



29 January 2021

The Hon. David Speirs
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
South Australian Government
minister.speirs@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 environmental restoration and the web link provided for the environmental protection and rehabilitation plan is not up to date.

Although the South Australian Minister for Energy and Environment has responsibilities for any 'controlled action' mining operations under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act* (EPBC), it seems that the destruction of native vegetation and coastal impacts fall under your own State environment portfolio.

It appears that there is an urgent need for native vegetation and coast protection authorities to be meaningfully represented in the administrative arrangements for;

- 1) the monitoring of mining leases impacting on mangrove and samphire communities
- 2) the development of a rehabilitation plan for the old salt evaporation 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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