:	\$206	\$51.50 per hour

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Coast Protection Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Coast Protection Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Coast Protection Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. As at June 2015 membership of the Coast Protection Board was made up of three males and three females.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2014-15:

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy

- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Board is a body corporate under section 6 of the Act and is required to cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs (refer section 31(1) of the Act). The Auditor-General may at any time, and shall at least once in a year, audit the accounts of the Board (refer section 31(2) of the Act). The audited statements are attached as Appendix C.

The Board applies monies from the Fund towards the costs incurred by the Board in administration of the Act (section 29(4)).

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Coast Protection Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

CONSULTANTS

The Coast Protection Board did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Coast Protection Board has travelled overseas on Board business during the reporting period.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Coast Protection Board does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2014-15 that required the Coast Protection Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a corporate entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is contained on the DEWNR website: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au>

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Coast Protection Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during 2014-15 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during 2014-15 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Coast Protection Board would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Coast Protection Board also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Coast Protection Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Coast Protection Board would like to thank the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and DEWNR staff for the support and encouragement it has received over the year. In particular, the Board would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by the following former DEWNR staff members on the management of our State's Coast and Marine Environments:

Mr Rob Tucker, Project Manager of the Adelaide Living Beaches Strategy, with over 30 years' service, Mr Doug Fotheringham, Senior Scientific Officer with over 30 years' service, Mr Ross Cole with over 25 years' service, Mr Ron Sandercock, Coastal Scientific Officer with over 25 years' service, Ms Jennifer Deans, Senior Coastal Engineer with over 20 years' service, Dr Sue Murray-Jones, Marine Biologist 15 years' service, Mr Peter Johnson, Technical Officer with 10 years' service, Ms Carole Hutchens, Business Support Officer, Adelaide Living Beaches and previous Executive Assistant to the Board, with 10 years' service and Mr Adrian Brown, Coastal Scientific Officer with over 5 years' service.

APPENDIX A - COAST PROTECTION BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2017

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:

- a) Support the implementation of the *Government action plan for the climate change adaptation framework for SA 2012-2017*.
- 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 to 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 B – COAST PROTECTION BOARD POLICIES

Full details of Board policies can be found at:

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/About_Us/Coast_Protection_Board/Policies_strategic_plans

- **Development** - The Board's policy on development of coastal land seeks to ensure that coastal open space is retained, the impacts of development are minimised, scenic amenity and biodiversity are protected and suitable building envelopes are identified to prevent linear development along the coastline.
- **Hazards** - The Board has formulated hazard standards for the coastal areas relating to flooding, coastal erosion, and areas of public risk and will advise on development along the coast in relation to the potential for erosion, flooding and storm surge that could affect the development.
- **Protection works** - The Board has responsibility for beach replenishment along the metropolitan coast and across the State of South Australia. The Board provides grants to Councils for approved protection works that have beneficial outcomes to the general public.
- **Conservation** - The Board will instigate and/or participate in the conservation of diversity of plant, animal and marine species within coastal areas and investigate the impacts of development on coastal, marine and estuarine environments. The Board seeks to identify, protect and manage coastal environments with high conservation values and acquire land where it is necessary to ensure the protection of such areas. The Board will provide grants to local Councils towards approved conservation projects that comply with policies and the Act.
- **Heritage and landscape** - The Board will facilitate and support the identification, recognition and protection of coastal areas with significant landscape value, marine archaeological heritage and cultural and scientific significance. It opposes development that has significant visual impact on coastlines with significant landscape value or that results in the disturbance or devaluation of sites of marine archaeological heritage and cultural and scientific significance.
- **Access** - The Board will encourage and support environmentally sustainable access to the coast and rationalisation of existing and planned roads that provide nodal access to the coast. The Board opposes vehicular access to beaches and neither does it support new development that restricts or limits existing public access.
- **Standards** - The Board has developed standards applicable to new development with regard to flooding, erosion and associated coastal protection works and a strategy for neutralising Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils.

APPENDIX C – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS