

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005
and
Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board

ANNUAL REPORTS

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



**Government
of South Australia**

*Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005 and the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board
Annual Reports 2011-12*

September 2012

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

ABN: 36 702 093 234

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

Telephone: (08) 8336 0901

Fax: (08) 8336 0900

E-mail: adelaidedolphinsanctuary@sa.gov.au

ISSN: 1834-1292

ISBN:

Presented to Parliament by the Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment
and Conservation, pursuant to sections 21 and 26 of the
Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ACT 2005 | 6 |
| Objects and Objectives of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act | 6 |
| Administration of the Act | 6 |
| Contributions towards South Australia 's Strategic Plan | 6 |
| Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Management Plan | 7 |
| Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board | 7 |
| Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund | 7 |
| Authorised Officers..... | 8 |
| Preparation of the Annual Report | 8 |
| ACHIEVEMENT OF ADS ACT OBJECTS AND OBJECTIVES | 9 |
| Implementation of the Act..... | 9 |
| Objective 1 – Protection of dolphins from direct physical harm | 9 |
| Objective 2 – Maintaining, protecting and restoring key habitat features .. | 10 |
| Objective 3 – Improvement of water quality | 11 |
| Objective 4 - Recognition of local interests and participation in management processes..... | 11 |
| Objective 5 – Promotion of public awareness of ecological importance of the area | 12 |
| Objective 6 – Promotion of the principles of ecological sustainable development..... | 13 |
| REFERRAL OF MATTERS UNDER RELATED OPERATIONAL ACTS | 13 |
| ENFORCEMENT OF GENERAL DUTY OF CARE | 14 |
| ISSUANCE OF PROTECTION OR OTHER ORDERS | 14 |
| ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN | 14 |
| APPENDIX 1 - ADS ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM 2012 – 2013 | 15 |
| APPENDIX 2 - ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT | 20 |
| Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board | 22 |
| Board Functions..... | 22 |
| Board Membership | 22 |
| Activities of the Board | 24 |
| Effectiveness of the Implementation Program 2011-12 | 24 |
| RECONCILIATION STATEMENT | 26 |
| HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS | 27 |
| Staffing | 27 |
| Disability Action Plans | 27 |
| Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare | 27 |
| Use of Consultants..... | 27 |
| FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE | 27 |
| OTHER REPORTING ITEMS | 27 |
| Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports | 27 |
| Greening of Government Operations (GoGO) Framework | 28 |
| Fraud | 28 |
| Overseas Travel | 28 |
| Freedom of Information | 28 |
| Regional Impact Assessment Statement..... | 28 |
| Urban Design Charter | 28 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Asbestos Management in Government Buildings..... | 28 |
| Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993 | 28 |

ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ACT 2005

This report is for the financial year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and is presented to fulfil the requirements of sections 21 and 26 of the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*.

Objects and Objectives of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act

Section 7 of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act (the Act) defines the objects of the Act as:

- (a) to protect the dolphin population of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet; and
- (b) to protect the natural habitat of that population.

These objects are to be accomplished by the achievement of the following six objectives, as defined under section 8 (1) of the Act:

- (a) the protection of the dolphin population of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet from direct physical harm is to be maintained and improved;
- (b) the key habitat features in the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet that are necessary to sustain the dolphin population are to be maintained, protected and restored;
- (c) water quality within the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet should be improved to a level that sustains the ecological processes, environmental values and productive capacity of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet;
- (d) the interests of the community are to be taken into account by recognising indigenous and other cultural, and historical, relationships with the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet and surrounding areas, and by ensuring appropriate participation in processes associated with the management of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet;
- (e) Public awareness of the importance of a healthy Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet to the economic, social and cultural prosperities of the local communities, and the community more generally, is to be promoted;
- (f) The principles of ecological sustainable development in relation to the use and management of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet are to be promoted.

Administration of the Act

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) is responsible for administering the Act. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was responsible for day-to-day management of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS) during the reporting period.

Contributions towards South Australia's Strategic Plan

During 2011-12 DENR staff undertook actions outlined in the ADS Management Plan and Annual Implementation Program. Resource protection activities were conducted within the ADS, Port Gawler and Torrens Island Conservation Parks to manage significant existing threats to biodiversity conservation, including action to conserve threatened species and communities. These actions supported the following targets of South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP):

- T69 — Lose no species - Lose no native species as a result of human impacts.
- T71 — Marine Biodiversity - Maintain the health and diversity of South Australia's unique marine environments.
- T72 — Nature Conservation - Increase participation in nature conservation activities by 25% by 2015.

Detailed information on achievements is set out below under *Achievement of ADS Act Objects and Objectives*.

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Management Plan

The Act requires the Minister to prepare and implement a Management Plan for the Sanctuary. The adopted ADS Management Plan was launched in 2008.

The ADS Management Plan sets out the South Australian Government's plans to achieve the objects and objectives of the Act. It broadly charts the direction for Government and stakeholders to pursue in managing the local dolphin population and their environment. The Management Plan covers a seven year period, and actions will be progressed in stages over this time.

The plan is structured around the achievement of each of the six ADS Act objectives. For each objective, the plan:

- describes issues to support its achievement;
- defines a strategic direction;
- makes a priority assessment;
- identifies government agency responsibilities; and
- proposes actions to fulfil the strategy.

DENR is working with the other agencies responsible for furthering the objects and objectives of the Act to implement the actions outlined in the plan.

