

26ADL-1571
9 APRIL 2026

Engagement Summary Report

Values and Preliminary Options - Victor Harbor
Coastal Adaptation Master Plan

CITY OF VICTOR HARBOR



Engagement Summary Report

9 April 2026

Primary Contact	URPS 27 Halifax Street Enter via Symonds Pl Adelaide SA 5000 (08) 8333 7999 urps.com.au
In association with	JPE Design Studio
Prepared for	City of Victor Harbor
URPS Project Manager	Zoe Hambour, Principal Consultant zhambour@urps.com.au
URPS Ref	260409_v3_Engagement Summary Report_options

Document history and status

Revision	Date	Author	Reviewed	Details
V1	30/03/26	Z. Hambour	E. Mansfield	Initiation of report
V2	31/03/26	Z. Hambour	E. Mansfield	Updates from JPE review
V3	09/04/26	Z. Hambour		Update about NAC April Board meeting

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

© URPS. All rights reserved; these materials are copyright. No part may be reproduced or copied in any way, form or by any means without prior permission. This report has been prepared for URPS' client. URPS and its associated consultants are not liable to any person or entity for any damage or loss that has occurred, or may occur, in relation to that person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein.



Contents

Snapshot.....	1
1. Why did we engage?	3
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Master Plan area and sites	4
2. How did we engage?	5
3. What did we hear?	6
3.1 Survey	6
3.2 Key stakeholder engagement	16
Appendix A – Fact Sheet.....	26
Appendix B – Survey form.....	27
Appendix C – Verbatim survey comments	34
Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point	34
Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts.....	35
Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden	36
Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes	38
Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park	39
Other comments.....	40
Appendix D – Letters	42



Snapshot

Consultation on the Victor Harbor Coastal Adaptation Master Plan was undertaken from Thursday 26 February until Sunday 22 March 2026.

The aim of the consultation was to gather stakeholder and community feedback on the proposed coastal adaptation preliminary options to respond to increasing coastal erosion and inundation for five sites along the Victor Harbor foreshore between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers.

Consultation was undertaken through a community survey (27 responses) and key stakeholder meetings (9 meetings). Two stakeholders chose to provide a letter of feedback to Council.

Preliminary options preferred by survey respondents are summarised in the below table. It is important to note that given the response rate of the survey, this may not be indicative of the views of the wider community.

Site	Preferred option for survey respondents (based on combined support and strongly support responses)
Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point	Option 1b Hold the Line
Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts	Option 2c Transform (Noting that Option 2a Hold the Line and Managed Retreat had the same level of combined support, but Option 2c Transform received a greater number of strongly support responses)
Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden	Option 3b Hold the Line
Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes	Option 4b Hold the Line (Noting that Option 4b Hold the Line received the highest level of combined support and strongly support responses, but Option 4c Transform received a larger number of strongly support responses)
Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park	Option 5c Transform

Preliminary options preferred by key stakeholders are summarised in the table below. These preferred options were directly identified by stakeholders.

	Preferred option for each site (as identified by stakeholders)				
Group	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
Biodiversity Victor Harbor	Option 1C Transform	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	Option 4B or combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform	Option 5C Transform
Victor Harbor Yacht Club	-	Option 2B Hold the Line and Managed Retreat and Dune Restoration	-	-	-
Victor Harbor Coast Care	Option 1B Hold the Line or 1C Transform	Option 2C Transform	Option 3B Hold the Line	Combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform then Option 4C	Option 5C Transform
Landscapes Hills & Fleurieu	General preference for nature-based solutions to be prioritised.				
Victor Harbor Bowls Club	Environmental option	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	-	-
Fleurieu beach volleyball / tennis courts / cafe	-	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	-	-
Horse Drawn Tram	-	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	Option 4B Hold the Line	-
Victor Harbor Croquet Club	-	Seawall	-	-	-
Birdlife Australia	Option C Transform, where this protects bird habitat				

More detail about the respondents, their preferred options and their associated commentary is provided in the body of this Engagement Summary Report.

1. Why did we engage?

The City of Victor Harbor is preparing a Coastal Adaptation Master Plan for the section of coast between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers to manage the projected long term impacts of coastal erosion and flooding.

This engagement provided the opportunity for the community to provide feedback on preliminary technically effective design options and to share what they value about the section of the coast or how they think it could be improved.

1.1 Background

The Victor Harbor foreshore between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers is a stretch of living coast cherished as a valued public place and active natural system.

Like most coastal areas around Australia, our foreshore is at risk of coastal erosion and flooding from projected sea level rise and increasing storm frequency associated with climate change.

Design, engineering and environmental planning are coming together to prepare a Master Plan for the foreshore. It will identify a layout that manages coastal risks whilst providing places for people, nature and the ongoing natural processes that shape our dynamic coastline.

Preparation of the Master Plan is an action from Council's Coastal Adaptation Study and Strategy (CASS) and is being funded through a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Grant from the Local Government Association of South Australia.

The CASS projected that by 2100, if nothing is done, parts of the foreshore could erode by 60 metres, and some areas could flood from coastal storm surges three times a month.

Coastal engineers and scientists identified preliminary technically effective options for managing the projected coastal erosion and flooding impacts. Landscape architects provided input on how these options can consider people and place, providing opportunities to enhance, protect and preserve it for years to come, while creating new places and amenity for the community.

This consultation sought community feedback on preliminary technically effective options for managing the projected coastal erosion and flooding impacts that have been identified by consultants.

Council has not formed a view on these options and before preparing the draft Master Plan, wants to understand the community's views, what people value most about the foreshore, and any ideas they have for improving it.

Future decisions will be informed by community views, effectiveness, cost and social and environmental impacts.

1.2 Master Plan area and sites

The Master Plan area was divided into 5 sites. Preliminary options were identified for each. Consultation asked for feedback on each site's preliminary options as well as what the community value about the site and how it could be improved.



2. How did we engage?

Engagement was undertaken from February 26 until 5pm Sunday 22 March 2026.

Activity	Description
Your Say Victor Harbor	A page was established on Council's Your Say website (www.yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au/camp) which provided information about the Master Plan and how to have a say.
Fact sheet	A fact sheet was prepared to provide information to support community understanding about the projected risk of coastal erosion and flooding to the master plan area and the preliminary options proposed to manage the risks into the future. (Appendix A)
Survey	A survey (Appendix B) was available on the Your Say page for community to provide feedback on the preliminary options and share what they value about the coast or how it could be improved. The survey was available in hard copy on request.
Key stakeholder meetings	One on One meetings were held with key stakeholder groups with assets in the Master Plan area or a strong relationship to it. The below groups were invited to meet (those with an astrix took up the opportunity to meet): • Victor Harbor Croquet Club* • Victor Harbor Yacht Club* • Victor Harbor Bowling Club* • Fleurieu Beach Volleyball/ Qahwa Café* • Victor Harbor Horse Drawn Tram* • Landscape Board - Hills and Fleurieu* • Victor Harbor Coast care* • Biodiversity Victor Harbor* • Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) (the Chair of NAC advised that the Board will discuss the project at their meeting on 24 April and provide feedback to Council) • Victor Harbor - Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron • Causeway Cafe • Dunes Mini Golf • Victor Harbor Caravan Park • Victor Harbor RSL
Promotion	• Signage established along the foreshore • Emails to stakeholders • Social media posts

3. What did we hear?

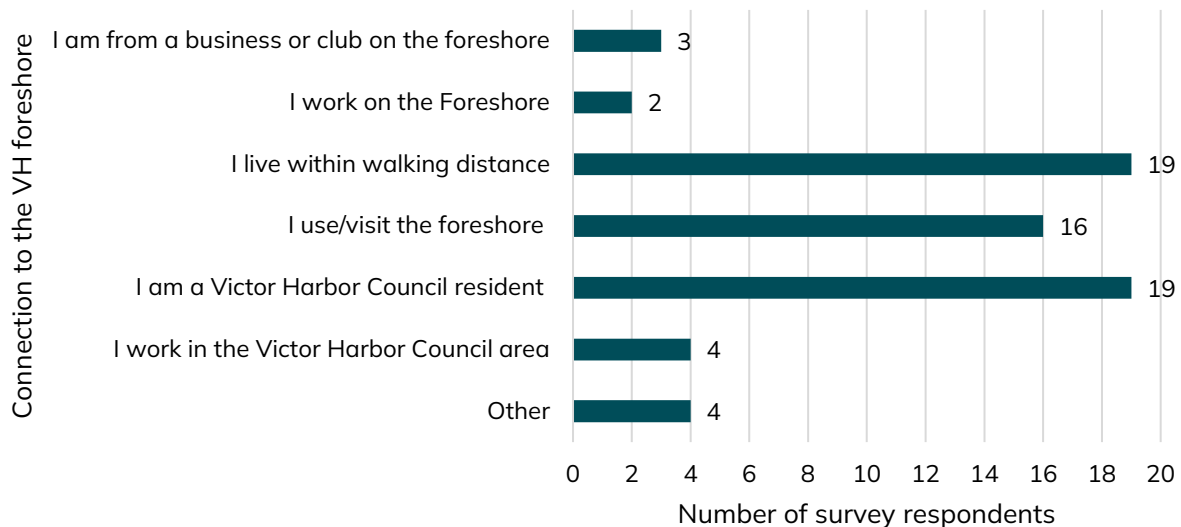
3.1 Survey

There were 27 respondents to the survey. Not all respondents answered all questions. Each option received between 14 and 18 responses to indicate level of support. It is important to note that this is a small sample size and may not reflect the views of the broader community.

Survey respondents were asked to identify their connection to the Victor Harbor foreshore between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers. They could select more than one response.

Most survey respondents were Victor Harbor residents and lived within walking distance of the project area. Three respondents were from a business or club on the foreshore, and a further two worked on the foreshore. While the survey was anonymous, it is likely that some of the respondents were also part of the key stakeholder meetings. Hence their views may have been represented twice within this Engagement Summary Report.

What is your connection to the Victor Harbor foreshore between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers? Please select all that apply.



Only two respondents were not a resident or ratepayer of Victor Harbor, and four respondents were ratepayers but not residents.

The following table summarises the preliminary option that was most preferred by survey respondents for each site.

Site	Preferred option for survey respondents (based on combined support and strongly support responses)
Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point	Option 1b Hold the Line
Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts	Option 2c Transform (Noting that Option 2a Hold the Line and Managed Retreat had the same level of combined support, but Option 2c Transform received a greater number of strongly support responses)
Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden	Option 3b Hold the Line
Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes	Option 4b Hold the Line (Noting that Option 4b Hold the Line received the highest level of combined support and strongly support responses, but Option 4c Transform received a larger number of strongly support responses)
Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park	Option 5c Transform

Survey respondents also provided feedback about what they value and the improvements they would like to see for each site.

3.1.1 Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point

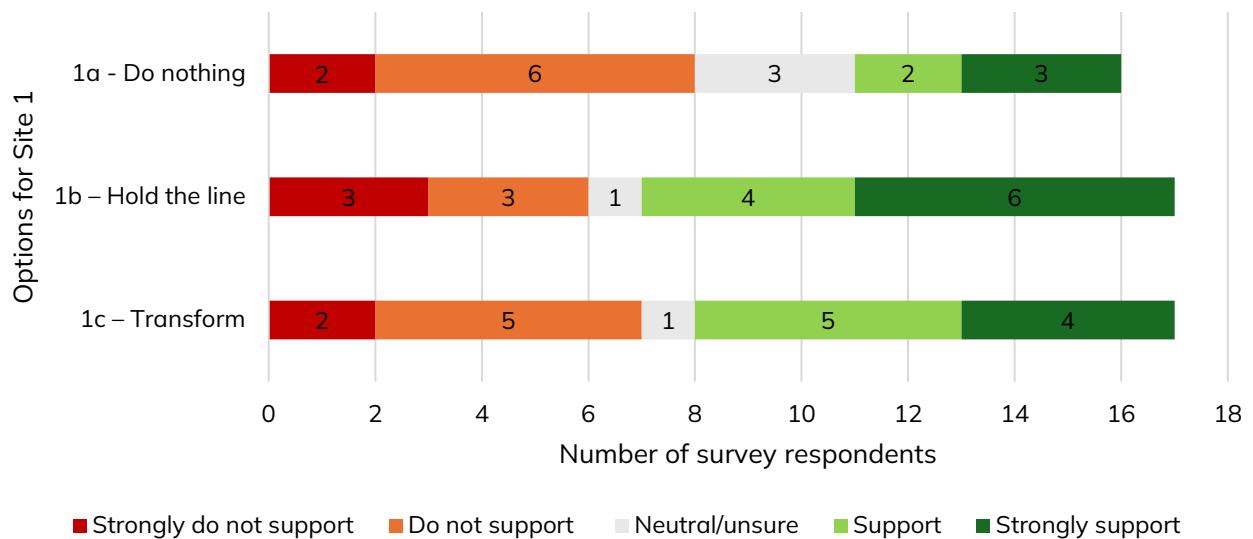
Level of support for each preliminary option

Option 1b Hold the Line received the greatest level of support from survey respondents for Site 1, with 10 out of 17 survey respondents supporting or strongly supporting this option.

Option 1C Transform received the second greatest level of support from survey respondents for Site 1. The least amount of support was provided for Option 1a Do Nothing, with only five respondents supporting or strongly supporting this option and 8 respondents not supporting or strongly not supporting this option.

Site 1 Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point

Level of support for each option



What do you value about the Site 1 area now?

Survey respondents indicated that they value the following existing aspects of the Site 1 area:

- The beauty of the natural, unmodified coastal environment.
- The open views it provides given its elevated position.
- The natural environment including the Norfolk Pines, extensive birdlife, planting surround the picnic area, old swamp paperbark trees in the lagoon area, revegetation at Bridge Point, dune replanting and grassed reserve.
- The beach, lagoon, river estuary, dunes and reserve.
- The existing open space and usable beach area.
- The safe walking paths, cycling paths and boardwalks.
- Its current layout.
- The carpark.
- The bowling club.

What would improve the Site 1 area?

Survey respondents suggested the following improvements for the Site 1 area:

- A more naturalised environment including sand dune restoration and revegetation and expanding the vegetated zone that exists between the road and beach.
- Improved pedestrian access including a path along the foreshore road, raised boardwalks along the coast, better access to beach and/or a car free zone.

- Hard infrastructure solutions including sea walls, restoring the two wooden groynes and redesigning the stormwater outlets.
- Public amenity upgrades including low-impact lookouts.
- Relocating existing built form including the existing foreshore clubs and parking.
- No more building approvals along the Esplanade (Bridge Terrace).
- Some dredging of the river to improve water flow.
- Protecting and strengthening the natural estuary and dune function rather than over-engineering it too early – a design that keeps future options open as the shoreline changes over time.
- Better fencing to reduce off path tracks being created through the dunes.

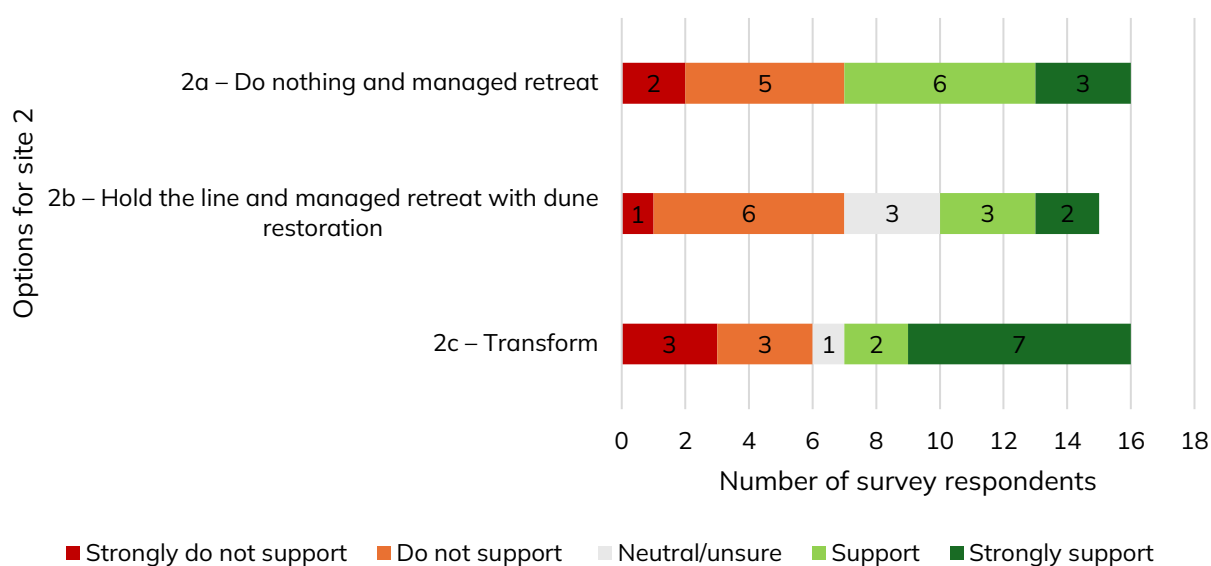
3.1.2 Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts

Level of support for each preliminary option

Option 2c Transform received the greatest level of support from survey respondents for Site 2, with nine out of 16 survey respondents supporting or strongly supporting this option and 6 respondents not supporting or strongly did not supporting this option.

