



Securing the future of our coastline

PROJECT UPDATE

Fast facts about sand recycling systems on Adelaide's beaches

Get the facts about the new sand recycling pipeline to be built between Semaphore and West Beach to secure our most vulnerable metropolitan beaches.

Every year sand is pumped or trucked from beaches where it builds up to southern beaches where sand erodes.

A new sand recycling pipeline will soon be built from Semaphore to West Beach. This will provide a more efficient way to recycle sand and reduce the need for trucking sand in the future. It's part of a long term solution to keep sand on our most exposed and vulnerable beaches.

How do sand recycling pipelines work?

Sand pumping uses pumping stations and underground pipelines to transfer a slurry of sand and seawater from beaches where sand is building up to the eroding beaches further south.

Where will the new pipeline go? Will it be underground?

The new Semaphore to West Beach pipeline will be buried underground with some above ground infrastructure at locations where sand may be collected (intake locations) and locations where sand may be discharged (discharge locations), plus pump booster stations along the way. The exact location of the pipeline and the associated infrastructure will be determined in the planning and design period currently underway.

Has the design been finalised yet?

No. The exact location of the pipeline and the associated infrastructure will be determined in the planning and design period currently underway. The department is working closely with a community reference group on the project. A number of other inputs and assessments are also being undertaken to refine the pipeline design. Once the design process is complete further public consultation will follow.

How far north will the pipeline extend?

The current approved and funded project scope for the pipeline is from West Beach to the Semaphore South breakwater. Extending the pipeline further north than the breakwater may be considered to reduce the need to use trucks along this section of coastline.

What about the Wara Wayingga-Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve?

The pipeline will not go through the Wara Wayingga-Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve. It will be buried in the beach in front of the reserve.

How do you know the new system will work?

There's an existing underground sand recycling pipeline between Glenelg and Kingston Park that successfully keeps our southern metropolitan beaches sandy and the dunes maintained. Pipelines are also used successfully in coastal locations across Australia and around the world to keep beaches replenished.

Why is a sand recycling pipeline the best solution?

Pipelines provide more flexibility in managing our beaches – with multiple intake and discharge locations allowing sand to be picked up where it accumulates and delivered to locations most at need. We have seen this success with the Glenelg to Kingston Park pipeline. Pipelines also reduce the use of trucks for sand recycling, making it safer for the community, as well as reducing noise, congestion and the impact of trucks on roads.

When will the sand recycling pipeline be built?

Construction of the pipeline will commence in 2021/22 after the design and approval phase. The pipeline is expected to be operational by 2022/23.

Will the sand recycling pipeline run all year round?

No. The sand recycling pipeline will operate in the quieter months when beaches are used less. The pipeline won't operate over summer. It's expected that operational times will be much like the current Glenelg to Kingston recycling pipeline which operates from June to early November each year. If a major storm event occurs outside of this time, then the system may be used to replenish beaches where required.

What environmental assessments are being done?

All the appropriate environmental assessments are being done prior to constructing the pipeline. An independent impact assessment of the new sand recycling pipeline is currently underway. The pipeline project will require development approval and will be assessed by the State Commission Assessment Panel.

Cultural heritage and flora and fauna assessments are also being undertaken to compliment the independent impact assessment. Preliminary investigations of ground conditions at various locations between West Beach and Largs Bay at locations where the pipeline could be constructed are also underway. These inputs will help inform selection of the pipeline alignment.

What community engagement is occurring?

The government is working closely with a community reference group on the project. Once the design process is complete further public consultation will follow. More information will be available later in 2021.

How can members of the community find out more?

Visit the department's website at www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts and subscribe for updates.

Keep a look out for the coast team in your local area. For the latest dates and locations visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/CoastEvents.