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Brighton Civic Centre 24 Jetty Road, Brighton SA 5048

PO Box 19 Brighton SA 5048

P 08 8229 9999 F 08 8298 4561

Glenelg Customer Service Centre and Library

2 Colley Terrace, Glenelg SA 5045

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Dear Independent Advisory Panel

Adelaide Beach Management Review

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the management of Adelaide's metropolitan beaches. The community values our coast extremely highly as one of the key identifying features of the City of Holdfast Bay, including the most highly visited beaches in the State.

In this submission we recommend the sand pumping program is extended indefinitely for our coastal management cell (Glenelg to Kingston Park). The program works extremely well for our coast and has enabled continued and increased use of our beaches by residents, visitors, tourists. The sand pumping program has also enabled use of some sections of our beaches by endangered hooded plovers, since 2016. In partnership with Green Adelaide and Birdlife Australia, we have invested heavily in protection for the hooded plovers, including additional foreshore patrols in summer, a new by-law, fencing and signage.

The sand pumping program has also enabled the development of significant dune systems between Brighton and Seacliff. This has been facilitated by Council's use of sand drift fencing and revegetation to trap and hold sand. These dunes not only provide an important ecological function but they are also a coastal protection mechanism, providing protection against storm events and a medium-term buffer against sea level rise. Our community value these dunes and we would seek to have them retained as part of any future sand management strategy.

The City of Holdfast Bay is concerned about continual net sand loss in our management cell, through a variety of mechanisms such as wind blowing sand onto the land, and stormwater washing sand out to sea. Over time this amounts to large quantities of sand loss, albeit some of that washed out to sea is probably captured at Glenelg but still amounts to an overall net sand loss. DEW has assured us that it is confident in the quantity of sand in our management cell, however, in the long-term and as part of the outcomes of this review, an adaptive plan will be required to provide details of when additional sand will be required for this management cell. We recommend that additional sand input into this management cell be triggered by some kind of threshold (such as sand quantity), rather than by a set date, as this will provide adaptive flexibility.



Beyond our beaches, a high coastal management priority is the ongoing management of seawalls to protect public assets. Renewal and upgrade of these assets to maintain coastal protection is an excessively and prohibitively expensive exercise. Many other coastal councils have the same financial pressures in regard to coastal management infrastructure requirements for which there are no requisite funding mechanisms.

As high levels of funding are required across the South Australian coast, it is imperative that state agencies such as Infrastructure SA, Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and DEW come together to develop and provide a long-term plan and relevant funding mechanisms to make coastal protection work affordable for our communities. The federal government may also have a role to play in providing the high levels of funding required, for short-term and long-term management.

We are aware of the new SA Climate Ready Coasts program and look forward to being involved. However, there remain short-term and long-term needs for large scale coordinated planning and investments in the replacement of ageing and high-risk coastal infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

Roberto Bria
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER