

Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan 2026

Glossary and abbreviations

Acid sulfate soils (ASS) are found in low-lying, waterlogged areas like estuaries and mangroves. They contain iron sulfides, which are harmless when wet and undisturbed. But if exposed to air through drainage or digging they produce sulfuric acid and release toxic metals. This can harm water quality, aquatic life, and infrastructure.

Aeolianite is a rock formed from the lithification of wind-deposited sand, including any sediment deposited by the wind. The term is commonly used to refer specifically to coastal carbonate rocks that are made of cemented sand from shallow-marine origins, forming coastal dunes.

ANZECC - Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) default trigger values are default values set in the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) to assess water quality, providing a benchmark for what is considered safe for aquatic ecosystems.

BDBSA - The Biological Databases of South Australia (BDBSA) is South Australia's flora and fauna database that stores and manages specimen and observation records, as well as taxonomic systems.

Beach cast wrack (also called Seagrass wrack) - The collective term for organic and sometimes inorganic material washed ashore by tides and waves. It includes seaweed, seagrass, dead animals, and other debris that accumulates along the high-tide line. This material is an important natural resource that supports beach ecosystems, providing food and habitat for various organisms.

Bioregion - Large, geographically distinct areas of land with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The bioregions are described in the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA).

BirdLife Australia - A not-for-profit organisation advocating for native birds and the conservation of their habitats through conservation programs, advocacy, and science across Australia.

BushRAT – Bushland Rapid Assessment Technique (BushRAT) is a biodiversity assessment method developed to quickly evaluate the health and value of native vegetation patches. It assesses three main components - vegetation condition, conservation value, and landscape context - by comparing a site's attributes to benchmark communities in a relatively undisturbed state. The technique uses field surveys, photopoints, and inventories of native and weed species to provide data for evaluation and ongoing monitoring and management of a site.

CAMBA – China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), is a bilateral treaty that provides legal protection for migratory birds traveling between Australia and China, including designating them as Matters of National Environmental Significance under Australia's EPBC Act.

CAP - Coastal Action Plan (CAP) - South Australia has multiple regional coastal action plans, which guide conservation, management, and adaptation efforts. These plans identify threats including climate change, pests, and erosion, and outline specific actions to protect and manage the coast.

CHAP- Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plans (CHAPs) are structured, long-term plans that help coastal communities understand, prepare for, and respond to the increasing risks from coastal hazards such as erosion, flooding, storm surge and sea-level rise. They provide a systematic process for assessing current and future risks, exploring adaptation options, engaging communities, and identifying actions that support safer, more resilient coastlines.

CPB – Coast Protection Board (CPB) (South Australia) is a statutory body established in South Australia under the *Coast Protection Act 1972* to manage and protect the state's coast from erosion, damage, pollution, and misuse. It also advises on coastal development, works to restore and aesthetically develop the coast, manages coastal facilities, and conducts research to ensure the sustainable use of coastal land.

CLLMM - Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM).

CP – A Conservation Park (CP) is a protected area declared under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* to conserve important ecosystems, wildlife, unique landforms, and culturally significant sites.

Conservation significance - the criteria used to assess its vulnerability and need for protection, typically determined by its conservation status (e.g. endangered, threatened, vulnerable).

Crown land - Crown land is land owned and managed by the State Government for the public. It includes public road networks, environmental reserves, and land leased or licensed for various purposes like grazing, conservation, or recreation. It is not freehold land and can include iconic natural areas and land along waterways and usually adjoins the high water mark of the sea.

Declared weed - a plant officially regulated under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* because it poses a significant threat to the environment, primary industries, or public safety. Landholders have legal responsibilities to control these plants, which can include restrictions on their movement and sale.

DEW - Department for Environment and Water (DEW). The government department responsible for managing the state's natural resources, including water, parks, and heritage places.

DHUD - Department for Housing and Urban Design (DHUD) is a government department responsible for the state's planning system, authority on property boundaries and land tenure.

