Whyalla Foreshore - Issues and Sand Replenishment Program 2011 - 2025

May 2011 - High tide destroys large section of old seawall

This particular high tide swept under sections of the old seawall, removing the compacted rubble that supported the boardwalk, causing the seawall and boardwalk paving to collapse.

The damaged seawall sections were broken up and sent off to be crushed and reused as road base on other Council projects.

August 2012 - New Seawall installed

New seawall sections were craned into place and compacted.

August 2013 - First Sand Replenishment Project

This project involved the harvesting and placing 28,500m3 of sand, that was placed from the Foreshore Caravan Park to the Marina Breakwater. Much of this sand is still in place, with only certain areas needing ongoing beach nourishment.

Winter 2014 First direct seeding project

Two sections of Foreshore direct seeded with local endemic vegetation

May 2017 – 300 x 2.5m3 ELCOROCK Sand Containers Installed

The ongoing role of the sand containers includes -

Preventing further damage to the new and old sections of sea wall and attached infrastructure.

Installed in the most eroded sections of the Foreshore, these sand containers now lock sand in place, so it can't wash away

Minimise potential fall height from boardwalk to under 700mm from top of seawall.

Provide dune stability, allowing vegetation to establish, that helps to lock harvested and windblown sand insitu, preventing it from blowing into the promenade behind the seawall.

Second direct seeding project - September 2020

This project involved the harvesting of seed from the western end of the beach, near the mangroves and spreading it the full length of beach, from the Foreshore Caravan Park to the Marina Breakwater. A picture of the germinating seed is pictured below.

Ongoing foredune planting

Every year Council purchases tubestock plants to fill in gaps in vegetation growing along the seawall. In August 2024, Local Primary School children helped plant 2000 tubestock to help lock sand in place and provide habitat.

Control of windblown sand

Council's prevailing SW winds cause a lot of issues with windblown sand. Through ongoing liaison with local residents and the Coast Protection Board, a new best practice method of sand placement has evolved that includes using beach wrack to trap sand and foredune shaping (shown next slide) to allow sand to settle behind the new foredune, before it blows into the promenade behind the seawall. Sand drift fencing has also been used to great effect.

September 2025 Sand Replenishment Project

Our most recent project replaced the 4500m3 of sand that was lost during the May 2025 high tide event. As this sand was eroded, it provided a protective buffer against the actions of those tides, preventing any damage to Council's beach side assets.