Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
Planning- general questions		
1	What is the State role, what is the Council role; where do the State and Council responsibilities overlap in planning and subsequent management? e.g.	State government legislation requires that council to create stormwater management plans, to meet the following requirements of the state Stormwater Authority under the *Local Government Act 1999*: **6—Functions of Authority** The Authority has the following functions: (a) to liaise with relevant public authorities with a view to ensuring the proper functioning of the State's stormwater management system; (b) to contribute to the urban water plan for Greater Adelaide and lead the implementation of elements of that plan relating to stormwater; (c) to facilitate and co-ordinate stormwater management planning by councils; (d) to formulate policies and provide information to councils in relation to stormwater management planning (including policies and information promoting the use of stormwater to further environmental objectives and address issues of sustainability including the use of stormwater for human consumption, for the maintenance of biodiversity and other appropriate purposes); (e) to facilitate programs by councils promoting the use of stormwater to further environmental objectives and address issues of sustainability including the use of stormwater for human consumption, for the maintenance of biodiversity and other appropriate purposes; (f) to ensure that relevant public authorities co-operate in an appropriate fashion in relation to stormwater management planning and the construction and maintenance of stormwater management works; (g) to provide advice to the Minister in relation to the State's stormwater management system; (h) to carry out other functions conferred on the Authority— (i) under this Schedule; or (ii) by the Minister with the agreement of the LGA.

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
2	What is Council's role in assessing stormwater systems in development applications? Are Green Adelaide reports always sought and considered? Are development(s) approved without reference to their reports in any circumstances? Why?	A land division or a development application that may impact council's stormwater network will trigger a request to the applicant to demonstrate how the proposal will meet council's stormwater management design guidelines. Applications are only referred to other agencies (Landscapes SA, DEW, EPA etc) when the state Planning and Design Code requires a referral – council may not request a referral outside this process. When a referral is required to be made, the referring agency may suggest conditions of approval or direct certain outcomes.
3	What do the Council's qualified stormwater engineers do?	Council's qualified stormwater engineers are responsible for ensuring that stormwater systems are designed and constructed in compliance with relevant standards and conditions. They assess the technical aspects of stormwater management plans submitted with development applications and ensure that the systems will not cause damage or nuisance to existing properties. The following tasks are a small sample of works carried out by council's stormwater engineers: • Assessment of the impact of the development on the council-maintained assets and potentially identifying the infrastructure which is required to reduce negative impacts of the development on established downstream assets. • Coordinate and translate the implications of stormwater management plans to other teams to understand the legal implications of a development. • Respond to customer queries regarding stormwater and management issues facing the community and provide guidance to solve any issues. Stormwater designs associated with projects carried out by the council.
4	How can residents have input to stormwater infrastructure planning and decisions?	Residents can provide input through the public consultation process mandated for Structure Plans and Code Amendments, with the Sellicks Beach Structure Plan due for public consultation in coming months.

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		Under state planning legislation, land divisions are exempt from public notification and therefore residents do not have a role to play in the assessment process nor infrastructure requirements of the proposal.
5	Are there plans of where stormwater infrastructure is located in our area- Aldinga/Sellicks? Can residents see the plan? (DEW says yes, ask to see the plans, held by Council). Yes, please.	The Sellicks Beach Structure Plan, which refers to future developments and infrastructure requirements in the area is available at https://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/sellicks-beach-structure-plan. Council also has Stormwater Management Plans covering both Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach, which can be made available to the public following a formal request. The Silver Sands Stormwater Management Plan was endorsed by Council in 2023. A copy is available via the Council minutes on the Council website. Furthermore, information on the drainage infrastructure can also be sourced through Before You Dig Australia (www.byda.com.au).
6	If Council has no say in stormwater infrastructure outside of the planning system, how does it then manage any stormwater problems once it leaves the development, problems once the development is completed?	The Council effectively manages stormwater issues post-development through a combination of statutory powers, proactive maintenance, and robust planning controls, ensuring that stormwater impacts are minimised, and pre-development flow regimes are maintained. As the Statutory Authority under the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council retains authority to commission projects, undertake maintenance, and conduct investigative studies to manage stormwater infrastructure and maintain service standards. This includes addressing issues that arise after a development is completed, such as blockages, flooding, or downstream impacts. For example, the Council can implement upgrades to public stormwater systems, such as culverts or detention basins, to mitigate any identified problems, which may not have been considered previously. *Planning and Quality Assurance Processes* During the planning approval phase, the Council rigorously assesses stormwater management plans to ensure that developments maintain the pre-development flow