DIT - Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) is a government body responsible for the design, delivery and maintenance of state infrastructure used to deliver essential and important services to the community, and for managing and developing transport networks and the service delivery that supports them.

Encounter Marine Park - A protected area in South Australia that stretches from south of Adelaide to the Coorong, protecting a diverse marine environment. Marine parks are marine protected areas located within the immediate onshore waters of SA set aside under the *Marine Parks Act 2007 (SA)* to preserve the biological diversity of the state's coastal, estuarine and marine environments while allowing ecologically sustainable use of the area's natural resource.

EPA – Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is a government agency responsible for environmental protection through regulation, policy development, and enforcement. Its core functions include preventing and reducing pollution and waste, protecting public health and the environment, and providing advice to other government bodies on environmental impacts of development projects.

EPBC - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). The EPBC Act and regulations are Australia's main national environmental legislation. They provide a way to protect and manage nationally and internationally important plants, animals, habitats and places.

ESD - Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is the principle of ensuring that environmental, social, and economic considerations are integrated so development meets the needs of the present without diminishing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is grounded in key principles such as integrating long and short-term considerations, applying the precautionary principle, ensuring intergenerational equity, and maintaining biodiversity and ecological integrity.

Estuary - A partially enclosed coastal body of water that is either permanently, periodically, intermittently or occasionally open to the sea within which there is a measurable variation in the salinity due to the mixture of seawater with water derived from on or under the land.

EEMSS – An Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS) developed by Deakin University and a number of Victorian Catchment Boards. This system takes into account a number of uses (including recreation use), conservation and hydrological factors in assisting with the decision to open or close an entrance (refer to Appendix 15 in Caton et al. 2007).

Firewise – Firewise biodiversity plantings refer to the strategic use of native and fire-resistant vegetation to reduce bushfire risk while enhancing local biodiversity and ecological resilience. This involves selecting plants that are less flammable, retain moisture, and can act as natural barriers to radiant heat and ember attack. Biodiversity values are enhanced by incorporating a diverse mix of native species that support local wildlife, pollinators, and overall ecosystem health.

First Nations - A collective term that acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original inhabitants of Australia, comprising hundreds of distinct nations, languages, histories and cultures.

FLEC - Fleurieu Environment Centre (FLEC) is a non-profit organisation that supports environmental management information and initiatives within the region.

FNA - 'Fly Neighbourly Advice' (FNA) is a set of voluntary guidelines for pilots to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on local communities, wildlife, and sensitive areas. These agreements, often made between aircraft operators and airports or local authorities, include a set of principles to ensure responsible flying practices like avoiding residential areas, maintaining specific altitudes, and following certain flight paths.

Forb - A herbaceous flowering plant other than a grass.

GWLAP - Now known as Second Nature Conservancy, Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning (GWLAP) Association was a not-for-profit, community-based organisation working to protect and enhance our natural resources.

JAMBA - Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), a treaty that promotes cooperation between the two countries to protect migratory birds that travel between them.

Landscape Boards - Eight regional landscape boards and a metropolitan Green Adelaide Board established as a statutory body, under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. They are responsible for the strategic leadership and community-based management of natural resources within a specific geographic region.

LHF - Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu (LHF) is one of nine regional landscape boards established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. It is a biodiverse region in South Australia that includes the Adelaide Hills and the Fleurieu Peninsula that is a geographically and culturally significant area defined by its unique natural assets, including its biodiversity hotspots, native ecosystems, and coastal and inland freshwater resources. The region is managed by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, which works with the community to care for and restore the landscape's land, water and nature.

Macroinvertebrate - any animal that is large enough to be seen with the naked eye and lacks a backbone. These can be aquatic (living in water) or terrestrial (living on land), but the term is most commonly used in the context of aquatic life, such as insect larvae (nymphs), snails, worms, and crustaceans like crayfish.

MDBA - Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is an independent statutory agency in the Australian Government, responsible for planning the Basin's water resources and managing the Murray–Darling Basin in an integrated and sustainable manner.