Supporting Documents

The Management Plan is supported by four companion documents:

- **Three Reference Papers** which compile specific information about the three main environmental objectives – Dolphins, Key Habitat Features and Water Quality. The papers provide a summary of the information that has informed the Plan. These may be updated as new scientific research becomes available and new initiatives begin.
- An **Annual Implementation Program** which forms part of this Report to Parliament. This Implementation Program sets specific annual targets and tasks for the coming year, how these will achieve the actions established by the management plan and assesses the achievement of the previous year's program.

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board

Section 12 of the Act establishes the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board (the Board) to provide advice to the Minister on a number of matters.

The Annual Report of the Board is attached as Appendix 2.

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund

In accordance with section 22 of the Act, the ADS Fund was established to receive monies from grants, gifts, bequests, proceeds of sales or any other means to further the Act's objects and objectives.

No deposits were made to the fund in the 2011-12 financial year and no fund monies were expended.

Authorised Officers

Section 28 of the Act provides for the appointment of officers authorised under the Act. Eight new officers were appointed during the reporting period.

Preparation of the Annual Report

Section 26 of the Act defines the following requirements relating to the Annual Report:

- (1) The Minister must on or before 30 September in each year prepare a report on the operation of this Act for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.
- (2) The annual report must include—
 - (a) information on the extent to which the objects and objectives of this Act are being achieved; and
 - (b) reports on the following matters for the preceding financial year:
 - (i) the referral of matters to the Minister under any related operational Act; and
 - (ii) the enforcement of the general duty of care; and
 - (iii) action taken by the Minister or authorised officers under Part 6; and
 - (c) a program setting out the Minister's proposals for the implementation of the ADS Management Plan during the current financial year.
- (3) The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 12 sitting days after the report is prepared.

ACHIEVEMENT OF ADS ACT OBJECTS AND OBJECTIVES

Implementation of the Act

Actions undertaken aim to ensure the objectives of the ADS Act are achieved. The actions undertaken during 2011-12 are detailed below.

Objective 1 – Protection of dolphins from direct physical harm

There have been few reported cases of direct physical harm to the dolphins within the ADS since its establishment.

During 2011-12 there was one reported incident of a dolphin entanglement in the ADS. The dolphin was observed by an ADS volunteer with its dorsal fin 3/4 of way cut through and a trailing line was visible. DENR staff patrolled the ADS looking for the animal; however it was not sighted again.

There was also an incident of dolphin entanglement outside of the ADS in the Adelaide metropolitan waters. A sub-adult bottlenose dolphin was spotted by a commercial vessel with a 7m rope entanglement around its tail stock. DENR staff spent two days patrolling the area looking for the animal. A week later the dolphin was spotted again with a new entanglement of crab net. ADS staff made an attempt to remove the entanglement which was partially successful through removal of 5m of rope. However the crab net was still attached and cutting into tail stock. After the intervention the dolphin was impossible to approach and was not sighted again.

Two dolphin deaths were recorded within the ADS during 2011-12. Both deaths were of one week old calves from ADS resident dolphins. The body of one of the calves was recovered and the South Australian Museum performed a necropsy of the animal..

Two more dolphin calves were found dead outside of the ADS in the Adelaide metropolitan beaches. One of them showed injuries consistent with a boat strike; presenting three severe cuts to the body and the tail severed. This generated a broad discussion about the need to adhere to safe boating speeds for vessels in the Port River.

ADS staff received one report of a person hand feeding a dolphin at the St Kilda boat ramp. Staff investigated the report, speaking with local residents, no evidence of feeding was found and the person was not identified.

DENR staff worked with Marine Safety and Compliance Officers from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructures (DPTI) in enforcing safe boating limits within the ADS for the protection of dolphins from boating activity.

Eight DENR staff were appointed as authorised officers under the Act during the reporting period.

Other actions undertaken include land and water based patrols and the provision of advice to users about the dolphins, their habitat, and human interactions. DENR staff also assessed seven aquatic licence referrals for the ADS and attended local events such as annual speed boat, sailing, rowing and jet ski races to provide advice, support and assistance with any dolphin interactions.

In addition, a dolphin awareness training program was delivered at the annual 'Junior Dolphin Ranger' training day to 134 primary school students from North Haven Primary Schools.

DENR staff worked with the South Australian Maritime Museum to deliver dolphin education and marine biodiversity programs for visiting schools throughout 2011-12 and delivered ADS presentations to local community and conservation groups.

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Region NRM Board (AMLR NRM Board) supported work within the ADS through the Marine Debris Project and the Gulf St Vincent Project. These projects assisted in the SA Museum stranding and necropsy work, monitoring of small cetacean mortalities and identification of vessel strike and intentional harm. Other project outcomes included the development of commercial fishing industry codes for Crab Pot and Long Line fisheries and scoping of monofilament line recycling.

DENR staff continued to maintain a strong patrol presence in the Port River, particularly on weekends. Information on speed limits were directed to all River users particularly personal water craft operators.

The litter monitoring program coordinated by ADS staff to help protect dolphins from possible entanglements, including regular on water patrols to remove debris from infrastructure, has continued on a regular basis.

Objective 2 – Maintaining, protecting and restoring key habitat features

The AMLR NRM Board, together with DENR staff, continued threat abatement activities in the highest conservation priority areas identified in the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan 2009. Species targeted included the invasive Pyp Grass, South African Veldt Grass, South African Pig Face, Onion Weed and African Boxthorn in the sand dunes on Torrens Island Conservation Park.