Option 2a Do Nothing and Managed Retreat was the second most supported option for Site 2, with the same level of combined support as Option 2c but with less strongly support responses. Option 2b Hold the line and managed retreat with dune restoration received the least amount of support from survey respondents for Site 2.

Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts Level of support for each option



What do you value about the Site 2 area now?

Survey respondents indicated that they value the following existing aspects of the Site 2 area:

- Public amenities and open spaces including the beach, open spaces, skate park and beach volleyball courts.
- Coastal views.
- The natural beach front.
- The site's historical link to Victor Harbor.
- Safe public access to walk and cycle.
- Peaceful atmosphere.
- The sites key role in community identity.
- Known Hooded plover breeding location.
- Access to the water for small yachts and school regattas.
- Nothing.

What would improve the Site 2 area?

Survey respondents suggested the following improvements for the Site 2 area:

- Return to a more natural vegetated environment and dune system to support coastal resilience.
- Remove existing hard infrastructure including the road, sporting facilities/clubs and relocate these further back from the shoreline. Cease future building approvals in the area.
- Redesign current public facilities including the volleyball courts and playground.
- Improve stormwater management.
- Improve pedestrian access.
- Preserve important community recreation values.
- Fencing to deter people walking through the dune system.
- Stabilisation of the sand.
- No changes needed.

3.1.3 Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden

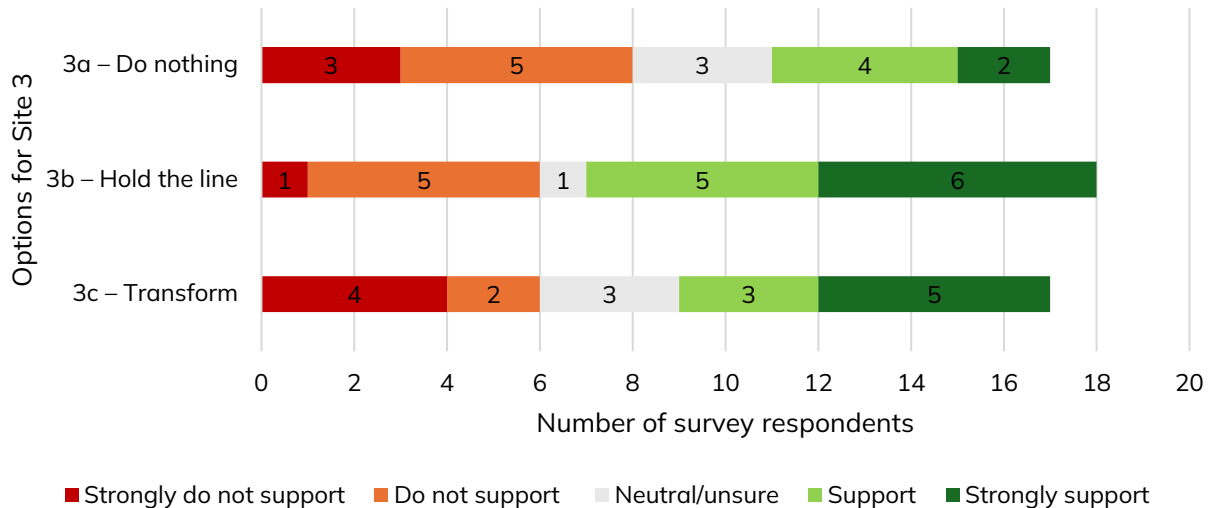
Level of support for each preliminary option

Option 3b Hold the Line received the greatest level of support from survey respondents for Site 3. 11 out of 18 respondents supported or strongly supported this option, and six respondents did not support or strongly did not support this option.

Option 3c Transform received the second greatest level of support from survey respondents, with Option 3a Do Nothing receiving the least amount of support.

Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden

Level of support for each option



What do you value about the Site 3 area now?

Survey respondents indicated that they value the following existing aspects of the Site 3 area:

- Public facilities including the bowls club, pedestrian and cycle paths, green areas, playground and sporting facilities.
- The site's heritage/memorial significance.
- Coastal views.
- Local events and functions.
- Access to Granite Island.
- Habitat for shore birds including Hooded Plovers.
- Tourism value and a place people identify with Victor Harbor.
- Nothing.

What would improve the site 3 area?

Survey respondents suggested the following improvements for the Site 3 area:

- Minimise investment in hard infrastructure and prioritise retaining the beach and associated ecosystems as well as public realm by returning the site to a more natural environment.
- Relocate the memorial park, playground, road car park further back from the coast, including through council repurchasing private lots for this use.
- No further development.
- Better care of existing trees and more new planting.

- Planning for a long-term, cohesive layout.
- Cleaner beach including with less seaweed to allow for more swimming etc.
- Sea walls or extending the height and width of loose stone rock wall.
- Avoid increasing the height in the sea wall to avoid cutting off view to the sea.
- Bring in paved areas and make it like a town square.
- Restrict the movement of dogs and people through bird nesting areas on the beach - especially during the breeding season from September to March.
- Options to moving the wave break further out from the beach.
- Improve access to beach.
- Nothing.

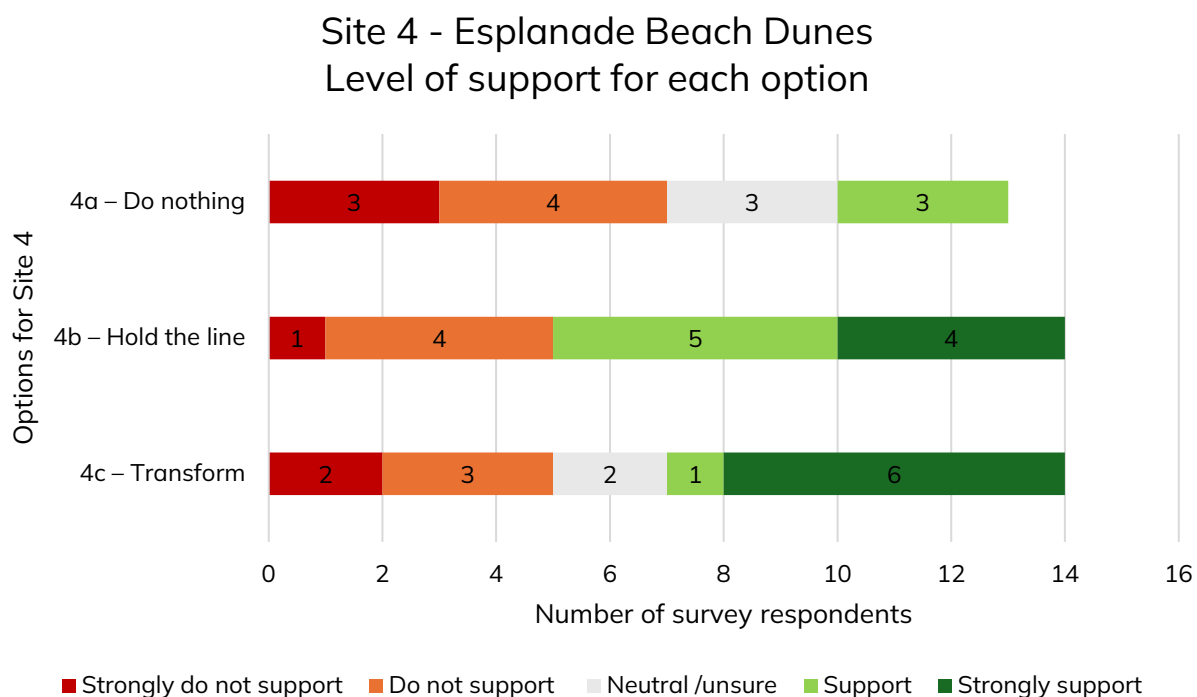
3.1.4 Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes

Level of support for each preliminary option

Option 4b Hold the Line received the greatest level of support from survey respondents for Site 4. Nine out of 14 survey respondents supported or strongly supported this option.

Option 4c Transform received the second greatest level of support for Site 4, with seven respondents supporting or strongly supporting this option. However interestingly, Option 4c received a greater number of strongly support responses than Option 4b (six compared to four).

Option 4a Do Nothing received the least amount of support for Site 4.



What do you value about the Site 4 area now?

Survey respondents indicated that they value the following existing aspects of the Site 4 area:

- Current dune system and vegetation.
- Natural beauty, coastal views, fresh air and open feel.
- Coastal pathway and parks.
- Its role as part of the wider natural estuary, stormwater and shoreline system.

What would improve the Site 4 area?

Survey respondents suggested the following improvements for the Site 4 area:

- A return to a more natural state.
- Remove the road, mini golf, café and car park from the shoreline.
- Reduce erosion including through improved stormwater management, water sensitive urban design (WSUD), dune restoration and coastal management as a priority before hard engineering options are used.
- A new cycling track.
- Better maintenance.
- Adequate fencing and boardwalks to keep the public from making unofficial paths through the dunes.

3.1.5 Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park

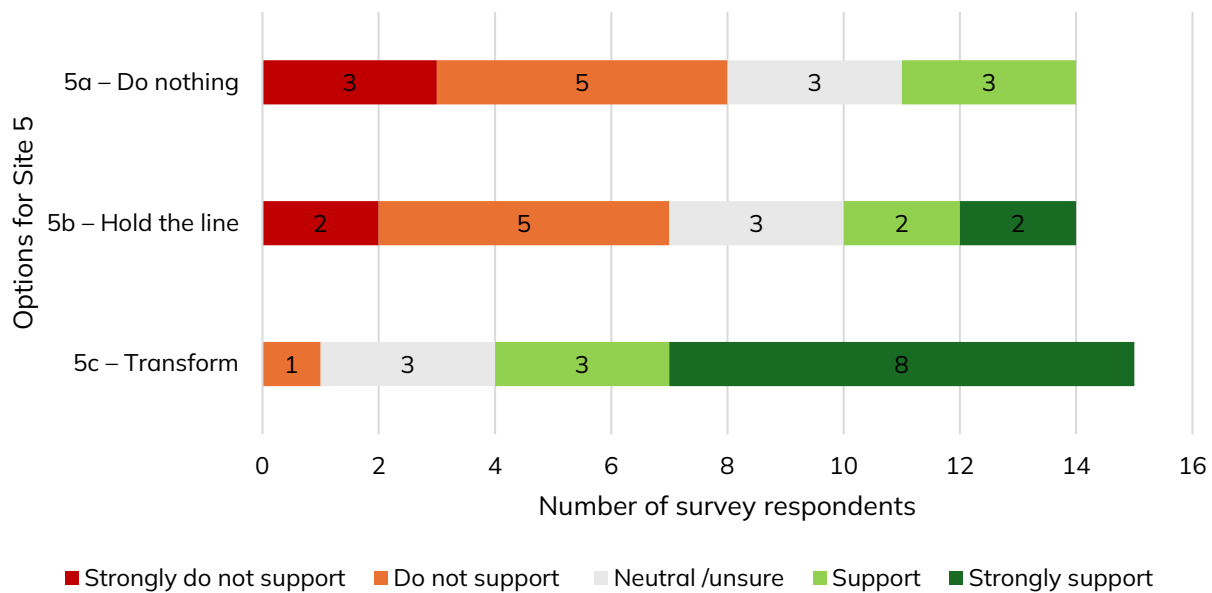
Level of support for each preliminary option

Option 5c Transform received by far the greatest level of support by survey respondents for Site 5. Over half (8) of the 15 respondents strongly supported this option, with a further 3 indicating support. Only one respondent did not support this option, and there were no respondents that indicated that they strongly did not support the option.

Option 5b Hold the Line received the second greatest level of support for site 5, with Option 5a Do Nothing receiving very little support.

Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park

Level of support for each option



What do you value about the Site 5 area now?

Survey respondents indicated that they value the following existing aspects of the Site 5 area:

- Natural coastal environment including the wide beaches, dunes, estuary, highly vegetated habitats and wildlife including pelicans.
- Access between Encounter Bay, Victor Harbor and the caravan park.
- Public amenities including the playground, shared path and open space.
- Views.

What would improve the Site 5 area?

Survey respondents suggested the following improvements for the Site 5 area:

- Return to natural state including for restoring dune vegetation and natural river flow, direction and flooding patterns, even if this requires relocation of the caravan park and road. This will restore plant and animal habitats, wetlands and water quality.
- Shared walking and cycling track, raised boardwalks and lookouts.
- First Nations involvement in Kent Reserve.
- Reduce the impact of humans and dogs on vulnerable birds.
- Improve upstream efforts to support the entire estuary-to-coast system.
- In the future, raise the height of the path/levee by the caravan park without blocking the sea view.
- No change needed.

3.1.6 *Anything else*

At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were invited to share any other comments they had about coastal adaptation in the area. Responses included:

- Encouraging proactive approaches that prioritise nature-based solutions over hard engineering solutions and protect the environment and natural processes.
- Suggestion for council to monitor and gather additional data before lock in expensive, permanent options, or otherwise delaying options that will impact on the environment, community and landholders.
- Seeking additional data/information from the consultants about historic sea levels and the data behind the projections that forecast of three overflow storms per month and other negative outcomes.
- General indications of support for the project.
- Encouragement for council to listen to community recommendations.
- Request to consider coastal adaptation for Kent Reserve.
- Suggesting that the final Master Plan expands beyond just a sea-edge response – also need consider and assess the need for nature-based interventions in the wider catchment-to-coast system to benefit the coast.
- Opposition to the stormwater pipes being redirected to the river systems and causing flooding risk for residential development along the river.
- Highlighting the importance of maintaining public access and amenity connected to a living coastline.
- Suggestions for road upgrades, avoiding building additional boat ramps in these locations, and upgrading the Encounter Bay - Whalers boat ramp.
- Thanks to council for quickly installing the seawall at Yilki.

3.2 Key stakeholder engagement

Meetings were held with a number of key stakeholders to gather their feedback on the proposed options. Two stakeholders provided written submissions.

The following table summarises the groups and individuals who were engaged and when:

Group	How	Who
Biodiversity Victor Harbor	Meeting	Loretto Cameron Peter Sharley
Victor Harbor Yacht Club	Meeting and written submission	Keith Watkinson Rob Martin
Victor Harbor Coast Care	Meeting	Geoff Cope Loretto Cameron
Landscapes Hills & Fleurieu	Meeting	Caroline Taylor Alison Skinner Paul Wainwright
Victor Harbor Bowls Club	Meeting	Dennis Williams Dale Speck
Fleurieu beach volleyball / tennis courts / cafe	Meeting	Cathy Saunderson Andrew Saunderson
Horse Drawn Tram	Meeting	Megan Whibley
Victor Harbor Croquet Club	Meeting	Shirley Howlett Helen McQueen
Bird Life Australia	Written submission	Julia Roetman Grainne Maguire

The following table summarises the preferred options indicated by representatives from each key stakeholder group during their meeting or in their letter.

Group	Preferred option for each site (as identified by stakeholders)				
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5
Biodiversity Victor Harbor	Option 1C Transform	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	Option 4B or combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform	Option 5C Transform
Victor Harbor Yacht Club	-	Option 2B Hold the Line and Managed Retreat and Dune Restoration	-	-	-
Victor Harbor Coast Care	Option 1B Hold the Line or 1C Transform	Option 2C Transform	Option 3B Hold the Line	Combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform then Option 4C	Option 5C Transform
Landscapes Hills & Fleurieu	General preference for nature-based solutions to be prioritised.				
Victor Harbor Bowls Club	Environmental option	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	-	-
Fleurieu beach volleyball / tennis courts / cafe	-	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	-	-
Horse Drawn Tram	-	-	Option 3B Hold the Line	Option 4B Hold the Line	-
Victor Harbor Croquet Club	-	Seawall	-	-	-
Birdlife Australia	Option C Transform, where this protects bird habitat				

The following sections summarise the key points from each meeting.