MNES - Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) are the flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places that are considered important for protection under the Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). These include World Heritage properties, National Heritage places, threatened species, and the Great Barrier Reef. Actions likely to have a significant impact on an MNES require referral to the commonwealth minister for the Environment for approval.

Midden site - The discarded shell and other materials may be the remains or the result of repeated use by First Nation people of a particular location over thousands of years. Midden sites can range in size from small shallow discrete scatters to extensive deposits that run along a coastline for hundreds of meters.

NAC - Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) is a corporate body established to act as an agent for Ngarrindjeri People and represent their Native Title and Heritage interest.

NP – A National Park (NP) is a protected area declared under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* to conserve important ecosystems, wildlife, unique landforms, and culturally significant sites.

Native title – is the recognition in Australian law of the traditional rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in land and waters, based on their traditional laws and customs. It is a legally recognised connection to Country that can include rights like access, hunting, fishing, and participation in decisions about land use.

Nga:tji - The spiritual totems of the Ngarrindjeri people, that represent a profound cultural connection to Country, embodying ancestral wisdom, identity, and responsibility. Each Nga:tji links individuals and families to specific habitats such as rivers, wetlands, or coastal areas, reinforcing an ancestral responsibility to protect and sustain these environments. This relationship is reciprocal: just as the Nga:tji offers guidance and protection, the Ngarrindjeri are entrusted with caring for the land and waters that nourish their totem. Through stories, ceremonies, and daily practices, this bond fosters ecological stewardship rooted in deep spiritual and cultural values. The Ngarrindjeri's survival is seen as dependent on these Nga:tji, highlighting the inseparable link between their culture and the health of their environment.

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)

NPWSSA - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of South Australia is a service within the Department for Environment and Water responsible for managing the state's parks and reserves to protect their natural and cultural values while enabling public enjoyment. Established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, it manages a network of parks and reserves for conservation, recreation, and scientific purposes, working in partnership with Traditional Owners to ensure ecologically and culturally sensitive management.

ORV - Off road vehicle (ORV)

PIRSA - Department of Primary Industries and Regions in South Australia (PIRSA), a government agency that supports the state's primary industries and regional communities. It works to advance economic prosperity and sustainability through various activities, including regulating industries, providing funding programs, and delivering scientific research. PIRSA also plays a key role in emergency management and biosecurity for primary industries, as well as managing fishing and aquaculture.

PlanSA - The online planning and development system for managing all development applications and assessments in South Australia.

Pocket beach - A small beach that is sheltered between two headlands or other coastal barriers, e.g. breakwaters. These features act as barriers, preventing the significant movement of sand and sediment from adjacent coastlines, resulting in a relatively isolated and enclosed area.

PSU - Practical Salinity Units (PSU) is a measure of the total dissolved salts in seawater, formally defined as the ratio of the conductivity of a seawater sample to a standard potassium chloride solution. As it is a ratio, PSU is technically unitless, but it is equivalent to parts per thousand (ppt) and represents grams of salt per kilogram of seawater.

RAMSAR - Refers to the Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty for the conservation and "wise use" of wetlands of international importance. The convention was adopted in the city of Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and provides a framework for countries to manage these important ecosystems and protect biodiversity.

Ramsar site - A wetland designated by a signatory country as being of international importance under the terms of the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental environmental treaty from 1971. These sites are chosen for being representative, rare, or unique wetlands, or for their importance in conserving biological diversity.

Red alert weed - Species that are already presenting a major threat to bushland or have the potential to become major threats (i.e. the highest priority weeds). Threat categories are outlined in the NCS Field Guide to Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual: Coastal Vegetation Communities (Croft et al, 2006)

Rewilding - The process of restoring an area of land to its natural state used especially with reference to the reintroduction of species of flora or fauna species that have been driven out or locally extinct.

