



**Local Government Association**  
of South Australia

# **SA Climate Ready Coasts**

**SA Coastal Council Alliance Forum**

**7 December 2023**

# About today

1. Background to SA  
Climate Ready Coasts
2. Foundations Projects
3. Emerging themes
4. Discussion





# 1. Background to SA Climate Ready Coasts





# Context – different coasts, different risks



Thursday, May 4, 2023

## Beach budget blues as regions struggle with storm impact

NEWS

“Annoyed” Kingston locals footing expensive repair bills from storms sweeping away South East beaches are calling for more of the funding and attention paid to Adelaide metropolitan coast to be directed to the regions, saying they feel “out of sight, out of mind”.



Belinda Willis

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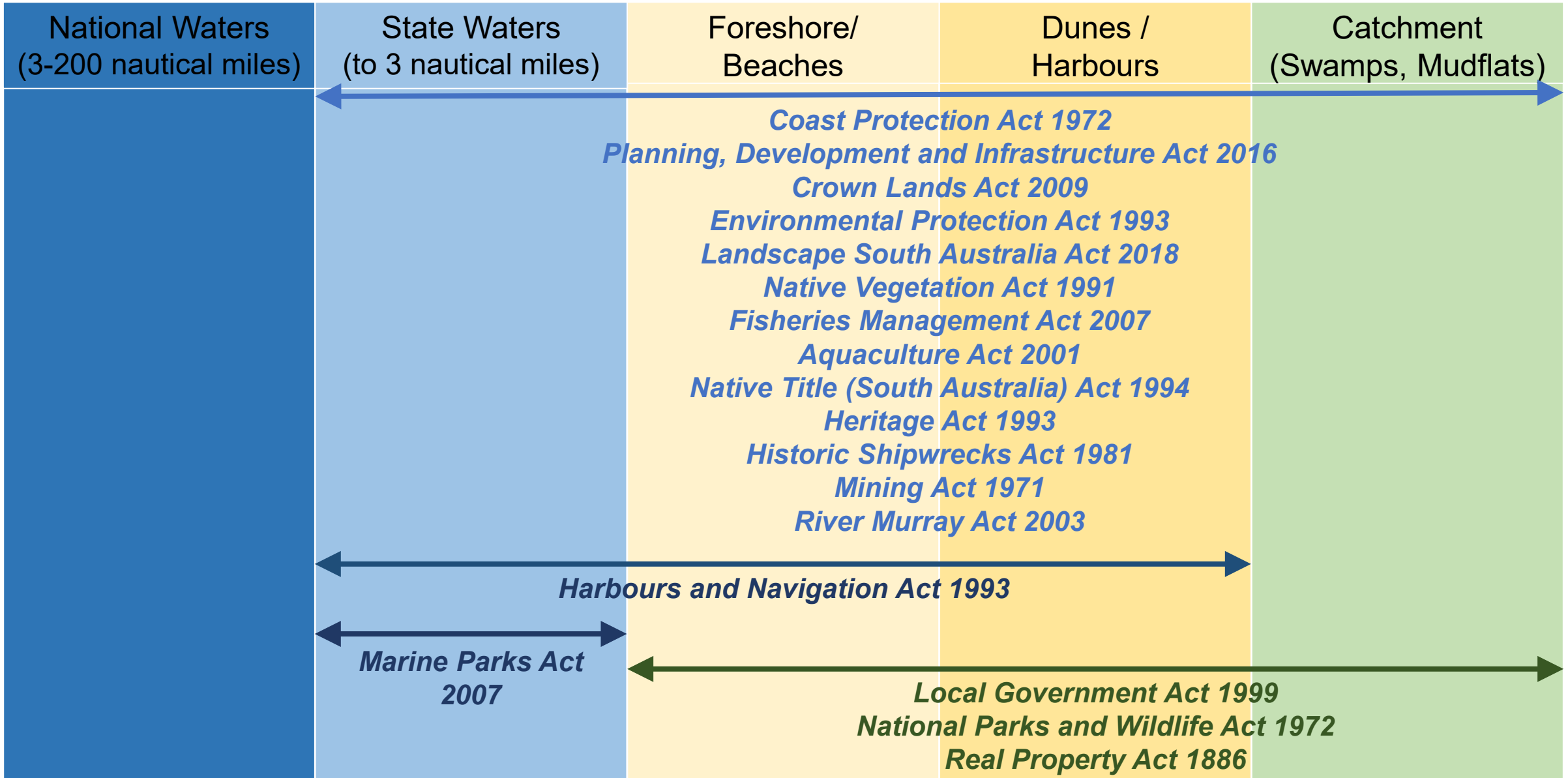
<https://indaily.co/419552>

