

Trim Container	FOL/17/1743
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1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Background

Beach wrack is a naturally occurring process and is vital to the sustainability of beach and marine environments. It provides a source of recycled nutrients for living seagrass beds, provides shelter and food for a variety of organisms and acts as a barrier for coastal erosion. Its abundance is largely based upon wave and tide action, thus making it highly seasonally variable. Build-ups and natural removal of the wrack can occur very rapidly.

As well as having significant environmental impacts, beach wrack is used in many everyday products such as toothpaste, flavoured milk and in commercial products such as fertilizer and aquaculture food. As a result harvesting is a small but rapidly developing industry in temperate Australia. Harvesting generally requires the use of heavy vehicles and machinery, thus exposing beach users and adjacent tenants to the imposition of having to co-exist with hazardous equipment and machinery.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent approach to the Community and also to ensure Council operates within the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

1.3 Scope

This document applies to beach wrack on all beaches within the City of Holdfast Bay.

1.4 Definitions

Beach Wrack refers to the piles of seaweed, terrestrial plants and animal remains that wash ashore and are found in the tide line. Wrack is mostly composed of seagrass, from off shore seagrass beds, which are broken off and transported during rough weather.

1.5 Strategic Reference

Environment: Protecting Biodiversity
 Environment: Building an environmentally resilient city

BEACH WRACK (SEAGRASS) REMOVAL POLICY

Environment: Fostering an environmentally connected community

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 The City of Holdfast Bay does not support the removal of beach wrack from its section of the metropolitan Adelaide coast for the following reasons:

- a. Increased exposure to beach erosion
- b. Vehicular damage to coastal ecosystems
- c. Aesthetic, nuisance, safety, risk management concerns surrounding seagrass removal process
- d. Depletion and degradation of near-shore marine environment and
- e. Loss of micro-habitats within beach wrack.

2.2 Exceptions to this policy may include the removal of waste matter and litter caught up in the beach wrack for reasons of public health and safety. Seagrass may be shifted from some areas for reasons of accessibility, but every attempt should be made to retain the material within the coastal ecological system.

3. REFERENCES

3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*

3.2 Other References

Nil