3.2.1 Biodiversity Victor Harbor

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Biodiversity Victor Harbor (BVH) representatives emphasised that the biodiversity of the inlet at the mouth of Inman and Hindmarsh and adjacent areas should be protected. They also noted that Norfolk Island Pines do not provide biodiversity value.

Feedback provided for each site is summarised below.

Site 1

BVH representatives would like to see dune stabilisation with revegetation and fencing, filtering of river water before it enters the ocean, fenced boardwalk access to the beach, a reduced number of beach access points, and no bulldozing of vegetation for green lawn.

Support Option 1C Transform.

Site 3

BVH representatives prefer Option 3B Hold the Line. This area has a business and cultural focus and as such a sea wall protect the amenity and Soldiers Memorial gardens.

Site 4

As with Site 3, this area includes a business and cultural focus and as such BVH representatives support a sea wall to protect amenity and parking maintained. They suggest a combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform with a transition through to Site 4. They suggest pines be replaced overtime with natives. They would like a reduction in the number and impact of the stormwater outlets (i.e. not water discharging onto the beach).

Site 5

BVH representatives prefer Option 5C Transform. They feel that the entire area should be a biodiversity protection zone with natural flooding of the area restored even if this floods the caravan park. They suggested connecting the natural area with Kent Reserve and extending the area to Esplanade Road.

3.2.2 Victor Harbor Yacht Club

The Victor Harbour Yacht Club provided feedback via their key stakeholder meeting and through a letter submitted during the consultation period. The feedback included in both have been summarised together below.

About the Victor Harbor Yacht Club

The representatives provided the following information about the Club.

The Victor Harbor Yacht Club was founded in 1952 and since then has served local families and enthusiasts. They are the fastest growing sailing club in South Australia and have new committee members and young families currently joining. The club is a valuable part of the community, with rooms

hired out every day of the week. They have all-day racing on Saturdays from October through March with meetings and social functions at other times.

Their club rooms are next to the Croquet Club. They lease the area and launch their small catamarans and dinghies off the beach. It is important that they remain somewhere on Site 2 (to the bay area north east of the causeway and Granite Island) because:

- the sand and reef on the other side of the causeway is too shallow for safe sailing and access.
- the beach area in front of the Club is the only option for boats and crews to safely negotiate the shore break.
- they need to be in close proximity to the Causeway Boat ramp to launch rescue/support boats.

They need space for approximately 20 racing catamarans to rig up. They also use the Causeway boat ramp to launch two powerboats on race days.

The club have records from 1987 where sand needed to be shovelled out of the club rooms.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Site 2

Yacht Club representatives would like the marina development impact on shoreline incursions to be considered in the predictions. They also strongly suggest that cost needs to be a key factor in identifying options.

They prefer Option 2B Hold the Line option in front of the club, however not as it is represented in the preliminary design. They highlight the apparent inconsistency between the red line as it is depicted for Option 1B Hold the Line and Option 2B Hold the Line and would like this to be checked. They also made the observation that the Club appears to be worse off with Option 2B Hold the Line than by Option 2A Do Nothing, and therefore question this prediction. They would like Option 2B to introduce additional protection measures towards the front of their existing site but broadly in line with the sites either side of them.

If Option 2B is not possible, they indicated openness to the club being located further south in Site 2.

They are not supportive of the Transform options.

3.2.3 Victor Harbor Coast Care

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

General feedback by Coast Care (CC) representatives included considering that erosion projections could occur faster than projected and as such options need to be adaptive and fluid; and that the Master Plan must consider the impacts of options on the adjacent areas of the Inman and Hindmarsh estuaries that fall outside the Master Plan site area.

Feedback provided on each site is summarised below.

Site 1

CC representatives prefer Option 1B Hold the Line or 1C Transform as they believe some hard structures will be needed, however protecting the natural area is their primary interest and they want the Coast Care display garden to be maintained.

Site 2

CC representatives prefer Option 2C Transform with relocation of hard infrastructure to lessen erosion of the beach and restoration of the dunes to support the Hooded Plovers in front of the Yacht Club and Croquet Club.

Site 3

CC representatives would prefer Option 3B Hold the Line with stormwater consolidated and redirected. They also questioned the impact on the causeway headline spit.

Site 4

CC representatives prefer a combination of Option 4B Hold the Line and 4C Transform with the car park and memorial gardens protected (given their commercial importance for Victor Harbor) and then transition into Option C.

Site 5

CC representatives prefer Option 5C Transform which is most likely to preserve Coast Cares' restoration and weed control in the site and protect Hooded Plovers. They would like the impact of sand movement on Kent Reserve to be considered.

3.2.4 Landscape Board Hills & Fleurieu

About Landscapes Hills & Fleurieu

The Landscape Board Hills & Fleurieu (LB) have responsibilities for regulating water affecting activities, managing stormwater and implementing their Coastal Action Plan which covers nearshore habitats, land-based impacts and climate change impacts and incorporates the direction from Council's Coastal Adaptation Study and Strategy.

The LB emphasised the following natural values that Council should strive to maintain:

- Both estuaries are of high value and need to be considered through a whole of system approach. Maintaining functioning estuaries should be a priority including their flow, underground water flow and water allocation planning.
- There is an EPBC Act protected temperate saltmarsh community in the Hindmarsh estuary.
- Hooded Plovers are moving towards the estuaries.
- Sea grass meadows

They noted that Norfolk Island Pines may be reaching the end of their short life span.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

LB representatives suggested the need to provide additional information about some of the proposed solutions/information including:

- A whole of system approach is important. Need to consider the impacts of options (and stormwater outlet changes) on estuaries, ground water quality and flow, sand loss/movement, habitats.
- Need to consider the flow on impacts of hold the line options on dunes in adjacent areas and particularly on the estuaries (e.g. risk of increased saltwater movement up estuaries).
- Dunes can provide a natural hold the line approach and this should be communicated to community.
- Consider the impact of sea level rise and seawalls on groundwater (salination).
- Consider flow on impacts of options between estuaries and adjacent coastal cells.

Feedback provided on “holding the line” and seawall options included:

- The beach and natural assets are a central part of the community and economy. Holding the line may not be worth it if it causes a loss of the beach.
- Draw a cross section to show the impact of seawalls on beach profile.
- Further explore the impact of the seawall on groundwater, stormwater, dunes to either side, and seawater flow upriver.

Feedback provided on “transform” and prioritising nature-based solutions included:

- Give the environment the best opportunity to operate as a protective buffer to coastal hazards including through protecting and restoring dune vegetation and species diversity particularly for [Site 1 and 5](#).
- In relation to Option 5C Transform for [Site 5](#), consider how to improve stormwater management to reduce erosion, improve stormwater quality, reduce impacts on seagrass and avoid backflow of seawater up the pipes which contaminates groundwater and causes growth of mussels in the pipes.
- Maintain sand connection between sites.

Feedback provided for [Site 3](#) included:

- There is a large amount of space available for retreat.
- If a seawall is implemented, the beach level will drop with sand moving from the Hindmarsh Estuary towards the causeway. Council will need to mine sand from the spit to nourish the beach to maintain the Hindmarsh Estuary.
- If the seawall is set back, there will be more space for beach recession.

3.2.5 Victor Harbor Bowls Club

About the Victor Harbor Bowls Club

Representatives provided the following information about the club.

The Victor Harbour Bowls Club (BC) is the busiest bowls club on the Fleurieu Peninsula with approximately 300 members. The club prides itself in being inclusive and age friendly. In summer they run bowls five times a week, and in winter they run twice weekly social bowls. The club hosts tens of thousands of people across the year, with 650 people hosted each week in March alone.

The club benefits the community with the venue being hired for events and funerals and their two-day bowl club tournaments filling up the caravan park and providing tourism benefits to the area.

The location and in particular ocean views from the club is essential to its success.

The club has a lease on their site until 2041. They own the facilities which are currently valued at \$3 million. If the club was forced to move, this would be a significant cost and should be at Council's expense. They are planning to replace two green in the next two years, with one other green recently replaced. Each green has an approximately 15-year lifetime. They also have a strategic plan to replace the current sheds with a new building/shed on the same footprint and a minor upgrade planned for the club room.

They note that the coastal walkway is used more than the beach.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Site 3

The BC representatives indicated that Option 3B Sea Wall is their preferred option for Site 3.

The club would like input into the design of the seawall. Their priority is to maintain views of the beach over the wall, and they have concerns that this will be prohibited if the wall is raised too high. They note that their coastal views are central to their level of income and mental health.

They also explained that wind comes down Coral Street and affects their bowling games, which will be made worse by the proposed sea wall.

They wondered whether a groyne may be more suitable than a sea wall.

Site 1

The BC support option 1C Transform, noting that the seawall installed at Yilke is causing too much beach erosion. environmental option

3.2.6 Fleurieu Beach Volleyball / Café

About the Fleurieu Beach Volleyball / Café

The Fleurieu Beach Volleyball / Café has had a lease/license since 2005. Before 2005 the site was used as a carpark for bowling. They started to lease the area with the aim of activating the area in particular for young people.

The volleyball courts have been the main focus given their use by local youth with \$500,000 invested. Sadly a partnership with Volleyball SA fell through.

Current challenges they experience include sand blowing from the beach volleyball courts to the beach and stormwater drainage. They do not currently experience any coastal flooding. They note that the seaweed on the beach acts as a protective wall.

They are planning on retiring soon.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

The representatives are not set on a particular option. They see merit in the seawall (Option 3B Hold the Line) for site 3, however overall they want what is best for the town, young people and jobs. They encourage council to focus on addressing current issues and reassessing in 20 years when the coastal hazards may be more extreme.

3.2.7 Horse Drawn Tram

About the Horse Drawn Tram

The Horse Drawn Tram representative explained that they are the main area people come to when they visit Victor Harbor. In site 3, they have a building and horse stables and need access to the beach with horses, the car parking and the boat ramp. Their building is Council-owned and they intend to stay on the site.

They noted that the causeway has changed the way sand moves, with sand now blowing up onto the tracks, bogging the tram and causing trip hazards. They do not want this issue to be exacerbated.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Site 3

The Horse Drawn Tram representative prefers Option 3B Hold the Line, given they would not be able to operate under Option 3A Do Nothing and are unsure how they would be impacted by Option 3C Transform.

Site 4

The Horse Drawn Tram representative prefers Options 4B Hold the Line given this retains the car parking area and ability to walk and ride on the beach with horses.

3.2.8 Victor Harbor Croquet Club

About the Victor Harbor Croquet Club

Representatives provided the following information about the club.

The Victor Harbor Croquet Club (CC) has operated for 102 years and currently has approximately 65 members. They note that the Croquet Club and Yacht Club receive more usage than the beach and playground in front. It is a good and inclusive activity for the growing older population.

They lease a Council-owned building. They note that continued maintenance or upgrades are desired to the facilities (e.g. spruce up the toilets).

The Club is not interested in moving to another site, with cost and ability to establish new lawns presenting a substantial barrier unless Council provided significant financial assistance. They note that croquet must be played on natural turf. They also emphasise the difficulty in the club planning ahead to 2100.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Site 2

The CC representatives would prefer the seawall in Option 2B Hold the Line to be extended to protect their facilities. If have to move this needs to be to a location with suitable natural greens and at Council's expense.

3.2.9 Birdlife Australia

Birdlife Australia did not have a key stakeholder meeting. However, they submitted a detailed letter of feedback which has been summarised below.

About Birdlife Australia

BirdLife Australia (formerly Birds Australia) is a highly respected, science-based, not-for-profit conservation organisation. They have 13,000 members Australia-wide and more than 100,000 volunteers and supporters, who are dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats. During the 2024/25 Hooded Plover breeding season, volunteers from the region spent over 6,911 hours monitoring the Hooded Plovers and their threats. Over 864 of these hours were spent by local volunteers in the City of Victor Harbor.

About bird life in the project area

The coastline at Victor Harbor provides essential habitats for coastal-dependent native species, including shorebirds, inshore seabirds and waterbirds. Notably, the beaches and dunes of Sites 1 - 5 provide crucial breeding habitat for the EPBC-listed, threatened Hooded Plover (Eastern). The area also provides foraging areas for young (just fledged) Sooty Oystercatchers (listed as rare in SA) and small numbers of EPBC-listed migratory shorebirds. Strong site fidelity means Hooded Plover breeding pairs cannot easily change breeding locations. Flightless chicks must feed themselves from when they hatch and must be able to move to the water's edge and along the shore to access enough food for survival.

Further information on birdlife is available in the full letter in Appendix D of this report.

Feedback provided on the Master Plan

Birdlife Australia would like the Master Plan to maintain shorebird habitat and also allow for enhanced breeding and feeding areas for shorebirds. They believe options that threaten these habitats need to be avoided.

They make the following recommendations:

- Coastal adaptation options should be further evaluated for their impacts on shorebird habitat and with the advice of shorebird ecologists, with these impacts avoided wherever possible especially for EPBC Act listed species as per National impact assessment obligations.
- For planning and development that may impact shorebird habitat there should be continuous consultation with the relevant stakeholders including Birdlife Australia.
- During construction and operation of these site options, considerations must include protecting Hooded Plovers from disturbance by people, dogs, vehicles and loss of habitat.
- Planning for this section of coastline should also include maintaining or enhancing migratory shorebird foraging and roosting habitat.

Option C Transform seems to provide better outcomes for dune habitat; however, this is not presented as the situation across all sites.

Appendix A – Fact Sheet



Design options for the Victor Harbor Foreshore

Have your say

Council is seeking feedback on preliminary options to manage the projected impacts of coastal erosion, storm events and sea level rise between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers.

Background

The Victor Harbor foreshore between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers is a stretch of living coast cherished as a valued public place and active natural system.

Like most coastal areas around Australia, our foreshore is at risk of coastal erosion and flooding from projected sea level rise and increasing storm frequency associated with climate change.

Design, engineering and environmental planning are coming together to prepare a Master Plan for the foreshore. It will identify a layout that manages coastal risks whilst providing places for people, nature and the ongoing natural processes that shape our dynamic coastline.

Preparation of the Master Plan is an action from Council's Coastal Adaptation Study and Strategy (CASS) and is being funded through a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Grant from the Local Government Association of South Australia.

The CASS projected that by 2100, if nothing is done, parts of the foreshore could erode by 60 metres, and some areas could flood from coastal storm surges three times a month.

Coastal engineers and scientists have identified preliminary technically effective options for managing the projected coastal erosion and flooding impacts. Landscape architects have provided input on how these options can consider people and place, providing opportunities to enhance, protect and preserve it for years to come, while creating new places and amenity for the community.

This consultation

This consultation is seeking community feedback on preliminary technically effective options for managing the projected coastal erosion and flooding impacts that have been identified by consultants.

Council has not formed a view on these options and before preparing the draft Master Plan, wants to understand the community's views, what people value most about the foreshore, and any ideas they have for improving it

Future decisions will be informed by community views, effectiveness, cost and social and environmental impacts.

city of
Victor Harbor



Adapting to our living and dynamic coasts

Coastlines are always changing. The natural forces of waves, winds, tides and currents over time break down (erode) rocks, cliffs, and beaches, transporting the sediment from one location to another. This can lead to loss of sand/land and damage to infrastructure such as playgrounds, roads and buildings.

However, climate change is exacerbating these impacts. Sea level rise coupled with increased storm frequency (and storm surge) mean the coast might erode faster than it has in the past.

Coastal erosion is not unique to Victor Harbor. It is a natural process happening across Australia's coastline that many jurisdictions actively manage to protect values and places.

For example, metropolitan Adelaide's beaches are managed through a combination of seawalls and breakwaters and actively piping or carting sand to replenish beaches where more sand is needed. Sometimes the approach used is to do nothing, accepting that the coastline will recede and if assets are there accept their loss or gradually moving them out of harm's way (managed retreat).

Master Plan sites and coastal impacts

The Master Plan area has been divided into 5 sites (see map). The following table provides information on site history, current and projected coastal impacts. Projected coastal impacts are for 2100 based on a +1.0 m rise in sea level from present, as required by the Coast Protection Board.