 [Print article](#)



Storms swept away sand dunes and threatened houses at Wyomi Beach near Kingston in 2016. Photo: Kingston District Council

# Context - coastal governance is complex



# Context – different approaches to coastal adaptation

CoastSnap



The City of Marion is the first South Australian council to join the [CoastSnap](#) community beach monitoring initiative.

## Kangaroo Island Coastal Hazard Strategy

November 2018

Coastal Adaptation Plan

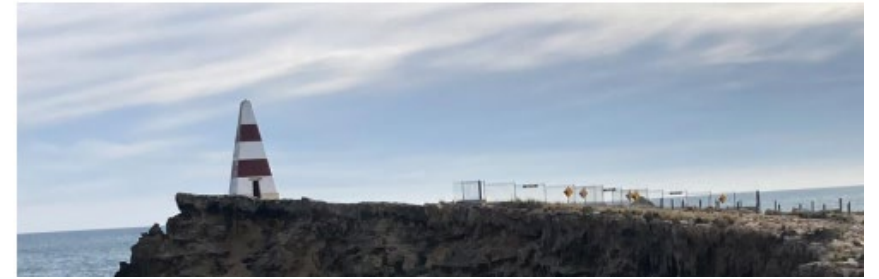
Prepared for



## Coastal Adaptation Study For City of Onkaparinga

Main Study Report

Robe Coastline Monitoring Roadmap



Southend Coastal Adaptation Strategy



**Holdfast Bay Coastal Adaptation Plan:**

**Stage 1 Stocktake and Engagement Strategy Summary**



# Context - learnings from other states



# Program history

- Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program - \$50M for “projects that reduce the impact of disasters on coastal communities”
- Calls from councils for a sector-wide project to progress coastal adaptation planning
- LGA, SACCA, former MSCC (now ACCN), DEW, Regional LGAs and a few councils collaborated on an application
- Successful funding application focused on adaptation planning + data
- SA CPB and Local Government Research and Development Scheme have joined as funding partners



# Program outcomes

1. Coordinated and consistent approach to coastal adaptation
2. Improved understanding of coastal hazards and risk
3. Increased capacity and confidence to undertake coastal adaptation planning
4. Evidence-based decision making and investment in the coast.