ROKAMBA - Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA), a treaty between South Korea and Australia to protect migratory birds that travel between the two countries along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

SAPOL - South Australia Police (SAPOL)

SARDI – South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), is the South Australian Government's principal research institute for primary industries and is a key part of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). Its function is to deliver research and development to support economic growth, enhance productivity and adaptability in primary industries, and enable the sustainable use of natural resources.

SA Water - A government-owned public corporation established by the South Australian Government under the *South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994* to provide water and sewerage services across the state. As a statutory corporation, it is required to operate commercially while delivering essential services like drinking water, wastewater removal, and treatment to the public.

Seagrass wrack (see also beach cast wrack) - A mixture of seagrass, marine algae and other organic debris that wash up on intertidal areas through natural processes.

Second Nature Conservancy - A not-for-profit community-based organisation that works with local communities on environmental conservation, habitat restoration, and sustainable land management. Formerly known as the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP).

SLR - Sea level rise (SLR) is the increase in the average height of the ocean's surface, driven primarily by the thermal expansion of seawater as it warms and the melting of land-based ice sheets and glaciers.

SLSC - A Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) is a volunteer-based organisation that provides coastal safety and rescue services, water safety education, and promotes beach sports and fitness.

SLSSA - Surf Life Saving SA (SLSSA) is a volunteer organisation in South Australia dedicated to protecting lives on the coast and in waterways through emergency and rescue services, patrols, training, and water safety education.

SMA – The Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) acts as a stormwater planning and prioritisation body for South Australia. The SMA promotes the development of integrated Stormwater Management Plans (SMPs) by local government and administers the Stormwater Management Fund to assist local government with the costs of stormwater management planning and stormwater infrastructure.

Talus - A naturally occurring slope made of a jumble of loose rocks that have fallen from a rocky cliff or other rock face above.

TEC - A Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) is a naturally occurring group of native plants, animals, and other organisms that interact in a unique habitat and are at risk of being lost. These communities become threatened due to significant declines in their distribution or function, often caused by factors like habitat loss, invasive species, climate change, pollution, and inappropriate land management. TEC's are identified through a rigorous scientific assessment process against established criteria that leads to listing under national legislation, the EPBC Act or state laws, with categories such as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable indicating the level of threat.

Traditional Owner - Refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have ongoing cultural and ancestral connections to a specific geographic area of land or sea - they 'speak for Country'. They are often recognised through native title or other processes.

Total grazing pressure - The combined grazing demand from all herbivores including domestic, native, and feral, relative to the amount of available pasture. It considers the total pressure on a landscape's vegetation, soil, and water resources, not just that from livestock.

UFBP - Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (UFBP) an initiative to conserve and restore biodiversity in metropolitan Adelaide.

Viewscape (or visual landscape) - A broader, more qualitative concept than viewshed that includes not just what is visible, but also the aesthetic, cultural, and experiential qualities of the view from a specific vantage point. The term is used to study how people perceive and interact with their environment.

Viewshed - The geographic area visible from a specific observation point, considering terrain and obstructions like buildings or vegetation.

Water Allocation Planning - Water Allocation Planning (WAP) in South Australia (SA) is a structured process designed to manage the sustainable use of water resources while balancing environmental, social, and economic needs. A Water Allocation Plan is a legal document that outlines how much water can be taken from a prescribed water resource and how it can be used. These plans are required under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and are developed for each prescribed water resource identified as significant or at risk.

WONS - Weeds of National Significance (WONS) are invasive plants identified as the most problematic due to their invasiveness, potential for spread, and significant environmental, social, and economic impacts.

WSUD - Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is a sustainable approach to urban planning and design that integrates the water cycle into the built environment to reduce environmental impact and enhance liveability to create more resilient and water-efficient cities.

WTP - A Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is a facility that uses physical, chemical, and biological processes to remove contaminants from water to make it safe for drinking, industrial use, or safe discharge into the environment.

Reference

Croft, S.; Pedler, JA.; Milne, T.I. (2006) Bushland condition monitoring manual: Coastal vegetation communities of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia.



Scan or click here to view the full
Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan
hf.landscape.sa.gov.au/SFCAP

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