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Dear Biodiversity Act reviewers

Not mentioned specifically in the survey is the damage that can be caused, both directly and indirectly, to coastal ecosystems. I am familiar in particular with the delicate coastal environment on the west coast of Yorke Peninsula, but these comments apply to most if not all natural coastal areas where vehicles are allowed access to beaches. The area between Port Victoria and Cockle Beach has pristine areas of coastal sand dune vegetation, and other areas partly degraded by human impact. Vehicles were very recently banned from general access to most of Wauraltee Beach following severe ongoing damage to dune systems through camping activities and frequent intrusions by cars. Other areas further south, for instance south of the beach access point at Parson's Beach are in pristine condition and of very high environmental significance and biodiversity. Cars are currently allowed to drive along this beach, which at high water is narrow such that cars are forced to drive close to the dunes, endangering plants, initiating erosion and destroying nesting sites of birds such as the Hooded Plover. Cars and campervans access these areas for camping and fishing on a regular basis, which inevitably raises concerns of personal and vehicular intrusion into the dunes (this has been observed on multiple occasions) and taking firewood from sensitive dune systems.

Access to such beaches in such areas may not constitute removal of vegetation or direct damage to vegetation, so I am not sure if the Biodiversity Act provisions currently covers such activities adequately if at all? Since there can be severe impacts on native flora and fauna ecosystems as a result of beach access, it would be good to see provisions restricting beach access included in the Act if vegetation damage was likely.

Ideally I would like to see vehicular access to beaches like this banned (with the exception of emergency and fisheries vehicles) as occurs in other Australian States, and some provisions for legal enforcement for offenders. A fall-back position would be to allow limited access for eg boat launching, within say 200 metres from an access point.

I am happy to be contacted about the above.

Many thanks

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