



MEDIA RELEASE

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Significant sand dunes earmarked for high rise development

Plans to build five story apartments on sand dunes at North Brighton will destroy one of Adelaide's last remnant coastal dune systems according to coastal management experts and local community groups.

Minda Incorporated's recently released Master Plan proposes development on the secondary line of remnant dunes at North Brighton, a recognised site of environmental significance.

"The Minda dunes are one of the last examples of the original dune system that once stretched along the Adelaide coast" the SA spokesperson for the Australian Coastal Society and coastal management expert, Mrs. Claire Lock said. "The secondary line of dunes contains numerous plant species of conservation significance which cannot be re-replicated. The site is irreplaceable."

The importance of the Minda dunes is well documented and university students, coastal management professionals, conference delegates and funding bodies visit the site to learn about its conservation value and the protection efforts that have been undertaken for over a decade.

Coastal volunteers have worked tirelessly on the dunes and funding from local, state and federal government departments has been invested to protect and improve the condition of the dunes.

"Minda's Master Plan claims 'the sand dunes are a protected site and will not be affected' but this is far from the reality" Mrs. Lock said. "Only the most seaward, foredune will not be built upon, and this will rapidly degrade once 144 apartments are built just metres away".

"Minda states their Master Plan 'sets out to implement environmental initiatives of the highest level' and 'will take into account emerging environmental requirements and best practice'" Mrs. Lock said. "The proposed development upon remnant sand dunes constitutes worst environmental practice and the Australian Coastal Society holds grave concerns for the future of the Minda dunes".

The Australian Coastal Society urges Minda Incorporated to consider how social, economic and real environmental outcomes can be achieved with their proposed development.

'As a society, we should have learnt from poor coastal planning decisions made fifty years ago when we didn't know better. We do know better now and if Minda Incorporated are serious about achieving best practice they will locate the proposed retirement apartments off the dune system'.

The Australian Coastal Society is a voice for the Australian coast and was established to promote knowledge and understanding of the environmental, social and economic value of the Australian coast. The Society contributes to international, national, state and local debates on coastal issues so as to foster rational, open decision-making in order to achieve sustainable use of coastal resources and responsible stewardship of coastal assets.

Further interview: Claire Lock – 0416 053 425

www.australiancoastalsociety.org