# Moving towards Climate Ready Coasts



# Program plan

**Stage One - Foundations**

**July 2023 to June 2024**

**Hold  
point**

**Stage Two – Accelerate  
adaptation planning**

**July 2024- December 2025**

**Stage Three –  
Embedding**

**January – June 2026**

Adaptation planning workstream led by the LGA

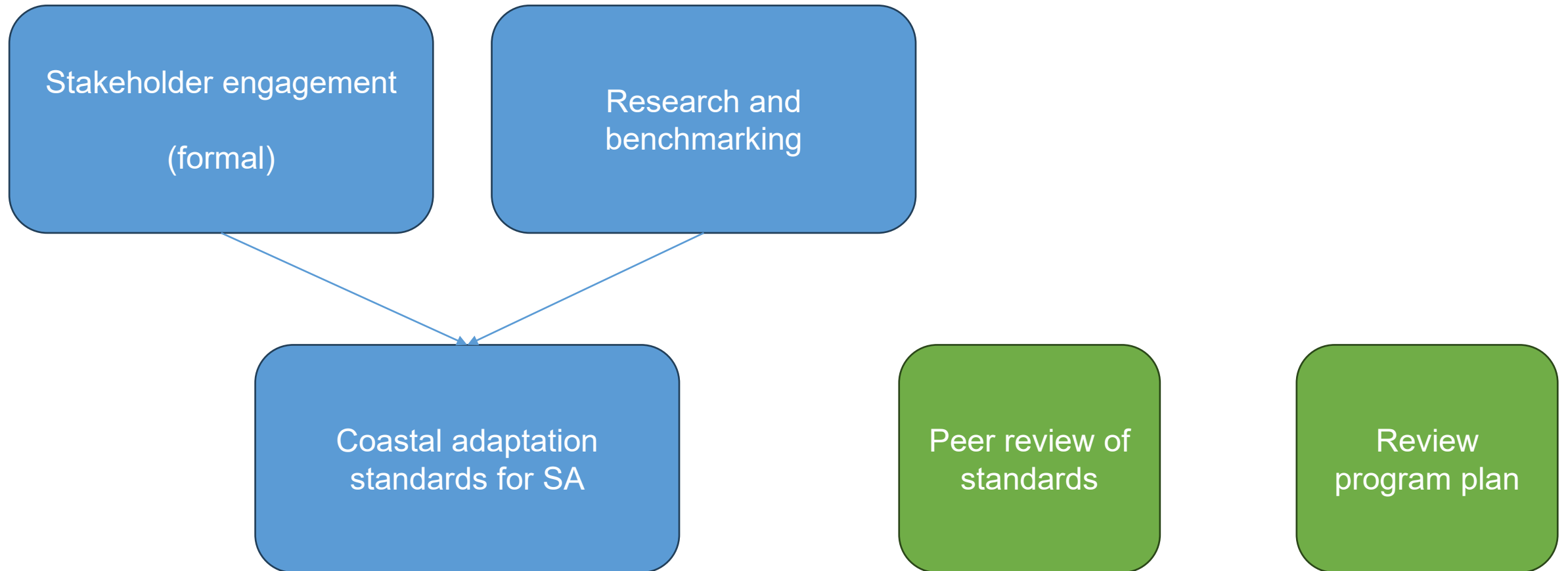
Data workstream led by DEW



## 2. Foundation Projects for 2023/24



# Capacity Workstream



# Data Workstream

Data Stocktake

Wave Buoys

State-wide coastal  
inundation mapping

Sand drift hazard mapping

Coastal acid sulfate soils  
mapping hazard mapping





**Any questions or comments on what the program is trying to achieve?**



# 3. Emerging themes



# Research and benchmarking

- Process led by Hatch
- Not yet reported
- Interviews and desktop review focussed on:
  - Queensland (Q-Coasts)
  - Victoria (Resilient Coast – Adapting to 2100+)
  - Western Australia (CHRMAP)
  - New South Wales (Coastal Management Manual)
  - cursory comparison to NZ and Florida equivalent guidelines



# Early themes from the benchmarking

## Guidelines

- Highly valued for consistency
  - Language
  - Definitions
  - Core processes
- Took time to be developed and approved (co-design)
- Importance of having ‘teeth’ – if not regulatory, well embedded
- Importance of resources, templates, checklists etc
- Funding options suggested (but not prescribed)

# Early themes from the benchmarking

## Governance and Implementation

- Establishing steering committee (first step) who sign off each stage
- External quality control at key stages important (generally within State Government department or some form of advisory panel)
- Practical assistance from state (technical advice, scoping, tendering)
- Importance of a central coordinator and regular engagements— the glue
- Funding to progress adaptation planning
- Implementation funding tied to plans

# Early themes from the benchmarking

## Adaptation plans

- Importance of scoping (as a defined stage):
  - Define the problem
  - Objectives, values, vision
  - Define the area
  - Define the stakeholders and project governance
- Level of connection with land use planning documents
- Engagement is central – but adds time and cost to the process
  - Early and ongoing
  - Cost is proportionate to risk and community sensitivity
  - Shift towards greater first nations engagement
- Recognise how long the process takes



# Engagement

- Process led by URPS and project team
- Not yet reported
- Council workshops:
  - November 6 – Port Adelaide
  - November 27 – Yankalilla
  - November 30 – Wallaroo
  - December 4 – Elliston
  - December 5 – Tumby Bay
  - December 8 – Port Augusta
  - December 11 – Robe
- State Government: CPB, DEW, Landscape Boards, PLUS, SARDI, EPA

