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You [REDACTED]

Dear Biodiversity Act SA, I am writing regarding the current “yourSAy” relating to the Biodiversity act. I note that there is little or no detailed reference in the act to the protection of native plants and native animal habitat in the coastal environment. I think this is a significant oversight. I have recently witnessed a significant increase in impact of camping and driving on the coastline, particularly evident on the Yorke Peninsula at Parson’s Beach. A rapid increase in camping on the beach south of Parson’s Beach is already evident, with campers driving and parking right up against dunes where hooded plovers nest. Also evident is impact on the dunes with dune surfing and vehicular incursions leading to damage of native vegetation and animal habitat. A recent closure of the Wauraltee Beach to camping has seen the problem move south to the relatively pristine coastal areas south of Parson’s Beach. It is disappointing that no plans to avoid this have been pre-emptively implemented.

I also do not understand why we have different rules regarding beach access in South Australia compared to other states. It is clear that those beaches close to the Victorian border are significantly impacted by interstate visitors wanting the experience of driving and camping on the beach. How could our native plants and animals be at any less risk than those in Victoria and other states? I am not against totally banning car access but would like to see limited access only (say 100m in either direction from an access point). This way the majority of the beach and neighbouring dune system would be protected.

I urge the Biodiversity Act review to consider including reference to the SA coastal environment in line with reference to other special environments like the River Murray.

Regards,

[REDACTED]