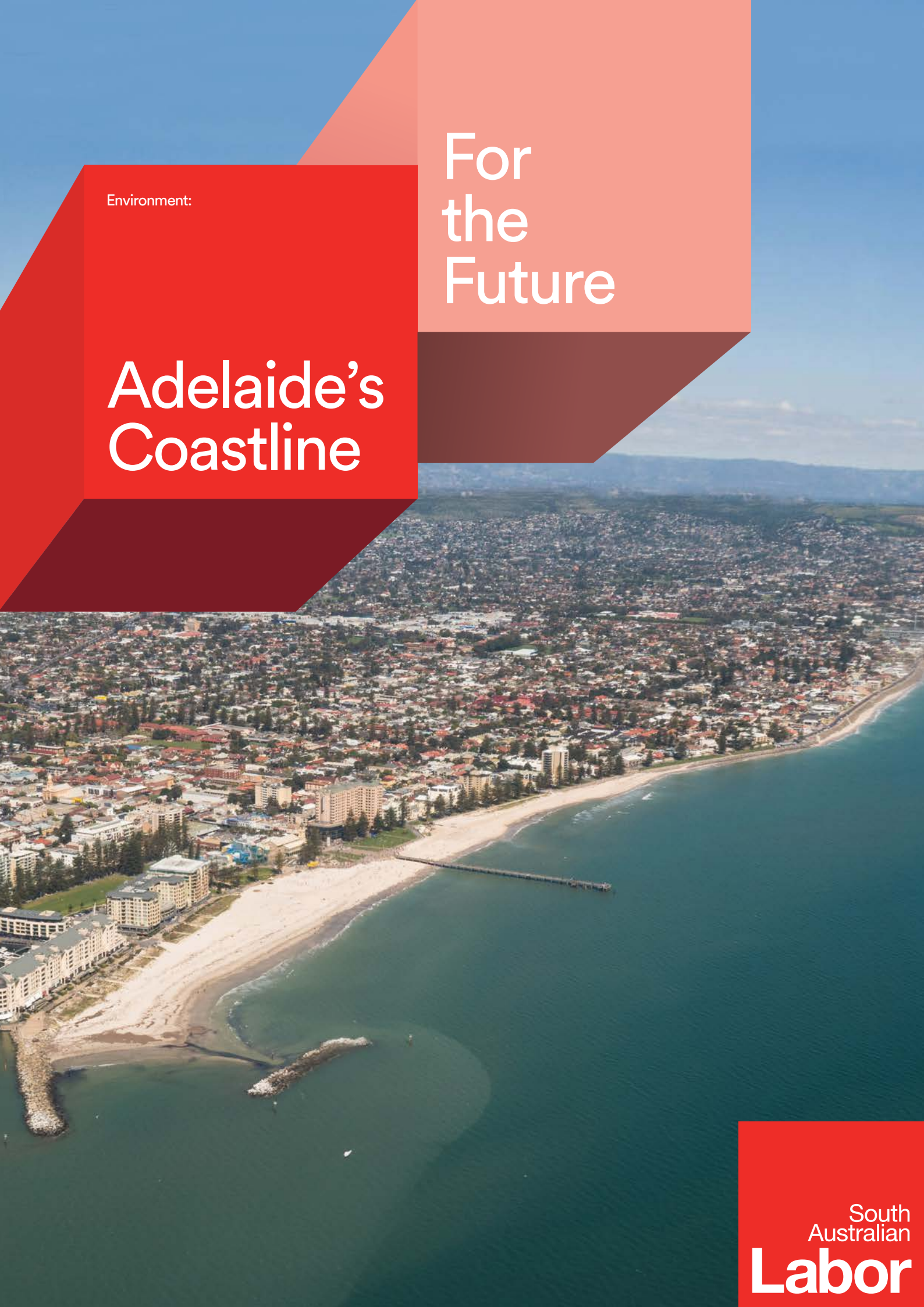


Environment:

For
the
Future

Adelaide's Coastline





Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

Foreword

Adelaide's coastline is one of its most attractive features, and a clear day sees thousands of people visiting beaches all along the coastline enjoying nature and time with the family.

This experience has been disrupted for some communities by the loss of sand from their beach, and for others by the trucking or piping of sand as a temporary fix.

We know that Adelaide's beaches have long been the challenging to manage: sand moves off some suburban beaches and replacing it from other beaches causes environmental disruption and distress to communities.

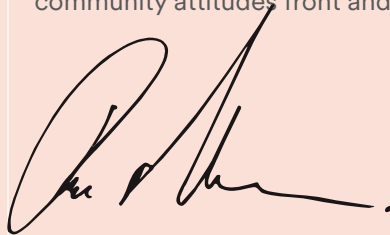
Labor will:

- ▶ Legislate for environmental impact assessment (including social and economic impact) of major sand works;
- ▶ Establish a scientific review of all options for sand management which will include full community input and transparency and analysis of climate change impact; and
- ▶ Establish as the goals of any sand management program to minimise disruption for all communities, avoid environmental harm and maximise sand staying on beaches.