Site	History and current impacts	2100 projected impacts
1. Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point	A relatively historically stable shoreline, this site does not present any pressing current coastal issues.	Coastal erosion projected to result in estimated 60 m shoreline retreat.
2. Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts	Relatively stable shoreline historically. Stormwater outlets erode the beach/dune; and rock revetment adjacent volleyball and tennis courts erode the beach face.	Coastal erosion anticipated to lower the beach face and usable beach width in front of rock revetment, and erode dunes, eventually impacting infrastructure on the foreshore. Coastal flooding of 0.3–0.5 m routinely anticipated.
3. Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden	Sea wall in place since 1920s to protect the foreshore. Ongoing erosion of beach face and undermining of seawall. Sea water overtopping the seawall on occasion impacts path use and maintenance. Boat ramp prevents movement of sand onto beach.	Coastal flooding by overtopping of the seawall is projected to occur 3 times a month flooding pathway up to 0.5 m. *Impact could be lessened through on-going sand nourishment and dune restoration.
4. Esplanade Beach Dunes	Stormwater outlets erode the beach/dune.	Coastal erosion to projected to result in estimated ~50 m shoreline retreat.
5. Inman River Estuary and Carvan Park Levee	Riverine flooding into the lower caravan park from coastal storm surges. Levee in place adjacent river.	Increased frequency of riverine flooding into the lower caravan park from coastal storm surges. Coastal erosion to projected to result in estimated ~50 m shoreline retreat.

Master Plan Area



Preliminary Options

Preliminary coastal adaptation options have been identified for each Master Plan site.

Coastal engineers and scientists at Magryn and Associates have identified the preliminary options as technically effective options to manage the projected impacts of coastal erosion and flooding. Feasible options for each site have been informed by analyses conducted in the CASS and through ongoing PhD research conducted by Flinders University on behalf of Council. These studies provide a strong foundational understanding of how the Victor Harbor coast came to be and informs how it is likely to change in the future with projected sea level rise.

Landscape architects JPE Design Studio have provided input on how a design-led approach to these options can consider people and place. Their input into these options will guide opportunities that enhance, protect and preserve it for years to come, while creating new places and amenity for the community.

There are 3 categories of options for each site (presented in no particular order):

A Do nothing	Allow the shoreline to naturally recede and/or flood, accept the loss of existing assets.
B Hold the line	Protect the shoreline and assets as it exists currently. Construct hard infrastructure to prevent recession of the shoreline and flooding.
C Transform	Allow more space on the foreshore for natural coastal process and dune restoration with integrated community assets. Site specific decisions on assets to reconfigure, build new, let go or protect.

Cost has not been considered a factor in identifying options at this stage. Council wants to understand and listen to what the community values and prioritises as an outcome. The Master Plan is a long-term document that is considering action over the next 50-75 years.

The impacts of the coastal adaptation options presented are for a 2100 horizon based on a +1.0 m rise in sea level from present, as required by the Coast Protection Board.

What are the dashed lines on the option maps?

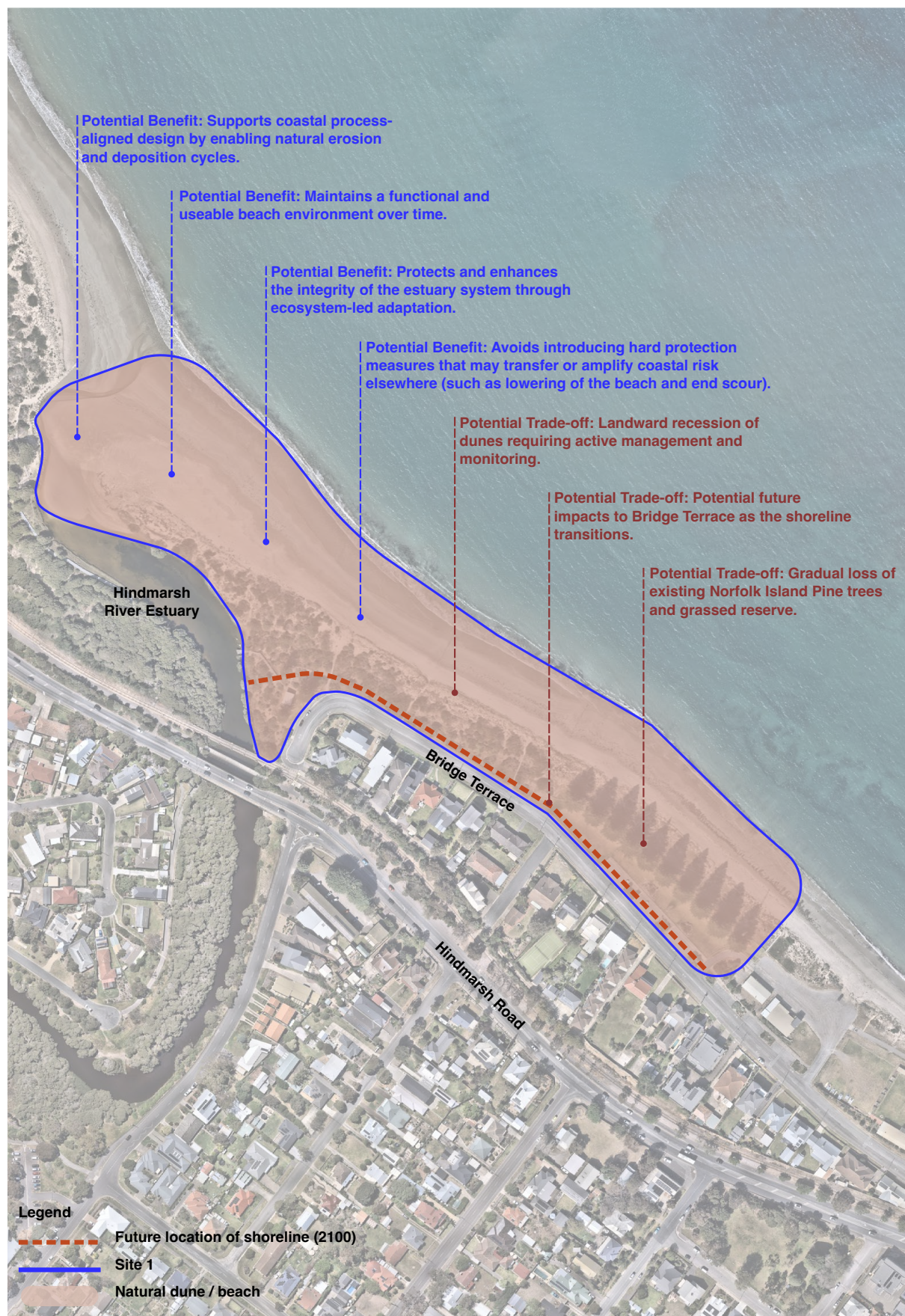
The dashed line on each map shows for that option where the shoreline is projected to be positioned in 2100 given ongoing coastal impacts and projected sea-level rise to 2100 (+1.0m from present).

For the 'do nothing' and 'transform' options where the shoreline would be allowed to naturally respond, the dashed line refers to the position of the vegetation line/ toe of the dune (where it interfaces with the beach). There will continue to be beach, and potentially some dunes, as dune systems move back to naturally adapt to sea level rise. At some point sand may need added to beaches to main dunes/ beach width as the dunes can only naturally shift back so far because of infrastructure (roads, paths).

For the 'hold the line' options where the shoreline would be held in place by a hard structure (e.g. seawall) most of the sites will retain some beach in front of it, although it's possible that this beach may only be accessible during low tides. The exception is Site 3, where the beach is predicted to lower dramatically in front of the seawall resulting in no accessible beach.

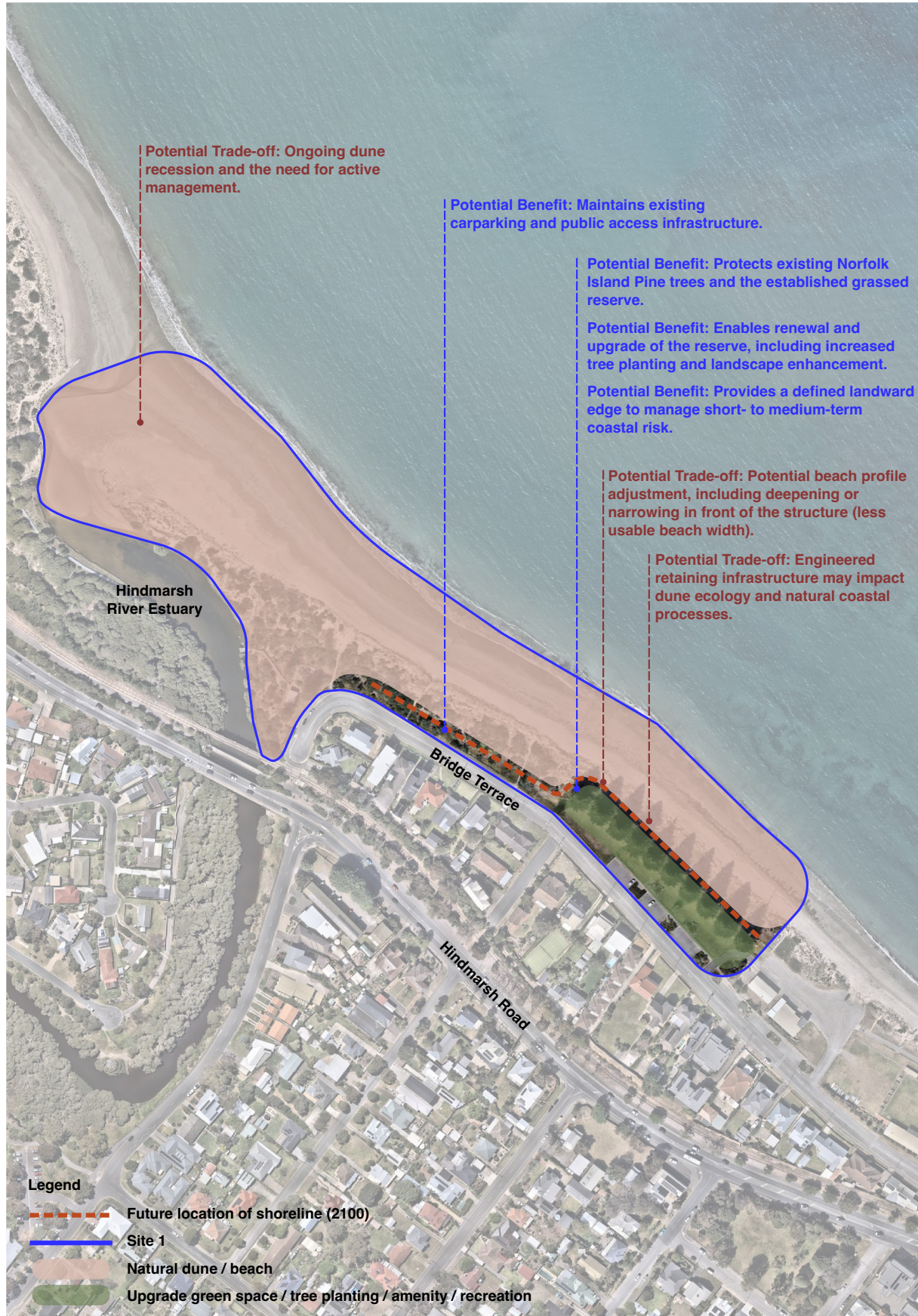
Site 1. Preliminary Option 1A

Description: Do nothing. Adopt a hazard avoidance and natural shoreline transition approach, allowing coastal processes to continue with minimal intervention. This approach supports the dynamic landward migration of the shoreline in response to coastal hazards and sea level rise.



Site 1. Preliminary Option 1B

Description: B – Hold the line. Adopt a protected response strategy, retaining the existing reserve through an engineered retaining solution while allowing dunes to continue evolving within defined limits. This represents an adapt-in-place approach, using structural intervention to manage coastal hazard exposure while maintaining key public assets.



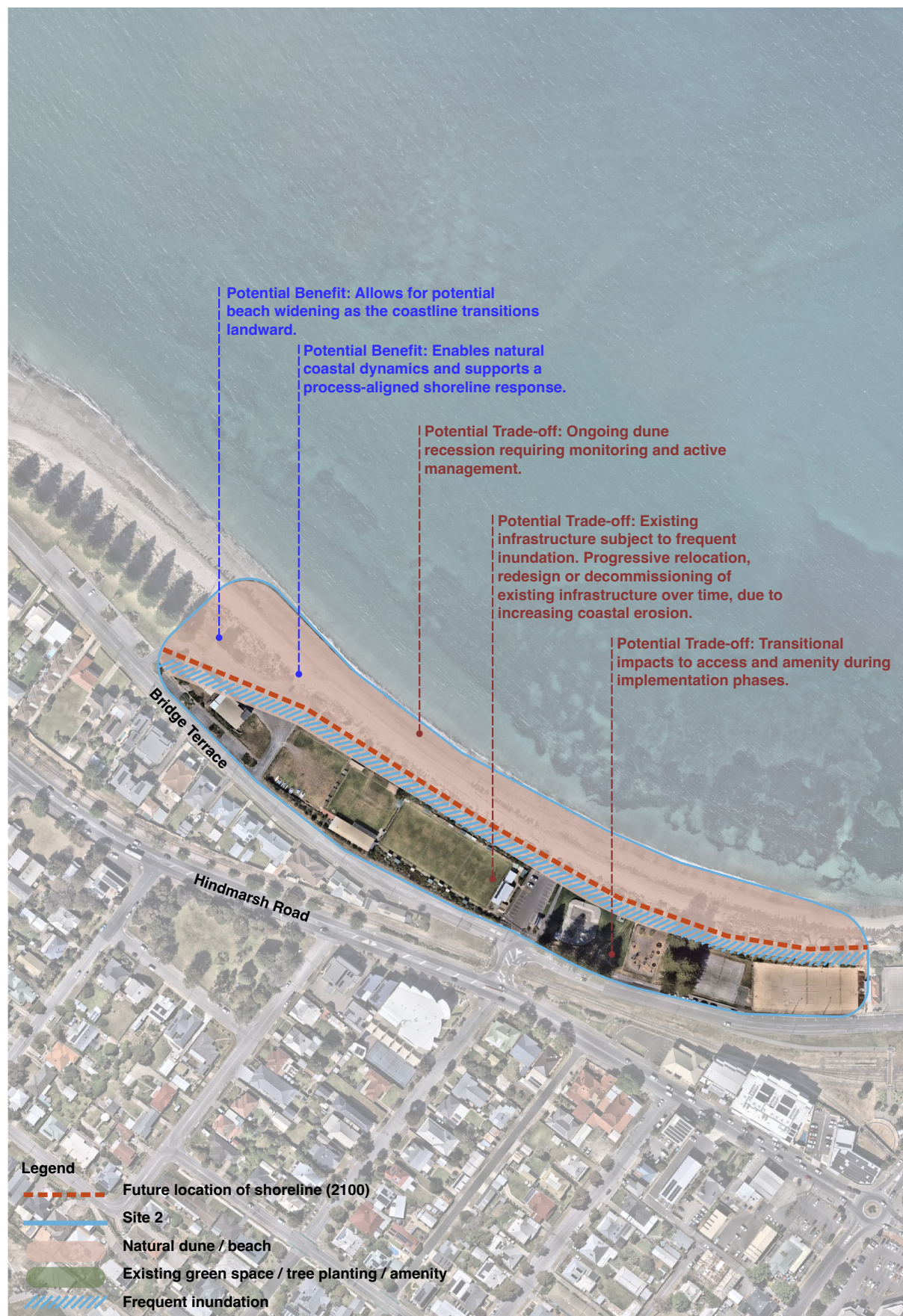
Site 1. Preliminary Option 1C

Description: C – Transform. Adopt a strategic realignment approach, enabling the shoreline to transition landward over time while proactively repositioning public infrastructure and amenity to Bridge Terrace. This option combines hazard avoidance with place-based public realm enhancement, establishing a new tree-lined promenade and adaptable open space outside projected coastal hazard zones.



Site 2. Preliminary Option 2A

Description: 2A - Do nothing. Adopt a hazard avoidance and managed transition approach, allowing the shoreline to recede naturally in response to coastal processes and sea level rise. Existing infrastructure subject to frequent inundation would be progressively relocated, redesigned, or removed in line with an adaptive management pathway.



