

Fact sheet - Jetties and rate capping

Maintaining jetties is a discretionary council service funded by council rates

Councils maintain and repair dozens of jetties along the South Australian coastline for the enjoyment of tourists, recreational fishers and the local community.

Jetties are vital pieces of tourism infrastructure. They are important to many local economies and are integral to the Australian beach and coastal lifestyle.

They are also a much loved and iconic part of the history and culture of many coastal communities.

In South Australia, there are over 70 State Government jetties and wharves that are now under the care and control of councils through a lease arrangement. This is in addition to the many jetties and wharves that councils own.

In the ten year period since 2005/06, councils collectively spent more than \$6.6 million on both state and council owned jetties.

There is no legal requirement for councils to take responsibility for jetties – they choose to deliver this service because it is important to their local community.

Rate capping will put discretionary council services at risk

Under rate-capping, council budgets would be squeezed to breaking point, and discretionary services that councils aren't legally compelled to provide would be at risk.

Therefore the jetties looked after by your local council are at risk.

Councils are part of your every day – imagine life without jetties, weekend fishing and sunset walks.

Did you know?

The earliest jetties in South Australia were constructed in the 1850s. Jetties were essential to early settlement, with small vessels the main means of communication with many isolated communities.

There are 277,000 South Australians who enjoy fishing each year, making recreational fishing one of the most popular leisure activities in the State.

South Australia has 4,800km of coastline, in addition to lakes and the River Murray. It is estimated that there are 111 jetties currently in use.

Many SA jetties were badly damaged in severe storms in 2016. Funding provided by the State Government and local councils ensured these jetties were repaired and reopened as quickly as possible.

While there are no contemporary figures available on the economic and social value of our jetties, their importance to the tourism and recreational fishing industries are widely acknowledged.

The vast majority of boat ramps in South Australia are owned and maintained by local councils. Councils typically fund 50% or more of the costs of upgrading boat ramps across the State.

What is rate capping?

Rate capping is a populist policy put forward by a political party looking to win votes at the expense of another sphere of government.

It refers to a percentage limit being placed on the amount that councils can increase their total revenue from council rates each year.

Rate capping limits councils' ability to provide local services and puts discretionary services at risk.

It's an empty promise – rate capping will cost you more than it saves.

For further information please visit www.lga.sa.gov.au/ratecapping