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22ND ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP
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22ND ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

THANKS TO



Government of South Australia

Green Industries SA

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City of Charles Sturt Open Space Asset Management Plan Review Team - Managing Climate Change Risks in Asset Renewals - Open Space Pilot

In 2022 the City of Charles Sturt commenced a review of their Open Space Asset Management Plan with a key focus on the inclusion of climate risk management following Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

Including climate change strategies and initiatives into asset management plans contemporises and future proofs against the impacts of climate change when renewing or upgrading assets.

The project team initiated and developed GIS interactive mapping and a risk assessment tool to assist Asset Managers with optimising decision-making related to climate risk management strategies.

The interactive GIS mapping includes a six-year renewal program for all Open Space asset classes, overlaid onto flood mapping and urban heat data. The maps will assist Asset Managers in determining appropriate locations for vulnerable assets.

The risk assessment tool measures asset vulnerability to forecast climate change hazards and sustainability impacts. Using the estimated useful life for the different asset types it informs of any immediate risks, or a risk that Asset Managers will need to consider in the future.

Both the mapping and risk assessment tool provide education and awareness of the climate impact issues the Council now faces and promote effective decision making for the delivery of sustainable community assets for the future.

The next stage is to expand these solutions across other asset classes within Council and then with other local government partners.

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City of Onkaparinga Parks and Natural Resources Team - Urban Flower Meadows Project

As the largest council in South Australia, the City of Onkaparinga has a huge maintenance program for its reserves and parks, with more than 750 grassed sites to mow and 1,100 garden beds to care for. Maintenance of this much green space incurs significant costs for Council and is becoming more challenging with the impacts of climate change leading to hotter and drier conditions and reduced annual rainfall. Wildflower meadows are a promising alternative ground cover option.

Finding places that feel 'wild' in urban areas is becoming more difficult. The City of Onkaparinga have created a complex and immersive experience for people to connect with their environment in the form of wildflower meadows.

The first trial at Robert Wright Reserve in Woodcroft proved successful; demonstrating that a wildflower garden can grow in an urban park setting. This small trial of approximately 120 square metres yielded great results with germination starting after only six days and the first flowers appearing after approximately six weeks. A spectacular display of flowers soon followed over the summer period into autumn, with positive feedback received from residents.

The second, larger trial, at Thalassa Park in Aberfoyle Park utilised a park upgrade to scale up the process. Here, Council set out to provide a soft, wild border to balance the straight lines of a formal garden, improve pollination and provide a home to beneficial insects who would help protect the garden from pests. This was another great success, with more than 40 species of flowers attracting many pollinating insects, lizards, and birds over the summer months.

Representing a break away from the monocultures of traditional urban parks, the Urban Flower Meadows Project is designed for people and wildlife alike.

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City of Port Adelaide Enfield Project Delivery Team - Recycled Material on our Roads Initiative

In 2018, the City of Port Adelaide Enfield led South Australia in embracing asphalt containing post-consumer materials such as soft plastics, waste toner and end of life asphalt mined from the City's own roads – and over the past five years, with a commitment to building a local circular economy, has adopted high-recycled-content solutions for most of its ongoing road resurfacing and maintenance works.

Recently, in a South Australian first, the City included 10% of locally sourced recycled glass in asphalt as a replacement to quarry sand, demonstrating commitment to energy, water and waste efficient procurement.

By replacing quarry sand, the glass content significantly reduced requirements for high-embodied-carbon virgin materials. Further, the use of glass in this road surfacing project provided a use for glass waste generated by recycling facilities, which was previously sent to landfill.

The use of a high-recycled-content, low-carbon asphalt in the majority of City of Port Adelaide Enfield's annual road resurfacing program in the 2021/22 financial year provided protection from bitumen price volatility in a time of unprecedented global uncertainty, while also creating a circular economy pathway for discarded resources.

Through its commitment to the City Plan and Net Zero Emissions Plan Council's road resurfacing program has laid 21,774 tonnes of asphalt over the last year, which has repurposed more than 12.5 million plastic bags, toner from 366,000 printer cartridges, and 7,262 tonnes of recycled asphalt pavement, delivering a carbon emission saving of more than 294 tonnes in just 12 months.

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District Council of Streaky Bay - Perlubie Beach Camping Sustainability Strategy

Streaky Bay is home to the stunning Perlubie Beach, located on some of the most pristine coastline in the world. When COVID came and hit like a wave, the self-drive campers and caravanners followed in its wake – overseas holiday plans were cancelled and it seemed that everyone headed straight to the Eyre Peninsula. Spurred on by social media posts from accounts like @tripinavan who have a following of 220,000 on Instagram, Perlubie Beach was suddenly home to more campers than it could handle.

Perlubie Beach became a must-visit, with the South Australian Tourism Commission ranking it number 8 of the top 10 camping spots in SA. Christmas and New Year 2020 and 2021 saw campers flock to the area in unprecedented numbers, with 180 vans and an estimated 500 beach goers trampling its pristine shores.

With no room for a day trip, the locals were distraught. The environmental damage occurring to the dunes and beach was considerable; the habitat of shorebirds disappeared, and so did they. Erosion of the precious dunes was rife, and litter and waste levels reached a disappointing new high.

An intervention was needed and the community demanded change. With the advocacy of the District Council of Streaky Bay and support of Minister Susan Close, a licence for interim care and control was granted, and so the crusade to save the beach began.

Once this was granted, Council engaged with the local community, local families who had camped at the beach for generations, tourists, and other beach users to find out how they thought the beach should best be managed. Council then used the information collected during consultation to form and endorse a range of recommendations which were promptly implemented. These included the reduction of camping numbers to a maximum of 20 (down from 180), limiting camping to a dedicated section of the beach, introduction of a 'locals' camping area during peak periods, implementation of a speed limit to the beach, additional waste management strategies and the roll out of an online booking system.

The result is that the precious landscape of Perlubie Beach is now protected. It is now a well-managed resource, which balances the needs of the local community, visitors to the region and environmental concerns.

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