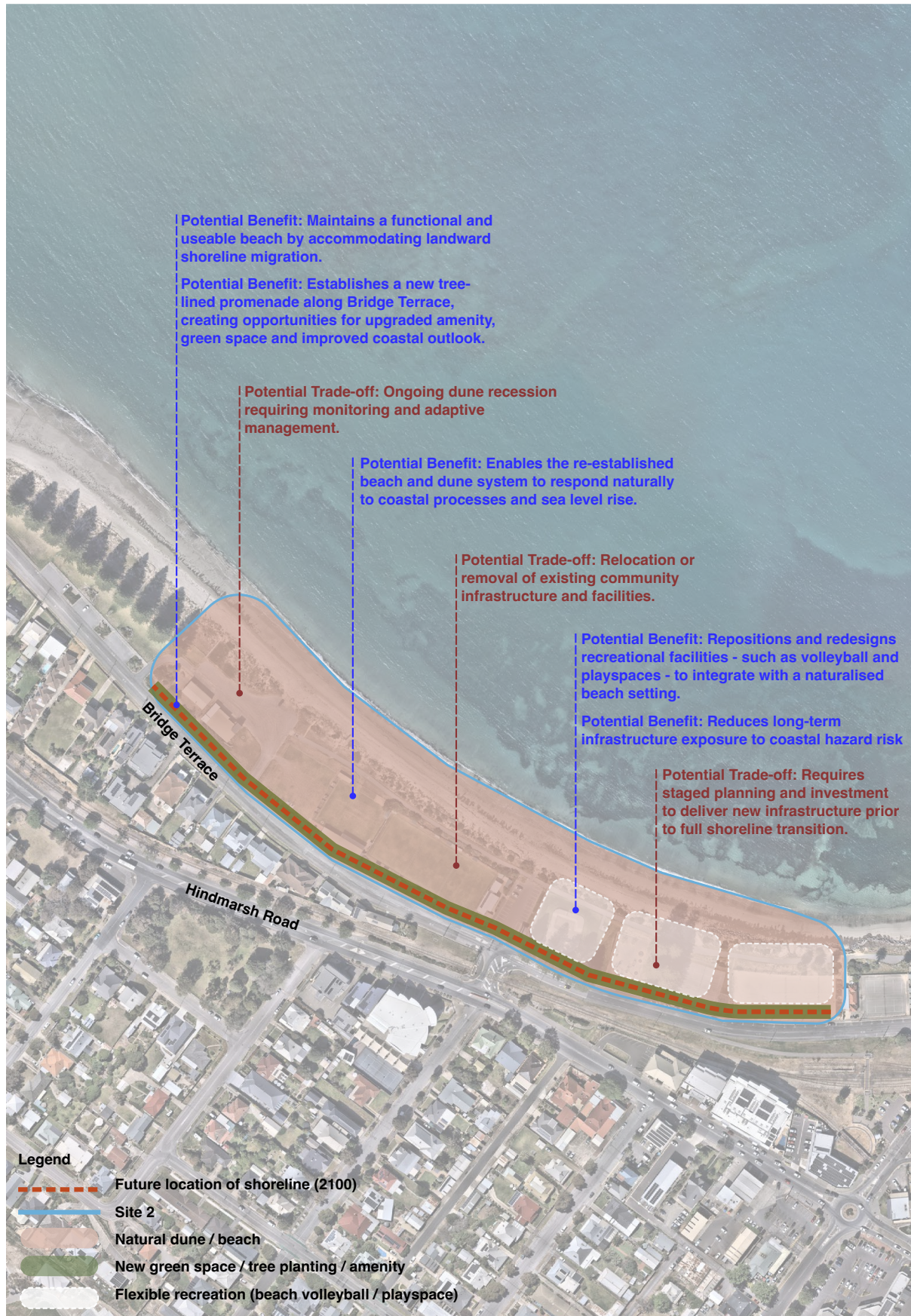
Site 2. Preliminary Option 2B

Description: 2B - Hold the line. Adopt a hybrid adaptation approach, combining a protected response in priority areas with strategic realignment in others. Key community infrastructure would be retained and safeguarded through an engineered retaining solution, while surrounding areas transition landward to restore a more natural dune system and support coastal processes.



Site 2. Preliminary Option 2C

Description: 2C - Transform. Adopt a transformational realignment strategy, relocating the promenade to Bridge Terrace and reconfiguring recreational facilities to align with projected coastal hazard zones. This approach enables full shoreline transition while reimagining the public realm to integrate recreation with a dynamic dune and beach landscape.



Site 3. Preliminary Option 3A

Description: 3A - Do nothing. Maintain the existing seawall with minimal additional intervention. Under this approach, increasing coastal inundation and sea level rise would progressively impact adjacent green space and infrastructure, while the current engineered protection remains in place.



Site 3. Preliminary Option 3B

Description: 3B – Hold the line. Adopt an enhanced protected response strategy, increasing the height of the existing seawall, path and boat ramp in their current location to manage projected sea level rise and storm surge. This represents an engineered, adapt-in-place approach to reduce coastal hazard exposure while retaining established community infrastructure.



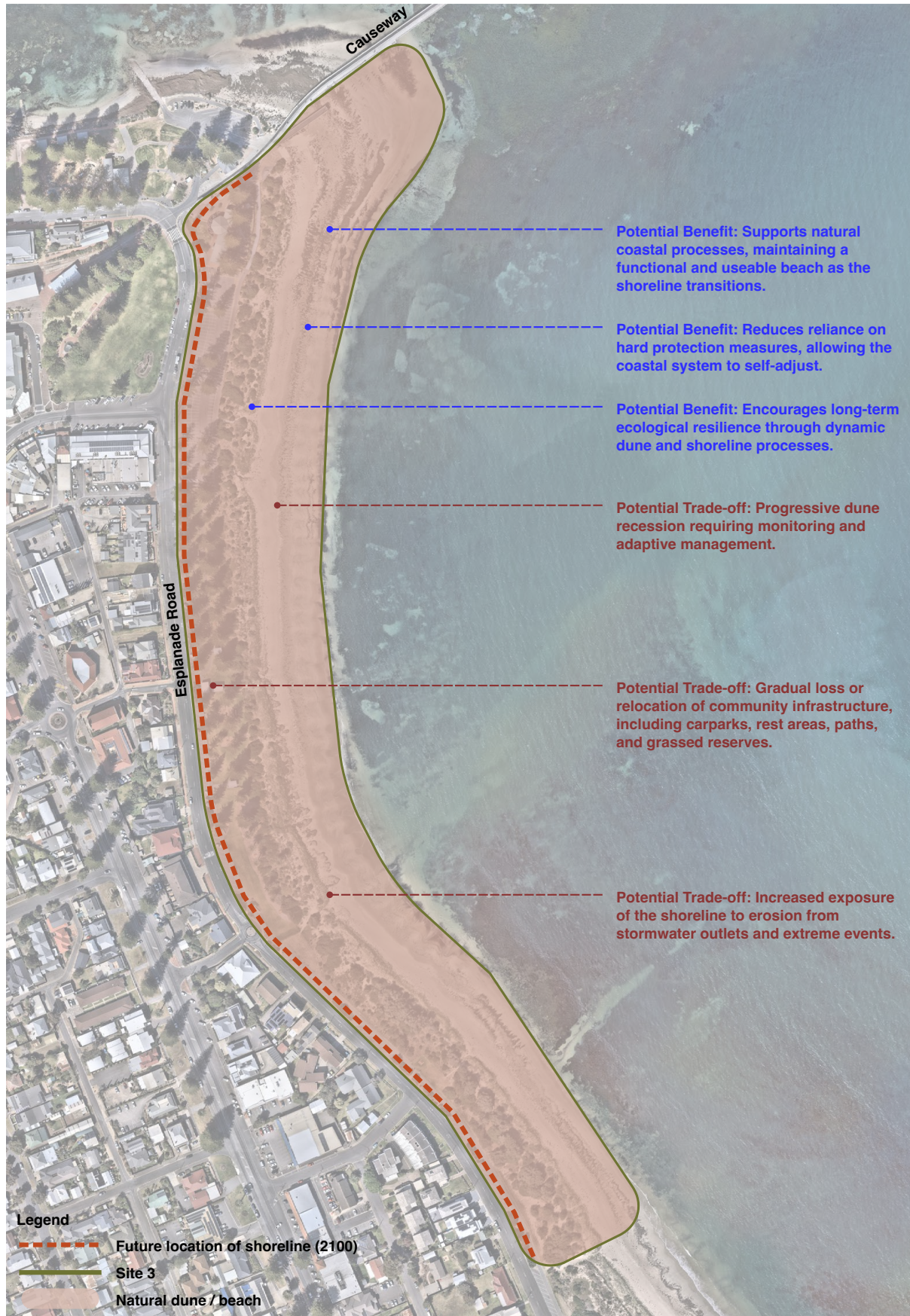
Site 3. Preliminary Option 3C

Description: 3C – Transform. Adopt a strategic realignment and transformational adaptation approach, relocating the seawall and shared path to Flinders Parade and enabling the shoreline to transition landward over time. This option shifts from defending the current coastal edge to restoring a more natural beach and dune system aligned with projected coastal hazard zones.



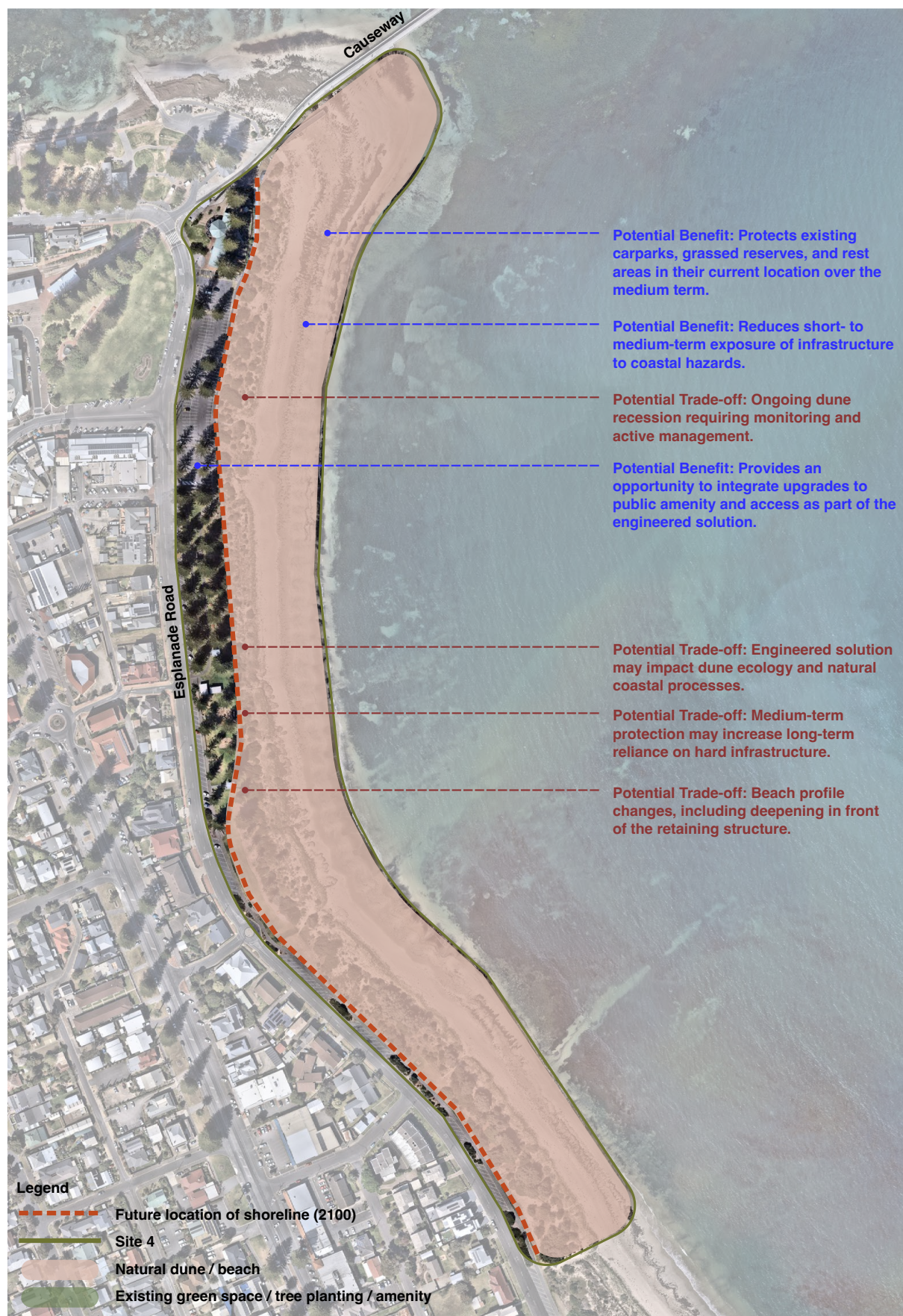
Site 4. Preliminary Option 4A

Description: 4A – Do nothing. Adopt a hazard avoidance and natural shoreline transition approach, allowing the coastline to move landward over time in response to coastal processes and sea level rise. This option enables the coast to evolve with minimal intervention while acknowledging that some existing infrastructure may become unsustainable in the long term.



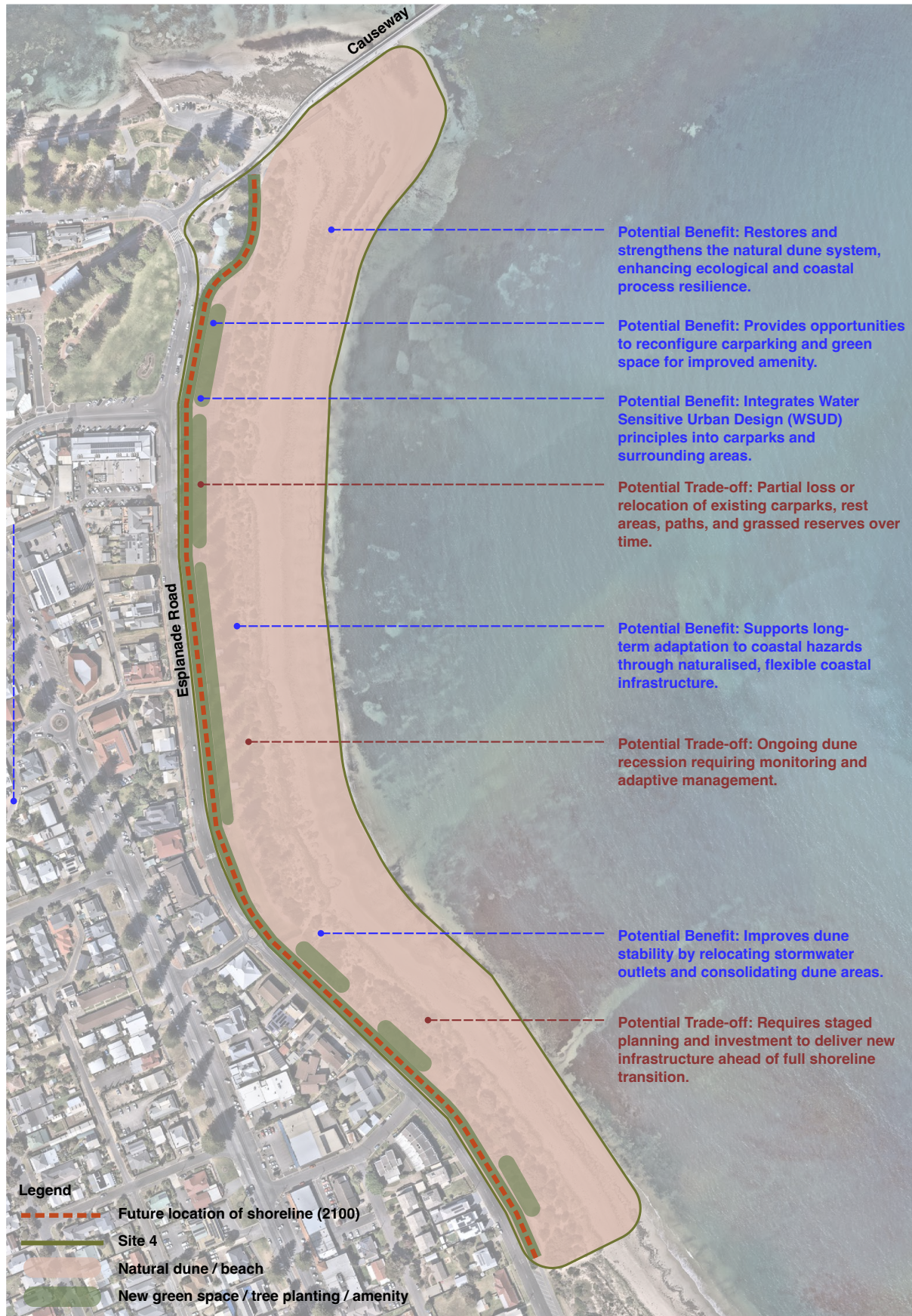
Site 4. Preliminary Option 4B

Description: 4B – Hold the line. Adopt a protected response strategy, retaining existing community infrastructure - including carparks, grassed reserves, and rest areas - through an engineered retaining solution. This adapt-in-place approach provides medium-term protection while managing the shoreline and dune system in a controlled manner.