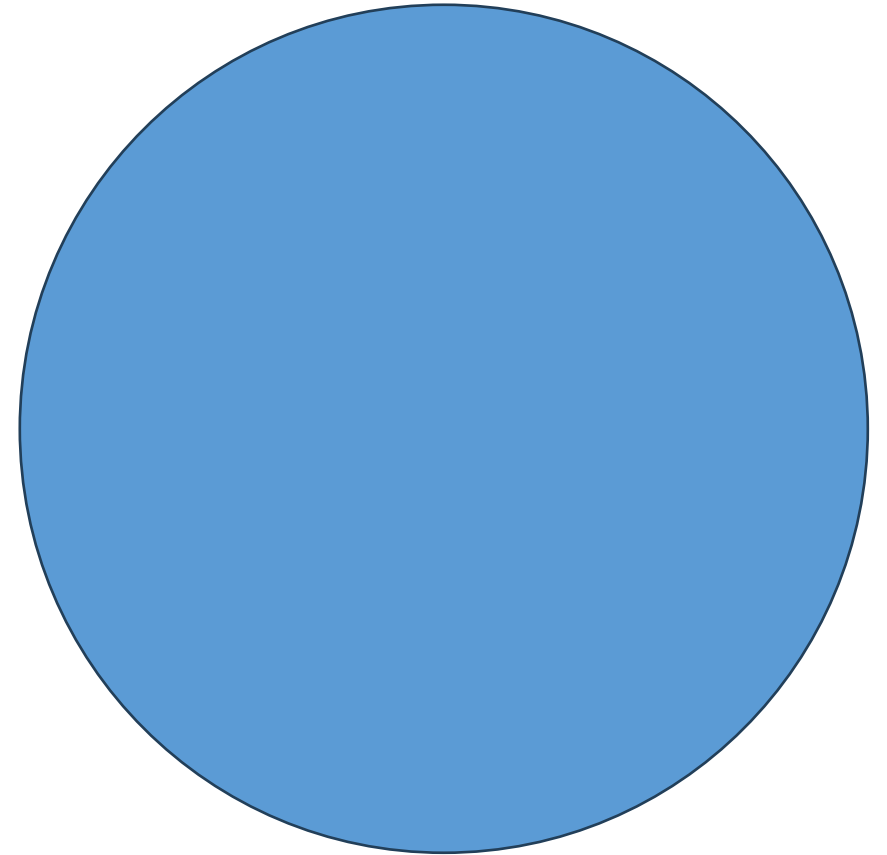
# Early themes from the engagement

A **kaleidoscope** of experiences, needs and expectations when it comes to planning for the coast.



# Early themes from council workshops

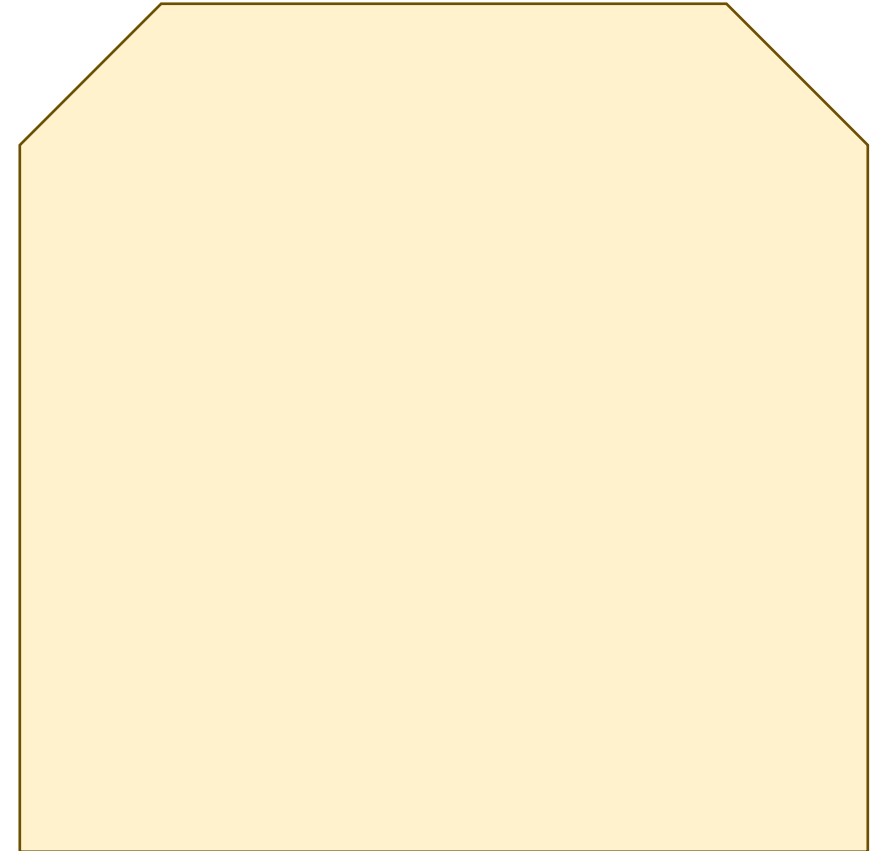
- Haven't needed to develop coastal adaptation plans
- Don't hold a deep understanding of coastal governance
- Coast isn't a strategic priority and not being discussed by decision makers
- Hopeful that this program may help them do something 'fit for purpose'
- Nervous about being coerced into doing something that is not proportionate to their context





