

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK REPORT

Button Road Notice on Motion

1 Introduction

A Notice of Motion (NoM) was put forward (and subsequently carried) as per the following:

To align with the Aldinga Conservation Park Management Plan that is being developed by the South Australian Government it would be valuable for the City of Onkaparinga to provide a report to Council by September 2023 to undertake the following:

- a) Consultation to determine residents' perception of the need for the western section of Button Road that runs through the Aldinga Washpool.
- b) An engagement with the First Nations People Advisory Group (FNPAG) on their position of Button Road.
- c) An analysis of the volume of traffic utilising the western end of Button Road.
- d) If alternative access to the beach could be identified for residents.

As a result of this NOM, we undertook the following actions:

- a) consulted with the community.
- b) analysed of the volume of vehicular traffic utilising the western section of Button Road.
- c) determined if any alternative pedestrian and/or vehicular access to the beach and properties is possible.

Two traffic assessments were used to assess the vehicular traffic on the western section of the road. A traffic assessment was undertaken 9-29 May 2023, and another assessment was scheduled for December 2023/January 2024 to provide an indication for the warmer months when the beach is more likely to be frequented.

This report covers the community consultation that was undertaken from 6 November to 3 December 2023.

2 Community engagement purpose

The Communication and Engagement aimed to address two of the points stated in the NoM:

- understand the residents' and visitors' perception of the need for the western section of Button Road
- understand local Traditional Owners' position on the western section of Button Road.

3 Engagement techniques

A range of techniques were used to engage with the community:

- Your Say website page for information and to collect online feedback
- Letter distribution to residents/businesses surrounding Button Road
- Social media on councils corporate Facebook page
- Onkaparinga Now article
- Article in the Willunga Environment Centre newsletter
- On-site signage in three prominent locations:
 - Start of the western end of Button Road

- Carpark at the end of Button Road
- Norman Road
- Email to Your Say registered members residing in Sellicks Beach, Silver Sands and Aldinga Beach, including a reminder email sent approximately two weeks after consultation opened (95 emails in total)
- Community groups on the community register with an interest in Sellicks Beach, Silver Sands, Aldinga Beach and with an interest in the washpool (68 groups)
- Stakeholder email to First Nations Advisory Group (FNPAG) and Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC).

4 Summary of community engagement outcomes

Engagement was open from 6 November until 3 December 2023.

During that period, over 500 people visited the Your Say Onkaparinga page resulting in 115 contributions via the online form and three emails containing feedback.

Below is a summary of all feedback received.

4.1 Online feedback

Online, participants were able to answer two simple questions with open ended text boxes. This question type allowed participants to freely write comments with no restriction on the length of their response.

Question 1 asked participants 'What are the most important things to consider for the western section of button road?'. Question 2 asked participants 'What do you value most?'.

Of the 115 contributions, all 115 answered question one, and 104 answered question two. This resulted in 219 comments in total.

The graphs in Figures 1 and 2 below outline the common themes for each question, with the number of times that comment was made. It should be emphasised that a single comment may encompass multiple themes. For example, out of the total 104 comments made for question two, one comment alone could contribute to five entries in the theming graph. Consequently, the figures will not align with the overall count of 219.

All verbatim online comments can be found in Appendix 1.

Question 1 Summary - What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road

Based on the feedback, it is evident that the participants place utmost importance on the conservation, safeguarding and maintenance of the Washpool area, along with its diverse plant and animal life.

Additionally, the accessibility to the beach and the cultural significance associated with this area are highly regarded, with numerous individuals recognising the significance of the site to First Nations people and their deep-rooted connection to it.

What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?

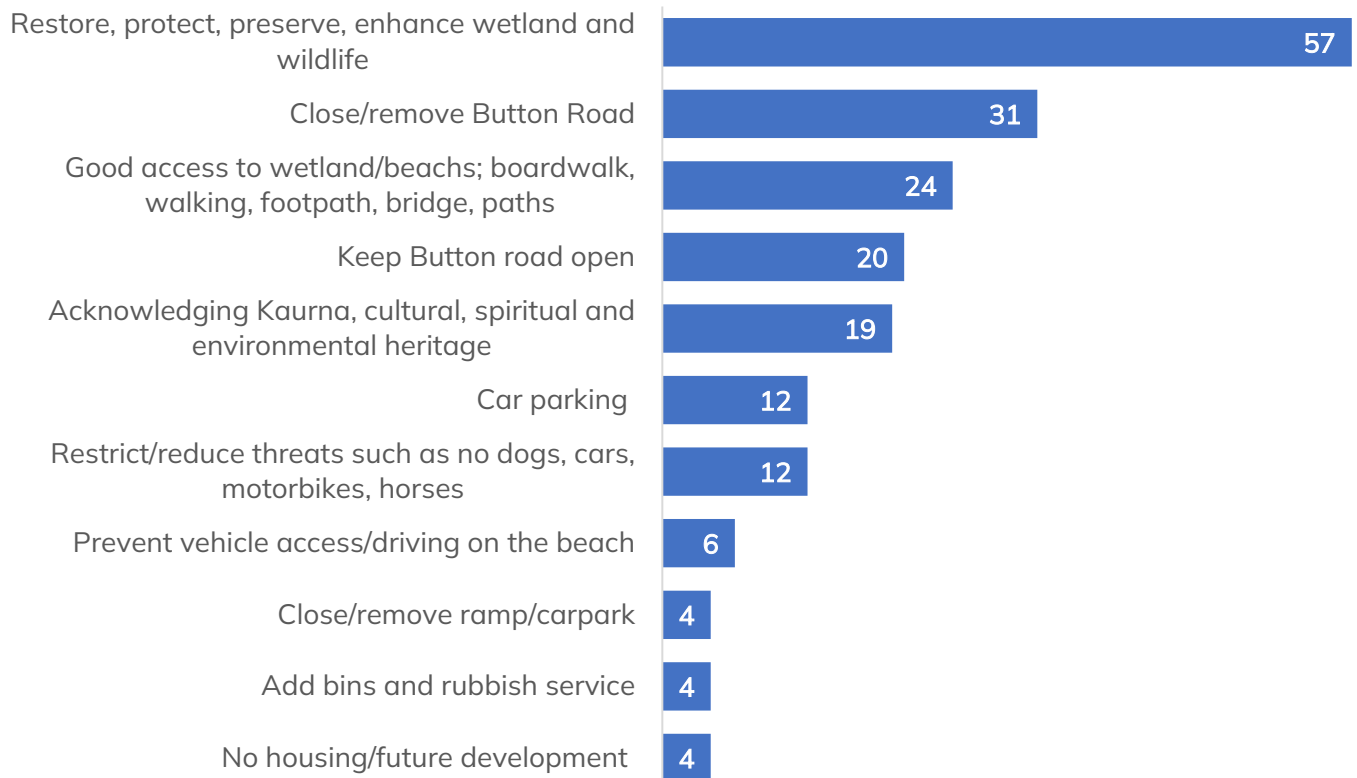


Figure 1: Comment theming Question 1 online survey

Question 2 Summary – What do you value most.