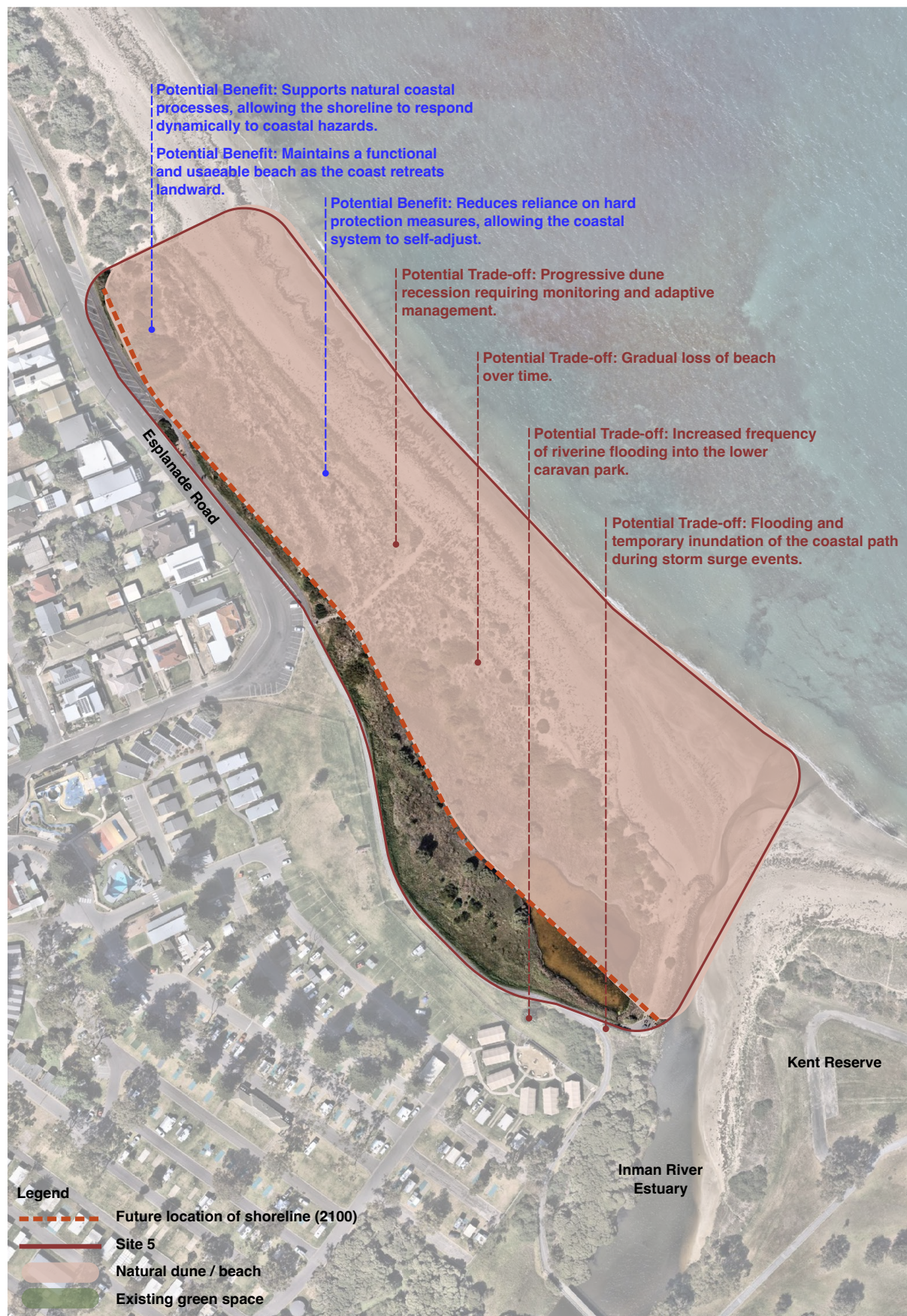
Site 4. Preliminary Option 4C

Description: 4C – Transform. Adopt a transformational adaptation and strategic realignment approach, restoring and enhancing the natural dune system while repositioning infrastructure to accommodate coastal processes. This approach includes dune nourishment and vegetation, relocation of stormwater outlets, and reconfiguration of carparking and green space to support long-term coastal resilience.



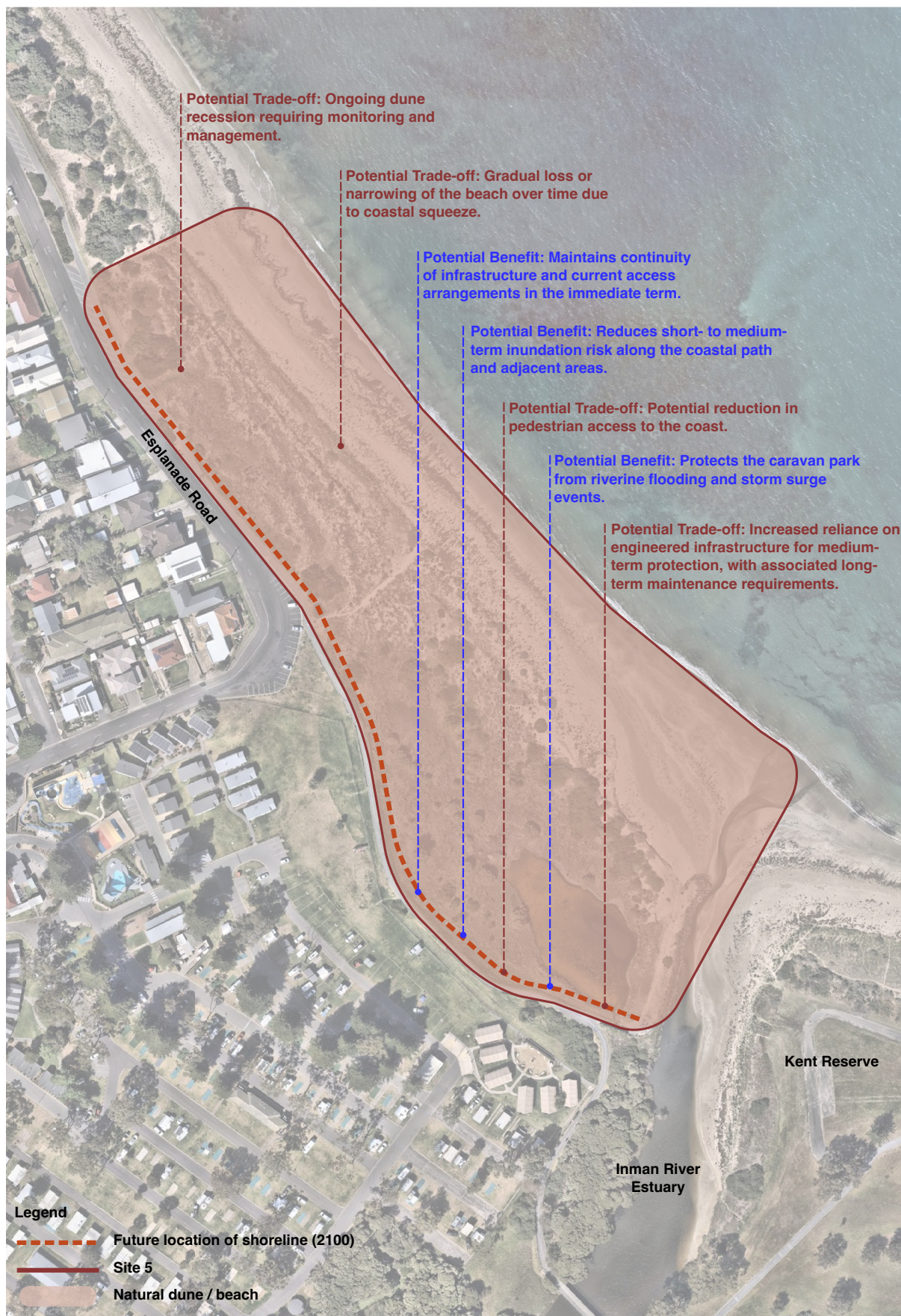
Site 5. Preliminary Option 5A

Description: 5A – Do nothing. Adopt a hazard avoidance and natural shoreline transition approach, maintaining the existing path adjacent to Esplanade Road and the levee while allowing the shoreline to migrate landward over time. This option enables the coast to evolve naturally with minimal intervention, acknowledging that existing infrastructure may be progressively affected by flooding and erosion.



Site 5. Preliminary Option 5B

Description: 5B – Hold the line. Adopt an enhanced protected response strategy, increasing the height of the existing levee and coastal path to reduce exposure to riverine flooding and coastal inundation. This adapt-in-place approach provides short- to medium-term protection for the caravan park while maintaining existing land use patterns.



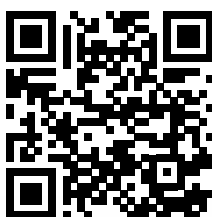
Site 5. Preliminary Option 5C

Description: 5C – Transform. Adopt a transformational adaptation and strategic realignment approach, enabling the river outlet and lower areas of the caravan park to re-naturalise while upgrading the coastal pathway. This approach supports hazard-informed landward transition, ecological restoration, and enhanced public amenity through raised boardwalks and lookout spaces.



Have your say

- Complete a survey by 5.00pm on Sunday 22 March 2026.
- Attend an information session with coastal engineers and scientists on Tuesday 17 March, 5.30-7.00pm at the Civic Centre (1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor).
- Request a hard copy fact sheet and survey.



(08) 8551 0500

www.yoursay.victor.sa.gov.au/camp

Next steps

Council will consider the feedback received and develop the draft Master Plan. Further research and assessment on the options will be undertaken.

The options included in the draft Master Plan will be informed by consideration of community views and factors such as effectiveness, cost and social and environmental impacts.

The draft Master Plan will be released for public consultation.



Appendix B – Survey form

This survey will ask for your feedback on preliminary options to manage coastal erosion and flooding on the foreshore between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers in Victor Harbor. It will also ask you what you value about the foreshore and what else you would like to see there.

We suggest you read the fact sheet before answering this survey.

The input provided will be used to inform the development of a Coast Adaptation Master Plan which will later be released for public consultation.

First tell us about you

Q1. What is your connection to the Victor Harbor foreshore between Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers? Please select all that apply. (*compulsory, allow multiple responses*)

- ☐ I live within walking distance
- ☐ I am a Victor Harbor Council resident
- ☐ I work on the Foreshore
- ☐ I work in the Victor Harbor Council area
- ☐ I am from a business or club on the foreshore
- ☐ I use/visit the foreshore
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Q2. How often do you visit the Victor Harbor foreshore between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Several times a week
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ A few times a month
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ A few times a year
- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ I have never visited the area

Q3. What suburb do you live in? (*compulsory*)

(text box) _____

Q4. Are you a resident and/or ratepayer of the Alexandrina Council? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Rate payer
- ☐ Resident and rate payer
- ☐ Neither

Feedback on the coastal adaptation options

The foreshore area has been divided into 5 sites:

- Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point
- Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis
- Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden
- Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes
- Site 5 - Inman River Estuary and Carvan Park

You can choose which sites you would like to provide feedback and input on. You can answer one, some or all. Just skip through to the sites that interest you

Q5. Do you want to provide feedback on Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- Yes
- No (skip to next site)

Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point?

<i>Preliminary options</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
1a – Do nothing Allow the shoreline to naturally recede	• Allows coast to respond naturally • Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast into trees/reserve	• Loss of pine trees and reserve • Recession of dunes*
1b – Hold the line Build a sea wall [#] in front of the pine trees and reserve and upgrade reserve	• Protects the pine trees and reserve • Upgrade reserve with new level green space, amenity and planting	• Need to remove back of dunes to build seawall • Recession of dunes and deepening of beach (loss of useable beach) in front of wall* • Erosion of dunes where the seawall intersects*
1c – Transform Allow the shoreline to naturally recede and support restoration of sand dunes	• Establish new tree-lined promenade to the roadside with opportunities for new amenity, green space and lookouts • Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast into trees/reserve • Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes	• Loss of pine trees and recreation reserve over time • Recession of dunes*

*Impact could be lessened through on-going sand nourishment and dune restoration.

[#] Could be done in approx. 50 years once beach recession sufficiently threatens pine trees/reserve.

Q6. To what extent do you support each of the preliminary options for site 1?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral/unsure	Do not support	Strongly do not support
1a – Do nothing					
1b – Hold the line					
1c – Transform					

Q7. What do you value about the site 1 area now? (*optional*)
(text box) _____

Q8. What would improve the site 1 area? (*optional*)

(text box) _____

Q9. Do you want to provide feedback on Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- Yes
- No (skip to next site)

Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis

<i>Preliminary options</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
2a – Do nothing and managed retreat Allow the shoreline to naturally recede and gradually remove infrastructure from harms way	• Allows coast to respond naturally • Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast in place of infrastructure	• Loss/relocation of building sand assets over time • Recession of dunes*
2b – Hold the line and managed retreat with dune restoration Build a sea wall raised combined with a promenade to protect the skate park through to volleyball courts. North of here allow for the shoreline to naturally recede, the managed retreat of the yacht and croquet clubs and restore a natural dune state	• Protects the assets from the skate park through to the volleyball courts • Restoration of a natural dune area and useable beach for recreational facilities integrated with natural beach state • Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes	• Loss/relocation of yacht and croquet clubs • Loss of dunes in front of playground and skate park as a result of wall construction • Deepening/erosion of beach in front of wall (reducing usable beach as tide comes in closer)*
2c – Transform Relocate the promenade to roadside and reestablish desired recreational facilities integrated with natural beach state	• Establish new tree-lined promenade to the roadside with opportunities for new amenity, green space and lookouts • Allows re-established beach to respond naturally • Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast in place of hard infrastructure • Re-establish and re-design recreational facilities to integrate with natural beach state • Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes	• Loss/relocation of existing infrastructure and facilities

*Impact could be lessened through on-going sand nourishment and dune restoration.

Q10. To what extent do you support each of the preliminary options for site 2?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral /unsure	Do not support	Strongly do not support
2a – Do nothing and managed retreat					
2b – Hold the line and managed retreat with dune restoration					
2c – Transform					

Q11. What do you value about the site 2 area now? (*optional*)
(text box) _____

Q12. What would improve the site 2 area? (*optional*)
(text box) _____

Q13. Do you want to provide feedback on Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- Yes
- No (skip to next site)

Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden

<i>Preliminary options</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
3a – Do nothing Allow for the shoreline to naturally recede		• Increased frequency of overtopping and flooding • Continued erosion of beach and beach level over time eventually impacting the integrity of the seawall* • Increased exposure of vegetation to seawater causing damage to trees, gardens and lawn
3b – Hold the line Increase the height of the seawall and path (in current location) and boat ramp	• Protects all infrastructure in its current location • Decreases overtopping and flooding risk • Opportunity for upgrades to green space, path and wall to improve access and amenity by raising levels	• Loss of beach and beach level over time* • Loss of coastal views and connection to coast
3c – Transform Relocate the seawall and path back towards the road down to the boat ramp. Allow for the	• Protects Police Point headland and Causeway • Increase natural beach state	• Significant loss of important public green space, heritage features and buildings over time

shoreline to naturally recede, the managed retreat assets and restore a natural dune state	Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes	
--	--	--

*Impact could be lessened through on-going sand nourishment and dune restoration.