Conservation activities funded by the AMLR NRM Board and DENR include weed mapping, weed control, bushland condition monitoring, fence installation and re-vegetation at Torrens Island Conservation Park, Mutton Cove, Pt Gawler Conservation Park and Buckland Park.

Another joint project funded by the AMLR NRM Board and DENR was delivered in the north of the ADS and focused on the protection of mangroves in Port Gawler Conservation Park. A significant population of fallow deer in the region has been causing damage to mangrove and samphire habitats. A pilot deer control program involving neighboring properties was successfully implemented, removing up to 23 head of deer.

Other activities funded by the AMLR NRM Board were: redefining the Fisheries Habitat Inventory for the AMLR region, which updated with new benthic mapping data and aligned with Coastal Action Plans; extensive work on encouraging use of native coastal species via Coastal Gardens Planting Guide and a workshop program; and Flinders University contributed with Marine Invertebrate Conservation Assessment and Surveys and the development of a mangrove and intertidal mudflat condition index.

DENR and the AMLR NRM Board supported the ARC Linkage Seagrass rehabilitation project with Flinders University and undertook a range of work to better protect samphire and intertidal mudflat shorebird habitat with Birds Australia.

DENR staff continued to repair damage to fencing around re-vegetation sites at Port Gawler Conservation Park to protect the critical samphire habitat from illegal off road vehicle access.

DENR has undertaken discussions with relevant agencies and other parties to assess and provide advice on potential impacts of development within the ADS including the potential addition of crown lands to Buckland Conservation Park, Ceres Wind Farm development on Yorke Peninsula and proposed additions to Torrens Island Conservation Park.

Objective 3 – Improvement of water quality

Two plans (Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan 2008 and the Draft Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan 2011) have been developed to address issues of discharge of nutrients and sediments and the management of turbidity, metals and pollutants into the Port Waterways and the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary area. DENR staff continue to support relevant agencies and industry to implement strategies and recommendations outlined in these plans.

DENR staff assisted DPTI and EPA representatives to reduce the risk of oil from the Mulherns Fire in March 2012 reaching the Barker Inlet and causing significant environmental harm to the Port Waterways and area of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary. ADS staff worked collaboratively with other agencies and volunteers to monitor fauna and to ensure the spill didn't enter the ADS waterways.

DENR worked to assess all events, activities and proposed development impacts on water quality in the ADS. Where proposed activities were likely to have an impact on water quality, DENR recommended conditions to reduce these impacts.

DENR staff continued to remove floating marine debris while on patrol, to reduce the chance of dolphins becoming entangled.

DENR staff together with volunteers undertook re-vegetation with indigenous species on the dunes on Torrens Island to support stabilisation of sediments along the banks of the Port River.

DENR staff continued to work with school and community groups to promote 'caring for their catchment', and the value of improving water quality in the Port River.

The AMLR NRM Board worked with private landholders in the northern catchments on land management and water quality protection and, in collaboration with SARDI & Biosecurity SA, developed DNA probes for rapid detection of potential high risk new pests.

A collaborative project between the AMLR NRM Board, SA Water and the EPA was the commissioned study on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Barker Inlet sediments.

DENR staff attended the EPA Board consultation day in Port Adelaide regarding community issues/challenges for the environment in the Port Adelaide and LeFevre Peninsula area.

Other DENR actions taken to achieve this objective included: regular litter clean ups on land and water; support for community clean up activities; and provision of advice to proponents of planned activities within the ADS regarding water quality.

Objective 4 - Recognition of local interests and participation in management processes

There are significant Indigenous and other cultural and historical relationships within the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet which must be considered in the management of the ADS environment. Without the support of all diverse users of the ADS environment, it would not be possible to achieve the ADS Act objectives of protecting the dolphins and their habitat.

DENR staff worked with local volunteers to undertake photo identification of resident dolphins in the ADS, compiling a database of individual dolphins sighted within the Port River and Barker Inlet.

The Australian Marine Wildlife Research and Rescue Organisation were supported in their activities to remove litter and floating debris from the Port River, conduct beach clean-up days on Torrens Island, and undertook new projects promoting habitat protection and restoration of mangroves on the banks of the North Arm, Port River.

DENR staff attended the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) meeting, supported WDCS volunteers and communicated regularly with WDCS to provide updates on ADS activities.

Regular communication and advice has been provided to a diverse range of people, including those from local industries and councils, as well as recreational users, conservationists and the general public.

The AMLR NRM Board: implemented Coastal Aboriginal Site Management workshops to make coastal councils, volunteers and agency staff aware of legal obligations related to aboriginal heritage, and how to identify and manage sites; and supported the Plant Nursery Industry Association to promote the use of native coastal species.

DENR continued ongoing assessment of referrals for aquatic licences (under section 26 of *the Harbours and Navigation Act 1993*) and provided Executive Officer support to the ADS Advisory Board to enable it to provide broad community advice to the Minister.

Objective 5 – Promotion of public awareness of ecological importance of the area

The achievement of the ADS Act objectives is dependent on a well informed community of users and supporters. Users of the ADS, from government agencies to individuals, need to assess current practices for their potential to achieve ADS Act objects and objectives.

The scientific understanding of the complex ecosystem functions is growing everyday and all activities must remain open to change as knowledge of the area increases. A healthy environment is necessary to support the economic, social and cultural prosperity of the community.

