

**Submission to Development Assessment Commission
re: Adelaide's Living Beaches: A Strategy for 2005-20025
2009.02.04**

Who I am

I am a long time occupant of seafront land at Tennyson. (1966). I have watched attitudes to the native vegetation in the dunes change from one of disinterest and ignorance to a universal appreciation of a unique natural resource. Unfortunately, some residents of goodwill sometimes still do not fully understand the consequences of their actions, however the tide is turning as more people become educated enough to influence their neighbours. I am a Committee member of the Coastal Ecology Protection Group Inc. CEPG has submitted comments separately. I regard the concept of "green space" as being available to be used for development purposes for cost and convenience a very retrograde step in these supposedly enlightened times.

Area of interest

Cell 4, particularly concerning the biological corridor from **Dune Court West Lakes Shore to Fort St. Tennyson** including the **Estcourt House Dunes** and especially the linear area between **Morehun St to Alice St, Tennyson** where I live and know very well.

General Comments about the project

1 In principle the concept is imaginative and at present there is certainly a need to manage sand, however the implementation is of great concern. It is disappointing to see millions of dollars being proposed to be spent fixing the symptoms of a disease rather than curing the disease itself, which is primarily the loss of seagrass in the gulf and the causes thereof. "An engineering solution to an ecological problem."

2 Some of the materials and resources used in the application are obsolete. The plant mapping in the Vegetation Management Plan, although excellent when released is now three years old and significant changes have occurred. eg plants are present that are not on the plan.

3 Similarly, the aerial photos forming the basis of the alignment of the pipeline is almost four years old and topographical and vegetative changes have occurred.

4 The dunes and beach are important and unique and are visited and appreciated by visitors from locally and world wide-especially Europeans and Americans,

5 Tennyson Dunes have the attributes of a Heritage Area. Unfortunately the bureaucratic processes have not permitted its listing to the present.

6 There is little or no reference to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee's findings. These are too important to ignore.

7 The application deals with complex issues very broadly and it is difficult to make informed comment on this basis, especially as the Vegetation Management Plan and the aerial maps are so dated. Many changes have happened since they were produced in that many lawns have been replaced by stands of local native plants and existing plants have grown larger. At one point the "preferred line" goes through a large, very old, Nitre Bush which is now surrounded by other vegetation. Going around it is not feasible although this may not be obvious from the out of date map.

8 There is little assurance that noise will not be a problem. A similar, shorter project in Queensland (not Noosa) is described by a former Public Buildings Dept. engineer as very noisy. (Personal communication)

9 All rotting seaweed stinks. To assume that the odour from gathered material can be managed (to the satisfaction of residents) is wishful. I would expect discharged detritus dropped 150 m off shore to reach the beach quickly and ask what modeling and references have been used to establish this is a suitable distance.

10 Trials up to now appear to have been inconclusive and demonstrate more what cannot be used rather than what can be used.

11 Modeling trials have been inconclusive as to **cost** and making predictions without information is interesting.

Assertions that the project will be cost effective over 20 years appear also to be unsubstantiated and unproven.

Without seeing the numbers, I find it hard to accept that the project will be more carbon efficient than mobile diesel equipment. Informal advice indicates otherwise.

Vegetation

1 In spite of promissory statements, I cannot accept that any damage to the dunes would be minimal. “Men on tools” have their own ideas and agendas. I have seen many instances of this and recovery is very slow. I include two photos of the same place 1996 and 2009. The area has regenerated little and only the Scaevola (fan flower) saved by me shouting at the bobcat driver has developed into what is now a large significant plant. The operators seemed hell bent on wiping out native plants and keeping weeds with pretty flowers.

2 Replanting with nursery stock or harvested seeds or cuttings does not restore a habitat. It would be like a new garden. There are no storeys, tiers or layers. There are no dead bushes providing shelter. There is nowhere for the larger reptiles to hide. It is one thing to add plants to an existing (maybe damaged even) landscape, totally another to create the landscape from the ground up.

One can no more create a dune landscape than plant a tropical rainforest from scratch.

3 Not only would there be destruction from the N-S component of the earthworks but also from the numerous E-W outlets. This is huge interference in a very delicate system with the destructive “fragmentation effect”. This is without assuming that the pressure would be on to use the same route for the even wider shared path.

Specific area: Moredun St to Alice St Tennyson

Vegetation

This narrow strip of dune is described as “Lawn Reserve” and is bordered by seventeen houses, one of which has a lawn and one has a dead lawn. Several residents have planted and maintained great “patches” of very diverse local native vegetation over recent years as stock becomes available. Other houses are tenanted and short term tenancies do not match the level of care and interest of resident owners. However, to call this a lawn reserve is untrue and inaccurate.

Dune width

Just south of Moredun St the dune (on Google a few months ago) was 14-15m wide from allotment boundary to driftnet fencing. It is populated by large Scaevola and Old Man Saltbush which both produce copious seed. Going around them would be an improbable engineering exercise, as there is nowhere to go. The dune is absolutely not wide enough to sustain even a 2.5m disruption, even if this was adhered to.

No matter how much care is taken in revegetating an area in such harsh conditions there are always aspects that will never be reproduced. Just as a rain forest cannot be “regrown” neither can dunes. Planting and even watering seedlings on bare sand is entirely different to installing individual plants among other plants in an already established biodiverse landscape.

Animals

The dune vegetation is home to many Brown Snakes. Few residents have not been visited this summer. This home is also shared by Bluetongues and Shinglebacks, skinks and others. The Shinglebacks live for 80 years and mate for life. Their fate, with diggers, trucks and people in the dunes? Who knows? However the locals care, a lot. The animals visit for water on a regular basis and nearly all permanent residents provide water for them. I have been sharing my cherry tomatoes with a shingleback on a regular basis.

Nanking Kestrels breed in this area. This habitat is a narrow bio-corridor and must not be disrupted.

Conclusions

My assertion, based on long experience and observation combined with knowledge acquired from other dune people, by attending lectures, reading and hands on growing is that

NO PIPELINE SHOULD BE LAID THROUGH ANY REMAINING FRAGILE, PRECIOUS DUNES

We should be improving it if it is degraded, not using it to facilitate an engineering solution to a population caused ecological problem. If the pipeline is essential and can be funded, then it must go under the beach (at a time when the hooded plovers are not nesting) where it would otherwise go through the very fragile dunes.

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