Landscape: Environment & Heritage

Objective: Customers expect us to get the basics right. This means being responsible custodian of water resources and assets for future generations; meeting regulated environmental responsibilities and minimising adverse impacts on the environment.

Current State

Targets:

- Meeting regulated environmental responsibilities (EPA and DEWNR)
- Minimising our environmental and heritage impacts
- Perception of environment protection

Regional values and context:

- Native vegetation covers 48% of the Island – mainly west end and south coast. Rest more isolated and disconnected.
- Road reserves are important vegetation areas
- Threatened species – high proportion and many species unique to the island
- Marine parks and zoning
- Lands and waters are of high cultural and spiritual significance to a number of Aboriginal Nations
- Sustainable water and resource - sustainable extraction limits.
- Pressures on aquatic ecosystems
- Vegetation and the habitat it provides contributes to the uniqueness of the island and constitutes an important drawcard for tourists.
- Known areas of significant Aboriginal heritage.

Constraints/Opportunities:

- Middle River reservoir excellent native vegetation cover and provides good quality habitat for native species. Known habitat for Glossy Black Cockatoo (especially downstream).
- Road reserves and infrastructure corridors have good quality vegetation.
- Penneshaw – offshore monitoring of desalination plant has not identified any impacts.

Work Underway & Existing Plans

Catchment (hydrological) modelling:

- 2009 & 2014 - reviewed land use and climate impacts.
- Updated modelling on Middle River with DEWNR & KI Natural Resources (underway, estimated completion June 2018).
- Formalise Middle River take-limit with DEWNR (underway, estimated completion June 2018).

Future State

Changing conditions:

- Climate change assessment based on Goyder Institute regional climate projections: http://www.goyderinstitute.org/_r212/media/system/attrib/file/203/SA%20Climate%20Ready%20Regional%20Summary%20-%20KI.pdf
- Estimated sustainable yield of Middle River 580ML/yr under worst case scenario (30% reduced inflow).
- Upstream land-use changes potentially reducing available water and spill periods of Middle River Reservoir.

Other opportunities:

- Catchment studies of other potential water sources to be responsive in times of need.