

Community vision and environmental values for Adelaide's coastal waters

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EPA 893/11: This information sheet is part of a series to support water quality improvement for Adelaide coastal waters.

Introduction

The Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan (ACWQIP) aims to improve water quality consistent with the environmental values (EVs) which have been developed through community and stakeholder input. The ACWQIP is available for public comment from September to 18 November 2011. More information about the ACWQIP and how to provide comments is available at www.epa.sa.gov.au.



Seacliff Park. Photo courtesy EPA

Community vision for Adelaide's coastal waters

During development of the ACWQIP, a clear community based vision emerged for Adelaide's coastal waters which can be summarised as:

Healthy aquatic ecosystems where environmental, social and economic values are considered in a balanced management approach that aims to see the return of the blue line of seagrass closer to shore.

This vision was developed through input from people involved in local community groups, working in local government, natural resource management (NRM) and government agencies, in business and industry as well individuals from metropolitan Adelaide.

Environmental values and water quality objectives










Environmental values (EVs) describe the qualities and uses of waters that need to be protected from the effects of pollution. This is to ensure healthy aquatic ecosystems and waters that are safe and suitable for community use. EVs reflect the ecological (eg marine habitat), social (eg swimming) and economic (eg aquaculture) values and uses of water. EVs are used to support both planning and management by providing a guide of where best to undertake management actions.

Water quality objectives (WQOs) are the water quality targets required to protect water for its various environmental values. They are defined for physical (eg turbidity, suspended sediment and temperature), chemical (eg phosphorus, nitrogen and toxicant levels) and biological measures (eg micro-organisms). For example, the WQOs for secondary













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recreation activities on a boat would not be set as high as those for primary recreation where people swim and make contact with the water. WQOs for Adelaide’s coastal waters have been set in the ACWQIP.

Through workshops held for the development of the ACWQIP and input provided by the Adelaide Coastal Waters Steering Group, EVs for Adelaide’s coastal waters have been identified as:

	Aquatic ecosystems, eg fish, crustaceans, seagrass meadows		Primary recreation, eg swimming, surfing, snorkelling		Industrial use, eg making products, cooling processes
	Cultural and spiritual, eg water dependant places, ecosystems or species with special significance for Aboriginal and non indigenous communities		Secondary recreation, eg sailing, kayaking, canoeing		Raw drinking water, eg source for desalination plant
	Visual appreciation, eg picnics, sightseeing, photography, relaxation		Human consumption, eg fishing, crabbing		Aquaculture (potential), eg fish, crabs

Community agreed environmental values for Adelaide’s coastal waters

 	Aquatic ecosystems – <i>Posidonia sinuosa</i> seagrass with fruits. <i>Photo courtesy DENR</i>	 	Primary recreation – beach scene Glenelg. <i>Photo courtesy SATC</i>	 	Industrial use – aerial view of Port Adelaide. <i>Photo courtesy Penrice Soda Holdings</i>
 	Cultural and spiritual – dolphins	 	Secondary recreation – Adelaide Sailing Club. <i>Photo courtesy Jason Bekin</i>	 	Raw drinking water – Adelaide desalination plant. <i>Photo courtesy SA Water</i>



Further information and feedback

For further information and feedback please refer to information sheet: Have your say on the vision and environmental values for Adelaide's coastal waters or refer to the EPA website: <www.epa.sa.gov.au>

References

EPA 2011, *Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan for public comment*, Environment Protection Authority, Adelaide.

EPA 2011, *Have your say on the vision and environmental values for Adelaide's coastal waters*, Environment Protection Authority, Adelaide

Useful websites

Environment Protection Authority, Water Quality pages <www.epa.sa.gov.au/water_quality.html>

Water for Good <www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au>

WaterConnect <www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au>

Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board <www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au>

Department of Environment and Natural Resources <www.environment.sa.gov.au>

SA Water <www.sawater.com.au>

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

Further information

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: <www.legislation.sa.gov.au>

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
Adelaide Service SA Centre
108 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Website: <shop.service.sa.gov.au>

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8124 4670
Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
Website: <www.epa.sa.gov.au>
Email: <epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au>
