

Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Advisory Panel

Communiqué – 18 June 2026

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Panel (CAP) met on Ngarrindjeri Country at the Langhorne Creek Bowling Club on 18 June 2026.

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin

Department for Environment and Water

An update on the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB) program was provided by Program Leader Tom Overall, highlighting some great shorebird outcomes at [Lake Hawdon North](#)*.

The next phase of work relating to the Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project (CIIP) will include the design and analysis of potential options, alongside a coastal risk assessment. The CAP will be maintained as a platform for community to remain updated, ask questions and provide feedback about CIIP and wider HCHB activities.

**This meeting occurred prior to South Australia's first detection of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu), therefore it was not discussed at this CAP meeting.*

Water Resource Operations

Department for Environment and Water

Damian Rowley, Senior Operations Officer updated the CAP on the water year ahead, with a recent El Niño declared and BoM's long-range forecast showing a very low chance of exceeding median rainfall for the next 3 months.

The South Australian River Murray opening allocation as of 15 June 2026 will be 83% for the start of the new water year (1 July 2026), with the next allocation announcement due on 1 July.



Water operations update presented by Damian Rowley

Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation

Derek Walker provided an update on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, expressing their vision to work together to build and support programs across Ngarrindjeri country.

Flows for the Future

Department for Environment and Water

The Flows for the Future program focuses on restoring natural flow timing to watercourses in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges through cost effective infrastructure, including low flow bypasses.

Flows for the Future Project Officer - Environmental Planning, Josie Smernik gave an overview of progress, including achievements, challenges and future planning for the program. This prompted discussions from CAP members about outcomes and current ecological monitoring.



Low flow device installed by Flows for the Future.

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

Claire Settre from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) summarised the 2025-26 water year and outlined the situation ahead for 2026-27 water delivery.

Notably, Richard Mintern, who had been attending CAP meetings on behalf of CEWH since 2022, announced his retirement and highlighted the great contribution the CAP has provided to the CEWH over the years.

We thank Richard for making meaningful contributions and attendance at CAP meetings since 2022.

Water for the environment and barrage operations

Department for Environment and Water

Adrienne Rumbelow, Program Leader, CLLMM used the CAP platform to gain feedback about the timing and delivery of environmental water flows and lake level management throughout the year and what implications may arise given the dry forecast for 26/27. Positive outcomes from the 25/26 water year were also discussed, including from the Goulburn Autumn Fresh. The importance

of water for the environment was also highlighted – maintaining continuous connectivity between Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong for 16 years.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Kym Walton, from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority provided an update on the Basin Plan review process, highlighting that the ‘what we heard’ document would be available on 24 June 2026. CAP members want to continue to be engaged during 2026 as information in submissions is translated into recommendations in the MDBA’s final report.

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

The last of the agenda items included Chair of Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board David Greenhough, who provided an update on recent board activities, including the release of the [Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan](#).

Expression of Interest for new CLLMM CAP members

On 18 June 2026, an Expression of Interest commenced to fill two vacant CAP positions. This has been circulated through various communications platforms.

Next meeting

The CAP will reconvene on **Thursday 13 August 2026** at the Langhorne Creek Bowling Club.

We thank the attendees for their meaningful contributions and insights throughout these sessions, a great opportunity to connect and share.

The CLLMM CAP is coordinated by The Living Murray and *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* programs.

The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and Commonwealth governments and coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Government of South Australia.

Learn more: environment.sa.gov.au/CLLMM-CAP-SAG

Contact us: dew.ewater@sa.gov.au