

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 15

25 November 2021



The fifteenth meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 25 November 2021 in Taillem Bend, hosted by the [Coorong District Council](#).

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs MP and Adrian Pederick MP, Member for Hammond.

The [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) updated the Partnership on the Coorong Visitor Experience Plan. A number of existing and aspirational tourism projects have been identified with a variety of possible partners. Targeted stakeholder and community consultation on the plan, including through the [YourSay online consultation hub](#), will be undertaken in January and February 2022, with the final plan to be delivered in April 2022. The Partnership has, through recent correspondence with the Minister for Environment and Water, identified several opportunities to enhance visitor experiences in the Coorong National Park. The Partnership expressed its continued support of Coorong Visitor Experience Plan and encourages the community to participate in the consultation process.

The [Limestone Coast Landscape Board](#) provided an update on the [Our Coorong | Our Coast](#) project, which is enhancing the Coorong and managing Ramsar values along the Limestone Coast. The Partnership noted that African boxthorn control on islands in the Coorong is underway and that a very comprehensive fox baiting program is in action using both aerial and ground based baiting. The Partnership was provided the Coorong Migratory Shore Bird Site Action Plan and the Australian Fairy Tern Breeding Colony Site Action Plan for the Murray Mouth, both prepared by Birdlife Australia.

The [Department for Environment and Water](#) provided an update on the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin's* [Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project](#). The long-term hydrological modelling results and further ecological assessments were summarised. The Partnership noted that all the infrastructure options have been optimised through hydrological modelling and preliminary engineering concept design to maximise salinity, water levels and nutrient outcomes, with all showing positive outcomes compared to the base case or "do nothing" scenario. Engineering consultants Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) presented the preliminary findings of the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA), which are now informing a draft Feasibility Assessment Report. The Partnership noted that the assessment process has been rigorous, and were satisfied with the consistency of the MCA results. The Partnership noted that consultation on the draft Feasibility Assessment Report will be undertaken in early 2022, with community invited to learn about the assessment and share their thoughts on the preferred or highly favoured proposed infrastructure options.

The Minister for Environment and Water acknowledged and expressed thanks to the Coorong Partnership members for the commitment and valuable contributions they bring to [Project Coorong](#). The Minister recognised that improving the healthy, vitality and visitor experience of the Coorong is complex and requires a strong local understanding of the region. The Partnership reflected that although there has been considerable progress, there is still much to be done to improve the Coorong environment, visitor experience and economic development opportunities.

The Minister for Environment and Water confirmed the Coorong Partnership will continue through 2022.

The Chair, the Hon Dean Brown, thanked the Partnership members for their enthusiasm and commitment over the Partnership's second year. The Chair thanked the Department for Environment and Water, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Limestone Coast Landscape Board staff for their contributions, acknowledging all those who have presented to, and worked with, the Partnership this year.

The next regular meeting of the Partnership will be scheduled for early February 2022.

Further Information

If you would like to receive regular updates about Project Coorong please email: projectcoorong@sa.gov.au