

# Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 23

1 June 2023



The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 1 June 2023 on Ngarrindjeri Country, at Coorong District Council, Tailem Bend.

*Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* (HCHB) Program Leader – Aboriginal Partnerships, and Senior Aboriginal Partnerships Officer provided an update on the HCHB First Nations Partnership (FNP). The FNP team has facilitated several engagement events over the last 6 months, with Ngarrindjeri and First Nations of the South East (FNSE) participating in several meetings and workshops, including on the draft Coorong Restoration Roadmap and Teringie Wetland Management Plan.

HCHB Program Leader Nadine Kelly provided an update on the HCHB program. The On Ground Works (OGW) project team continues to progress works for the commencement of construction at Teringie and Tolderol wetland sites. A site survey was recently completed for Tolderol wetland encompassing the wetland channels, which will feed into the project's detailed design. A tender for construction works at Teringie wetland is scheduled to be released in September 2023, subject to approval through the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. The Teringie wetland complex, located 2 km from the township of Raukkan, is an area of high cultural significance for the Ngarrindjeri. It was noted that maximising First Nations participation through this project was a priority for DEW.

A due diligence assessment submitted for the proposed project at Lake Hawdon North (LHN) was recently assessed by Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Members of the HCHB recently completed a site visit at LHN which included constructive discussions with stakeholders from Landscapes SA and the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board.

The Partnership welcomed an update from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Team Leader – Nature-based Tourism, Meg Barker on the Coorong National Park Visitor Experience Plan. The Visitor Experience Plan, produced by Effekriver, has been developed to provide a strategic framework, to guide and direct tourism infrastructure development and investment within the Coorong region over the next decade. It has been informed by extensive in-region community and key stakeholder consultations over a five-month period conducted in early 2022. The final Visitor Experience Plan is scheduled to be released publicly next month.

HCHB Communications and Engagement Coordinator provided the Partnership with an update on the HCHB Community Partnerships Project. The HCHB Science Forum was held in Goolwa on 16 May with around 100 people in attendance and another 40 watching the online livestream. The HCHB team has received positive feedback about the event. Several Partnership members, who were in attendance on the day, commended the HCHB team for hosting the event, noting it was an engaging forum with a good mix of interesting and passionate research presentations. The forum also featured an interactive feedback session with attendees on the draft Coorong Restoration Roadmap, which is out for public consultation on YourSAy until 19 June 2023.

Regional drop-in information events for the draft Coorong Restoration Roadmap are scheduled for 14 June in Kingston SE and 15 June in Meningie. Information sessions will include a presentation and update from the HCHB team.

The Partnership discussed the draft Restoration Roadmap and provided feedback what they thought were some of the key issues to be considered.

The Chair, the Hon Dean Brown AO, thanked the Partnership and presenters for their participation and attendance at the meeting.

## Further Information

The next meeting of the Partnership is scheduled for 3 August 2023 on Ngarrindjeri Country, Coorong District Council, Tailem Bend.

For further information or to receive regular updates about [Project Coorong](#) please email [projectcoorong@sa.gov.au](mailto:projectcoorong@sa.gov.au).