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**Adelaide sea grass still dying**

Posted February 22, 2008 16:16:00  
Updated February 22, 2008 18:19:00

A study of Adelaide's coastal waters has found that large tracts of sea grass have died because of poor water quality and high nutrient levels.

The study's director, Professor David Fox, says more than 5,000 hectares of sea grass have been lost between Port Gawler and Sellicks Beach since the mid 1940s.

Professor Fox says waste and storm water from rivers and streams have contributed to the loss.

"Nitrogen is the single key element responsible for implicating the loss of the sea grass," he said.

"You have storm water and waste water delivering fairly significant amounts of nitrogen to the coastal zone, as is industry up in the Port River."

Professor Fox says one company that has been discharging large amounts of nitrogen into the Port River is changing its practices.

"The land-based discharges of nitrogen was almost 1,000 tonnes a year that was coming out from Penrice Soda's operations," he said.

"Penrice Soda actually recognised the seriousness of this problem and it's my understanding that they'll be working on progressively getting that down to as close to zero as they can."

**Greens urge more water policy changes**

South Australian Greens MP Mark Pamell says the findings of the coastal waters study are not surprising.

Mr Pamell says they should prompt the SA Government to recycle more waste water.

"This study needs to drive Adelaide's water policy into the future. What it tells us is what we've known for some time and that is that our storm water and our waste water is ruining our coast, ruining our sea grass beds and destroying our beaches," he said.

The State Government has given in-principle support to the recommendations of the study.

SA Environment and Conservation Minister Gail Gago says a committee will be formed to consider the recommendations and draft an action plan.

"[There will be] \$400,000 towards the committee and the work the committee will need to do to bring all the stakeholders together to devise a very specific and detailed action plan," she said.

"It shows that we are serious about this."

Tags: [water-pollution](#), [sa\\_adelaide-5000](#), [port-adelaide-5015](#)



A study of Adelaide's coastal waters has found that large tracts of sea grass are still being lost.

[Map: Adelaide 5000](#)

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<b>ADELAIDE</b>	at 11:00 ACDT
Temperature:	20.5°C
Rainfall from 9am	0.0mm
Wind:	9.3km/h from W
<b>Elizabeth</b>	at 11:21 ACDT
Temperature:	19.9°C
Rainfall from 9am	0.0mm
Wind:	9.4km/h from SE
<b>Mt Lofty</b>	at 11:21 ACDT
Temperature:	13.4°C
Rainfall from 9am	mm
Wind:	3.6km/h from NE
<b>Noarlunga</b>	at 11:19 ACDT
Temperature:	19.1°C
Rainfall from 9am	0.0mm
Wind:	14.8km/h from SSE

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