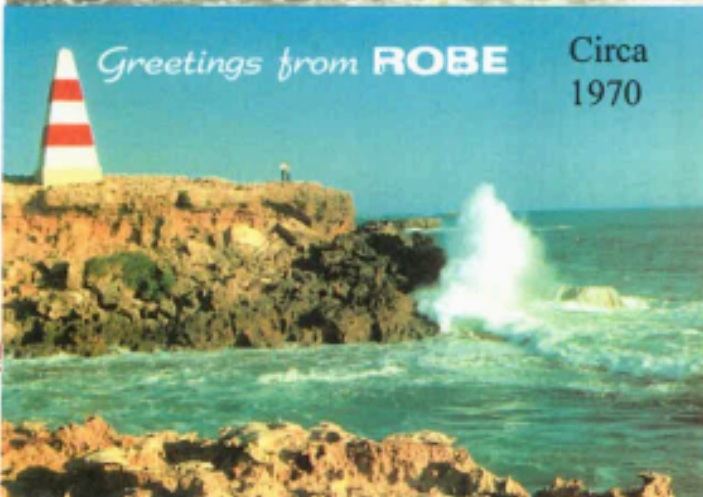




Circa
1950



Circa
1970



1989



2006



2011



2012



2015



2024

Obelisk Discussion Paper

The District Council of Robe is currently engaged in open discussion about the future of the iconic Robe Obelisk. Standing 12.2 meters tall on Cape Dombey and built in 1855, the Obelisk originally served as a vital navigational aid, visible up to 16kms out to sea in clear weather. Over time, it has not only become a symbol of Robe's maritime history but also a cherished part of the community's identity.

Recently, Council announced it would not include preservation or replacement plans for the Robe Obelisk in its Strategic Plan 2024-2028. This decision was reflective of the low level of interest given by the community during engagement about Council's strategic direction whilst reflecting concerns over the substantial costs associated with maintaining the structure, potential environmental and heritage impacts, and the practical challenges of safeguarding it against coastal erosion.

This announcement elicited a wave of support for preservation, which ranged from relocation, replication and other innovative strategies, such as holograms.

In response to the diverse and mixed opinions, Mayor Ruffell hosted a Public Meeting on 11 July 2024, aimed to foster dialogue and gather further input regarding the Obelisk's future. Council remains committed to transparency and ongoing consultation on the matter of preservation, acknowledging the Obelisk's profound historical significance and its place in local heritage.

The latest heritage advice as of July 2024 which supports Council's current position is as follows:

- The Robe Obelisk was listed as a significant heritage item on the South Australian Heritage Register on 24 July 1980
- Preservation of the Obelisk aligns with heritage best practices, but relocation is preferred due to safety concerns arising from erosion and structural instability
- Moving the Obelisk inland is not possible due to access limitations and structural collapse during relocation
- Reinforcing the cliff edge to protect the Obelisk is not supported due to adverse visual impacts and environmental concerns
- Rebuilding a replica Obelisk is considered the best feasible outcome, adhering to principles outlined in the Burra Charter for heritage conservation
- The replica should be designed to clearly distinguish it from the original, maintaining integrity in interpreting the Obelisk's history and significance
- There are many design options possible which would ensure the new Obelisk preserves and communicates its heritage values effectively

District Council of Robe, July 2024

District Council of
ROBE

NAME: Obelisk
KNOWN AS: Cape Dombey Obelisk

ADDRESS:
Bunganditj Country
Cape Dombey, Robe
SA 5276 CR 6128/656;
H441800 S592
Hundred of
Waterhouse



OBELISK TIMELINE

1855

The Obelisk was built

The Obelisk erected on Cape Dombey in 1855.

1862

Received it's iconic red stripes

In 1862 the government decided to have the Obelisk painted with red stripes creating Robe's most famous landmark.

1954

New Road is built for tourists and visitors to access the Obelisk

Road access is used for visitors and locals alike to see the iconic structure and is a viewing point for fishing fleet coming into the bay.

2002

Obelisk repainted

Heritage SA approves Development Application DA 822/09/2002 to paint and repair the Obelisk which is repainted by Save the Obelisk Society.