Like the graph depicted above, the participants hold the natural environment, biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the wetland in high regard.

What do you value most?

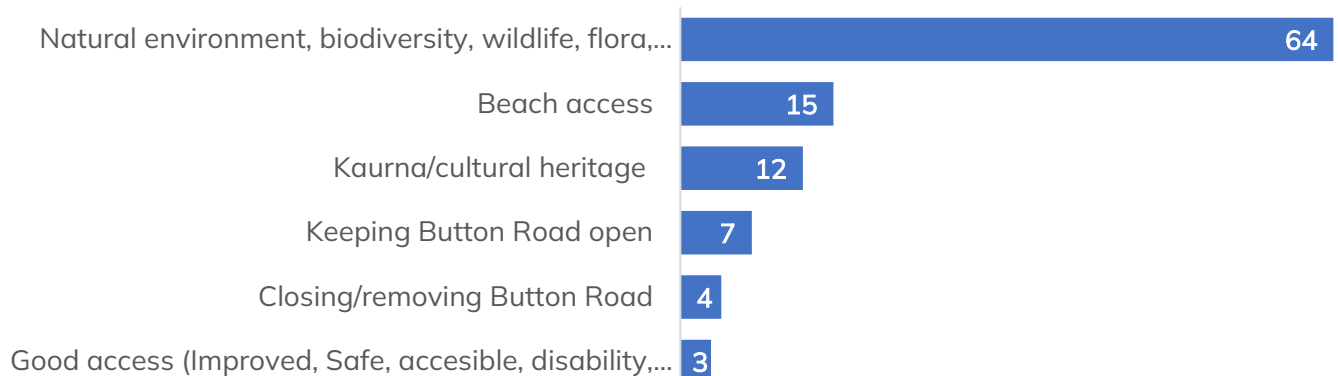


Figure 2: Comment theming Question 2 online survey

All verbatim online comments can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Throughout the comments, there multiple suggestions on what could be done to improve the area whilst still maintaining access to the wetland and the beach. The most commented are listed below.

- Suggestions for improvement
 - ensure safe access, wheelchair access
 - boardwalk for foot traffic would provide access while protecting the wetlands
 - boardwalk/walkway/footpath to the beach
 - prevent motor vehicles, bikes, dogs, horses
 - add information signage along the pathway about the wetlands, wildlife and the importance to First Nations people.

Although the two questions asked did not pertain directly to the closure of Button Road, many comments were received regarding concerning this matter:

- 31 participants suggested closing Button Road to ensure the protection, restoration, and preservation of the washpool area, including the wildlife, flora, and fauna.
- 20 participants, most of whom reside on or near Button Road, would like to ensure the continued accessibility of Button Road remains for the reasons listed below. Additionally, three of the twenty participants also emphasized the significance of safeguarding the area and minimising any potential harm inflicted upon it.

Reasons for ensuring the continued accessibility of Button Road (direct quotes):

- The road has been there for many years.
- Its working and has been for decades, why alter it.
- Let locals have access to the beach and Washpool.
- The road provides disabled and those with mobility issues access to the beach.
- Council has been maintaining the road and have repaired the ramp.
- It's quieter access for locals to the beach away from the crowds.
- It's good for tourists.
- There needs to be better ways for people to access the wetlands.

4.2 Email feedback

During the engagement period, four emails were received:

- **Email 1: from Conservation Council SA – summary**
 - Strongly supports the closure and removal of the western section of Button Road.
 - Further suggestions to incorporate this land into the Aldinga Conservation Park.
 - Additional recommendations to incorporate four more parcels of land into the conservation park subject to consultation.

Full verbatim email can be found at **Appendix 2**.

- **Email 2: letter from secretary of the Marine Life Society of SA - summary**
 - Strongly against keeping the Western end of this beach access road open.
 - Adequate protection of the Washpool requires absence of vehicles traversing it, and currently this road bisects important wetlands, irrespective of who owns the land. Alternative vehicle beachfront access should be achievable, and funding for such things is certain to increase rapidly over the next few years as the wider community accepts the reality of anthropogenic climate change and responsibility for mitigation.
 - I've often visited the former Aldinga Scrub CP over the past 5 decades, and have visited the new, expanded Aldinga CP quite often recently.
 - Including as a participant on a bus tour of the Fleurieu Peninsula wetlands organised by the Glenelg Nature Trust.
 - I've been waiting half my lifetime for adequate recognition and finally formal protection of The Washpool.
- **Email 3: email from resident**
 - Unhappy council upgraded the beach ramp recently to ensure wheelchair accessibility to the beach and now want to close it.
 - The Sellicks Beach ramp is too steep for wheelchairs.

Full verbatim email can be found at **Appendix 3**.

- **Email 4: email from Friends of Willunga Basin**
 - FOWB supports the foreshortening of Button Road and, specifically, the closure of its western end, to allow the re-integration of the Washpool Basin as a single body of water, in line with its original (pre-colonial) configuration.
 - It is time to correct the historical anomaly of the road severing the underlying water body.
 - Council should facilitate the best outcome for the unique environmental asset that is the washpool.
 - Make alternative arrangements for beach access and parking.

Full verbatim email can be found at **Appendix 4**.

4.3 First Nations People Advisory Group

Emails were sent to FNPAG and KYAC promoting the engagement.

Feedback wasn't formally received from these groups; however individuals may have responded via Your Say.

Tim Agius, Chair of KYAC, contacted City of Onkaparinga regarding another engagement at the Washpool (potential land revocation of two sites), and we have agreed to keep him informed on outcomes of this engagement.

5 Summary

In summary, there were 121 comments relating to the conservation, safeguarding and maintenance of the Washpool area, along with its diverse plant and animal life.

There were many suggestions to ensure the Washpool is protected, but also for improved access to enjoy the wetland and the beach.

Those living on or close to Button Road value keeping Button Road open.

Sign-off

All feedback reports are to be reviewed by the Engagement Unit
(engagement@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)

Officer who prepared the document

Name: Paula Bugden

Position Title: Community Engagement Advisor

Reviewed by Project Leader

Name: Melisa Lachenicht

Date: 29 February 2024

Approved by:

Name: Ynys Onsman

Date: 29 February 2024

Appendix 1

Button Road Aldinga - Engagement comments	
What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?	What do you value most?
Protecting the area as much as possible from human damage, having access to the area for walking and enjoying the Washpool.	The natural beauty of the cycles.?
Close it and keep it as natural as possible. A walking track through to the beach would be nice but no dogs if possible. This area needs to be given time to reestablish itself and heal.	Keeping it natural.
A combination of access to see the wetlands, with protection of the area. I imagine a boardwalk could be good? Car parking is an issue - we don't see many cars when we go but it's likely to become better known I guess. Being able to get onto the beach at that point is good too if both things are compatible.	Safe, appropriate, controlled access to the wetlands
Instead of putting signs up write to the residents of Sellicks and ask them if they want the button road kept open, this will ensure that you get what the people of Sellicks want, instead of listening to the people that do not live here and seem to think they know what's best for the people of Sellicks. What right has somebody who does not live here have on the say what happens to Button road?	Listening to the people that live in Sellicks, instead of the people that do not
Just read your media comment on Button road, there has been a road through the washpool for the last 50 years what has changed. Leave the road open and let the locals have access to the beach and washpool.	Keeping Button road open to the beach
I have done a number of bird surveys at the Washpool, and often birds have been disturbed by speeding cars and people on crosscountry motorbikes riding through the wetland. The road needs to be closed at the eastern end of the washpool, with perhaps a boardwalk for foot traffic, and which prevents access to motor vehicles/ bikes. There also needs to be fencing that prevents motor bike access from the beach.	Restoration of natural vegetation to provide habitat for birds, frogs and all other animals that frequent the Washpool.
The environment is being destroyed by people driving through the water when it is over the road when it's full. Birds fly in from all over the world & people have no respect for these animals.	The serenity. Hoping for a safe undisturbed place for migratory birds & all native animals
I value nature and spiritual heritage. I think the Aldinga Washpool needs to be protected from development and nearby pollution. I think it would be wonderful if visitors could enjoy and appreciate the area, if this is possible without disturbing the flora and fauna. Possible signage, information and trails. More than ever, I think it is important that we as a community respect, value and appreciate our Kurna heritage and flora and fauna.	Nature, Kurna heritage, quiet places
The council repaired button Rd in late October it is now early December the potholes are back, this says that the road is used a lot so why are you planning to close the road? Listen to the locals who use the place instead of the people that attend the council meetings who don't live here and badger the council to do things that they want. Button road is an important access point for the local community and the disabled to the beach and wetlands.	Keep button road open
The wetlands on the south side of Button road is filled directly from the Sellicks beach community (some via a pipe from the northern subdivision stormwater retention pond) the water is retained by Button road filling up faster than the main lagoon supporting flora and fauna sooner. The fact that the wetlands already supports several important and rare remnant flora and fauna species is proof that the road has little negative impact to the eco system. Button road and the southern wetlands should remain in the hands of the council and Sellicks community to empower the community and stay connected with their environment.	Beach access
Closure is essential for adequate protection of the Washpool. Beach access is a secondary issue and is possible via other access roads, existing or future. Driving on this beach should be completely banned. It's only a matter of time- years not decades-before the increasingly tenuous social licence to do so is overwhelmed by the social licence to protect biodiversity and the environment generally, and to mitigate climate change.	Nature.
To keep the area as natural as possible and restore the original landscape and water drainage to it's original layout, make it user friendly to access, but still restrain it from too much human interference.	It's unique andnatural attraction to wildlife
Maintaining the integrity of the Washpool as a minimum, ideally enhancing it.	The natural values of the Washpool.
Being within the Aldinga Conservation Park, it is vital that the ecological significance of the area be recognised. Button Road should terminate at the entrance to the last property on the south and the remaining western section be removed to allow for re-connection of the southern section of the wetland with the northern lagoon. As this is a popular bird-watching location, a board walk could be built beyond the western end Button Road to allow access partway across the newly joined sections of the lagoon. Dogs, horses, motorbikes will not be allowed in the Washpool, and this will need to be policed. The concrete pedestrian path across the pebble bank will no longer be required and can be removed. Visitors can access this section of the beach from either the south (Lurline estate) or the north (Loongana Road). The importance of Aldinga Conservation Park to the Kurna people will need to be recognised, and their guidance on any works to be done in this area will be essential.	Incorporation of the Aldinga Washpool Lagoon in to Aldinga Conservation Park has recognised the significant ecological value of this wetland. The protection of biodiversity in the wetland must be the highest priority.
The significant cultural heritage and environmental importance of the entire Washpool and Blue Lagoon area. This site should be protected from further development and destruction, and the road should be closed from the last property boundary. This site has been heavily impacted and altered by development over the past 200 years. There is a need to cease the encroachment into this natural space, and to start truly protecting and preserving these remaining areas of cultural and environmental significance, for the health and well being of the animals (from across the globe) that rely heavily on this system, but also us as a people. Community needs to step back and stop complaining about access - a privilege, and a convenience NOT a necessity - and start respecting the cultural history of place, as well as the environmental value and importance of what remains. Stand up and protect what is left within an ever diminishing and altered landscape.	Cultural and environmental heritage
No dogs (on or off lead, as some dog owners think it's OK for their dog to be off lead when signs say otherwise) Bollards across the beach at either side of where the park and beach join. This will stop the beach being used as a vehicle thoroughfare from Sellicks to Aldinga, providing some protection to nesting hooded plovers. No dogs allowed in this area during breeding season Every year widen the "No go" bollards in above paragraph to give more beach to hoodies	Wildlife being free from human and domestic animal interference. Trap wild and domestic cats
The natural and cultural significance of the area. Traffic access makes this hazardous for these aspects, so I feel the road should be closed. Imagine being able to walk the area without traffic disturbance. How much closer could we feel to the spiritual side of the Dreaming story without that disturbance?! How much safer would it be for the wildlife?! This section could be a real treasure for the area.	The priceless natural environment.
The western end of button road is a valued access point to the beach for local residents. It provides disabled access and access for bikes, strollers ect. During busy periods like Australia day where the beach gets closed to cars the button road carpark is important for beach access. When the silver sands SLSC has carnivals and other functions the boat ramp and carpark is full therefore the button road carpark is a great alternative for beach access. Alot of people who have horses use the button road ramp to access the beach as its quieter.	Accessibility for wheelchairs, bikes, strollers. No stairs and close carparks to the beach.
The overall approach which I favour is that Button Road does not become a high use approach to the Silver Sands beach, which if adopted would need to make provision for car parking. That would be in substantial conflict with the environmental priority for this important and sensitive area.	Having high priority to the maintenance of the environmental considerations to this area.
Protection of this precious site, the biodiversity. Recognizing it's local cultural indigenous significance and respecting first nations wishes to preserve and historically highlight it's importance. Reducing and preventing environmental damage /impact from cars, pedestrians, dogs, cats and urban sprawl. Protecting the birdlife and maintaining it as a sanctuary and place for the public to visit and enjoy.	The environment and biodiversity. Indigenous significance and a place for all to enjoy wildlife.
Allowing local traffic still have access to the car park and beach	preservation of the washpool and access to the easy access to the beach
This area is a significant environmental wetland and Button Road divides it. I support the Friends of the Willunga Basin in their opinion that the Western end of Button Road should be closed. Closure of the beach to cars in front of the Washpool Lagoon. Access to the beach could be maintained via a boardwalk. There are plenty of other areas by which the beach can be accessed.	The Aldinga Conservation Park, the Washpool lagoon, Kurna Culture and the vegetation, birds and animal.

