

STATE BUDGET

2019-20

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER HON DAVID SPEIRS MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Marshall Government secures South Australia's coasts

The Marshall Liberal Government will secure South Australia's vulnerable coastline including a long-term solution to devastating erosion at West Beach thanks to significant funding in the 2019-20 State Budget.

The 2019-20 State Budget delivers \$52.4 million in funding over four years to improve both metropolitan and regional coasts which act as our state's first defence against the changing climate.

\$48.4 million is allocated to the metropolitan coast consisting of \$20 million for 500,000m³ of newly-sourced sand; and \$28.4 million for the completion of a sand recycling pipeline from Semaphore to West Beach, as well as sand dune restoration and revegetation to be undertaken in partnership with local councils and coastal community groups.

This pipeline would complement the existing one from Glenelg to Kingston Park which successfully pumps approximately 100,000m³ of sand each year to stabilise dunes and maintain our southern beaches such as Seacliff.

Regional coasts will also receive a boost, with a \$4 million injection to help repair, restore and sustain them in partnership with local councils.

Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs said South Australia's coasts had been left to wither for far too long and needed to be protected for generations to come.

"We are fortunate to have some amazing beaches in this state and it's important we do everything we can to protect them," said Minister Speirs.

"The Marshall Liberal Government's 2019-20 State Budget has a focus on practical action to deal with our changing climate which will improve environmental outcomes at the same time as growing our economy.

"We recognise the importance of our coastline as the first defence against our changing climate and this investment will build resilience and improve environmental outcomes in a practical way.

"Infrastructure investment along our coastline will also have significant economic benefits for South Australia attracting more visitors to our beaches and creating an estimated 133 direct jobs during construction of the pipeline and sand replenishment."

The sand along Adelaide's coast naturally moves northward, by the wind and waves. This causes sand to build on our northern beaches, such as Semaphore, but causes erosion along our southern and central coast such as West Beach, Henley Beach and Seacliff.

"When we came to government it was clear that our coasts, in particular West Beach, required significant attention," said Minister Speirs.

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“A report by environmental consultants Danish Hydraulics Institute (DHI) last year outlined long-term options for managing erosion at West Beach and mass sand replenishment along with completion of the pipeline were recommended to secure West Beach’s future.

“The DHI report estimates annual sand losses to be about 100,000m³ and at present, beach volumes are the lowest since measurements began in the 1970s. The former government had 16 years to fix the problem and failed to do so.

“Our government has taken this important report seriously, listened to the local community and is making the required investment to fix West Beach.

“The new sand and infrastructure will reinforce our entire metropolitan coastline from Semaphore to Kingston Park, securing our city’s coastline for future generations.”