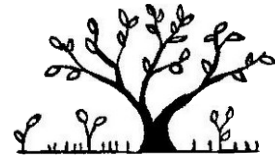


# Port Adelaide Resident's Environment Protection Group

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## Response to the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary 2024 Draft Management Plan

The Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group (PAREPG) have been advocating for a better local marine environment since 1986.

The Adelaide Dolphin Act interacts with 11 fundamental pieces of State legislation. Part 3 deals with the the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, and Division 2 of Part 3 with the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Management Plan.

Clearly, the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary is more than a park, having provision for it's own financing, and legislative powers.

In spite of these extraordinary powers and funding the local dolphin population is dwindling. The government is yet to release it's response to the Select Committee report to investigate dolphin deaths, which surely must have a major influence on the formation of the management plan, given that the Act's Objects are:

- (a) to protect the dolphin population of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet; and
- (b) to protect the natural habitat of that population.

Consequently we are puzzled as to why that response has not informed the content of the management plan.

Theme 2: Maintaining and enhancing the quality of dolphin habitats is far from comprehensive.

The Port River estuary and Barker Inlet are complex systems. Relegating that complexity to less than a page is inadequate.

The strategies mentioned are devoid of any practical detail. For example a strategy to “Ensure any threats associated with development, recreation, tourism and industry are minimised...” is aspirational at best without any hint of how that might be achieved.

Theme 3: Community understanding and participation

As a group with a number of community members PAREPG has to search for information on the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary operations and achievements. Reports are buried within the DEW general annual report. As far as PAREPG are aware no mailing list, website or social media site (although an [unofficial page](#) with 6 followers exists on Facebook).

Effective communication is one of the first steps in any strategy to promote understanding and participation, and we find it wanting in both the strategies and practice