DENR staff aim to achieve this objective through the supply of informative, timely and accessible information about the ADS for all users through signage, education resources and the DENR website.

DENR staff were involved in the development of new promotion and interpretation material including a new ADS information pamphlet and the development of web content. DENR staff undertook media training and conducted an interview for ABC about the ADS dolphin calves and, in collaboration with the University of SA, produced a documentary on the ADS, its importance and role. DENR Corporate Communications Unit also developed a short promotional video about the ADS and the importance of local interest and participation.

The 5th International Parks Management and Leadership Conference was recently held in Adelaide and the ADS was a feature of the program, which included a guided tour of the sanctuary. DENR staff spoke to the participants who were from across Australia, New Zealand and overseas regarding a range of management issues. This was of particular relevance as the Conference theme was 'Parks Without Boundaries'

The ADS was featured in the Flotilla for Kids event held in the Port River. DENR staff provided information to event organisers and participants on safe boating around dolphins, and ensuring measures were in place to reduce any pollution from vessels, and adverse impacts to the ADS.

DENR staff spoke to and gave information about ADS to recreational users including recreational fishers, boaters, and kayakers while undertaking regular ADS patrols.

ADS staff also provided information about the ADS and Dolphin biology to the Adelaide Scuba Club and, in collaboration with the AMLR NRM Board, presented information about the ADS to DECS staff as part of their professional development requirements. The ADS education resource kit was provided to participants.

DENR staff attend the Adelaide Boat Show and the Whale season open day to promote the ecological importance of the area.

The AMLR NRM Board ran a range of community workshops and presentations on coast and marine issues in the region and delivered the Coastal Ambassadors short course program, which trains community participants in coast and marine environment and skills to advocate for these important areas.

Since 2004 DENR has continued to support the Junior Dolphin Rangers at North Haven Schools. DENR staff attended regular meetings of the Junior Dolphin Rangers providing updates on the Sanctuary, dolphins, incidents and environmental actions that students can undertake to support the ADS. DENR staff promoted the School's program and achievements through filming a Totally Wild TV story which showcased the accomplishments of the program over the last seven years.

Objective 6 – Promotion of the principles of ecological sustainable development

The Act aims to protect and improve the environment of the Port River and Barker Inlet ecosystem including the habitat of the resident dolphin population; it recognises that a wide range of multiple uses of the area will continue and identifies provisions aimed at preventing or minimising environmental impact of these activities and of new developments.

Through the referral process DENR has continued to assess development proposals under the Act's 'general duty of care' ensuring that all reasonable measures to prevent or minimise any harm to the Sanctuary have been identified in their actions or activities.

DENR staff attended a stakeholder meeting and provided comment and advice on the proposed Flinders Ports dredge pond at Outer Harbour.

DENR staff are liaising with Defence SA to have ADS signage included in the new interpretative signage about the area to be installed at Mutton Cove reserve as part of the open space project on the Northern Lefevre Peninsula.

REFERRAL OF MATTERS UNDER RELATED OPERATIONAL ACTS

Under the Act, related operational acts require some matters to be referred to the Minister responsible for administering the ADS for advice and/or agreement on the matter. Matters referred included:

- Seven Aquatic licence applications in ADS waters were referred under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* - Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.
- Three Aquatic licence referrals in or adjacent to the ADS waters were referred under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007 – PIRSA*

In addition to these referrals, informal advice was provided to these and other agencies to support furthering the objects and objectives of the ADS Act.

ENFORCEMENT OF GENERAL DUTY OF CARE

There were no reported instances when the general duty of care was breached.

ISSUANCE OF PROTECTION OR OTHER ORDERS

No protection or reparation orders/authorisations were issued.

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 26(2)(c) of the Act requires the preparation of a program setting out the Minister's proposals for the implementation of the ADS Management Plan for the current financial year. The Management Plan is a seven-year document and includes a broad description of activities to be considered over this time period.

The Annual Implementation Program provides a means for a more specific description of actions that can be updated annually. It allows for incorporation of unexpected events and is an annual accountability mechanism.

The Annual Implementation Program for 2012-13 is attached as Appendix 1 and has been prepared in line with the strategies and actions outlined in the ADS Management Plan.

APPENDIX 1 - ADS ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM 2012 – 2013

Subject to appropriate resourcing the following actions will be undertaken by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) staff during 2012/13 to achieve the objectives of the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005* and strategies outlined in the ADS Management Plan.

