

**State of OUR Environment Report
Summary of Port Adelaide Environment Forum April 20 2023**

INTRODUCTION

The Port Adelaide Environment Forum (the Forum) is a community led initiative, commencing 30 years ago. The Forum meets monthly 9-10 times per year and is supported by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield including that we meet in the Town Hall. Community members meet and plan the annual program, then topics and speakers are organised.

As the 5 yearly State of the Environment Report (SOER) is due to be prepared by the Environment Protection Authority and placed before State Parliament this year, it was decided to hold a Forum on the SOER with two short presentations, followed by a workshop.

The Forum, entitled State of OUR Environment Report, was held on Thursday 20 April 2023. Speakers were Tara Ingerson, Principal Advisor Assessment and Reporting from the Environment Protection Authority, and Joel Bright, Environmental Officer from City of Port Adelaide Enfield. Forum participants then responded to questions in a workshop setting. Three tables of approximately 7 community members each prepared answers to the questions, which were then summarised to the group. The questions were 1. The Issues in Our Environment now and in the immediate future 2. Existing Local Strengths or projects/approaches/actions and 3. Priorities for inclusion in the State of Environment Report. (See flyer below)

Community conveners of the Forum then wrote up the workshop's responses and prepared this document, to be forwarded to the Environment Protection Authority.

1. THE ISSUES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Forum listed the main environmental issues in the Port Adelaide and Le Fevre Peninsula area for now, and into the immediate future. This is the list of issues compiled from the discussions of the three tables of participants (not in any order of priority). Some of these issues were raised at one table, and others were topics on two or more tables.

- ABC Refuse Derived Fuel 'RDF' – Disposal of Combustible materials
- Ground water extraction effecting land subsidence
- Submarine base at Osborne
 - Traffic emissions to increase including on Victoria Road
 - Dredging
 - Noise
 - Nuclear storage issues
 - Limited public transport for work force
 - Lack of transparency of impact of nuclear submarines and risks
- Urban heat
- Water conservation
- Loss of biodiversity including significant sections of Biodiversity Park and threats to existing biodiversity
- Sea level Rise/flooding/storm surges, flooding from heavy storms, storm water systems, Lack of land to divert storm water from Port River and dunes

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- Loss of trees, hard surfaces, impact of suburban infill and development generating more storm water
- Juxtaposition of residential and industrial
- Poor planning for example proposed Port rail spur will make walking and cycling for people living nearby more difficult, need a plan for walkability
- Beach and Dune management – loss of sand through mining and carting and lack of suitable solutions so far. Breaches/blow outs in dunes at present, dune erosion
- Mutton Cove – still flooding, no solutions
- St Kilda mangroves and saltmarsh – cannot yet undertake restoration
- Cruise ships – air quality, bunker fuel, number of people visiting and options for them
- Soft plastic waste – lack of recycling
- Microplastic waste in storm water including from industries and manufacturing, local factory waste streams, impact on wetlands and river.
- Impact on dolphins of issues raised at the Forum– see the Parliamentary Select Committee Report on Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary
- Air quality including monitoring, winter wood fires, cement works, odour and fumes
- Water quality: Concern about Port River heavy metals, and who has the data
- Cottage industries: For example, laser cutters, 3D printers, plastic fumes, Methamphetamine labs. Home based industries are increasing in residential areas
- Loss of access to public spaces: For example, Port River/ community spaces like Gallery Yampu

There were three other issues identified by individuals on ‘post it’ notes at the workshop.

Emissions standards - on cars to reduce emissions (this overlaps with air quality)

State Disaster Plan – Review considering nuclear fuel storage (this overlaps with future impact of submarines)

Urban infill – prevalence of more air conditioning, no regulatory controls over distance from neighbour’s rooms and increase in hot air and wind generated into other’s places requiring greater cost to cool, other’s hot air. (this overlaps with development issues)

The most frequently raised issues were:

- Air quality
- Waste – plastic/microplastics
- Sea level rise/ storm water/ water quality
- Future of the beaches and dunes
- Biodiversity
- Future impact of submarines

2. Existing local strengths or projects/approaches/actions

These are some of the things that the community ‘has going for it’, that can be utilised and built on.