Button Road Aldinga - Engagement comments	
What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?	What do you value most?
The washpool must be preserved for all the reasons stated above. The road at western section should be kept open because there is not ever large numbers of cars there. Also allows people with mobility problems to access. Also leave the ramp there. Filling up the pot holes as they occur would be helpful.	The birdlife.
Remove the current threats and disturbance factors that impact the feeding and breeding birds in the lagoon on either side of the Westetn end of Button Rd. Those threats with the greatest negative impact are: Dog walking (particularly off- lead dogs, Uncontrolled vehicular traffic (often at speed) to access the ramp, carpark and beach, Due to the exposed nature of the road where the vegetation is very low any one walking along Button Rd also result in significant disturbance of the birds in the lagoons. It would be prudent to consider closing the western section to traffic and dogs. Walkers would need to access the Washpool via other walking tracks with better vegetation screening, viewing areas and bird hides. An alternative carpark in the "paddock" east of the northern lagoon could be created to cater for visitors. This would necessitate the closing of the car park at the western end, so access to that area of beach would be accessed via walking tracks only.	The Washpool is such an important site for bird life, other wildlife, rare plants and for the Kaurna cultural heritage. Consequently consideration of these conservation values should have the greatest priority above all else in the management plan.
Please consider if button road is closed to the beach the people will drive on the beach to button Rd, so making more cars on the beach to threaten the endangered hooded plovers that the council and volunteers are trying to save	Button Rd access to the beach
As residents and users of button road for over 40yrs the council has been maintaining the road, now after repairing the historical ramp you want to close the section through the washpool to the ramp. The washpool has always filled from the north until the council put in a pipe to get rid of the stormwater from the coastal subdivision, it now fills from the south. Council has just allowed more subdivision on just Rd where is their stormwater going? We want the button Rd to be kept open to the beach so come on council put your thinking caps on and find a solution to keep the road open and manage your subdivision stormwater.	The beach access via button road
The most important thing is to NOT open this land up for housing. The washpool seems to be thriving at the moment with lots of water birds visiting this unique area. The last thing we need is to carve up the open land on the northern side of button road and stick a housing development there. There is plenty of other paddocks in Sellicks if you need to build housed. Leave this area alone. If anything revegitate some of it closest to the washpool with indigenous plants to the area.	Don't destroy the washpool please
I fully support the closure of the Western end of Button Road. The integrity of the Washpool Lagoon is far more important, especially in the light of the loss of virtually all other Adelaide Metro coastal wetlands over the years since European settlement.	Integrity of the Washpool Lagoon and the potential for further restoration works of the lagoon.
It is lovely just the way it is. That is what makes it special to the area. The wash pools should be left alone as well.	Access to the beach
Yes the road should be closed to traffic with a pathway to the beach. Also some signage along the pathway about the wetlands and the importance to first nations peoples. By joining the 2 sections it will bring the wetlands back to how they should be.	Join the wetlands up to be one again
That this remains a dirt rd that the council diligently come to repair when needed so it can remain a peaceful protected habitat for the 100 swans that visited for a stint this year 2023!!!!	The fact that still not so many people go there!!!
It is important that the road be sealed to prevent further erosion without damaging flora and fauna. Access for all, keeping the wash pool and the beach accessible for the whole community. This is a necessary access point and very popular. It needs an upgrade and maintenance to protect it, but at the same time, openly accessible. I would suggest a boardwalk through the wetlands from the south end to Silver Sands and a bird hide to enhance and safely give access for nature lovers and the community in general. At the moment in the winter, in particular, it is not and there is an abundance of bird life there in winter. But you can't really access it safely! I frequent this area regularly. This area could be even better if it had appropriate access as suggested. This area is not valued enough. There was so much bird life there this year but you can't get in to see it! Don't close the road, come up with a plan like e.g the wetlands at the River Murray. Wheelchair access would be wonderful.	Ease of access for vehicles WITHOUT damage to flora and fauna
As a local person that uses Button road I noticed the council put a counter on the section through the washpool in winter when people don't go to the beach, you have the evidence on usage in winter, in summer the usage will go up. Listen to the evidence and locals, instead of the people with loud voices who do not live here.	The bird life is amazing through the cooler months. But it needs safe access to see it all. A board walk!!
Council have just spent money on repairing the ramp access at button Rd for people to use and now you want to close the road access. Keep the road open.	
Button road is used by the local and Adelaide windsurfers during summer. The road has been through the washpool for as long as I can remember(30yrs) with no problem, so please leave it alone and keep the road open.	The beach access via button road
It would be amazing to see the end of button road closed to vehicles. The closure of this section would reconnect the two lagoons to its natural state that is really important to migratory shorebirds. It would also reduce destruction of the area from 4WD's, dumping of rubbish, horse manure, people collecting pebbles from the pebble bank and motorbike access. If closed careful consideration will be needed for dogs off lead in that area as it may impact on bird species such as the hooded plovers and people collecting pebbles from the pebble bank. If it is closed you will have to be careful to avoid dog walker walking through this section that may disturb nesting birds. Most importantly I think you need to ask Kaurna what they would like to see there. At present there is no signage at the site and this may add to more protection of it importance.	Cultural Heritage, Shorebirds, vegetation community, Hesperilla flavescens habitat,
What damage has been caused buy the road being open ? Council has upgraded the ramp to concrete, why? . People can enter from the beach. As your are aware when the beach is full there is no where to go to the toilet, guess what ,they go to the wash pool area . We know this as we own 2 Seascape view and it happens in front of us . Have a better look at the situation.	Not a relivant question!
As a Sellicks Beach resident we think it important to maintain and improve access to and across the Washpool rather than restrict it. Sellicks desperately needs a safe and well constructed North South connection to Silver sands for non-vehicular traffic as well as access from Justs Road via Button Road. Currently we have Justs Road, Main South Road or the beach if the conditions are right. A sensitively constructed boardwalk across the Washpool with information boards and bird watching hides would control adhoc access. Similar to the Goolwa to Middleton cycle way. Currently walkers and cyclists have to risk the traffic on Just Road or add to the traffic.	Improved access to control where and how people can enjoy and traverse this gem of our natural environment
These people that want the Button road closed are mostly people that do not live here or use the road listen to the people that live here.	The road.
Repair the road to the beach, the potholes are a health and safety issue as they are dangerous	The road
For you to fix the road(potholes) bring back the bin so when us people that live here have somewhere to discard the rubbish we pick up from the beach each day, also bring back the rubbish truck to empty the bin..	both as it benifits the people that live here and use the road daily.
The map that accompanies this survey clearly demonstrates that Button Road is an intrusion on the Washpool effectively cutting it in pieces. The road needs to be closer to Justs road to allow parking and a walking trail around the wetland. This will restore the wetland partly to its former glory.	The natural values - clean water, abundant native plants and birdlife. Including the pebble banks as an integral part of the wetland.
The western section of Button Road (marked in red) should be removed completely to allow the flow of water.	Returning it to nature.
Most important is what's best for the Washpool itself. This should include the re-creation of a single waterbody, as it once was which, in turn, requires the closure of the western end of Button Rd. Alternative parking and beach access arrangements can be made to the south - although this will be up to the Management Plan and will require finalization of land transfers between Council and State. But, to facilitate, Council should be willing to close the road and transfer the land to the state government.	The good health and ecological integrity of the Washpool and the associated pebble banks.
Protection of native flora and fauna. Preventing the spread of pest plants (especially from car tyres to the verges).	The birds and butterflies, some very rare. And it is a great joy to see native plant regeneration.
By closing the western end of Button Road, you will be forcing many more people that use that park to access the beach for dog walking etc etc to use the already crowded beach ramps, and drive to that area along the beach. Just soooo thoughtless. Its working, and has been working for decades, why alter it!!	