Q14. To what extent do you support each of the preliminary options for site 3?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral /unsure	Do not support	Strongly do not support
3a – Do nothing					
3b – Hold the line					
3c – Transform					

Q15. What do you value about the site 3 area now? (*optional*)

(text box) _____

Q16. What would improve the site 3 area? (*optional*)

(text box) _____

Q17. Do you want to provide feedback on Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- Yes
- No (skip to next site)

Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes

<i>Preliminary options</i>	<i>Pros</i>	<i>Cons</i>
4a – Do nothing Allow for the shoreline to naturally recede	- Allows coast to respond naturally - Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast in place of infrastructure	- Loss of beach, car park, rest areas, paths and grassed areas over time* - Increased frequency of seawater intrusion into stormwater outlets exacerbating erosion*
4b – Hold the line Build a seawall(s) [#] in front of car park and rest areas	Protects the carparks and rest areas (medium term solution)	- Will require removal of back dune for construction - Loss of beach and beach level over time* - Erosion of dunes where the seawall intersects*
4c – Transform Relocate beach stormwater outlets, nourish and vegetate dunes to consolidate, reconfigure carparking areas, increase and restore a natural dune state	- Increase and restore a natural dune state - Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes	- Reconfiguration of carparking areas - Loss of beach, carpark, rest areas, paths, grassed areas over time*

	• Increase dune resiliency by relocating stormwater outlets and consolidating dunes • Opportunity for improved reconfiguration of carparking areas and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) integration	
--	---	--

Q18. To what extent do you support each of the preliminary options for site 4?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral /unsure	Do not support	Strongly do not support
4a – Do nothing					
4b – Hold the line					
4c – Transform					

Q19. What do you value about the site 4 area now? (*optional*)
(text box) _____

Q20. What would improve the site 4 area? (*optional*)
(text box) _____

Q21. Do you want to provide feedback on Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Carvan Park Levee? (*compulsory, allow only one response*)

- Yes
 - No (skip to end of survey)
-

Site 5 - Inman River Estuary and Caravan Park

Preliminary options	Opportunities	Costs
5a – Do nothing Allow for the shoreline to naturally recede	• Allows coast to respond naturally • Maintains useable beach by allowing retreat of coast	• More frequent riverine flooding into the lower caravan park. • Loss of beach over time and overtopping of coastal path during storm surges
5b – Hold the line Increase the height of the caravan park levee and coastal path	• Protects caravan park from riverine flooding and overtopping	• Loss of beach overtime • Cuts off beach further for pedestrian access
5c – Transform Allow and support the river outlet and lower area of caravan park to re-naturalise, and make upgrades to coastal pathway	• Increasing coastal dune and estuary system, potential for increased biodiversity • Potential ecological benefits with wider dunes and re-	• Partial loss to lower caravan park (to inundation)

	naturalised estuary / river mouth • Allows coast to respond naturally • New raised boardwalk with opportunity for lookout spaces and cultural link with Kent Reserve	
--	---	--

Q22. To what extent do you support each of the preliminary options for site 5?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral /unsure	Do not support	Strongly do not support
5a – Do nothing					
5b – Hold the line					
5c – Transform					

Q23. What do you value about the site 5 area now? *(optional)*
(text box) _____

Q24. What would improve the site 5 area? *(optional)*
(text box) _____

Q25. Do you have any other comments? *(optional)*
(text box) _____

Thank you for sharing your views.

Appendix C – Verbatim survey comments

Site 1 - Hindmarsh River Estuary / Bridge Point

What do you value about the Site 1 area now?

- The near natural coastal environment
- The natural coast line
- It's natural beauty and geographic lay out
- Natural processes of the confluence of the river and ocean. Elevated position.
- I can enjoy the walking and cycling path. This gives valuable access to safe walking and cycling paths that a not on the road.
- It's natural beauty, extensive bird life, and changing landscape.
- The boardwalks, the beach and Lagoon. The planting surround the picnic area. The Norfolk Pines are iconic, but eventually they will need to be replaced. I'm God
- The view and the pine trees.
- I value Site 1 as one of the more natural and visually open parts of the foreshore, with its connection to the Hindmarsh River estuary, beach, dunes, reserve and public outlook. It is important because it still reads as a living coastal edge rather than only a hardened frontage. I particularly value the estuary interface, the beach and dune character, the existing open space, and the opportunity for this area to continue functioning as part of a wider catchment-to-coast system.
- It is an area that has a significant amount of very old swamp paperbark trees in the lagoon area nearby and it would be good to retain this somehow. Also, the revegetation at Bridge Point and its surrounds has been ongoing and substantial, and, effective in maintaining good dune health in this area. The car parking needs to be kept somehow as it is a popular area for visitors to the area.
- The usable beach area.
- Community use of bowling club
- wide sandy beach
- Norfolk Island pines and grassed area. Dune and coastal plantings between path and beach

What would improve the Site 1 area?

- Sand dune restoration and revegetation program.
- No more building approvals along the Esplanade (Bridge Tce) --Relocate the existing foreshore clubs
- Some dredging of the river to improve water flow
- Given the slightly elevated level compared to the other sections of coast line identified, we should be promoting the vegetated zone that exists between the road and beach. This area could be expanded

into what is a very wide roadway. A reduction in the width of the roadway presents as an opportunity to improve the amenity while implementing a green design seeing more trees/vegetation that will serve to improve and protect the coastline. Pedestrian access through this zone should also be considered as imperative. Currently pedestrians have to share the roadway which is less than ideal especially in peak season.

- Make a car free zone improve the paths and relocate parking. Design an foreshore that is defined by nature not by people.
- Restore the two wooden groynes, which have helped protect the Hindmarsh estuary since they were put there, 90?? years ago.
- It is ok to let go.
- Site 1 would be improved by protecting and strengthening its natural estuary and dune function rather than over-engineering it too early. Improvements could include better ecological restoration, revegetation, careful public amenity upgrades, low-impact lookouts or boardwalks where appropriate, and design that keeps future options open as the shoreline changes over time. I would support improvements that enhance public access and amenity while still allowing natural coastal and estuary processes to continue.
- Perhaps better fencing to reduce the wanderers from making illegal tracks through the dunes.
- A more naturalised environment, raised boardwalk, better access to beach and improved public amenities.
- Sea Walls
- storm water outlets redesigned

Site 2 - Croquet Club / Skate Park / Tennis Courts

What do you value about the Site 2 area now?

- Coastal views and the skate park
- Natural beach front.
- It's historical link to Victor Harbor
- Public amenities
- It gives public access to walk and cycle safely.
- The peaceful atmosphere and the beautiful views of the coastline and the Bluff.
- Nothing
- I value Site 2 as an important community recreation area where beach, dunes, open space and active public facilities come together. It is a well-used part of the foreshore that supports local recreation, family use, community identity and visual amenity. I also value that it still has the potential to function

as a more natural coastal edge if future planning carefully balances public infrastructure with dune and beach resilience.

- Not a lot except for the area in front of the croquet club which is a known Hooded plover breeding location.
- Beach volleyball courts.
- Narrow sandy beach, access to water for small yachts, school regattas
- Community facilities adjacent to the beach.

What would improve the Site 2 area?

- natural area restoration
- Remove and relocate existing sporting facilities -- Cease future building approvals in the area.
- Improved natural vegetation surrounding the croquet club
- Unfortunately this area is highly modified and very low lying. A return to a more natural vegetated environment with pedestrian access through the zone would be a vast improvement on what is currently available.
- Removing the road and make a walkable/ cycle able access path. Move infrastructure back towards the main road. Even if you re-enforce the walls it will only take a few big storms to destroy the walls. Transform the area so the dunes move more naturally
- More dune plantings of indigenous species.
- It is ok.
- Site 2 would be improved by planning for long-term coastal resilience while preserving important community recreation values. I support improvements that reduce pressure on the dune and beach system, strengthen natural coastal processes, and avoid overcommitting to hard protection where it would create future beach loss. This should include better stormwater management, dune restoration, careful redesign of public assets over time, and a staged approach that protects key community use while moving toward a more natural and adaptable foreshore.
- Again, fencing to deter people walking through the dune system.
- Improve / redesign facilities that are already present, such as volleyball courts and playground.
- stabilization of the sand
- Extend the storm water pipes and overflow with sand to maintain a continuous dune.

Site 3 - Flinders Parade / Heritage Cafe / Lawn Bowls / Soldiers Memorial Garden

What do you value about the Site 3 area now?

- coastal views and the bowls club

- Lovely green areas in memorial gardens
- Heritage
- It's memorial significance
- The heritage of the site.
- Provides access to safely walk and cycle the area, provides access the Granite Island and is great to host local events.
- The beautiful coastline and view of the Bluff. The habitat for shore birds including the endangered hooded plovers.
- Nothing
- Widely used public space
- I value Site 3 as one of the most important civic and community-facing parts of the Victor Harbor foreshore. It has strong public meaning because it brings together the beach, open space, walking access, heritage character, views, and community use in a very visible part of the coastline. It is a place people identify with Victor Harbor, and that is exactly why its long-term future needs to be planned carefully and honestly.
- This is an important area for the tourism of Victor Harbor. If possible, as much as possible needs to be held in place.
- Playground and pathway.
- I am the Executive Officer of the Victor Harbor Bowling Club and have been a member for nearly twenty years. The club is an extremely valuable asset in providing a recreation hub (especially for the older generations) and a location for socialisation of older people who would otherwise have little social interaction. The club has over 160 full members and over 100 social members/ night owls players. The club has bowls functions on an estimated 130 days of the year with a total of over 10 000 visits per year. With the club being refurbished in 2011-12 we now cater for major functions including weddings, funerals, birthday parties etc. The picture windows on the sea end of the building provide one of the best views on the coast and makes it extremely attractive for functions, especially funerals and memorial services. While playing bowls the current height of the seawall still enables bowlers to look out over the harbor towards Port Elliot and Granite Island. Glass partitions on the seawall in front of the building provide a magnificent view of the sea.
- Bowling Club for community use
- Bowls Club, Sporting facilities along Flinders Parade, Soldiers Memorial, Warland Reserve
- Historical precinct
- A valued area for visitors, residents and community events.

What would improve the Site 3 area?

Site 4 - Esplanade Beach Dunes

What do you value about the Site 4 area now?

- coastal views
- It's natural beauty and coastal views
- Current dune system and pathway along coastal area.
- Move the carpark so we can enjoy nature.
- The dune plantings and restoration. The parks and the views of the sea.
- Shared path & views.
- I value Site 4 for its dune and beach character, its openness, and its importance as a more natural part of the foreshore system. It is an important transition area between public amenity and coastal process, and it helps the coast still feel like a living landscape rather than only a built frontage. I also value its role as part of the wider estuary, stormwater and shoreline system, not just as a local strip of beach.
- The dune system
- Long path and bike track, fresh air (except with Karenia bloom)
- Natural dune area, existing vegetation and plantings maintained by Coastcare volunteers.

What would improve the Site 4 area?

- natural area restoration
- Restrict any erosion as much as is possible
- A return to a more natural state would be a vast improvement to the area. The removal of the mini golf/cafe from the shoreline would be a massive step and be a vast improvement to the area.
- The clash of car park versus tree protection in this zone is appalling. If we truly value our trees then the car park should be removed as a minimum approach to improving the area.
- Remove the road and air it a wide long bike and cycling track
- Continued restoration of the dunes.
- Better maintenance.
- Site 4 would be improved by strengthening the dune system, reducing erosion pressure from stormwater outlets, and planning the area as part of a wider catchment-to-coast system. I support improvements such as dune restoration, revegetation, relocation or redesign of stormwater outlets, WSUD features, and careful reconfiguration of parking and public space over time. This is one of the clearest places where lower-cost integrated stormwater and coastal management could reduce pressure before more expensive hard-edge responses are locked in.

- Adequate fencing and boardwalks to keep the public from making unofficial paths through the dunes
- Tanking and pumping storm water to parks

Site 5 - Inman River Estuary & Caravan Park

What do you value about the Site 5 area now?

- natural coastal environment
- It needs to be re-aligned to it's original flow patterns and direction and allowed to flood the area naturally - if that means a relocation of the caravan park OR parts of it - then so be it. This will restore it's natural vegetation , wild life and bird life etc and also return original fish and marine species to the Inman River plus improve overall fresh water quality
- The natural feeling of the area
- Gives great access between encounter bay and victor Harbor. Kent reserve is a great playground.
- There is too much history I have witnessed in this area to fit here
- Wide beaches and the dunes.
- Shared path and views. I find this site hard to answer because I feel that what occurs here will affect the other side of Inman River and Kent Reserve. I believe this area should be included in the adaption report. What will happen to Kent Reserve, loved and well used, but at risk. Already the sea washes over the shared path at the end of Harbour View Drive sometimes.
- Love watching the pelicans and the constantly changing estuaries
- I value Site 5 as a very important estuary and foreshore transition area where the Inman River, beach, dunes, public access and open space all come together. It has strong environmental value, but also public value, as it connects the estuary, caravan park, Kent Reserve, and the wider foreshore. It is one of the clearest places where Victor Harbor still reads as a living land-water system rather than only a hardened edge.
- The Inman River estuary and the surrounding area
- The walking access from Kent Reserve It's a beautiful walking path which would be a shame to lose.
- Highly vegetated area for wildlife
- Wide area of dunes, which are building with vegetation and holding soil.

What would improve the Site 5 area?

- natural coastal area restoration to improve dunes and hooded plover breeding areas
- Flow and direction of the river re-alignment
- Expansion of a more natural state would be a great result of the proposed development.
- Remove the road at the front make the wide walking and cycling track. Start adapting the area before the dunes do.

- Basically restoring the Inman to the way it was with some upgrades and improvements that will satisfy the ecological changes needed. These include Indigenous involvement of Kent Reserve, and wet lands to support the resumption of native fish breeding.
- Continued attention to dune restoration and a focus on sharing the beach with the short birds, allowing them to breed without fear of interference from humans and dogs.
- It is good as is.
- Site 5 would be improved by treating it as an estuary-to-coast system rather than only a flooding or levee issue. I support a long-term approach that improves estuary health, allows more natural coastal and river processes to continue, and gradually reduces reliance on hard protection in the most flood-prone areas. Improvements could include ecological restoration, wetland and habitat enhancement, raised boardwalks and lookouts, better public access design, and integration of existing estuary, stormwater, floodplain and lower-catchment work before major hard works are locked in. This is one of the strongest places to test whether a broader catchment-to-coast approach can reduce pressure and create better long-term public and environmental outcomes.
- Boardwalks to keep the public off the fragile areas
- New boardwalk, look out spaces and connection with Kent Reserve.
- Sand dune stability
- In the future, to raise the height of the path/levee by the Caravan Park, without blocking the sea view.

Other comments

Do you have any other comments?

- listen to recommendations
- Love living in the area. Need the roads to be upgraded. So much more needs to be attended to but was told not to speak up.
- No additional boat ramps in any of these locations - just further improve the Encounter Bay - Whalers boat ramp
- N/A
- We need to be proactive and protect the ecosystem. Trying to stop the dunes will be futile. Adapt and transform before we have to and save money from trying to stop it happening.
- I would love to speak with a consultant on site to explain the changes that have occurred over the years that will explain so many of the environmental issues that have unfolded.
- "Where in report shows the data of sea levels in these areas, 25, 50, 100, 150yrs ago.
- What data shows 3 overflow storms per month ?.
- All projections are 'could' be events in 75yrs time. I couldn't see any facts data to support any of the 'could' be negative outcomes.

- I suggest for the next 20yrs Council, monitor and consolidate real data to identify real change events. In the meantime focus resources and budget on their three 'R' core responsibilities. "
- Very good project
- No
- Please have a look at adaption for Kent Reserve for the same period.
- Council's work on coastal adaptation is important and necessary. My main comment is that the final Master Plan should not be framed only as a sea-edge response. The foreshore between the Hindmarsh and Inman Rivers functions as a wider catchment-to-coast system, where coastal erosion, estuary behaviour, stormwater outlets, dune condition, floodplain pressures and public land use all interact.
- From my reading, the strongest long-term directions are the options that protect natural coastal and estuarine processes, reduce long-term dependence on hard structures, and keep public access and amenity connected to a living coastline. In particular, Sites 3, 4 and 5 point to the need for transformational thinking rather than simply defending the current edge.
- I am not suggesting Council and other agencies have done no prior work in this area. My point is that existing floodplain, stormwater, estuary and lower-catchment work should be more clearly brought together and foregrounded before major expensive foreshore interventions are locked in, especially at Sites 4 and 5.
- Before finalising the Master Plan, I encourage Council to draw together its existing estuary, stormwater, floodplain, and lower-catchment work into a short, integrated assessment focused on whether these measures can reduce pressure on the foreshore, improve dune stability, and reduce the need for some hard interventions. That would strengthen the Master Plan, improve value for the community, and support a more resilient catchment-to-coast outcome.
- I have concerns regarding the stormwater. I was under the impression at the public consultation evening that the pipes were going to be redirected to the river systems. This is a potential recipe for flooding if there is a future weather event, as quite a lot of residential areas along both rivers have been built on flood plains, so, the idea of adding to the problem by the redirecting of stormwater to the rivers instead of the sea does not seem practical to me.
- The bowling club has a lease until 2041. Any decision to transform site 3 would require relocating the club at council's expense. While the science of sea level rise is generally accepted we cannot be certain of the extent of any rise in the future. Any future decision to increase the height of the wall or take other steps to prevent any inundation should be delayed for as long as possible. Within 20-30 years time materials and techniques may be available so that we do not have to worry about wall height.
- No
- Thank you for quickly installing the seawall at Yilki

Appendix D – Letters



☎ 0417 087 792

✉ vhyclub@gmail.com

📍 PO Box 280, Victor Harbor SA 5211

21st March 2026

Dear Sophie

RE: Coastal Adaption Masterplan (Hindmarsh to Inman River)

Thank you for the opportunity of meeting last week to discuss the Club's position on preliminary options for managing projected coastal erosion and potential flooding on the Victor Harbor foreshore.

