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To Biodiversity Coordination Unit

Department for Environment and Water
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Background

Once upon a time I was a former member of a NRM task force in 2005, that created solutions (at the time) for the high sediment load exiting Christie Creek, which was depleting the reef system offshore

Current situation

Why do we need a Biodiversity Act?

"South Australia's unique biodiversity has been repeatedly reported as being in decline. The ongoing rate of decline, coupled with the fact that many of the threats are getting worse, demonstrates that existing approaches are not adequate to halt and reverse biodiversity loss"

Micro particles

Research overseas has highlighted that there is a compound called 6PPD-Quinone in tyres and to quote the author, “is among the most toxic chemicals known for aquatic organisms.”

A rough estimate of the amount of tyre rubber involved is the following. A tyre weighs around 11.5 kilograms, but when it's used, it's down to 9 kilograms. If you have a busy road with 25,000 vehicles traveling on it each day, it will generate around three kilograms of tyre dust, per kilometre of road, per day. (Dr Carl 2008)

Beach road catchment

As Dyson road and Beach road Christies Beach are busy roads and in the Beach road storm water drain catchment. So there would be conservatively 3 kilometres of road involved.

So the equation is 3 kilos of tyre rubber by 3 kilometres of road by 365 days which equates to approximately 3285 kilos or 3.2 tonnes per year emptying into a marine park and an adjacent sanctuary zone.

Christie Creek catchment

There has been a reliance on the flow reduction via Waterproofing the south and the Morrow road sediment basin (copy available) to mitigate the sediment load. However there appears to be evidence via Water Data Services that there might be an issue with the fine sediment and micro particles. As visual observations after the last summer storms indicate large sediment plumes.

This equation, is 3 kilos of Tyre rubber by 30 kilometres of road by 365 days which equates to approximately another 32 tonnes per year emptying into a Marine park plus a shellfish reef and an adjacent sanctuary zone.

Conclusion

Consequently I concur with the thoughts that there is a need to do things differently and reform South Australia's current legislative framework to improve biodiversity outcomes!

Regards Rex Manson