| Objective 1- Protection of Dolphins | |
|--|--|
| Strategy | Actions |
| Increase knowledge about the ADS dolphins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Record baseline data on ADS dolphin population and behaviours in relation to habitat through regular on-water patrols to collect data on dolphin population and behaviour. ▪ Work with key stakeholders Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Australian Marine Wildlife Research and Rescue Organisation (AMWRRO) and South Australian Museum. ▪ Collect dead dolphins found within or adjacent to the ADS for examination by the Museum to inform the ADS dolphin research and monitoring program. ▪ Continue to communicate with other Government agencies interstate, via the National Whale Disentanglement Network, to investigate and share information about incidents involving dolphins in the ADS. ▪ Continue to work with ADS volunteers to assist with establishment of baseline data and individual dolphin photo identification database. ▪ Support the ADS Advisory Board to develop and measure Key Performance Indicators for the protection of the dolphin population of the Port River. ▪ Finalise a strategy outlining ADS dolphin and habitat research priorities and develop partnerships with local and interstate universities, the SA Museum and other researchers to explore possibilities for collaborative low impact non invasive research in the ADS. |
| Increase understanding of the number and nature of strikes in the ADS and implement preventative measures if required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to support the work of the South Australian Museum to determine vessel strike incidents. ▪ Investigate reported vessel strikes and monitor incidents to determine possible connections between vessel type and speed. ▪ Work with DPTI Marine Safety Officers to enforce safe boating speeds, and report all speeding vessels within the ADS waters. ▪ Disseminate information via media releases over the summer calving season, reminding users of safe boating speeds in the ADS, and to take extra care around new calves to avoid vessel and propeller strikes. ▪ Promote the use of propeller guards within the ADS. |
| Reduce the amount of fishing gear/discarded rope in the ADS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with ADS volunteers to conduct regular litter surveys and cleanups on Torrens Island beach and disseminate summaries of data collected. ▪ Work with schools undertaking the South Australian Maritime Museum's dolphin education program to increase awareness of the impacts litter can have on dolphins and their habitat. ▪ Promote sustainable and responsible fishing practices at the ADS stand at the SA Boat and Fishing Show 5-7 October 2012. ▪ Encourage and promote sustainable fishing practices in the ADS by speaking to anglers and recreational users at boat ramps. ▪ Promote minimum impact fishing techniques and equipment. ▪ Report to PIRSA Fisheries any instances of illegal fishing and netting occurring in the ADS. |
| Maintain watching brief on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue collection of dolphin carcasses found within the ADS and coordinate collection of carcasses off metropolitan Adelaide and |

| | |
|---|---|
| ADS dolphins and carcasses collected to promptly identify any new incidents of deliberate harm | <p>eastern Gulf St. Vincent and, together with the South Australian Museum, investigate and document the causes of death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Australian Customs to X-Ray deceased dolphins where deliberate harm is suspected. ▪ Coordinate and assist with emergency responses for distressed, injured or entangled dolphins in the ADS where intervention is determined as necessary, and record all incidents. ▪ Assist South Australian Museum staff in post mortem examinations of ADS animals to determine causes of death. ▪ Respond to and investigate all reports of harassment, injury or molestation of ADS Dolphins and marine mammals. |
| Monitor behaviour of ADS dolphins to assess any changes that may occur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain regular observation of resident animals to observe any major behaviour changes. ▪ Review relevant Australian and international research into the impacts of human interactions on dolphins. ▪ Attend recreational events, including Flotilla for Kids, and other water based events within ADS waters to manage potential impacts from human interaction. |
| Objective 2- Protection of Key Habitat Features | |
| Strategy | Actions |
| Identify favoured prey species of ADS dolphins and undertake any actions required to protect these species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the ADS Advisory Board on a proposal seeking to fund some preliminary research to assess the feasibility of doing a study looking at dolphins feeding behaviour near manmade structures in the ADS. ▪ Support research to determine specific prey species of ADS dolphins. ▪ Patrol Port Gawler and Torrens Island Conservation Parks and Aquatic Reserves to ensure no illegal fishing activity occurs. ▪ Support PIRSA Fisheries compliance efforts in the ADS. |
| Ongoing patrols of ADS waters and land to ensure compliance with legislation protecting dolphins, habitat and water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake regular patrols and cross-compliance patrols with DPTI Marine Safety Officers. ▪ Investigate, record and report incidents of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speeding vessels ▪ Illegal bait digging ▪ Harassment of dolphins ▪ Feeding of dolphins ▪ Anchoring in restricted areas ▪ Investigate, record and report offences under Section 68 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> and <i>Marine Mammal Regulations 2010</i>. |
| Determine overall health of ADS vegetation types and take action to address threats to specific communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage Torrens Island and Port Gawler Conservation Parks to assess and improve vegetation condition. Work with NRM Officers to undertake control of declared weeds in highest conservation priority areas as identified in the <i>Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan 2009</i>. ▪ Support volunteers and AMLR NRM in undertaking weed control and re-vegetation in identified areas of Mutton Cove, Torrens Island and St Kilda. ▪ Maintain new fencing to prevent illegal access by off road bikes, known to damage sensitive samphire communities at Port Gawler Conservation Park. ▪ Support Government, Port Adelaide Enfield Council, AMWRRO, Origin Energy volunteers and community group efforts to rehabilitate and re-establish vegetation to support stabilisation of sediments. ▪ Conduct pest management for the feral deer population causing damage to mangrove habitat in Port Gawler Conservation Park, and eastern boundaries of the ADS. |
| Support the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support PIRSA Marine Biosecurity initiatives and research in identifying |