Rather than completing the online survey, it is probably easier if we summarise and confirm in dot point format the various issues we discussed:

- The Victor Harbor Yacht Club (VHYC) is a long established Club that has contributed to the sporting sector of the local community for more than 70 years. In promoting the sport of sailing and advancing our own interests we are very conscious of the fact that we are just one organisation operating within an overall community framework. We recognise our obligation to be a good "corporate" citizen, and we therefore seek to work cooperatively with all relevant stakeholders in advancing our own agenda.
- The VHYC caters for "off the beach" sailing boats (small catamarans and monohull dinghies) which as the description implies are physically moved over the existing beach area and launched through the shore break. On race days, oversight of the fleet is maintained by two trailerable power boats that are stored at our existing premises but are launched at the Causeway boat ramp.
- Our sailing activities are essentially confined to the bay area to the north east of the Causeway and Granite Island for several reasons:
 - Shallow water and the numerous reefs that exist on the Encounter Bay side that preclude safe access and sailing.
 - The beach area in front of the Club which represents the only option for boats and crews to safely negotiate the shore break. The foreshore towards the Croquet Club presents problems in respect to water depth and the existing rock walls, while further towards the Hindmarsh River mouth, the gradual transition to surf conditions would make launching almost impossible. Additionally, there are no land based areas suitable for boat rigging/car parking and subsequent movement of boats across the dunes.
 - Proximity to the Causeway Boat ramp. While the ramp is far from ideal and is at the stage of requiring remedial works, it is the only practical option available to us to launch our rescue/support boats.
- In a general context our existing site is critical to ongoing VHYC activities. As mentioned during discussion it is also a facility that is used by other community based organisations. Potential withdrawal of the facility will therefore have wider implications than just for the VHYC.

In respect to the preliminary options set out in the Council's paper we would like to make the following comments:

- In its preamble the paper makes a brief reference to the Causeway Boat Ramp and the effect that it has on the movement of sand. However, it does not mention or allow for the separate impact of a Marina development in the area of Site 2 currently used by the Skate Park/Beach Volleyball facilities. The predicted shoreline (the dashed red line) has clearly been the main driver in the development of each option, and so we believe it is particularly important that projects like the Marina (that are being actively discussed) be picked up in the predictions. However, having made the comment, we understand that the science is not exact and that predicted shoreline incursions will almost certainly change over time.
- It is also mentioned in the preamble that cost has yet to be considered as a factor in identifying options. We strongly suggest that this needs to be introduced to the conversation as early as possible. The VHYC perspective is that Council will probably struggle with the potential cost of large scale infrastructure renewal/relocation, and this will therefore become a fundamental consideration in determining acceptable options. From an individual ratepayer perspective it will also be one of the first issues raised.
- In relation to the three options (Do nothing, Hold the line, Transformation) we lean towards "Hold the line" as the most pragmatic strategy, but certainly not as it is represented in the sketch for Preliminary Option 2B. You will recall that during our conversation we highlighted the apparent inconsistency between the red line as it is depicted for Site 1 Preliminary Option 1B "Hold the line" and Site 2 Preliminary Option 2B "Hold the line". The major incursion represented by the sketch for Site 2 Preliminary Option 2B is predicted to take in the Sea Rescue/Yacht Club/Croquet Club sites but nothing either side. Additionally we make the observation that we appear to be worse off by "Holding the Line" Site 2 Preliminary Option 2B than by "Do nothing" Site 2 Preliminary Option 2A. These inconsistencies make us question the veracity of the predictions.
- As mentioned in earlier comments we have strong reasons for wanting to keep our existing site and premises. In this context we visualise that "Hold the line" for the VHYC would see the introduction of additional protection measures towards the front of our existing site but broadly in line with the sites either side of us.
- At this early stage we are not supportive of the various "Transformation" options. Collectively they will require large scale infrastructure renewal and/or replacement and will also see the withdrawal from community enjoyment of areas that are already extensively used. We have no doubt that costs will be significant plus we envisage substantial community backlash.

I believe the above summarises the different things we discussed, but if you have any questions or need any further clarification please let me know.

Regards



Rob Martin

22 March 2026

To:

Victoria MacKirdy, CEO City of Victor Harbor
PO Box 11, Victor Harbor SA 5211
localgov@victor.sa.gov.au

Level 2 Main Building,
54 Wellington Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066
1300 730 075
birdlife.org.au

RE: Feedback on Design Options for the Victor Harbor Foreshore

BirdLife Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Preparation of the Master Plan from the Council's Coastal Adaption Study and Strategy (CASS). The coastline at Victor Harbor provides essential habitats for coastal-dependent native species, including shorebirds, inshore seabirds and waterbirds. Notably, the beach area covered by this Coastal Adaptation Master Plan (sites 1 - 5) provides crucial breeding habitat for the EPBC-listed, threatened Hooded Plover (Eastern). The area also provides foraging areas for young (just fledged) Sooty Oystercatchers (listed as rare in SA) and small numbers of EPBC-listed migratory shorebirds.

The CASS projected that by 2100, if nothing is done, parts of the foreshore could erode by up to 60 metres, and some areas flood from coastal storm surges three times a month. While some options within the Master Plan are projected to protect beach and dune systems, other options may threaten essential habitats for coastal-dependent native species including:

- Potential removal of critical shorebird habitat including established breeding sites of Hooded Plovers and migratory shorebird foraging sites.
- Disruption of critical Hooded Plover and Sooty Oystercatcher habitat and breeding and feeding cycles during the on-ground works and modifications to the system areas.

However, a careful and considered approach to the development of the Master Plan creates a positive opportunity for the Council to plan for coastal squeeze and maintain shorebird habitat, including current Hooded Plover, Oystercatcher and migratory shorebird habitat. It may also allow for enhanced breeding and feeding areas for shorebirds.

Coastal adaptation options should be further evaluated for their impacts on shorebird habitat and with the advice of shorebird ecologists.

Given that climate change and the resulting coastal squeeze will heavily impact dune and estuary habitat, the coastal adaptation options proposed in the Master Plan should be further assessed on their ability to restore and strengthen natural dune systems and to ensure functioning and ongoing shorebird habitat. Option C (Transform) seems to provide better outcomes for dune habitat; however, this is not presented as the situation across all sites. With EPBC-listed species reliant on these areas it is recommended that further analysis is undertaken. For planning and development that may impact shorebird habitat there should be continuous consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including

BirdLife Australia, so that advice and expertise to avoid negative impacts on shorebirds and their habitat or to improve shorebird habitat can be provided.

Summary of key points

- Negative impacts to the foraging and breeding areas of shorebirds (including migratory and resident shorebirds) must be avoided.
- Hooded Plovers regularly breed across all sites covered in the Master Plan. Negative impacts to the dune and beach habitat of Hooded Plovers and any restrictions of movement of flightless Hooded Plover chicks along the shore must be avoided.
- When planning and implementing changes to the landscape and infrastructure, considerations must include protecting Hooded Plovers from disturbance by people, dogs and vehicles.
- Any construction and subsequent beach management activities (e.g. sand movement and removal of wrack) must be evaluated for impacts on breeding Hooded Plovers.
- This Master Plan should protect and preserve breeding and feeding areas for Hooded Plovers and other shorebirds but should also create a positive opportunity to enhance shorebird habitat.
- For all planning and development that may impact shorebird habitat there should be continuous consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including BirdLife Australia.

Importance of the Victor Harbor coastline for the Hooded Plover

Breeding pairs of Hooded Plovers establish territories where they will nest at multiple locations during the breeding season, and this territory must have enough food resources, shelter and undisturbed nesting habitat to support survival and successful breeding. Hooded Plovers regularly breed at sites across the area covered by the Master Plan including at the Inman River Outlet and the beach east of the outlet. They nest in front of the Victor Harbor Croquet Club, Bowling Club and Skate Park (the Hooded Plover Breeding site called Victor Central). They will also nest at the Hindmarsh River Mouth and will walk chicks between these sites. This area is one of the most successful breeding areas across the Fleurieu and Adelaide Metro coasts with multiple fledglings produced over multiple seasons. **There have been fledglings from this area each of the previous four seasons, being one of the most consistent *source* areas for contributing young to the Hooded Plover population.**

Hooded Plover breeding pairs also show strong site fidelity, often nesting in the same area season after season. For example, the same male Hooded Plover (identified by leg flag PX Right (White)) has been nesting at Victor Central since at least the 2017/18 season and possibly longer. PX Right (White) was banded at this site in March 2018.

- Strong site fidelity means Hooded Plover breeding pairs cannot easily change breeding locations and any disturbance that limits a pair's ability to breed at a site will impact breeding success.
- Flightless chicks must feed themselves from when they hatch and must be able to move to the water's edge and along the shore to access enough food for survival.

Disturbance is a key threat to Hooded Plovers. The Master Plan must consider that changes to beach access and infrastructure may increase disturbance to breeding Hooded Plovers. Construction activities and beach management activities, including removal of accumulated beach wrack and movement of sand, may also increase disturbance.

- Any increased disturbance at the site will likely impact breeding success of Hooded Plovers and this should be considered in infrastructure and landscape design.

- Any construction and subsequent beach management activities must be evaluated for their impact on breeding Hooded Plovers.

The area included in the Master Plan includes known Hooded Plover breeding sites that have been used consistently over time with successful fledging of chicks contributing to the region's Hooded Plover population. Considering the information provided above, **the Master Plan must mitigate any significant negative impacts on a matter of National Environmental Significance.**

Additional pressures on the Hooded Plovers must also be considered, with the area currently being impacted by the harmful algal bloom.

Hooded Plovers are visual feeders, primarily feeding on isopods/amphipods, marine worms and small molluscs and crustaceans, in particular, invertebrates associated with beach wrack deposits and rock platforms. Impacts to prey availability and competition for remaining prey could potentially disrupt breeding birds, leading to displacement, abandonment of nests, postponement of breeding until conditions improve and/or reduced breeding effort (fewer nesting attempts, lower clutch sizes). Given all conservation efforts currently hinge on meeting breeding targets (fledgling per pair thresholds) to sustain the population trajectory, the algal bloom could have severe consequences on overall outputs and conservation efforts. The Master Plan must ensure actions to not pose compounding risks to Hooded Plovers that are already vulnerable to loss of breeding habitat and disturbance, which is currently being exacerbated by the harmful algal bloom.

Planning for this section of coastline should also include maintaining or enhancing migratory shorebird foraging and roosting habitat, to assist in fulfilling Australia's obligations to protecting habitat as part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

We urge that council consider coastal adaptation options that best sustain shorebird habitat and consider the opportunity to enhance and increase potential breeding and feeding habitat for the shorebirds. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Master Plan and please reach out if you would like to discuss our feedback further.

Kind regards,



Julia Roetman
Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Coordinator, BirdLife
Australia



Dr Grainne Maguire
Director of Coastal and Wetland Birds, BirdLife Australia

Further supporting information

Birdlife Australia's national and local expertise

BirdLife Australia (formerly Birds Australia) is a highly respected, science-based, not-for-profit conservation organisation. With our specialised knowledge and the commitment of our Australia-wide network of 13,000 members, and more than 100,000 volunteers and supporters, we are dedicated to achieving outstanding conservation results for our native birds and their habitats. BirdLife Australia has an extensive ongoing program of research, including our National 'Beach-nesting Birds' Program, developed to address the impacts of people and recreational activities on beaches on the breeding of Australia's native resident shorebirds, such as the Hooded Plover (*Thinornis cucullatus* [formerly *rubricollis*]).

The Beach-nesting Birds' Program has the support of volunteers across the Adelaide and Fleurieu Peninsula Region. During the 2024/25 Hooded Plover breeding season, volunteers from the region spent over 6,911 hours monitoring the Hooded Plovers and their threats. **Over 864 of these hours were spent by local volunteers in the City of Victor Harbor.**

Hooded Plovers and the EPBC Act 1999

The Hooded Plover (Eastern) is listed as Vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (Schedule 8). The EPBC Act affects any group or individual whose actions may have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. This includes local councils, landowners, developers, industry, state and territory agencies and Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government's Conservation Advice under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, effective from 06/11/2014 for the species, identifies management actions required for protection of Hooded Plovers by governments and land managers. These include:

Manage the use of (and access to) key beaches for recreation when plovers are breeding – e.g. discourage or prohibit vehicle access, horse riding and dogs from beaches; implement temporary beach closures; erect fencing to prevent people entering.

1. Adequately police beaches to ensure compliance with regulations, especially those relating to dog walking and vehicle access, and undertake a review of existing regulations to assess whether there is room for improvement.
2. Educate the public in research, monitoring, management and advocacy efforts.
3. Incorporate requirements for the hooded plover into coastal planning and management, and erosion control activities, including:
 - a. limiting levels of urban development within the coastal zone,
 - b. adopting evidence-based best practice,
 - c. consulting with relevant state and local government departments, research organisations, and community organisations.

The Australian Government has identified all breeding territories and non-breeding flocking sites are of high conservation significance.

Hooded Plover Behaviour and Conservation

The **Hooded Plover is the most threatened beach-nesting bird in South Australia because it relies exclusively on ocean beach habitat** for laying eggs, incubation, and raising chicks which are flightless for

35 days before reaching independence. Hooded Plovers will nest in the open or near sparse vegetation. Any changes to this habitat will impact breeding Hooded Plovers. Changes to the beach structure and dune morphology and shape pose a threat, reducing the availability of nesting, roosting and foraging habitat.

The Hooded Plover breeding season runs from August to April each year. Hooded Plovers lay eggs in a simple scrape on the sand on the beach or dune, and once chicks hatch, they need to find their own food, foraging along the water's edge and the beach in the company of their parents. **Hooded Plover nests and chicks are subject to direct crushing by people and dogs on the beach.** While a nest can be fenced, once located, to reduce the chance of crushing, chicks roam and can crouch on the beach anywhere from the water's edge to the dune and camouflage with the sand making them difficult to see and at risk of being stepped on.

Disturbance to Hooded Plovers

If an adult Hooded Plover perceives a threat, including people, dogs, and vehicles, it will leave the nest or send its chicks into hiding while it attempts to lead the threat away. The adult bird will wait until the perceived threat has left the area before returning to the nest or chicks. If this happens repeatedly throughout the day (e.g. lots of beach users and dogs passing by the breeding site), or for a long period for a given disturbance, the eggs or chicks can fail for several reasons including from exposure (heat or cold), predation (particularly from avian predators during daylight hours) and, in the case of chicks, starvation. Chicks are not fed by the parents and need to forage on the beach and at the water's edge from only hours after hatching. They are flightless and highly mobile, foraging across an area as big as 2km of beach up until they are 5 weeks of age (35 days). If too much time is spent hiding, they will starve. Separation of parents from chicks also leads to increased predation risk.

Migratory shorebird conservation

Migratory shorebirds come to South Australia to rest and feed before migrating to the northern hemisphere to breed. South Australia is part of the migration path called the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. While in South Australia, migratory shorebirds must feed and rest and increase their body mass by up to 70% to be able to sustain them on migration to their breeding grounds. Some migratory shorebirds have undergone population declines of up to 80% over the last 30 years. Migratory species which visit Australia are afforded national protection as a matter of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. Protection is afforded to the migratory species, including protection of habitat and protection from disturbance.

Adelaide

27 Halifax Street
Enter via Symonds Pl
Adelaide, SA 5000

(08) 8333 7999

Melbourne

68 Clarke Street
Southbank, VIC 3006

(03) 8593 9650

Perth

Level 17, 1 Spring Street
Perth, WA 6000

(08) 6285 3177

Brisbane

GPO Box 2349
Brisbane, QLD 4000

(07) 3778 7420

