



Fast facts about Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve September 2017

1. Kurna heritage

Kurna Meyunna country between Yerta Bulti (the sleeping place - the fish that died naturally in the mangroves (Port River and estuary area)) and Wonggayerlo (the coast and Gulf St Vincent). An abundant place for fish, shellfish, crustaceans, birds, bush tucker, native sedges and grasses used for making mats, baskets and clothing.

2. Before 1836

The Tennyson Dunes formed when sea level rose to the current height 8-10,000 years ago, part of an extensive coastal barrier dune system 200-300m deep and 10-15m high. Three dunes (fore, mid and hind) and 2 swales, with a natural cycle of sand replenishment and extensive tidal mangrove, swamp paperbark and samphire wetlands east of the hind dune. Rich biodiversity and a resilient ecosystem.

3. Since 1836

Disrespect and degradation e.g. cattle and pig grazing, tree felling for building and fuel, sandmining for building and glass making, WW2 25lb guns test fired into the dunes, housing development, rubbish dumping, feral humans and animals, illegal encroachment. Channelling the River Torrens to a coastal outlet (West Beach) as flood mitigation destroyed reed beds and damaged sea grass beds (1/4 lost since 1949) - 'blue line' now 1 km offshore.

Tennyson Dunes named after Hallam Lord Tennyson, Governor of SA 1899-1902, Governor General 1902-1904.

4. Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve

The Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve was established by Minister Hunter in September 2015. The reserve is an area of 22 hectares with 1.5 kms of coastline, the most significant remnant of pre European Adelaide coastal dune and a fragile ecology.

5. Fauna

reptiles e.g. Painted Dragon (*Ctenophorus pictus*), Blue-tongue lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*), Eastern Bearded Dragon (*Pogona barbata*)

birds e.g. Hooded Plover (*Thiornis rubricollis*), Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), Singing Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus virescens*), Silver Eye (*Zosterops lateralis*), Black Shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*)

butterflies e.g. Caper white (*Belenois java tuetonia*), Saltbush Blue (*Theclinesthes serpentata*)

insects e.g. Blue banded bee (*Amegilla cingulata*)

6. Flora

5 vegetation zones: open grass land (fore dune), low open shrub land (inter dune swale), low shrub land (seaward face of hind dune), open shrub land (hind dune ridge) and tall shrub land (east of hind dune, all but destroyed).

52+ indigenous plant species including:

- 16+ threatened species e.g. Coastal Bitterbush (*Adriana quadripartita*), Sea Box (*Alyxia buxifolia*), Cup Wattle (*Acacia cupularis*), Woolly Mat-rush (*Lomandra leucocephala*), Cushion Fanflower (*Scaevola crassifolia*)
- difficult to propagate: Coastal Bearded Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) 200-500 years old (not reproducing naturally)
- bush tucker: Muntries (*Kunzea pomifera*), Karkalla (*Carpobrotus rossii*) and Bower Spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*).

Competition from 68 non indigenous plant species e.g. perennial veldt grass (introduced as sand stabiliser after sand mining), African boxthorn, dune onion weed and domestic garden escapees: e.g. succulents, gazania, daisies

7. Buffer zone

The dunes provide a buffer zone between marine and terrestrial environments, absorbing and dissipating wave energy, and stopping the inland flow of seawater.

8. Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve Discovery Trail

The Tennyson Dunes Group supports a discovery trail that protects the fragile dune ecosystem, while allowing children and adults to learn about it. Protecting the Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve ecosystem must be paramount.

We do not support the current trail proposal. We want to get the trail right, so we are continuing discussions with DEWNR and Minister Hunter about the trail, including its alignment, width, construction materials, boardwalks, fencing and proposed spring-summer construction period.

9. Tennyson Dunes Group Volunteers

Winners 2015 SA Coastal Landcare Award and 2011 Premier's Natural Resources Management Award. Caring for, protecting and promoting the Tennyson Dunes since 1995. Many activities: threatened species recovery, seed harvesting, plant propagation and planting, weed control, signage and education. Supported by the Kwanis e.g. built the viewing platform.

Join us in caring for the Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve to ensure it is a safe home for many species, and to promote learning about its cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

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