NEW LIFE FOR OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

REVITALISING OUR BEACHES

2036
By the time our State turns 200 years old, I want South Australia to be a place of prosperity.
Planning and delivering on my vision for a better future starts now.
This policy is just one part of our plan to deliver a clear and responsible pathway to recovery and success.
See where it fits in below

1.0  GROWING OUR ECONOMY

2.0  THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM

3.0  BEING A HEALTHY STATE

4.0  STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

5.0  BUILDING OUR STATE

  5.1  Delivering on the needs of South Australians
  5.2  Prioritising the infrastructure that our State needs

6.0  ENSURING SAFETY AND JUSTICE

7.0  PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

  7.1  Promoting scientifically-based evidence rather than empty symbolism
  7.2  Prioritise providing resources to hands-on and on-ground efforts
  7.4  Ensuring access to our environmental assets for all South Australians

8.0  EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

9.0  RUNNING AN EFFICIENT AND STABLE GOVERNMENT
“We need to invest in the protection of our precious coastline before time runs out.”
THE PROBLEM

South Australia has 5,067 km of coastline. It is one of our most precious natural resources. Our coastline’s stunning beauty contributes to South Australia being one of the greatest places in the world to live. It is a crucial drawcard for our tourism industry. It provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds and animals and underpins thousands of jobs.

Our coast is loved by many but it is suffering from the effects of significant storms over recent winters which have caused millions of dollars of damage and depleted beaches of thousands of tonnes of sand.

Infrastructure, including roads, footpaths, stairways, jetties and boat ramps, have been damaged or destroyed, while natural features such as sand dunes have been swept away.

Through years of human interaction, including inappropriate development, our coastline has lost much of its natural resilience which in turn has damaged the ability of beaches to protect themselves from storms.

Loss of sand dune systems, seagrass meadows and beach sand has diminished natural barriers to erosion. This is increasingly putting more infrastructure, including residential housing and commercial property, at risk.

Increasingly harsh winters are washing away sand at a faster rate than the sand pumping pipeline can replace.

Adelaide’s metropolitan beaches suffer from a natural process called littoral drift which results in sand naturally moving from south to north. Littoral drift, when combined with man-made interferences with the coastline, has resulted in the gradual loss of sand from metropolitan beaches.

For many years, sand has been replenished on the coastline through collecting sand from northern metropolitan beaches and trucking it to southern beaches. Additional sand from external sources such as sand mines has also been used.

In 2013, the Weatherill Government’s much lauded sand pumping pipeline opened with the aim of replacing much of the sand trucking activity. The pipeline was under-engineered and over-spruiked, unable to transfer the volumes of sand needed to contend with increasing winter storms.

While the pipeline retains some value, by itself it is not up to the job needed.
THE STATE LIBERALS’ PLAN

We will ensure that our coastline is better protected and maintained to ensure its long term sustainability.

If elected in March 2018, a Marshall Liberal Government will ensure coastal protection is a major priority of the South Australian Environment Department, recognising that management of our coast is a critical environmental, social and economic need.

A Liberal Government will invest more in protecting our precious coastline through:

- Sand replenishment and retention initiatives
- A research and development fund to investigate additional sand retention measures
- Re-establishing seagrass meadows
- Limiting harmful stormwater runoff
- Creating three artificial reefs

An additional $5.2 million will be directed towards practical measures as well as important research and development, acknowledging that things must be done differently to sustain our coastal environment.

A Marshall Liberal Government will:

1. Increase funding for sand replenishment on metropolitan beaches by $500,000 per annum for two years.
2. Invest $1 million over two years in research and development associated with sand retention to reduce reliance on pumping and carting in the longer term. Expressions of interest will be called from organisations wishing to apply for funding to develop sand retention strategies at metropolitan beaches which will act as pilot sites. Pilot sites will include West Beach, Glenelg North, Seafill and Hallett Cove. We will also work with the Commonwealth Government to identify ways to leverage other funding opportunities to expand this research and development.
3. Invest $1 million in seagrass meadow restoration with the aim of rebuilding large seagrass meadows off the metropolitan coastline. Seagrasses limit the power of the ocean and mitigate the effects of storms. They also act as an important carbon sink and in the longer term can be used as a profitable carbon offset.
4. Invest $1 million in the establishment and initial implementation of a Gulf St Vincent wetlands plan to map new wetlands and stormwater harvesting schemes to prevent damaging run-off filled with sediment and pollutants from entering the sea. The wetlands will be developed in partnership with local councils.
5. Invest $1.2 million to establish three artificial reefs which will have environmental and economic benefits, including use as sand retention devices.
“With a range of practical measures to sustain our coastal environment, we will ensure our beaches remain an asset we are all able to use and enjoy.”

Steven Marshall, State Liberal Leader
If you would like to provide feedback on our policy or learn more about our plan, please get in touch via:

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