

# COASTS and SEA



## Achievements/commitments

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Water quality within the Port River has significantly improved. This is likely to be due to the closure of the SA Water Port Adelaide treatment plant. The Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) was developed to implement a range of options to reduce pollution from industries and catchments discharged into the Port River and Barker Inlet.

The completion of the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study and the successful response from the Port Waterways WQIP led the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to develop a WQIP for Adelaide's coastal waters. The improvement plan has set environmental values and water quality objectives for the region, providing targets for nitrogen and phosphorus discharge reductions.

In 2003, 15% of Adelaide's wastewater was re-used, primarily for irrigation on parks and gardens. In 2006–07 almost 30% of water entering the metropolitan SA Water waste-water treatment plants was re-used, rather than discharged to the marine environment.

Marine planning has continued to improve over the last five years. In 2006, the Marine Planning Framework for South Australia was adopted as a whole-of-government approach to

guide the management of current and future activities in a way that maintains the integrity of our coastal, marine and estuarine environments.

In addition, the *Marine Parks Act 2007* was proclaimed in 2008. This legislation paves the way for the establishment of a marine parks system in state waters. The government has committed to establishing 19 new marine parks by 2010, under the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (SARSMPA).

In response to increasing concerns over garfish stocks, the state government committed funding to a voluntary buyback of net fishing licences and approvals to use fishing nets (endorsements). Over \$10.8 million was paid out to licence holders that resulted in the permanent removal of over 50% of the total net endorsements in the garfish fishery.

## Recommendations for Action

- R3.1 Provide adequate buffer zones to facilitate the retreat of coastal ecosystems (e.g. mudflats, mangroves and samphire) in response to sea level rise induced by climate change.
- R3.2 Move towards managing commercial and recreational fisheries on a full cost-recovery basis.
- R3.3 Incorporate mutually supportive sustainable management principles for the coastal zone into Natural Resource Management Plans, Council Development Plans, and Marine Park Plans.

## Trends

- Seagrass extent along the metropolitan coast is still DECLINING.
- Nitrogen concentration along the metropolitan coastal waters is INCREASING.
- The area subject to coastal sprawl is INCREASING.
- Development of marinas with associated residential developments are INCREASING.

PIRSA Aquaculture  
[www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture)

PIRSA Fisheries  
[www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

Planning SA  
[www.planning.sa.gov.au](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au)

SARI Aquatic Sciences  
[www.sardi.sa.gov.au/aquatic/index.html](http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/aquatic/index.html)

Marine Planning Framework for South Australia  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/planning.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/planning.html)

## Moving forward

The entire coastal zone should be assessed to identify sensitive coastal environments and landscapes of special heritage and amenity value. The government needs to ensure that fisheries currently designated fully fished or overfished are brought back within a sustainable level of take.

Further measures are needed to improve water quality and its impact on the marine environment along the coast. This includes reduction in nitrogen discharge from industry and wastewater treatment plants, and reduced stormwater discharge.

## Further information

Adelaide's Living Beaches: A Strategy for 2005–2025 [www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/adelaides\\_living\\_beaches.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/adelaides_living_beaches.html)

Australian Fisheries Management Authority [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au)

Estuaries Regional Information Packages  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/estuaries.html#regional\\_eips](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/estuaries.html#regional_eips)



Stokes Bay, Kangaroo Island.  
Photo: David Mudge