Button Road Aldinga - Engagement comments	
What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?	What do you value most?
Maintaining biodiversity Restricting vehicle access to the beach (already enough) Maintaining a healthy coastal capable of handling storm surges Reducing pollution from vehicles and people Not affecting the flow of the estuary system (build a bridge)	Maintaining a functional, intact ecosystem
To extend the washpool across button rd and have a walkway to the beach or move the road further south to the beach. Inviting birds and extending our natural habitats are so important with the growth of housing. We have many access points to the beaches on Aldinga Bay. The washpool is part of our eco system here and as part of Aldinga scrub and conservation Park. Button Rd must be stopped at the beginning of the washpool. This spectacular washpool is iconic and a great tourist attraction.	Natural habitat, birds
1. Close the Western end of Button road so that this significant Wetland can be re-united to form its whole area of water. Significant for birdlife and migratory species to not have the road dividing their access to food sources and freedom of movement. 2. For the few (3-5 cars at any one time) to be able to park at the eastern end of the road. 3. a designated footpath to the beach	The Peace, the Beauty, the colours of the different rushes and grasses and flora, the connection to a significant heritage of First Nation people. The pebble bank and waters edge
Two important aspects are 1: Access to the beach and 2: Creating the best environment possible to support the natural birdlife. Re 1. The people who currently park at the end of Button Road and access the beach on foot, and the occasional overnight campers, would probably object strongly to any change. Re 2. In the original layout, the wet areas currently to the North and to the South of Button Road, were joined as one lagoon. This original layout would be a more natural environment and also, the birdlife would not be disturbed by cars driving past their habitat. Without the western section of Button Road, it would be possible to increase the height of the existing weir to provide a larger area of water for a longer period each year to better accommodate migratory birds. Perhaps a solution for these two important issues can be achieved with a compromise. e.g. A boardwalk to replace the western section of Button Road, with parking spaces for approx. 6 cars. It is important that Button rd remains open all year round, as access to the beach, without that it only leaves 2 access points to the beach one at Selkicks and the other at Silver Sands. The area should be developed more fir beach access propper parking area and better access o to the beach. This access point is used by locals and tourists - swimming pet walking, wind surfing, etc. Both the other 2 access points get very congested and its a way of allowing people to spread out more along the whole beach instead if at the 2 access points.	The health of the washpool and the most hospitable environment possible to support the natural birdlife.
Ecology of wetland. Road, concrete ramp be removed, restore the natural flow of environmental forces. Access for studying visiting birds to be via raised boardwalk and birdhide on existing road footprint rather than create a new one, lessens further disturbance to area. The concrete ramp currently disrupts the natural ebb & flow (north and south & east and west) of pebble & sand action created by tidal & wind forces. Access to the beach be made further south at Sellicks residential area or to the north at Silver Sands beach ramp. Foot visitation to the Washpool could either be via the boardwalk or pedestrian only track through wetland north and south from Loongana Road, Silver Sands. Dogs no longer to be allowed at all in the conservation park in a sensitive breeding ground for birds. Create an intact environment for the preservation of significant flora and avifauna vital to its future health, wellbeing and knowledge of community including importantly the value of the area to Kaurna.	The ecology of the wetland system including the frontal dune and beach area.
Leave it alone. Don't fix it up or make it more accessible. Keep dogs out .leave the road dirt.	It's quiet . It's a bird refuge. Its beautiful and wild.
We use this access to the beach for horse riding which is 100 times safer than silver sands which is so much more busy and scary for nervous horses now. It is also great for wheelchair/disabled access now the ramp has been repaired	Close quiet access to beach
Button Rd provides people access to the beach without vehicle traffic unlike Silver Sands and Sellicks Beach. Sealing of the western section with a sealed beach carpark will enhance the area without detriment to the natural wash pool environment and provide safe access for people. Planting of suitable natives could enhance the road and add to the conservation park	
Walking/ cycling tracks . Bmx pump track	
I believe the western end of Button Rd should be closed off. The Aldinga Washpool should be priotised over Button Road. The value of this sight ecologically and culturally priceless. If Ongkaparinga Council are committed to Reconciliation this sight of significant spiritual and cultural importance will be protected and invested in.	The healthy ecology of the Washpool
The protection of and enhancing the quality of the washpool as a protected rare coastal area , strengthening of biodiversity, cultural factors.	Protection and enhancement of coastal habitat
I strongly do not want the western road reduced in length. This gives disabled and the elderly access to the beach. Not everyone wants to drive onto the beach. If there are concerns that the water comes over the road for about a week once a year then put some concrete pipes under the road and fill the road up 300mm higher. I do t think it needs changing, just maintain what's already there. Don't exclude the community's most vulnerable people from this beautiful spot we have. It works as it is fine. Don't waste tax payers money on something they don't want.	Close easy beach access for disabled people
Please leave the road open for locals, we live on button Rd and this is how we access the beach and keep away from the crowds everyone deserves access to this part of the beach without have to drive miles l the beach to get there the carpark is doing no harm and if the road was shut there would need to be a path anyway.. please let us drive to our beach	Access via car to walk on ramp
I want it to be left alone and leave it as it is with a small change of a bridge created so that the two ponds are joined with the road raised higher so the road can be maintained without impacting the park. The car park needs to be levelled out so it doesnt flood during winter as it has done. I think its important to keep access point here for dogs, horses, disabled and other community members (wind surfers etc) as an alternative access point to the over crowded ramps at Aldinga and Sellicks. It also needs a rubbish bin service to prevent pollution in the park.	Ability to access the beach from the end of Button Road
* Loss of car parking and access to the beach from Button Road. With more homes being constructed adjacent the park and not enough car parking along the coast line now where are residents supposed to park and access the beach from if this access point is blocked off. * We do need to protect the wildlife and species of rare vegetation and think conserving this space is vital with a balance of access to the beach to remain (or a new access point adjacent the park created) * Agree dogs to be banned from inside the park however can dogs access the beach from this ramp still as well as horses? We are long term uses of this access point for both horse riding and walking and live on Button Rd. * Mosquitos are HORRENDOUS from the washpool here - can a strategy to reduce the mozzies annually be applied for the washpool as our windows are literally black with so many mosquitos. * Would love to see boardwalks and viewing platforms built through out the park.	The ability to access the beach from our local road with our dogs and horses whilst protecting the environment
I would like to keep road open and seal road	Keeping road open
Keeping the integrity of the wetland and creating the conditions for its flora and fauna to thrive.	Nature and green spaces

