



Environment
Resources and
Development Committee

Nick McBride MP
Presiding Member

A photograph of the interior of the South Australian Parliament Chamber. The room is grand and ornate, with high ceilings, large columns, and multiple chandeliers. The seating is arranged in a semi-circle, with green leather chairs and desks. A portrait of a man in a blue suit is visible on the wall.

An inquiry into the
Coast Protection Board
and coastal legislation

Environment, Resources and Development Committee

- Is a Standing Committee of the Parliament of South Australia
- It was established by the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991*
- Its functions under the Act are to inquire into, consider and report on matters referred to it under the Act, concerning:
 - The environment
 - Resources of the State
 - Planning, land use or transportation
 - Any matter concerned with the general development of the State



Inquiry into the Coast Protection Board and legislation



- Inquiry commenced in early 2021 on the motion of the Hon. Mark Parnell, formerly of the Committee
- The aim of the inquiry was to investigate and report on the *Coast Protection Act 1972* in light of its approaching 50th anniversary

Inquiry statistics

- The Committee received 54 written submissions
- Heard evidence from 30 different witnesses
- The report makes 11 recommendations:
 - The most important of which is the recommendation that State government develops a Statute Amendment Bill for the Coast Protection Act in the next Parliament
 - Other recommendations aim to modernise the Act including retaining an appropriately resourced and skilled Coast Protection Board and agency to lead integrated coastal management for SA



Visits to regional coastal areas



- The Committee made a commitment early in the inquiry process to visit as many regional coastal areas as it reasonably could, given potential and actual Covid-related travel restrictions
- The Committee conducted three regional visits:
 - South-east
 - Eyre Peninsula
 - Yorke Peninsula
- Adelaide metropolitan beaches



Committee's findings



- The Committee noted that all councils were passionate about their coastal areas, but the current fragmented approach to coastal areas governance has meant gaps in leadership of state-wide strategic policy setting
- The Committee further noted that councils, particularly regional councils, spent disproportionately large amounts of their budgets on coastal assets and often struggled with access to technical expertise
- Also, that councils were keen to obtain local data on sea level rise to help inform better decision-making

Where to from here

- Following the tabling of the report last month, the relevant Minister must respond in writing to the Committee's recommendations
- If the Minister accepts the first recommendation, the government will begin the process of preparing a draft Statute Amendment Bill for the Coast Protection Act
 - A draft Statute Amendment Bill is likely to then go through a consultation process



Thank you

- On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Mayors, CEs and staff of the 18 regional councils the Committee met with
- Also, representatives from the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board, the Presiding Member of the Coast Protection Board, Jeff Tate, and Dr Murray Townsend from DEW
- I would also like to thank academics from Flinders University who accompanied the Committee on its tour of Adelaide metropolitan beaches
- Finally, I would like to thank the community groups who spoke to the Committee at Parnka Point, Lucky Bay and Black Point and to all those who wrote submissions or provided oral evidence to this inquiry

