

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 24

9 November 2023



The 24th meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 9 November 2023 on Ngarrindjeri Country, at Coorong District Council in Tailem Bend.

The Chair, Hon Dean Brown AO, opened the meeting by holding a minute's silence in memory of Coorong Partnership member Robyn Campbell, who sadly passed away in August. The Chair recognised Robyn's valued contribution to the Coorong Partnership, along with her work in the community.

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB) Program Leader Nadine Kelly provided an update on the HCHB program, noting the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) continues to work with joint program funding partners, the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), in completing the due diligence assessment of HCHB Phase 2 components to facilitate the release of quarantined program funding.

Members received an update on DEW's internal review of community advisory groups in the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region. Through the next stage of this review, DEW will request feedback from both CLLMM Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and Coorong Partnership members via a survey, which will inform recommendations on developing future fit-for-purpose community advisory arrangements for the region. It was noted that members of both the CLLMM CAP and the Coorong Partnership will participate in a field trip to the Coorong on 20 November.

HCHB Program Leader - Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Stephen Whitehead provided an update of the On Ground Works project. The project team are currently evaluating construction tenders for habitat restoration works at Teringie Wetlands, with construction scheduled to take place between January and May 2024. Planning for on-ground works at Tolderol Game Reserve continues, with detailed designs currently underway and bay levelling works planned for summer 2023-24. The project team continues to plan for on-ground works at Lake Hawdon North, subject to the release of quarantined program funding.

Members received an update on the science projects currently progressing under HCHB, including the ecological monitoring program tasked with assessing the impacts on the Coorong from the 2023-23 River Murray flood. Delivered in partnership with the Goyder Institute for Water Research, the study is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for scientists to observe how the Coorong ecosystem responds to a flood event by monitoring changes in nutrients, sediment conditions, and the Coorong food web.

Another science project under HCHB is the Freshwater Soaks Study, which is examining the condition of freshwater soaks on the Younghusband Peninsula following the 2022-23 flood event. Commencing in November, this collaborative research project involves data collection through a variety of means, including ecological assessments, cultural assessments and water (surface and groundwater) monitoring. The study is being delivered in partnership with Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and Flinders University.

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 Coorong Partnership will take place in the new year, at a date to be confirmed.

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