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		regime. This involves evaluating proposed infrastructure, such as on-site detention systems, drainage networks, and water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) measures, to prevent adverse downstream impacts. Post-development, the Council conducts quality assurance checks to verify that constructed infrastructure complies with approved designs and performs as intended. These measures ensure that the stormwater system functions effectively once the development is operational. *Ongoing Maintenance and Monitoring* After a development is completed, the Council manages public stormwater infrastructure (e.g. pipes, channels, pits, etc.) within its jurisdiction. Regular maintenance, such as cleaning drains and inspecting systems, ensures that infrastructure continues to operate efficiently. The Council also monitors downstream impacts through community feedback, flood reports, and hydraulic studies. If issues are identified, the Council can commission targeted interventions, such as retrofitting infrastructure or implementing flood mitigation measures. *Policy to Minimise Downstream Impacts* The Council's stormwater management policy prioritises maintaining the pre-development flow regime to minimise downstream impacts. This is achieved by enforcing strict design standards during the planning phase and ensuring that developers implement adequate stormwater controls. For instance, developments are required to limit peak flows to pre-development levels through on-site detention or retention systems. By maintaining this policy, the Council ensures that post-development stormwater impacts on downstream properties, waterways, or infrastructure are marginalised. *Collaboration and Legal Mechanisms* Where stormwater issues extend beyond Council-controlled infrastructure (e.g. private property or state-managed systems), the Council collaborates with relevant stakeholders, such as developers, property owners, Landscape Boards (such as Green Adelaide) or the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, to address problems. Additionally, under the *Local Government Act 1999* and other relevant legislation, the Council and/or Landscape

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		Boards can issue notices or orders to rectify non-compliant stormwater infrastructure on private land if it adversely affects the public system.
Stormwater questions for Council- general questions		
1	Who maintains stormwater infrastructure- swales, drains, detention basins and how? (DEW says this is Council's role)?	It is the role of council to manage stormwater infrastructure on Council owned public land. The State manages stormwater infrastructure on State owned public land. Property owners and strata corporations (in the case of Community Title developments) manage stormwater infrastructure on private land.
2	What water infrastructure changes are planned in connection with Hart Road Wetlands, Aldinga Green, Villawood?	As part of the Aldinga Green development, the Hart Road wetlands are proposed to be expanded to cater for the stormwater requirements of the development, and an additional managed aquifer recharge bore is being explored near the existing bore for future water re-use in the area (this project is subject to assessment and exploration, and is not a confirmed outcome). Discussions are occurring with Villawood regarding the potential for water re-use options at its development. The council has reviewed different aspects of stormwater management options in this area and as noted above, council is only accepting the runoff from these developments which meet the conditions set out in our Stormwater Management Design Guidelines. In situations where this is not achievable, developers are asked to upgrade the downstream networks as required. However, this has not been required to date; we are not expecting any changes in the downstream stormwater infrastructure other than those noted above.
3	How will this impact the Conservation Park? (see questions over).	Noting that the Conservation Park can potentially be impacted by change in hydrological regime due to developments in the Aldinga Beach area, the Department for Environment and Water have reviewed Council's proposals. The Silver Sands Stormwater Management Plan serves as the guiding framework for managing stormwater impacts from development within the catchment. The plan identifies factors that could affect the Conservation Park's ecological values, such as changes in

