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29 January 2021

The Hon. van Holst Pellekaan  
Minister for Energy and Mining  
South Australian Government  
[dem.ministervhp@sa.gov.au](mailto:dem.ministervhp@sa.gov.au)

**Re: Dieback of mangroves at St Kilda**

This letter is on behalf of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Coastal Society Ltd (ACS) which is a national 'not for profit' organisation dedicated to healthy coastal ecosystems, vibrant coastal communities and sustainable use of coastal resources.

The ACS is very concerned about the extensive dieback of a significant mangrove community at St Kilda, South Australia as a result of poor mining practices and inadequate monitoring of lease conditions. I note the recent St Kilda mangrove update on the Department of Mines website lists actions and activity underway. None of these activities relate to a restoration plan and the web link provided for the environmental protection and rehabilitation plan is for an old 'draft' environmental charter dated 2015?

It appears much of the brine in the old ponds has probably now leaked away and salt has crystallised, however, there is an urgent need to take three actions;

- 1) develop a restoration plan for the impacted mangroves, saltmarsh and mangroves
- 2) ensure that the conditions for the leases over the ponds south of St Kilda prohibits the use of the old ponds
- 3) develop a pond closure and rehabilitation plan for the old ponds

The ACS looks forward to your positive response in implementing the above actions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'N. Harvey', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Professor Nick Harvey  
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