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1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Background

Council values its coastal vegetation and the many benefits it brings to our community. These include aesthetics, sand stabilisation, storm buffer, health, climate adaptation, and habitat for biodiversity purposes. Occasionally, there are conflicting values in this space such as access to coastal views, particularly from memorial seats, and space around sculptures and other amenities. Rate payers have paid for plants, seats and sculptures and therefore all of these are valued in different ways by our community.

This policy has been developed to provide clarity on Council's position on coastal vegetation management, and to provide consistency in the application of that management.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to manage and protect Council's coastal vegetation with consistency and clarity.

1.3 Scope

This policy covers all coastal vegetation on the beach side of the Coast Path along the entire length of the Holdfast Bay coastline, excluding the Minda Dunes, which have a separate management plan.

1.4 Definitions

There are no specific definitions associated with this policy.

1.5 Strategic Reference

Sustainability – the Council Policy: Coastal Vegetation Management, contributes to carefully managing our resources for the benefit of future generations and minimises our individual and collective footprint as we live and travel around our city.

COUNCIL COASTAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

2. PRINCIPLES

Council values its coastal vegetation and the many benefits it brings to our community. These include aesthetics, sand stabilisation, storm buffer, health, climate adaptation, and habitat for biodiversity purposes.

New infrastructure including sculptures, artwork, seats, showers, etc. installed along the coast will be located to minimise impact on existing coastal vegetation. Relocation of infrastructure will be considered to protect valuable coastal vegetation.

Sculptures are acquired by Council for the community to enjoy, therefore dune vegetation will be pruned back around sculptures if and when necessary.

Seats are provided for the community to relax and enjoy our coast and coastal vegetation. Dune vegetation will be pruned back around seats. Vegetation blocking sea views from seats will be assessed and minimal maintenance undertaken if and when necessary.

Dune vegetation that prevents the use of showers, bicycle racks and any other amenity will be pruned when necessary.

Dune vegetation that obstructs or prevents safe passage through the dune paths will be pruned back for safe access. If native seedlings germinate on the dune paths, these may be removed if it is a species that will block access.

Large dead trees or shrubs immediately adjacent to the Coast Path will be cut down to improve aesthetic value. Dead vegetation further into the dunes will not be removed or cut down as it still provides habitat value.

Vegetation on the beach-facing slope of the foredune will be managed for both dune stability and shorebird habitat. Shorebirds using this habitat include hooded plovers (listed as 'Vulnerable' under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*) and red-capped plovers. This will aim to provide a gently sloping dune face that is vegetated mainly by spinifex with some open areas of sand in between the spinifex runners. Other foredune plant species (i.e. *Atriplex cinerea*, *Leucophyta brownii* and *Ficinia nodosa*) may also be present but sparse.

If plant removal and replacement is required (e.g. coastal tea trees are being removed as they are a high priority weed) then coastal vegetation will be pruned back in stages to ensure that sand is held in place by the larger, older plants and to provide space for new replacement plants to grow. Only when the new plants are established and able to hold sand in place will the older, larger plants be removed.

Live dune vegetation that blocks views from residents' houses and is not obstructing or damaging any amenity or other infrastructure will not be cut or pruned to improve residents' views.

Future coastal plant species will be selected subject to a site assessment and consider a range of issues including views to reduce the need for pruning vegetation around

COUNCIL COASTAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

infrastructure and sculptures. Future dune revegetation will be conducted in accordance with the City of Holdfast Bay Dune Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 – 2024.

3. REFERENCES

3.1 Legislation

Landscape South Australia Act 2019

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

3.2 Other References

- Holdfast 2050+
- Environment Strategy 2020-2025
- Dune Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 – 2024
- Tree Management Policy