There are no simple solutions, and foreshore developments at Glenelg and West Beach, approved last time the Liberals were in government, appear to have made the natural northward drift of sand so much worse.

All beaches in Adelaide must be maintained in a way that means all beaches are able to be enjoyed by the community, and we will make this a priority.

We have an opportunity to get this right, putting environmental considerations and respect for community attitudes front and centre.



Peter Malinauskas MP
SA Labor Leader



What makes it hard to ensure there is sand on Adelaide's beaches?

Adelaide's beaches are beautiful and loved. They are also constantly changing, and this can be hard to manage.

NATURAL MOVEMENT

There is a northward drift of sand caused by wind and waves along our coastline. This is not the only cause of sand shifting, or the sand would long ago have all moved from the southern beaches to the top of the LeFevre Peninsula. As you can see, fifty years ago West Beach had plenty of sand. So what changed?

DEVELOPMENTS ON THE COAST

The Liberal government in the 1990s approved developments on the coast at Glenelg and at West Beach which appear to have stopped sand moving from the southern beaches to West Beach. Glenelg now traps a large amount of sand and this is put into a pipeline operating for several months of the year to pump it south.

West Beach







SEAGRASS LOSS

Seagrasses hold sand together and minimise storm damage to beaches. Tragically, Adelaide’s seagrass beds have been damaged over the last fifty years.

Over the last half century, around one third of seagrass along the Adelaide metropolitan coast has been lost.¹

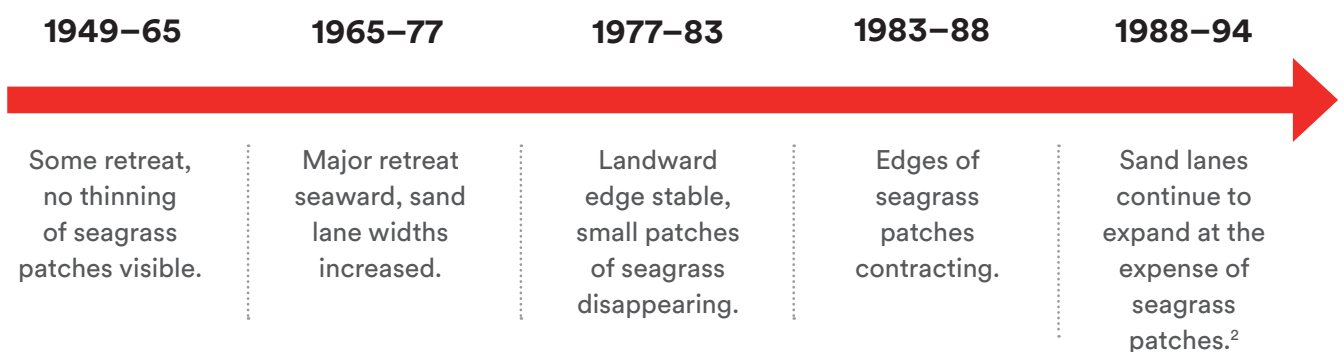
This means that sand which is placed on beaches is more likely to move off again quickly, which suggests we need to work out how to reduce the energy in waves to slow sand loss from beaches, including by restoring seagrass.

Both sides of politics have wrestled with this challenge and have come up with strategies to move sand around the beaches using breakwaters to collect sand, truck and pipes. The Marshall Liberal government decided to start trucking sand from Semaphore and Largs Bay beaches despite strong community opposition, and is now planning a pipeline along the coast to West Beach.

The government has also committed to bringing in sand from an external source to place on West Beach, and Labor supports this project.

Sand taken to West Beach in 2019 and 2020 has largely been washed off already, making many people question whether there is a better and more sustainable way.

Seagrasses Largs Bay to Glenelg



1. Department for Environment and Water | Australia’s biggest seagrass restoration project is happening in SA
 2. Changes in seagrass coverage and links to water quality off the Adelaide metropolitan coastline (epa.sa.gov.au)



Action on Adelaide's coastline

Labor will establish a scientific review looking internationally for examples of sand management.

Labor's review will address the following issues:

1

How to manage sand on Adelaide's beaches to achieve the following goals:

1. Minimise disruption for all communities;
2. Avoid environmental harm; and
3. Maximise sand staying on beaches.

2

The Adelaide community's views on sand management options and on the impact of the current sand management approaches including trucking and pipelines.

3

Lessons from international examples of sand management of metropolitan beaches.

4

What can be learned from the most up to date analysis of climate science about future management of Adelaide's beaches.

Labor will also introduce legislation to require an environmental impact assessment (including social and economic impacts) of all major sand movement projects.

Labor will continue the program of bringing sand in from an external source to assist West Beach.