| | |
|---|--|
| programs of PIRSA Fisheries and other government agencies to control the spread of marine pests | <p>and controlling introduced marine species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support users of the Port River to stop the spread of <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> outside of the identified containment area in the Port River and Barker Inlet. |
| Objective 3- Improvement of Water Quality | |
| Strategy | Actions |
| Support the EPA and other agencies' ongoing work to reduce nutrient discharges by utilising ADS education and research programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the EPA to implement the Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan and address recommendations outlined in the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study which are relevant to the ADS. |
| Ensure existing and new activities are accurately assessed for potential to cause turbidity and sediment disturbance, and appropriate actions are taken to minimise any necessary activities that may cause disturbance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that Aquatic Licence assessments address activities with the potential to cause turbidity ▪ Support volunteers to undertake work on vegetation protection to support stabilisation of sediments at Torrens Island, St Kilda and Mutton Cove in the ADS. |
| Support the EPA and other agency and community programs to reduce pollutants in ADS waterways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide maritime industries with information on best practice methods to minimise sediment disturbance for new dredging operations. ▪ Support research efforts into the effects of thermal pollution, particularly as it relates to dolphins, prey species, vegetation health and pest species. ▪ Maintain litter management activities in the ADS. ▪ Consider the potential for discharged pathogens to infect ADS dolphins. |
| Objective 4- Community Participation | |
| Strategy | Actions |
| Ensure views of stakeholders are considered by including stakeholders in all phases of implementation of the ADS Act | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to public enquiries in relation to the achievement of ADS objectives. ▪ Make the ADS Management Plan, Annual Report and Annual Implementation Program available to stakeholders and the wider community via the DEWNR website. ▪ Promote and host three volunteer working days on Torrens Island Conservation Park and Mutton Cove to protect and conserve key ADS habitats. ▪ Promote and host a yearly ADS open day for public in the general and |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>local community to get involved and understand better the ADS ecological importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build on existing relationships with key stakeholders and community volunteers to protect the dolphins and improve their environment, and seek new opportunities for partnerships. ▪ Support the ADS Advisory Board to provide the Minister with advice as required by the ADS Act. |
| Work with Kaurna people to ensure activities respect and nurture Kaurna cultural values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate Kaurna words for “dolphin” and “sanctuary” in relevant literature and resources associated with the ADS. ▪ Investigate opportunities to further develop a working relationship with local Aboriginal College Tauondi. |
| Work with all users to improve practices, coordinate activities and improve understanding to support broad achievement of all ADS objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess aquatic licence referrals (under section 26 of the <i>Harbors and Navigation Act 1993</i>). ▪ Work with commercial tour operators and recreational users to ensure best practices are undertaken and to increase their awareness of ADS objectives. ▪ Attend recreational activities within ADS to provide support and increase understanding of ADS objectives. ▪ Prepare articles on the ADS for inclusion in publications by recreational users. |
| Work with existing and future tourism operators to ensure activities are compatible with all ADS objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with operators and the public to ensure understanding of the <i>Marine Mammal Regulations 2010</i> and conduct compliance with these Regulations. ▪ Develop codes of practice for the ADS specific to recreational boats, jet skis, and kayaks. ▪ Through the DEWNR Marine Mammal Permitting Panel, assess commercial tour operations, and their cumulative impacts upon the dolphins in the ADS. |
| Objective 5- Promotion of the environmental importance of the ADS | |
| Strategy | Actions |
| Create and implement an appropriate and cost effective communications strategy for the ADS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement an ADS Communications Strategy which supports the implementation of the ADS Management Plan and Implementation Program including the consideration of social media. ▪ Promote the ADS Management Plan’s aims and objectives to the community. ▪ Present information to community groups and public forums, as requested. ▪ Deliver training about the ADS and dolphins for the North Haven Schools annual “Junior Dolphin Ranger” training day in March 2013. ▪ Promote the aims of the ADS through delivery of education sessions for students at the South Australian Maritime Museum’s annual Dolphin Festival in October 2012, and regular schools education programs throughout 2012-13. ▪ Promote opportunities for the community to get involved and understand the environmental importance of the ADS. ▪ Work with stakeholders to maximise communication opportunities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relevant government agencies, including PIRSA Fisheries, DPTI and the EPA, to ensure consistent delivery of messages. ▪ Flinders Ports to supply all incoming vessels with information about the ADS and requirements to maintain habitat and dolphin safety. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and distribute promotional and educational materials for school students, the general public and specific stakeholders on dolphins and the importance of a healthy Port River and Barker Inlet. ▪ Work with schools to promote the ADS Education Resource and support activities of the Junior Dolphin Guardian program. |
| Objective 6 – Promotion of the principles of ecological sustainable development | |
| Work with industries and other users to develop and implement ESD principles in everyday practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In conjunction with other agencies, DEWNR will work with new and existing industries to support the achievement of ESD principles. ▪ Prepare industry specific ADS information as required. |

APPENDIX 2 - ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

30 September 2012

Hon Paul Caica MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister,

It is my pleasure to present the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS) Advisory Board, in accordance with section 21 of the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005* (the Act).

The Board met once during the reporting period and provided advice on a number of issues out of session. The Board provided advice in relation to the ADS Management Plan and other matters connected with the administration of the Act. These are detailed in the pages which follow.

A new Board was appointed in May 2012. Newly appointed members bring with them a diverse array of knowledge and experiences in areas of marine mammal management, water resources, environmental planning, maritime operations, tourism and Kaurna culture.

At each Board meeting, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff reported on actions taken to meet the objectives of the Act and to fulfill the requirements of the 2011-2012 Annual Implementation Program.

Future development within and adjacent to the ADS continued to be a key area of concern for the Board. The Board will continue to promote ecologically sustainable development to minimise impacts in the Sanctuary.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by Board members and I also wish to thank DENR staff for their ongoing support.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on matters relating to the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary. The Board would welcome your attendance at a meeting if that is convenient for you.

Yours sincerely



Mike Bossley
PRESIDING MEMBER
ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY ADVISORY BOARD

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board

Section 12 of the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005* (the Act) establishes the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS) Advisory Board (the Board) to provide advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on a number of matters.

Board Functions

The Board's functions are set out in section 17 of the Act as follows:

17—Functions of Board

The function of the Board is to advise the Minister on—

- (a) the preparation of the ADS Management Plan and any amendments to the Plan; and
- (b) the effectiveness of the ADS Management Plan in achieving the objects and objectives of this Act; and
- (c) the effectiveness of the implementation program; and
- (d) the application of money belonging to the ADS Fund; and
- (e) any matter referred to the Board by the Minister; and
- (f) any matter connected with the administration of this Act on which the Board believes it should advise the Minister.

Board Membership

The Board consists of eleven members who are nominated by the Minister for appointment by the Governor. Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the membership of the Board must include persons who together have, in the Minister's opinion, knowledge of, and experience in, the following areas:

- (a) dolphin conservation and research;
- (b) community education programs management;
- (c) conservation of marine ecosystems;
- (d) fisheries management;
- (e) local government;
- (f) tourism and recreation management;
- (g) industry development and management;
- (h) port and harbour management;
- (i) Kurna culture and heritage from the male perspective;
- (j) Kurna culture and heritage from the female perspective.

Further the Act stipulates:

- Before nominating a person or persons for appointment to the Board, the Minister must, by public notice, invite expressions of interest for appointment to the Board within a period specified in the notice and must consider any expressions of interest received in response to the notice.
- The Minister must not nominate a person for appointment to the Board unless the Minister is of the opinion that the person has a commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet.
- At least 2 members of the Board must be women and at least 2 must be men.

- The Minister must appoint one of the eleven members to serve as the presiding member. Members of the Board are entitled to remuneration, allowances and expenses as determined by the Governor.

The following persons were members of the Board during 2011-12:

1. **Mr Carl Kavina** – Ports and harbour management.
2. **Dr Michael I Bossley** (Presiding Member) – Dolphin conservation and research, community education programs management and tourism and recreation management.
3. **Dr Susan E Gibbs** – Dolphin conservation and research, community education programs management, conservation of marine ecosystems, and fisheries management.
4. **Ms Philippa Holt** - Tourism and recreation management.
5. **Ms Shanti Ditter** - Local government, tourism and recreation management and industry development and management.
6. **Dr B Freya Higgins-Desbiolles** – Community education programs management, and tourism and recreation management.
7. **Mr Declan Andrews** - Dolphin conservation and conservation of marine ecosystems.
8. **Dr John Cugley** - conservation of marine ecosystems and community education programs management.
9. **Trevor Watts** - Fisheries management, tourism and recreation management.

The following members were appointed to the ADS Advisory Board for the period 24 May 2012 until 28 January 2015:

1. **Mr Carl Kavina** – Ports and harbour management.
2. **Dr Michael I Bossley** (Presiding Member) – Dolphin conservation and research, community education programs management and tourism and recreation management.
3. **Dr Susan E Gibbs** – Dolphin conservation and research, community education programs management, conservation of marine ecosystems, and fisheries management.
4. **Ms Shanti Ditter** - Local government, tourism and recreation management and industry development and management.
5. **Dr B Freya Higgins-Desbiolles** – Community education programs management, and tourism and recreation management.
6. **Mr Declan Andrews** - Dolphin conservation and conservation of marine ecosystems.
7. **Dr John Cugley** - conservation of marine ecosystems and community education programs management.

8. **Matthew Osborne** – Represent Kaurna Culture and heritage from the male perspective, community education programs management, conservation of marine ecosystems and fisheries management.
9. **Knut Gassmanis** – Extensive local knowledge and recreational, sport fishing and fisheries management.
10. **Julie Gregory** – Community education programs management.
11. **Jenny Hughes** – Local government and recreation management.

Activities of the Board

The ADS Advisory Board held one meeting during the reporting period on the 8 of December 2011. The Board also provided advice and conducted business out of session. A new Advisory Board was appointed in May 2012.

Major Issues Considered:

- **ADS Management Plan**

A function of the Board is to advise the Minister on the implementation of the ADS Management Plan and this item was discussed at the Board meeting. Board members discussed reports provided by DENR staff on the achievement of Management plan objectives.

- **Addressing Future Development in the ADS**

The Board continued to address concerns with future development within and surrounding the ADS. The Board took a proactive role in identifying potential development issues that could have implications on the on-going management and operation of the Sanctuary. The Board provided timely advice and recommendations to the Minister concerning such matters, including any future development on Torrens Island, Buckland Park and Northern Lefevre Peninsula.

- **Other Issues**

The Board also discussed: Key Performance Indicators for the Management Plan objectives and has made progress toward defining these for your consideration; licensing conditions for (dolphin watching) commercial tour operators in the ADS; and research into changes in feeding behaviours of Bottlenose dolphins in the ADS.

Effectiveness of the Implementation Program 2011-12

Functions of the Board, under section 17 of the Act, include the Board advising the Minister on the effectiveness of the ADS Management Plan (in achieving the objects and objectives of the Act) and the implementation program.

At the meeting held in 2011-12, the Board discussed the effectiveness of the Management Plan and Annual Implementation Program 2011-12, taking into consideration actions undertaken by DENR staff, which are summarised below.

