

Press Release

Will Emu Bay Beach be Closed- What is Council's position?

The issue of closing of Emu Bay Beach **WILL** be removed from the Council Camping and Day Visitor Strategy as this is **NOT** the appropriate place for this debate to occur.

Based on feedback to date it is clear that beach access should be managed through zoning as there are passionate views on both sides of the debate. The views need to take into account the following-

1. Maintaining some traditional vehicle access to the beach as a "sacrificial" site and keep recreational vehicles off other beaches except for the launching and retrieval of boats within 100 metres of the access points;
2. Dedicated "vehicle-free" zones where beach users can relax with young children without fearing they will be run over;
3. Managing vehicle behaviour especially speed;
4. Taking into account the needs of wildlife on beaches especially threatened hooded plovers and,
5. Doing this in such a way as to be able to manage it within existing resources from an enforcement perspective

Council can achieve these outcomes by developing a By-law for Beaches which will include detailed consultation with the community.

A higher level of consultation of the facets of the Camping and Day Visitor Strategy that have resulted in strong community interest will occur. In the interest of maintaining the planning process, aspects which are most controversial will be removed and dealt with on an issue by issue basis.

Council appreciates all feedback on the Camping and Day Visitor Strategy and issues, such as Emu Bay Beach, are creating large amounts of interest in the future of our recreational areas. Council staff have met groups of people at American River, Hanson Bay, Baudin Beach and Western river Cove to discuss the plan and varying options to ensure the plan meets the Community and Visitor needs into the future.

Comments on the Camping and Day Visitor Strategy will be received by Council until 21 November 2008 through the website at <http://www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/goto/campstrategy>

While the official comment period concludes on 21 November 2008, the Camping and Day Visitor Strategy is a working document that can be modified at any time and Council will continue to liaise with the local community on the redevelopment of Council's recreation areas.

Carmel Noon
Chief Executive Officer