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		water quality, flow regimes, and habitat disturbance. It also mandates specific requirements for developments to ensure these values are protected, including: *Stormwater Quality Control* The Council has implemented water quality improvement devices, such as gross pollutant traps, sedimentation basins, and biofiltration systems, to meet or exceed the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) targets for stormwater quality. These measures reduce pollutants (e.g., sediments, nutrients, and hydrocarbons) entering the park, safeguarding its aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. *Flow Management* Developments are required to maintain pre-development flow regimes through on-site detention and retention systems, minimising the risk of erosion or flooding within the park. The Hart Road wetland, for example, acts as a buffer, regulating flows and improving water quality before discharge to the park. The Council has adhered strictly to the plan's requirements, ensuring that future stormwater management infrastructure is designed, constructed, and maintained to reduce potential impacts on the Conservation Park.
4	What interventions can and do Council implement to mitigate stormwater problems? eg Justs Rd, How Road.	Council undertakes flood modelling, develops stormwater management plans and develops long term capital works programs that are delivered via Council's Project and Capital Works (PCW) Program. Projects are identified and prioritised according to our Strategic Asset Management Plan and endorsed Resource Prioritisation Documents then delivered through Council's annual budget. Through the program we have undertaken upgrades and extensions of existing stormwater systems as well as renewal of existing systems. The types of projects can be proactive in nature and identified through the flood modelling process or reactive where a stormwater management issue has been reported to us.

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		Council works with other government departments, developers and service providers/stakeholders to ensure good stormwater management is incorporated into designs, and that all relevant standards are met. When stormwater assets are handed over to Council, our Maintenance team establishes maintenance regimes to ensure the new infrastructure is adequately maintained.
5	What can be done about mosquitoes and mites, a perceived problem around How Road arising from stormwater structures (DEW says existing wetlands, detention systems should not have mosquitoes if functioning well?)	Correctly functioning wetlands should not result in mosquito breeding. Council's Environmental Health team monitor breeding sites and apply or arrange for the treatment or modification of effected areas.
6	Re How Road flooding- long term reported problems. How will new infrastructure around How Rd/Cox Rd/Aldinga Green make things better, or not?	The private and State developments affecting How Road/Cox Rd have been resolved through design changes involving additional wetlands, upgraded swales and Managed Aquifer Recharge schemes. .
7	What if detention and/or retention basins fail?	Stormwater infrastructure is engineered to meet the relevant standards and guidelines. We inspect assets which have been newly constructed during construction completion, at which time there is a 12-month defects liability period where the system is checked to see that new assets are performing as required.
8	How do retention/detention basins affect groundwater flows to the washpool, the sea?	Retention and detention basins have minimal impact on groundwater flows to the Washpool and the sea in the Onkaparinga Council area, as their primary role is surface water management. Constructed wetlands, such as the Hart Road wetland, contribute to localised shallow groundwater recharge, supporting groundwater-dependent ecosystems near the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, but do not significantly affect regional groundwater flows. *Function of Detention Basins*

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		Detention basins temporarily store stormwater runoff during peak rainfall events, releasing it at controlled rates to mimic pre-development flow regimes. They are typically lined or built in low-permeability soils, such as the clay-rich soils prevalent in the Onkaparinga area, to minimise infiltration through the base. This design ensures their function is limited to surface flow management, with negligible impact on groundwater flows to the Washpool or the sea. Retention basins, which allow longer storage and potential infiltration, are not supported in the Onkaparinga Council's stormwater management strategy. *Groundwater Flows to the Washpool and the Sea* Regional groundwater systems influencing the Washpool and coastal areas are driven by natural recharge from rainfall, subsurface geology, and catchment-wide hydrological processes. Detention basins do not significantly alter these flows as their design prioritises surface water control with minimal interaction with deeper aquifers. Additionally, the local geology, including clay-rich soils, naturally restricts infiltration, further limiting groundwater impacts. As a result, detention basins do not materially affect the broader groundwater flow paths to the Washpool or the sea. *Role of Constructed Wetlands* The Silver Sands Stormwater Management Plan incorporates constructed wetlands, such as the Hart Road wetland adjacent to the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park, which interact with shallow groundwater systems. These wetlands treat stormwater, enhance biodiversity, and support local ecosystems. Key impacts include: Localised Shallow Groundwater Recharge: Wetlands contribute to shallow groundwater recharge, particularly in the north-east of the Aldinga Scrub. This recharge supports groundwater-dependent vegetation, such as native species in the Conservation Park, by maintaining soil moisture and shallow aquifer levels. The contribution of wetlands to regional groundwater flows to the Washpool or the sea is negligible due to their small scale and the dominance of natural recharge processes. According to the Assessment of the Environmental Flows Requirements of the Watercourses of the Willunga Basin (Ecological Associates, 2006), the Hart Road wetland