2014

Obelisk Working Group Established

District Council of Robe agreed to:

- (a) Establish an Obelisk Working Group comprising of Elected Members and members of the community whose function will be to gather information on the future of the Obelisk and to provide information and advice to Council; and
- (b) The Council Members of the Working group are Mayor Riseley and Cr Nolan.

2015

Maintenance of the Obelisk

District Council of Robe receives: a) The quotation from Coffey Engineering for a geotechnical survey of the cliff top in the vicinity of the Obelisk, and (a) The quotation to engage Work Health Safety Supervisor to manage the maintenance of the Obelisk. That the District Council of Robe engages Coffey Engineering to undertake a geotechnical survey of the coastline in the vicinity of the Obelisk.

2016

Council resolves no more maintenance to the Obelisk

Council resolved they will not proceed with any maintenance work on the Obelisk based on the significant and unacceptable operational hazards identified in the report provided by Hypersafe.

2017

Replica location established with Department of Environment water and natural resources as per resolution 283/2017

2019

Landslide Stability Assessment Robe Obelisk Completed

Report shows significant risk factors due to the cliff conditions.

2019

Obelisk carpark vehicle access closed

To ensure public safety traditional access point to the Obelisk was shifted as a result of the landslide stability assessment.

2022

Robe Primary School gives Obelisk feedback as part of Robe 2050 survey

Ideas such as holograms, rebuilding near long beach, building a replica near the Christmas Tree, not rebuilding and allowing snorkeling around the ruins presented by students.

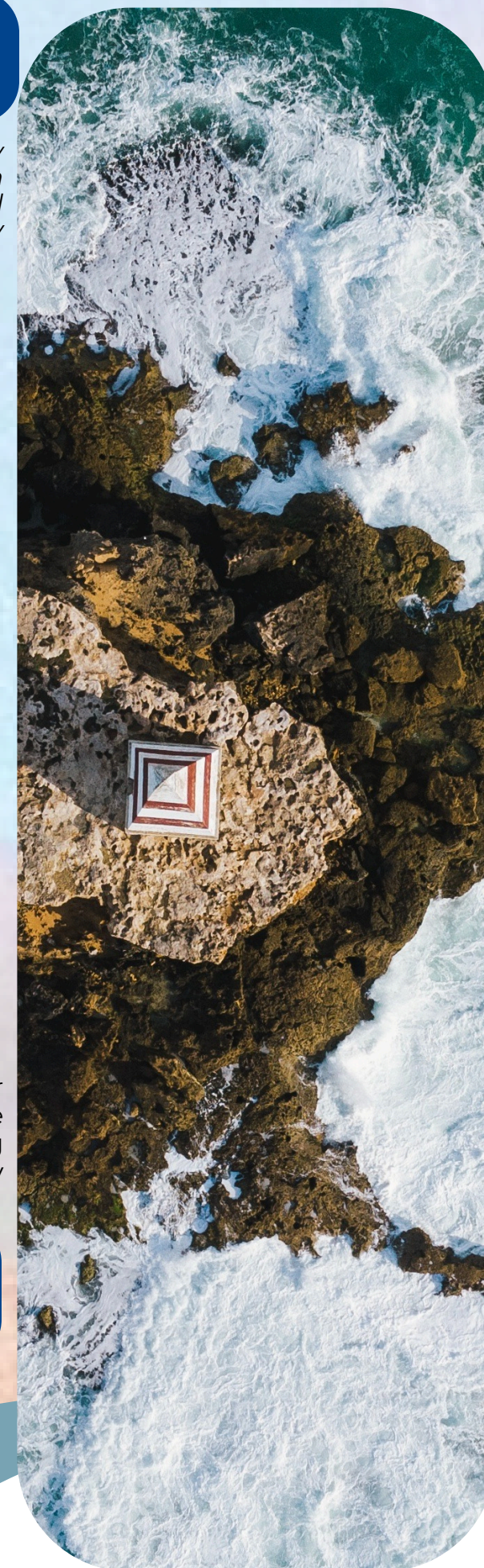
2022

Lidar coastal corrosion data collected

Lidar data collection occurs to track the coastal corrosion of the District Council of Robe and the impact it is having on natural environs.

2024

Obelisk community engagement for Strategic Plan 2024 -2028



Information sourced from District Council of Robe Synergy Software and The South Australian Heritage Council. The District Council of Robe does not warrant this message to be free of errors or interference