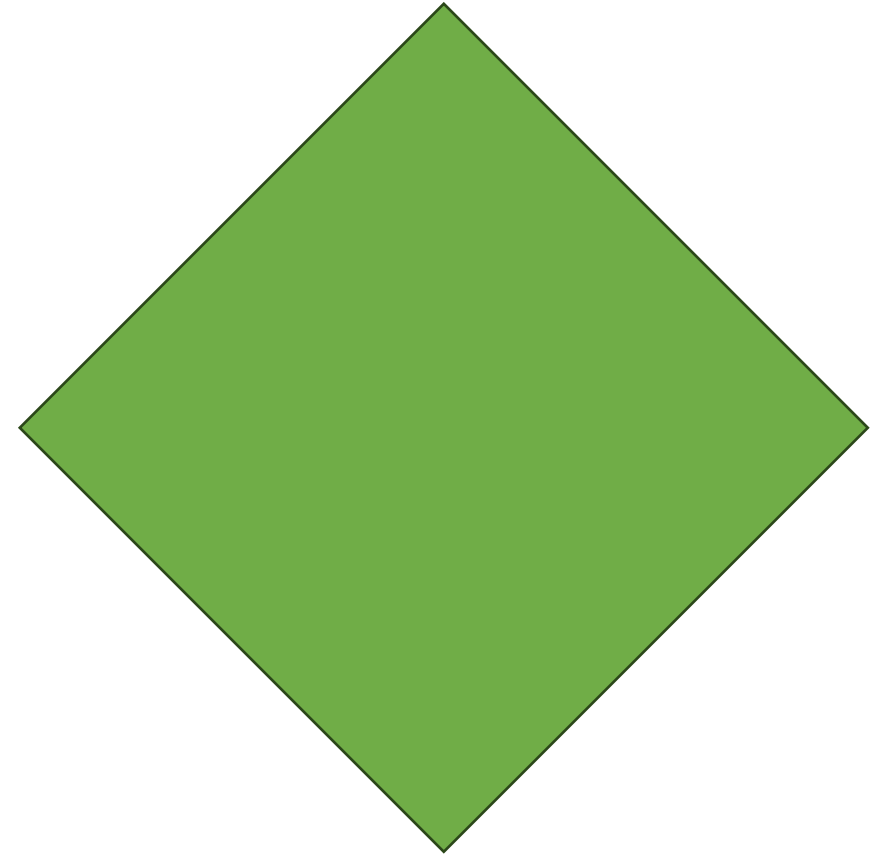
# Early themes from council workshops

- Done a bit of work and thinking
- Aware that more is needed
- Core concerns are time and money
- Hopeful that the program can help get things moving
- Nervous about how far they have to go



