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Re: Biodiversity Bill 2025 - Coast Protection Board Submission

South Australia has more than 5000 km of coastline (including offshore islands) and more than 90% of South Australians live on or near the coast. The coast, estuaries and adjacent marine waters are a unique part of the South Australian environment that support a rich diversity of terrestrial and marine species. It is a distinct, complex and interconnected natural system, with finite resources that are vulnerable to overuse if not well protected.

The Coast Protection Board is established by the *Coast Protection Act 1972* to administer a range of functions. The primary function of the Coast Protection Board is to protect the coast from erosion, damage, deterioration, pollution and misuse. The Board achieves coast protection outcomes by applying a range of policies to development assessments and other coastal activities (Coast Protection Board Policy 2022).

The opportunity for the Coast Protection Board to protect and maintain coastal biodiversity is primarily through the application of its Conservation Policy which aims to conserve the diversity of plant, animal and marine species within coastal areas.

The Board notes and supports the proposed amendment to the *Coast Protection Act 1972* which states: *The Board must, if taking any action under this or any other Act that is likely to have an impact on biodiversity (including when making comments to any authority in relation to a matter under another Act) take into account, and seek to further, the objects and objectives of the Biodiversity Act 2025.*

The Coast Protection Board acknowledges the objects of the Biodiversity Bill 2025 are consistent with Coast Protection Board Policy and the provisions within the Bill maintain the status quo for the protection of biodiversity within the Coast Protection Board's jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely

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18 / 02 / 2025