

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 17

7 April 2022



The seventeenth meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 7 April 2022 at Langhorne Creek and [Tolderol Game Reserve](#).

The [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) (NPWS) provided an update on the development of the Coorong Visitor Experience Plan. Consultation workshops and site visits have been held with community, First Nations and stakeholders throughout the region, and further targeted workshops are planned with the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC). The Coorong Partnership welcomed the opportunity to input into the process via a workshop on 3 March 2022.

The [Coorong National Park](#) was "Park of the Month" for March 2022. Events included bush food tours led by Ngarrindjeri Rangers, [Canoe The Coorong](#) "Paddle with a Ranger" tours, and a "Farewell to the Shorebirds" event at Parnka Point. The Partnership acknowledged the success of these initiatives at highlighting the attributes of the Park. The Partnership welcomed the advice that its recommendation to replace road signage at Parnka Point has been actioned by NPWS, with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport commencing the process to order new signage.

The Partnership welcomed the [recent announcement from Alexandrina Council](#) that Sugars Beach at Hindmarsh Island is a step closer to undergoing a major facelift following the announcement that it had secured funding through the South Australian Government's Regional Growth Fund 'Opening our Great Outdoors' funding stream. The Partnership acknowledge that there has been some community consternation regarding the project, but agreed that an interpretive facility at this iconic location would be of enormous benefit.

[Limestone Coast Landscape Board](#) staff provided an update on the [Our Coorong | Our Coast](#) Project, which is enhancing the Coorong and managing Ramsar values along the Limestone Coast. Aerial deer culling and fox baiting efforts are currently underway. Bird signage has been created and will be placed throughout the Limestone Coast region in the coming months, and a shorebird education display is currently set up in the Meningie Information Hub. The Partnership acknowledged the revegetation efforts at Cantara Homestead and members acknowledged that deer numbers on Younghusband Peninsula had declined noticeably.

The [Department for Environment and Water](#) provided a presentation on recent River Murray flow conditions and the ecological response in the Lower Lakes and Coorong. The presentation covered Murray-Darling Basin rainfall, River Murray system inflow, dam and lake storage levels, barrage releases, Lower Lakes water levels and salinity, threatened fish, vegetation and Coorong food webs. The extra water coming down the system is having a strong flushing effect on the Lower Lakes, with improvements to salinity, threatened fish and vegetation. The Partnership discussed the need to continue efforts to maximise flow connectivity through the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth system.

The [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) (HCHB) Program provided an update on the [Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project](#). Following recent community consultations on the Draft Feasibility Assessment Report, recommendations will soon be made on which infrastructure concepts will proceed to the next phase of the program, which will include detailed designs and further environmental impact assessments. The Partnership reiterated their support of the project to date and acknowledged the community is eager to see results.

Following the meeting, Partnership members visited the [Tolderol Game Reserve](#). HCHB, NPWS and [Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board](#) staff provided a tour of the site, explaining the wetland management infrastructure that will be installed under the HCHB [On Ground Works Project](#). Construction is anticipated to commence in summer 2022, with pumps, pipes and earth works put in place to manage water levels to improve the quality and availability of waterbird habitat.

The next meeting of the Partnership is scheduled for 2 June 2022.

Further Information

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