Button Road Aldinga - Engagement comments	
What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?	What do you value most?
The carpark is a valuable park for those who don't want to drive on the beach. This is a quick access to a quiet part of the beach that I enjoy taking my kids to.	Ease of access
Access to coast without driving on beach . Ease of parking and walking to access beach. A private local resident only access . Closed to campers and groups / buses etc . Keep with dirt / natural road access . I have limited mobility so cannot walk more than 10 metres . This set up the way it is now is substantial in my view .	Nature and minimum structure
Please leave this area alone as ecologically is is important for the area plus it is a natural floodzone. There are enough houses in Aldinga!	Leaving it alone
Please keep the road open, I have family members with disabilities and this is a great way to get them to the beach where it's not crowded and is a safe space for them to go.	
Access to the beach and lagoons. It would be amazing to one day see the parking pushed eastward and the lagoons joined with a low boardwalk for accessing the beach or a constructed bird blind. It's such an amazing place for twitchers, dog walkers and beach goers. I would like to see the lagoons protected from run off from the neighbouring development proposed for Button road. I would like to see the council make positive decisions regarding this important area. It's also important for council to invest effective communication with Sellicks Beach residents as the future of this area is divisive and highly emotive particularly if it incorporates vehicle access on the beach or Hooded Plover conservation, which should also form part of this discussion.	Seeing people out of their vehicles and walking
Bike trails, bird spotting, water there year round. Just a nice place to get out in nature	
Closure would help stop van campers using the Washpool as a toilet. It would also limit the damage done by rogue 4wd users. Reconnecting the lagoons is supported by the science. A new eastern carpark can include a bird hide for the birdwatchers	Restoring the habitat
Keeping the road open to the beach. More car parking required could be a good spot for horse floats and access for horses to the beach. Large area for picnics RV & caravans / overnight stays	Being able to park close to the beach
Conservation and returning it to a more natural area for wildlife and future generations to enjoy. I am happy for the western part of Button road to be closed to vehicles. However, I would like a carpark with boardwalk for access to the area and beach for those people who have an issue with the closure. This is such an important area and button road as is, currently blocks the nature corridor and natural water course. To improve beach access in the area, the carpark at silversands could be better set out to maximise parks and have better human access to beach such as another concrete access ramp and a footpath along norman road to the beach.	Nature. This is some of the last remnant natural area adjoining the coast in the metropolitan area. We should be preserving, reinstating and honouring the importance of it. It is and culturally significant area with future tourist and educational value
I think there are enough road access to the beach but this is a good spot to gain access to the beach via foot	Keeping the road open to gain walking access to the beach
Leave our road alone, leave our car park and easy access to the beach alone!! Its been there for and trouble free for decades!!	Less intrusion into our area, it works as it is, leave it alone!
I think restoration of all empty land down south is paramount to the future generations. By starting with this space it would demonstrate a genuine concern about the impact development is having on the beautiful landscapes of the Fleurieu.	Ecosystems
Keeping things as clean and natural as possible. NO housing build up.	Nature.
"As this section of coastline offers a very high amount of ecological, environmental and cultural value, I see no reason as to keeping the section of Button road that intersects the Aldinga Washpool open. It would be a great benefit to restore the Aldinga Washpool to it's pre-colonial state, for the sake of the rare and not-so-rare plants, birds and other animals. I imagine the Kaurna would be most appreciative of the restoration efforts as well."	
Remove the road and install a boardwalk to retun the washpool to it's original distribution	Environment
Most important is preservation of the Washpool and surrounding ecosystem so that birds and other wildlife can continue to breed and live there. I believe limited access to humans for sightseeing and educational purposes should also be encouraged, but that unlimited access (as at present, with a road and vehicle access right acrid the Washpool) is detrimental to the ecosystem. I would like to see a boardwalk and bird hides with signposted information, and pedestrian only access to the Washpool system, i.e. the road should lead towards but not across the Washpool area.	The natural environment and human appreciation of it.
Preservation of the natural area and the beach Stop people living in their cars there I think car access from silver sands to Sellicks should be stopped here by a no car zone similar to aldinga no car zone plus no cars on beach same as aldinga during winter	The natural environment of the beach
Move the car park up before the wetlands. Join up the wetlands and bitumen the road.	Wildlife
Often I have seen rubbish dumped there and would love there to be bins provided or camera set up to deter people from dumping rubbish. Many people often leave their dog poop bags along the beach as there is no where to close by to dispose of them.	The wild life and birds and clean water leaving the wash pool to the beach.
The area is significantly valuable both environmentally and culturally. Is the road necessary? Restoring the washpool to the the way it was before infrastructure was plonked down would greatly benefit the unique environment there.	Environmental sustainability + environmental uniqueness
Preserving and protecting the wash pool!	Wash pool and the wildlife
Keep the road open, it's good for locals and tourists	Current access to stay the same
The preservation of ecological values Minimising the damage from cars and oeole in the lagoon ayatem	Retaining the lagoon syatem
Keeping the car park open so that we can try and prevent people from parking on the beach in that area in an attempt to help the hooded plovers.	Conservation of the wash pools unique ecosystem
The wildlife must be protected, the Ares is already set to have too many new houses. They are running out of natural habitat. Close Button road	Wildlife and ecosystems
I live on Button rd and use the Western end regularly. But I hate the people that drive off the side of the road into the wet areas. Because of this I believe the road should be shut and bollard off just to the east of the washpool. A proper carpark built and the remaining road removed leaving only a path, or make a raised shared path / walkway. I do not want it shut, but believe the people doing the wrong thing have spoiled it for everyone else.	Having it as natural as possible.
That is a sacred site and the area should be protected and declared a heritage site	Culture
Future Development (housing etc) water mansgement does not impact the wetlands. Button road has footpath so not walking.	Keeping open area for fauna/ flora etc. re vegetation
Banning new developments to the Sellicks region. Runoff will have a detrimental affect on this fragile feature.	The as yet unspoiled nature of the area. Bird life in particular.