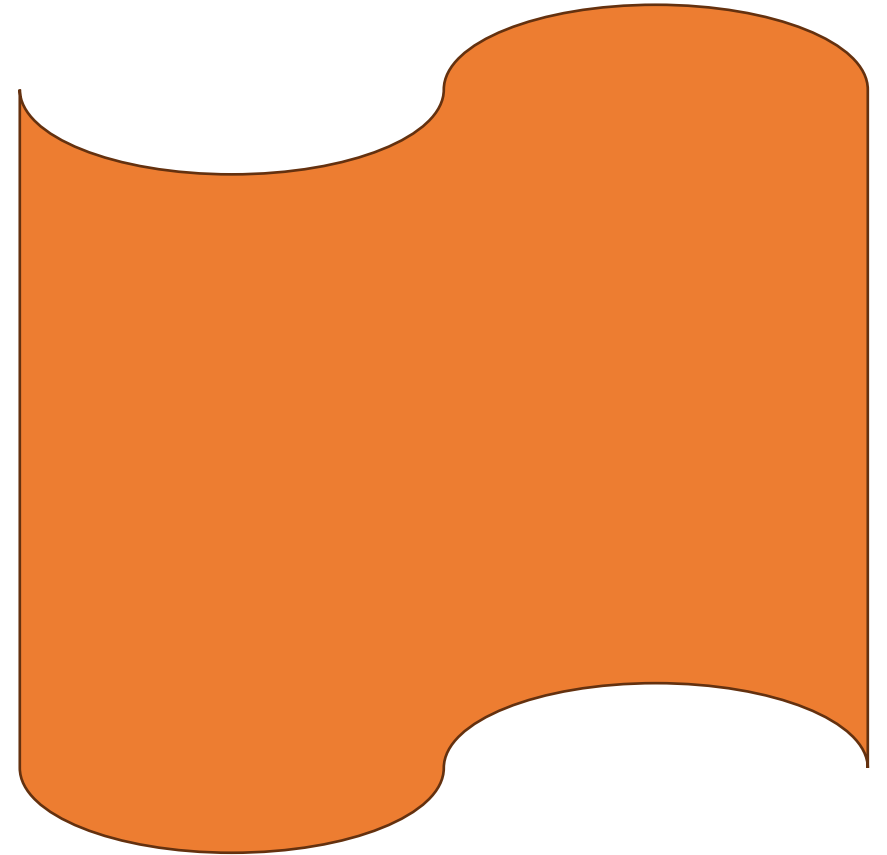
# Early themes from council workshops

- Well progressed with coastal adaptation planning – and associated works
- Understand why its important, how to approach it – and systemic challenges
- Eager to share learnings
- Hopeful about seeing an overall lift across the sector
- Nervous that their work may not be ‘best practice’ and/or expectations to do it again



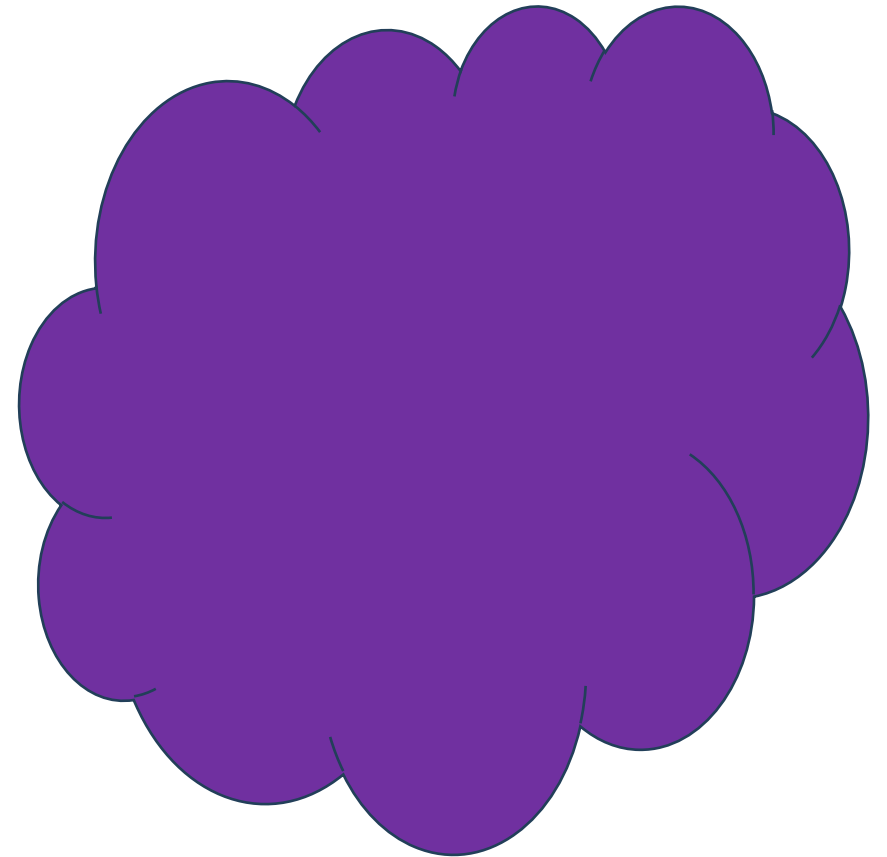
# Early themes from council workshops

- Experiencing major coastal risks and challenges
- Done a combination of reactive and proactive work
- Hopeful that the program may help resolve complex issues around coastal governance and funding
- Nervousness that adaptation planning is not relevant in their current context



