

Support for coastal restoration

TWO Adelaide Plains projects will benefit from a multi-million dollar investment in the restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.

Last week, the South Australian Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Project received a \$2.9 million Federal Government grant.

The Nature Conservancy-led project is set on restoring and enhancing 12,400ha of carbon-rich mangroves and saltmarsh habitats in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the University of Adelaide's Gulf St Vincent Seagrass Restoration Project, at Port Gawler, was awarded \$1.97 million.

The project involves dropping around

100,000 biodegradable hessian sandbags on the seafloor over winter and allowing wire weed seagrass seedlings to naturally attach to them.

The projects were chosen based on ecosystem variety, scale of restoration, partnerships with local communities and traditional owners, as well as the benefits provided to biodiversity, fishing, water quality, and coastal protection.

Blue carbon is the name given to coast and marine habitats that store carbon in either plants or soil.

Per hectare, seagrasses can store up to twice as much carbon than forests on land and if undisturbed can play an important role in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.



Flathead over Amphibolis seagrass.

PHOTO: Department for Environment and Water.



Gawler mayor Karen Redman and Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority's Penelope Morrison launch the free food and organic bin initiative. PHOTO: Kayla Den Hollander

Gawler encourages locals to get greener

GAWLER residents can now get a free food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin to divert recoverable resources from landfill.

This means that council will waive the \$57 upfront bin cost for residents who do not yet have one.

Residents will be able to choose between a standard 240-litre bin or 140-litre option.

Council will provide a free benchtop caddy and roll of compostable bin liners with each new bin to help with collecting scraps.

The move will create savings for the council, which reported that over 5000 tonnes of waste was sent to landfill in the 2020-21 financial year, attracting

more than \$700,000 in state government levy costs.

Mayor Karen Redman launched the initiative with the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) on Monday.

She said diverting food scraps and garden waste from general waste bins would help extend the life of landfill at NAWMA's Uleybury site.

"This reduces harmful greenhouse gases to ensure a valuable resource is reused in farms and gardens instead of being lost," she said.

"I know many Gawler people already put their food scraps in the green bin or in their own backyard compost

areas, however, if we can get more people to get on board, we ultimately save money and protect our environment."

NAWMA education and community projects co-ordinator Penelope Morrison said the new FOGO bins had been made from recycled plastic.

"We feel it's important to demonstrate the circular economy in action to the community and to show that products made from recycled materials can match the quality of those made from raw materials taken straight from nature," she said.

For more information, contact NAWMA on 8529 2100 or visit nawma.sa.gov.au

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Gawler to consider celebration of our next monarch

KAYLA DEN HOLLANDER

GAWLER Council has requested a report to be delivered in its current term on how the town should celebrate the coronation of a new monarch.

In the last ordinary council meeting, Cr Diane Fraser moved the motion, claiming residents wanted to know why the Town of Gawler did not acknowledge Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

The report was originally requested to be delivered within 30 days, however, chief executive Henry Inat asked for the deadline to be extended to allow time for staff to gather information.

Cr Diane Fraser said she was "not necessarily a royalist", but called for the report to examine how Gawler would commemorate the event, as well as the associated costs.

"We did have it pointed out by a member of the community that we totally ignored the 70 years, which was probably not a good thing for us to have done that," she said.

"All levels of government are still aligned to the Commonwealth, we are a Commonwealth country, and we've got a photo of the Queen in the chamber.

"It might just be flags down the street, it doesn't have to be a lot - just some recognition is all."

The motion was seconded by Cr Brian Sambell, who also said he was contacted by residents regarding the lack of acknowledgement.

"I certainly support that wonderful grand old lady the Queen, and the amount of phone calls I got, I was just amazed that this town did not, in any way, acknowledge (it)," he said.

While the motion was carried unanimously, Crs Cody Davies and Nathan Shanks said they did not personally agree with the sentiment.

"I don't believe British nobility have magic blood that destines them to rule over us," Cr Davies said.

"I'm sure there are things we will have to update and adjust because the current Queen has been there for 70 years."

Cr Shanks added: "Being an elected member isn't just about my own beliefs, and I am hearing some of the sentiment that is coming through.

"We do owe it to the position to at least research into this.

"There were people that were pretty shocked at our lack of acknowledgement."

Queen Elizabeth is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.




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