Button Road Aldinga - Engagement comments	
What are the most important things to consider for the western section of Button Road?	What do you value most?
My preference would be to prioritise the ecological integrity of the Aldinga washpool as it is a place of high ecological importance. No more development in the area is critical. High traffic use would impact the area and I would like to see the closure of boat ramp as I don't see the need considering there are other locations already and this closure would help reduce activity in the area that could impact wildlife.	Migratory birds
Kaurna cultural values and biodiversity are the most important to me. Accessing the washpool and beach are secondary, and can be achieved via the northern or southern ends. I'd be strongly in favour of closing the road	Biodiversity
Close the western end to unite the washpool. Small parking area to east of washpool would be better then walk-in to the beach.	Wetlands and biodiversity.
What an amazing opportunity to restore the land for all life and future generations. I fully support the closure of the road and the opening of a natural reserve.	It has been great to have my entire life's pieces that humans have been part of positive change and environmental care. These spaces should be considered national
Due the extremely high ecological, environmental and cultural values of the Aldinga Washpool, I see no reason for keeping open the section of Button road that intersects the Aldinga Washpool. It would be of significant social, environmental and cultural benefit to improve restoration and conservation of the Aldinga Washpool. I imagine the Kaurna and future generations of all people would be most appreciative of the restoration efforts as well.	The ecosystem and inhabitants
Important ecological, environmental and cultural value - restore to original state please. Best to relinquish and remove the section of Button road that intersects the Aldinga Washpool.	The rare lagoon setting supporting so much biodiversity
As this section of coastline offers a very high amount of ecological, environmental and cultural value, I see no reason as to keeping the section of Button road that intersects the Aldinga Washpool open. It would be a great benefit to restore the Aldinga Washpool to it's pre-colonial state, for the sake of the rare and not-so-rare plants, birds and other animals. I imagine the Kaurna would be most appreciative of the restoration efforts as well.	Cultural and Spiritual connection to this site for the Kaurna
To be able to access the Washpool for a nice walk, need to maintain the car park at the western end.	
My Family owns a private property on Button Road. Retaining access to the beach via Button Rd is of great value otherwise a whole section of the coast a km either side will not be accessible from the East. Pedestrian walking paths in & around the washpool to the beach are vital and should be considered. Protecting the Washpool is of high importance & in order for the community to truly appreciate the full beauty of the washpool they need to view it from either side and thru otherwise this amazing community asset could potentially become unappreciated by the community due to its inaccessibility. Engaged councils should always aim to activate their landmarks for the benefit of their community. If access by vehicle is denied will people bank up their vehicles at the start of the washpool to try and view it? How will they turn around to exit back east to Justs Road as there is no turning area like where the car park is? The cost to remove/close the road may outweigh the benefits.	Beach access and ability to appreciated the washpool
Vehicular traffic is not aligned with looking after the Washpool. You have outlined well the significance of the Washpool, so this road should be closed and incorporated into the Washpool planning and management.	Protecting the natural environment
Button Road split a very important Aboriginal sacred site in two. It is of paramount importance that it be closed at the western end & restored as one pool. All other arguments for its retention do not appreciate the history of this portion of land. The southern half contains the sacred well site, desecrated by latter inhabitants. The northern portion a world class bird sanctuary & designated as such. Not only should the road be closed but the whole area returned to Aboriginal ownership & regeneration. Fishers, surfers, horse riders, dog walkers & beach goers can enter the beach at numerous other points but there is only one 'Washpool' that is special for our First Nations People. Closure is an important part of Reconciliation. Retention is thoughtless indulgence by a few.	My relationship with my First Nations brothers & sisters, their history & their future.
I would like to see the western section of Button road TOTALLY removed so the Aldinga Washpool is intergrated in both sides of Button Road. This is how the washpool used to be and therefore needs to be returned to this state. A carpark can be created in the eastern section of Button Road.	Seeing the Aldinga Washpool as an intergrated whole with no road separating it.
The road through the Washpool is an historical aberration and its removal absolutely appropriate and necessary. The footprint of the road was just following the pattern of regional subdivision in 1839, 184 years ago, and was not in any way a consideration of the ecological or cultural values of the place. These values are now the imperative. Too often we do not learn from history and critically query why certain things occurred in the first place and how we as the current generation of land and cultural stewards can address past errors of judgment and misguided values. Look back on the land management errors of the past and remedy them now for the future. There is absolutely no justifiable contemporary or future need for a roadway through a coastal lagoon system nor vehicle access to the beach in this location.	Getting rid of the road
The benefits to the environment that could be provided by closing the road, ramp and carpark. In particular, the benefits to strengthening the biodiversity corridor across the Aldinga Washpool site.	Environmental benefits.
The road, carpark and ramp should be closed, for three reasons, and in order of importance: 1. The positive impacts it would have on the connectivity for biodiversity of the conservation park; 2. As a related issue, the positive impacts it would have on the hydrology; and 3. The positive cultural impacts for Indigenous Australians.	The environment.
Conservation of the ecosystem including management of litter. There are no bins here anymore and unfortunately people come here and leave countless rubbish items around. People need to slow down in the final section of this road because there is a lot of bird life on and around the dirt road, especially the section where the lagoon is on both sides of the road.	Watching the bird life and kangaroos. Knowing this is a little haven I'm a shrinking natural world. We should protect this place. It is very special.
I think the most important thing to consider for the western end of Button Rd is parking for visitors and workers who wish to walk through the Washpool area. There is plenty of alternative access to the beach nearby so I do not see this as so important. There are often campers in the carpark overnight and personally I think this should be discouraged. As the road is sometimes flooded during winter, maybe the two wetland areas could eventually join or the road turned into a walking track to join a new carpark and the beach. I live very nearby on Seascape view and walk through this area often, so this activity is important to me. I am so pleased that it is now a Conservation Park. Well done.	The fact that it is now a protected Conservation Park for wildlife.
The Button Road section which divides the Aldinga Washpool should be closed and have foot traffic only. The more we can do to preserve this coastal lagoon the better. As it is, it clearly affects the lagoon and should be removed. This area is also culturally significant and the opinions of the Kaurna community should be heard. It is only the voice of a few locals who would be 'inconvenienced' by this move that is heeding the process. I also believe there should be no driving on the beach, but in particular, the area in front of the Washpool Lagoon.	The cultural significance and the migratory and local birds sanctuary.
its removal to reestablish the integrity of the Washpool. The removal of the end section will go some way to repair of the damaged hydrology and habitat of the area. Any steps taken to respect the cultural and biodiversity of the washpool by re connecting the lower sections is a welcome development.	the conservation and cultural heritage values of the Washpool
The potential for reducing human impact on an environmentally sensitive area by removing the western section is considerable and should be placed as a high priority for any future development considerations. Alternate locations exist for beach access and event space, a public awareness campaign to accompany any decision on these alternate localities could provide reduced confusion on the impacts of the western section removal. Additionally, consideration should be placed on the connectivity of our park spaces, ensuring that biodiversity has capacity to freely manoeuvre within the landscape as it responds to climate threats will enable greater sustainability of our wild spaces.	Environmental outcomes
Conservation, education and leisure	

Appendix 2

From: "Craig Wilkins" <Craig.Wilkins@conservationsa.org.au>
Sent: Fri, 1 Dec 2023 15:22:16 +1030
To: "Mail" <Mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to the consultation on Button Road, Aldinga
Attachments: Conservation Council SA_Submission_Proposed closure of Button Road_27.11.23.pdf

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender's full email address and know the content is safe.

ATTENTION: Melisa Lachenicht

Please find attached submission.

Cheers
Craig

Craig Wilkins

Chief Executive

He/Him

craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au | 0417 879 439



Ngadlu Kurna miyurna tampinhi. Parna yarta mathanya puki-unangku.

Conservation SA acknowledges that our offices and The Joinery sit on Kurna Country.

We offer our respect to the Traditional Owners whose lands and waters we engage with across South Australia.

Disclaimer: The information in this email is CONFIDENTIAL and may be legally privileged. It is intended for the recipient only.

This email may contain information that represents the views and opinions of the author and so do not necessarily reflect those of the Conservation Council of South Australia as an organisation.



Conservation Council SA

Ms Melisa Lachenicht
Project Officer City Operations
City of Onkaparinga
By email: mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

27 November 2023

Dear Ms Lachenicht,

RE: Submission to the consultation on Button Road, Aldinga

The Conservation Council SA welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the future of Button Road in the City of Onkaparinga. The City of Onkaparinga is to be commended for its ongoing commitment to the consolidation the Aldinga Washpool site into Aldinga Conservation Park.