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		has no strong link to the Port Willunga Formation aquifer. While a perched aquifer may extend from the Aldinga Scrub to the Washpool, insufficient hydrogeological data exists to fully characterise its extent. The Washpool Lagoon Restoration Action Plan (SKM, 2008) estimates seepage losses to groundwater from the Washpool at approximately 5% of evaporation, indicating minimal groundwater interaction.
9	If my street/park/home floods because the stormwater management system fails, what then?	Flooding occurs for several reasons. Two examples include service level exceedance, and wind which results in debris blockage. Pre and post event flood management information is available on our website. If residents experience stormwater management issues, we encourage them to contact Council. Our response will then be guided by the cause of the flooding – for example a project may need to be entered into our Project and Capital Works Program for upgrade/expansion of the network or maintenance of the system may be required.
10	What if septic systems and other waste water enters stormwater, a potential health hazard, then to sea? (DEW says in the first instance is Council Environmental Health Officer, above that is Dept Health).	Council's Environmental Health team approve the installation of new onsite wastewater management systems. Once approved, on-site wastewater management systems are the responsibility of the home owners, and wastewater must be discharged on-site via approved land application methods such as a subsurface soakage trench or treated to a higher standard before disposal via an on-site irrigation area. Environmental Health Officers investigate reports of failing systems, including any discharge of wastewater into the stormwater system. This may include enforcing compliance with the relevant Regulations to ensure that wastewater systems are compliant, and wastewater is contained to the owner's property.
Aldinga Conservation Park & Washpool questions		
1	Are there still plans to incorporate other areas eg Hart Rd wetlands, areas near the beach into the Conservation Park?	We are unaware for any plans the Department for Environment and Water has to include Hart Road Wetlands into the Aldinga Conservation Park.

Questions for Council arising from ABRA meeting(s) 2024-2025 and finalised at public meeting on 17th March 2025		Response
		The park is anticipated to include several parcels that abut the pebble bank and beach between Sellicks Beach and Silver Sands beach.
2	What is Council's planned Coastal Adaptation Response- refer Coastal Adaptation Report 2021 and Response 2024, regarding Council areas adjacent to the Conservation park? What, responsibility is shared with DEW?	The Coastal Adaptation Study and plan. outline strategies for addressing climate impacts. For areas adjacent to the conservation park, particularly the Washpool, the plan focuses on monitoring erosion risks, with particular attention to the pebble banks. The pebble banks provide natural protection in safeguarding the Washpool's ecosystem but also in providing some protection to Silver Sands from frequent sea flooding. The washpool is an estuary system with a "blind" outlet, created by the ephemeral river system being unable to form an open channel with a permanent flow of water to the sea. Large stormwater and/or large sea storm/surge events will open the estuary mouth to the sea, from time to time. The opening will be short lived due to the ephemeral nature of the river system feeding the washpool. Council collaborates with DEW in managing coastal adaptation efforts. DEW's role typically involves providing expertise, resources, and support for environmental conservation and sustainable management practices. This partnership ensures that strategies like monitoring erosion risks are effectively implemented across areas like the Washpool and Silver Sands.
3	What is the Silver Sands Stormwater Management Strategy, developed over 7 years ago? How will it impact the washpool? When will it be implemented?	The Silver Sands Stormwater Management Plan was adopted by Council in 2023. Council uses the document for stormwater information, such as when reviewing development applications, and developing its stormwater program of works for the area.
4	What progress is there in relation to water crossing Button Road, Aldinga Beach - When the washpool fully fills after heavy rain, Button Road is cut by water flowing to the South lagoon?	There are culverts under Button Road within the length of the road that crosses the Washpool. Thus, Washpool water freely flows under Button Road. In peak storm events the culverts may surcharge, leading to some flood waters passing over Button Road.