# Early themes from council workshops

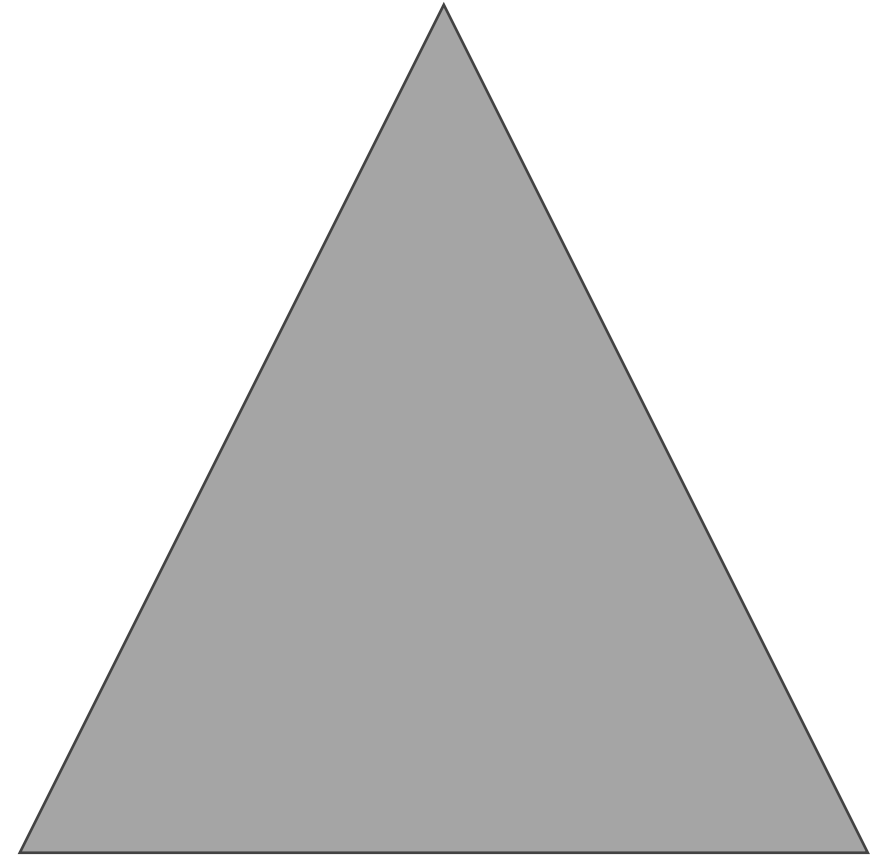
- Done lots of thinking and work – not only around the coast but other climate risks
- Well-read about research, best practice and what works well in other contexts
- Hopeful that the program can progress something strategic and transformative
- Nervous that this program may formalise traditional / suboptimal approaches





# Early themes from state government

- Many points of connection
- Integration with many projects and related work
- Desire for early understanding of what may be expected of them
- Questions around scope of adaptation plans
- Questions around implementation models and funding



# 4. Discussion





# Discussion

How do we ‘pitch’ the standards and implementation given the very different needs and expectations of our stakeholders?



# Next Steps

- Engagement Report and Benchmarking Reports: January
- Stakeholder Webinar: February
- Standards and Implementation model development: January to April
- Consultation on the Standards: April to May
- Peer Review on the Standards: April to May
- Stage Two Program Plan: June - July
- Pilot Standards in Place: July



# Funding acknowledgement



**Australian Government**  
**National Emergency Management Agency**



**Government of South Australia**  
Coast Protection Board



**LG Research & Development Scheme**  
**Local Government Association**  
of South Australia





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<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/about/what-we-do/sa-climate-ready-coasts>