Objective 1 – Protection of dolphins from direct physical harm

1. Dolphin carcasses in the ADS and the vicinity of metropolitan Adelaide were collected and post mortems to determine cause of death were conducted by the SA Museum.
2. All reports of harassment and molestation against ADS Dolphins were fully investigated under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.
3. Advice was provided to potential developers about the ADS and how to minimise any potential impacts on dolphins or their habitat.
4. Advice and recommendations were provided on Aquatic Licence Referrals for events held within the ADS to minimise any disturbance to the resident dolphin population and the habitats of the ADS.
5. Litter surveys on Torrens Island continued in addition to regular water patrols to remove debris such as fishing line from the Port River and Barker Inlet to help prevent entanglements
6. Eight new rangers from the Northern Lofty District (DENR) were appointed as Authorised Officers under the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*.
7. All reports of injuries to dolphins from entanglements, vessel strike or disease were responded to and managed accordingly.
8. Regular observations of resident animals were conducted to monitor any major behavioural changes.

Objective 2 – Maintaining, protecting and restoring key habitat features

1. DENR has undertaken discussions with relevant agencies and developers on the impact of development within the ADS.
2. DENR staff worked with AMLR NRM Board staff to continue an eradication program for an infestation of Pyp Grass in the remnant dunes of Torrens Island Conservation Park; and conducted a secondary control program for African Boxthorn to restore key habitat.
3. DENR continued to work with the South Australian Museum to analyse the stomach contents of deceased ADS dolphins, with a view to better identifying key prey species and habitat protection measures for identified species.
4. On-going land and sea patrols of ADS waters and land were conducted to ensure compliance with legislation protecting ADS habitat.
5. A deer control program was implemented in the North of the ADS to protect mangrove and samphire habitats within the Port Gawler Conservation Park.

Objective 3 – Improvement of water quality

1. DENR staff assessed development applications, activities and projects for water quality impacts including turbidity, nutrient run off and disturbance of contaminated sediments.
2. On-going land and sea patrols of ADS waters and land were conducted to ensure compliance with legislation protecting ADS water quality. During patrols, staff removed marine debris that could pose an entanglement risk or risks to navigation.
3. DENR staff worked with other government agencies to locate the source of oil and fuel spills within the Port River and Barker Inlet, working together to contain spills, and minimise impacts to the dolphins, habitat and water quality.

Objective 4 – Recognition of local interests and participation in management processes

1. The 2010-11 ADS Annual Report, including the Annual Implementation Program 2011-12, was prepared and made available for public information on the DENR website.
2. Aquatic licence applications referred under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* were assessed and advice provided to support the achievements of the ADS Act objectives.
3. Regular communication and advice was provided to a diverse range of people including those from industries, local councils and recreational users and conservationists.
4. Support was provided for the Board's activities.
5. DENR continued to work with key stakeholders and volunteers including to protect the dolphins and improve their environment.

Objective 5 – Promotion of public awareness of ecological importance of the area

1. The Board promoted the ecological importance of the ADS habitats through delivery of education programs through the South Australian Maritime Museum's Dolphin and Marine Biodiversity Education Programs for Schools, Junior Dolphin Ranger training day, and school and university presentations.
2. DENR staff spoke at a number of public forums, including the biannual Parks Forum held in Adelaide, presenting information about the ADS, including the Management Plan.
3. DENR staff also worked with other government agencies to ensure consistent delivery of messages relevant to the achievement of ADS objectives.

Objective 6 – Promotion of the principles of ecological sustainable development

1. Advice was provided to a number of potential developers about how they could further the ADS objectives. Ecologically sustainable development principles were promoted to minimise potential impacts on dolphins and their habitat.
2. DENR met with local waterside industries to discuss sustainable development and improvement of environmental management, including an interpretative signage strategy to promote the ADS, and its unique habitats at adjacent Mutton Cove.

Further information on actions undertaken to meet the six objectives of the Act is included in the 2011-12 *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act* Annual Report.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge that the land where it meets is part of the traditional Kurna lands. The Board respects the Kurna spiritual relationship with their country, acknowledges the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and recognises that their cultural and heritage beliefs are important to the Kurna people living today.

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

HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

Staffing

The Board has no staff of its own and was supported by staff from DENR. The Act requires the Minister to supply the Board such staff, facilities and information assistance as it may reasonably require for the effective performance of its functions. Reporting on staffing and related human resource matters is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Executive, administrative and project support was provided from within existing DENR resources. The role of Executive Officer for the Board was undertaken by Mrs Verity Gibbs.

Disability Action Plans

The Board uses the facilities and services of DENR staff. The members of the Committee are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There were no Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (OHS&W) incidents reported by the Board in the reporting period.

As a user of DENR facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DENR OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Use of Consultants

The Board did not engage any consultants during the reporting period.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Members of the Board received the following remuneration as determined by the Governor:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four-hour session.
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session.

The Board is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. Reporting on all financial matters regarding the management of the ADS and the ADS Fund is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

OTHER REPORTING ITEMS

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Board uses the facilities and services of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Greening of Government Operations (GoGO) Framework

The Board uses the facilities and services of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Fraud

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board.

Financial services are provided to the Board by DENR and reporting on strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

Overseas Travel

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

Freedom of Information

As a DENR administered entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DENR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DENR website. Please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au to view the FOI Statement.

Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Board did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2011-12.

Urban Design Charter

No events occurred in 2011-12 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

Asbestos Management in Government Buildings

The Board does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board 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 the 2011 - 2012 financial year.