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STATE PLANNING POLICY 13: COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Citation

This is a State Planning Policy made under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. This policy may be cited as *State Planning Policy 13: Coastal Environment*.

Purpose

The South Australian coastal and marine environment has high intrinsic, aesthetic, social, environmental and economic values. It includes beaches, oceans, dune systems, tidal waters, wetlands and cliffs. The natural features of the coastal environment also provide vital habitat, contribute to our biodiversity and play an important role in protecting development and human occupation from flooding and erosion.

The interface between sea and land is dynamic and is subject to coastal hazards such as flooding, erosion, sand dune drift and acid sulfate soils. The impact of climate change and ongoing sea level rise has increased the risk for coastal developments and threatens the viability of tide-dependent ecosystems and primary industry.

On-shore development can have significant impacts on our marine environment. Land-based impacts to marine habitats, such as reefs and seagrasses include nutrients and sediments, from stormwater, wastewater and industrial discharges also need to be managed.

The planning system aims to conserve the marine and coastal environment. At the same time it needs to enable existing settlements to be able to adapt to coastal hazards while ensuring new development is sustainable and not at risk. There will be substantial benefits to our economy by providing for sustainable coast-dependent development such as aquaculture and ports, which need to be located adjacent to or on coastal water.

Enabling public access to the coast and foreshore contributes to the population's overall health and wellbeing. Development can enhance this through the provision of appropriate, environmentally-sensitive coastal infrastructure.





Objective

To protect and enhance the coastal and marine environment and ensure that development is not at risk from coastal hazards.

Policies

- 13.1 Protect and enhance the natural coastal environment and its resilience to a changing climate, including environmentally important features, such as mangroves; wetlands; estuaries; marine-protected areas; sand dunes; cliff tops; beaches; native vegetation; living creatures; and other important habitats.
- 13.2 Development that is not at risk from current and future coastal hazards (including sea-level rise, coastal flooding, erosion, inundation, dune drift and acid sulfate soils) consistent with the hierarchy of 'avoid', 'accommodate' and 'adapt'.
- 13.3 Balance social and economic development outcomes in coastal areas with the protection of the environment.
- 13.4 Locate development and infrastructure in areas that are not subject to coastal hazards unless the development requires a coastal location and appropriate hazard mitigation strategies are in place, taking into account projected sea-level rise and coastal retreat.
- 13.5 Facilitate sustainable development that requires a coastal site, including eco-tourism, aquaculture, marinas and ports, in areas adjoining the foreshore where environmental impacts can be avoided or mitigated.
- 13.6 Maintain or enhance the scenic amenity of important natural coastal landscapes, views and vistas.
- 13.7 Development that enables and enhances public access to coastal areas with minimal impact on the environment and amenity.
- 13.8 Locate low intensity recreational uses where environmental impacts on the coast will be minimal and can be managed.
- 13.9 Recognise and protect the high carbon storage values of areas such as mangroves and salt marshes.
- 13.10 Support development that does not contribute to sediment, nutrients and contaminants entering the coast and marine environment.

Principles for Statutory Instruments

Regional Plans should identify areas subject to coastal hazards such as sea-level rise; flooding and storm surges; mangrove and wetland-based mosquito and midge issues; and coastal retreat. Areas where growth is envisaged should be identified as well as areas for conservation or those of high landscape value.

The Planning and Design Code should implement zoning and overlays that clearly identify coastal hazards, areas of conservation value, recreation reserves and locations for coast-dependent industries.

Related State Planning Policies

- Integrated Planning
- Climate Change
- Design Quality
- Natural Hazards
- Primary Industry
- Strategic Transport Infrastructure

Related legislation and instruments

- *Coast Protection Act 1972*
- *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999*
- *Aquaculture Act 2001*
- *Emergency Management Act 2004*
- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*
- *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007*