The Conservation Council SA is an independent, non-profit, and strictly non-party political organisation representing approximately 60 of South Australia's environment and conservation organisations and their 90,000 members.

The Conservation Council SA strongly supports the closure of the western section of Button Road¹ to greatly enhance the conservation values and connectivity of the Aldinga Washpool.

Overview

The Aldinga Washpool is an ephemeral wetland, one of the last remaining freshwater wetlands on the Adelaide metropolitan coast. It hosts to a wide variety of plants and animals, including more than 100 species of bird and 20 plant species listed as vulnerable or endangered at a local level², as well as migratory shorebirds that are protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. As with many wetlands, the Washpool (and nearby Blue Lagoon) has a particularly high conservation value.

The closure of the western end of Button Road would be a key and prerequisite step for any reasonable hydrological restoration of the Washpool. The restoration of the Washpool site is supported by a broad range of local community groups and the Kaurna nation; indeed, the desire of

¹ I.e. where the road abuts the Aldinga Conservation Park, as marked in red on the consultation map.

² As reproduced in: *Labor's Plan to create the Aldinga Washpool Conservation Park*; https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/612f07247ff286d66d81fe5c/612f07247ff2861cb481ffcc_Aldinga%20Washpool%20Policy%20Booklet.pdf

the Kaurna community to have Button Road removed from the bed of the Washpool has been well-documented in reports based on extensive engagement³.

As the City of Onkaparinga is likely aware, the environmental benefits of a closure of the western end of Button Road are described in detail in the *Ecohydrological Restoration Assessment of the Aldinga Washpool* report to Green Adelaide⁴.

However, in summary:

- Button Road was built through the deepest part of the Washpool, disrupting its hydrological integrity and creating two separate waterbodies;
- the road base covers 3,450 m² of valuable wetland habitat that could be restored if the road was removed; and
- however, the proposed hydrological restoration (as detailed in the report to Green Adelaide) would raise peak water levels, causing Button Road to be completely inundated regularly, and if the western section of Button Road was not removed the road would need to be raised.

Recommendations

That the City of Onkaparinga:

1. Close and remove the western section of Button Road as marked in red on the consultation map as a necessary step for any reasonable hydrological restoration of the Aldinga Washpool, noting the broad community and Kaurna nation support.
2. Contribute this closed section of Button Road into the Aldinga Conservation Park.

Further, the Conservation Council SA wishes to re-highlight the following recommendations from our submission to the City of Onkaparinga's consultation on the 'Revocation of Community Land Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach' (24 August 2023); specifically, that the City should:

3. Support the consolidation of Aldinga Washpool land holdings of the City of Onkaparinga and state government agencies into the Aldinga Conservation Park.
4. Subject to public consultation as required under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), resolve to advance the contribution of the following parcels understood to be land owned by the City of Onkaparinga into the Aldinga Conservation Park:
 - D6804 A239 (directly north-east of allotment 116);
 - H106000 S86 (directly north of allotment 11);
 - F10453 AL11 (originally a road to H106000 S86; it uncertain whether this is owned by the City of Onkaparinga); and
 - subject to council requirements, D7917 A9 (the drainage lines in the north-east corner of the Washpool site).

³ Including: Draper, N. and Maland, A. (2021). *Aldinga Washpool Kaurna Cultural Heritage. Field Survey and Consultation Results 2018-2021 (updated)*. Report prepared for Green Adelaide. Neale Draper and Associates, Prospect, South Australia.

⁴ Taylor, B., Roberts, T., Farrington, L., Bachmann, M. and Zukowski, S. (2022). *Ecohydrological Restoration Assessment of the Aldinga Washpool*. Report to the Green Adelaide Board. NGT Consulting – Nature Glenelg Trust, Mount Gambier, South Australia.



Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the City of Onkaparinga's consultation on the future of Button Road.

If you require further information, please contact me at craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Wilkins
Chief Executive

From: "Ray Willis" <rwpr77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thu, 9 Nov 2023 12:54:40 +1030
To: "Mail" <Mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Button Road Sellicks Beach

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender's full email address and know the content is safe.

To Melisa Lachenich.

re > Closing of button road Sellicks Beach.

My name is Ray Willis, at 9 Justs Rd Sellicks Beach 0428567811.

I am completely dumbfound, that after making the beach ramp at Button Rd, FINALLY, wheelchair accessible, the Council now want to close it to cars and stop us having access close to the beach.

I am in a wheelchair permanently, I also have an electric one that I use on the beach, most days.

Button Rd is the ONLY access for a wheelchair? The Sellicks Ramp is far too steep! Have you tried to either go up or down it in a chair? The small dirt car park at Sellicks is usually full so depending on the tide we have to park at the top of the ramp, and sit there until there is space down the bottom.

So after many emails to Council re the ramp at Button having a huge step off onto the beach, finally they have placed extra concrete there, enabling us to roll onto the beach..... now you want to make it harder, by closing the bottom roadway.....less that a month after completing the ramp works.

I truly wonder if the powers to be really understand what is happening in the real world.

Has anyone in Council ever thought to ask or speak to someone with a permanent disability?
And I don't mean an OT!

Ray Willis.

Email 4 – Friends of Willunga Basin

Dear Council,

We are responding to the Have Your Say consultation process currently running on Button Rd.

Friends of Willunga Basin (FOWB) has taken a keen interest in the Aldinga Washpool over an extended period. Through its membership of the Washpool Coalition, FOWB is involved in the consultative process being run as part of the preparation of a Management Plan following the declaration of the Aldinga Conservation Park (ACP).

FOWB supports the foreshortening of Button Road and, specifically, the closure of its western end, to allow the re-integration of the Washpool Basin as a single body of water, in line with its original (pre-colonial) configuration. We note that both the alignment and the extent of Button Road reflect the original survey plans from circa 1839, which paid no particular regard to the fact that the underlying water body was severed by the newly surveyed 'road'. It is time to correct this historical anomaly.

As above, we note that the future configuration of the Washpool will be subject to further consideration during the preparation of a Management Plan for the Conservation Park. We suggest that any closure should be co-ordinated with that process, rather than proceed in isolation. In the first instance, Council might agree in principle to a future closure. In this regard, such a decision would reflect Council's willingness to facilitate a 'best' outcome for the unique environmental asset that is the Washpool – which, FOWB contends, means closing (and deconstructing) the relevant portion of Button Road and transferring the underlying land into the Park.

There will clearly be a need to make alternative arrangements for beach access and parking in lieu of current arrangements. There are options as to how this can be achieved, and these might be explored in the near term in anticipation of future closure. However, this need should not stand in the way of the bigger picture that is at play.

The re-creation of the Washpool Lagoon as an integrated environmental asset will be a big moment for the local community and we urge Council to be part of making it happen.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Hayter

Chair

Mob: 0401 990 592



Friends of Willunga Basin inc.

15 High St, Willunga 5172 Chair: Geoff Hayter Sec: Christine James email: sectowb@gmail.com