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Friends of Gulf St Vincent response to Draft Adelaide Coastal Waters Quality Improvement Plan

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent (FGSV) welcome the Draft ACWQIP, and commend the presentation of comprehensive data which now provides a current status report against which the effectiveness of future actions and political commitment can be gauged.

The FGSV notes the comprehensive series of strategies identified to improve water quality and halt seagrass loss, which the CSIRO's Adelaide Coastal Water Study has shown to be mostly caused by land based discharges.

Our concerns are:

- That these strategies will be underfunded, or prioritised to the point where some will be unacceptably delayed. A coordinated suite of approaches is essential to gain maximum benefit and to ensure that the focus is not too narrow. We would like to be reassured that the final Plan will be supported by the entire SA Parliament.
- Efficiencies will be lost due to the (necessary) involvement of many agencies from different spheres of governance.
- Stormwater will be the most difficult issue to manage due to:
 - the diffuse sources and variable content of runoff,
 - the nature and difficulty of monitoring stormwater events
- The capacity of the EPA and other agencies to carry out adequate monitoring – particularly with respect to stormwater events, where there is opportunity to identify rogue sources of sediment/pollution, for example runoff from building sites and quarries.
- Inadequate disincentives for developers to improve practices to minimise impacts of earthworks on waterways.

Despite the information already available, development applications are still being considered for sensitive areas such as the Torrens Island Quarantine Station site. The FGSV would like to see much more stringent conditions imposed on coastal development. Whilst this may be outside the scope of the ACWQIP, we urge the EPA and the Government to recognise the need for such integrated policies and attitudes.

On behalf of the Friends of Gulf St Vincent

Angela Gackle, Secretary

*The Friends' principal objective is to foster a unified community approach
to the protection and wise use of Gulf St Vincent*