One table summarised **our existing local strength** as

- **Citizens Voices**

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Some local groups were highlighted:

- Port Adelaide Environment Forum
- Dunes Group
- Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group (PAREPG)
- Semaphore Compost Network
- Estuary Care Foundation

There were some **local community initiatives** identified:

- Port Environment Centre Inc (Community managed and supported by Green Adelaide, City of PAE and Suzanne Elliot Trust)
- Collection of compostable items on Semaphore Road and in Port Adelaide and the recycling centre at St Bede's Community Hall, Semaphore, initiatives of a local resident

City of Port Adelaide Enfield (City of PAE) initiatives:

- Yipti Yartapuultiku – the Aboriginal Cultural Centre being developed including use of living shorelines principles
- City of PAE tree planting of impressive mix of native plants on Victoria Road
- Multiple rubbish collections for residents (hard rubbish) not common across Adelaide and helps to reduce dumping problematic in the region
- AUSMAP - microplastics surveys in local wetlands, in partnership with City of PAE

State Government initiatives endorsed were:

- Legislation to ban single use plastics was acknowledged as contributing to less plastic waste on our beaches,
- The proposed Bio-link from Mutton Cove to the coast

3. Priorities for inclusion in the State of Environment Report

Here is the full list of the priorities identified (not in any order of priority).

1. Pressures of poorly planned development – traffic, Biodiversity Park, more sealed surfaces, storm water issues, loss of trees
2. Sea level rise leads to risks of flooding and eco-engineering responses (Eg living shorelines)
3. Preservation and improvement of biodiversity
4. Protection of marine life, birds, mammals (ie Rakali), lizards
5. Protection of coastal reserves/public beaches, access to the Port River
6. Development along Port River results in humanity not being able to see the River anymore. Without connection it becomes 'out of sight, out of mind'
7. Impacts of Submarine base at Osborne
8. Air monitoring

It is possible to combine some of these, and to include the main issues identified in the workshop.

1. Preservation and improvement of **biodiversity**, including:

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- Review loss of Biodiversity Park
 - Retention of trees and encourage further plantings
 - Protection of birds, mammals and lizards
 - Impact of waste, especially plastic and microplastics
2. Protection of **coastal reserves, beaches and Port River**, including:
- Strategies to deal with sea level rise and risks of flooding Eg eco-engineering responses
 - Protection of marine life and shore birds
 - Retain access to the Port River
 - Impact of waste, especially plastic and microplastics
 - Strategies to manage storm water and water quality
 - Future of beaches and dunes
 - Living Shorelines

3. Impacts of Submarine base at Osborne

4. Air quality

Tools

In addition, **two government 'tools'** were identified as potential enablers or barriers to a healthy environment. These are:

- a. **Planning:** planning laws and practices are needed that do not put further pressure on the environment Eg traffic and roads, housing infill and more sealed surfaces, storm water issues, loss of trees and access to public space
- b. **Monitoring:** effective monitoring of air and water quality and noise pollution, and timely public access to the data

Possible case studies

Three possible case studies were suggested:

1. Microplastics and local industry – compliance and waste management.
2. Loss of Bio-link concept on the Peninsula
3. Bird Island at Outer Harbour should be a bird sanctuary. Nesting of terns including fairy terns, pelicans, ibis, oyster catchers

Note to Participants -

The State of the Environment Report team are keen to hear about any other case studies, and invite people to submit these (and other possible projects) to the 'Have Your Say' page on the website [State of the Environment Report 2023 | YourSay](#)

15 May 2023

On behalf of the Port Adelaide Environment Forum

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Flyer distributed through the Port Adelaide Environment Forum email list, Port Environment Centre mailing list, PAREPG mailing list and through other local groups networks. (This is final draft without graphics)

PORT ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Thursday 20 April 2023 - 7pm to 8.30 pm

State of (OUR) Environment Report 2023

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) reports to the South Australian Parliament every 5 years – the State of the Environment Report (SOER). The EPA has responsibility with respect to Pollution, Waste, Noise and Radiation. The next SOER is due at the end of 2023 – SOER 2023. Its important that we contribute now, to ensure our voices are heard.

Join us for a special Port Adelaide Environment Forum where we report on the State of Our Environment.

We will hear from Tara Ingerson - Principal Advisor Assessment and Reporting from the Environment Protection Authority and Joel Bright Environmental Officer from City of Port Adelaide Enfield. You will then have the opportunity to take part in community consultations and workshops to capture what environmental challenges and good news stories there are in our region. Air pollution, noise pollution, river quality, pollution in the gulf, soil quality and waste. And other issues you wish to raise.

Port Adelaide Environment Forum - meeting on Kaurua Land for 30 years



CITY OF
Port Adelaide Enfield

Free event. All welcome.
In person
Port Adelaide Town Hall

To Book
register at:
[Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

