

Birds SA Says the SA Government Needs to Get On the Right Track

Australia's longest operating birding association, Birds SA, says that the SA State Government needs to immediately address the irresponsible use of off-road vehicles that is causing damage to our coastal environment.

Birds SA has launched a stunning documentary video entitled **On the Right Track**, capturing examples of reckless driving on our beaches that endangers people on the beach, disturbs beach nesting birds and destroys the coastal environment. The documentary, produced by Birds SA Committee member Davide Gaglio, will be used to educate the public about how to share the beach with the birds so that iconic species such as the Hooded Plover (conservation status **Vulnerable** in SA) are not disrupted during their nesting, feeding and roosting. The documentary has received strong support from the national birding organisation, BirdLife Australia.

The video will also be used to urge the SA Government to act upon the **Recommendations of the 2019 Inquiry into the Use of Off-road Vehicles** which were tabled in the SA Parliament in June 2020.

Birds SA President, Steven Langley, says "irresponsible use of off-road vehicles is a major issue for beach-nesting birds and for the many migratory birds that visit our shores from the northern hemisphere. The problems were clearly identified in the 2019 Inquiry. The SA Government needs to immediately call together local councils, off-road vehicle clubs, conservation groups and Landscape Boards to commence implementing the recommendations of the Inquiry."

Birds SA says high priority must be given to:

- Identifying areas which should be prohibited either seasonally or permanently, areas which could be opened for limited use and areas where environmental impacts are low.
- Investigating and implementing a permit system for off-road vehicle use in South Australia, such as exists in other states.
- Developing and disseminating a code of practice for off-road vehicle use, in partnership with local governments, relevant statutory authorities, First Nations stakeholders and Landscape Boards.
- Using the powers currently available to enforcement agencies to caution or penalise perpetrators of the irresponsible behaviours shown in the documentary.

Watch On the Right Track: [On The Right Track - YouTube](#) (after 7.30pm CST on 31Aug2021)

References

1. Birds SA submission to Off-road Vehicle Inquiry
<https://birdssa.asn.au/policies-statements/>
2. Final Report & Submissions - Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into the Use of Off-road Vehicles
<https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Committees/Committees-Detail>