

On 16 April 2026, the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) met on Ngarrindjeri Ruwe at the South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre in West Beach, hosted by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

The meeting brought together community, scientific and government representatives, both in person and online, with the purpose of providing updates on works and programs across the CLLMM region and to discuss environmental watering proposals for the 2026-27 water year.

## Ngarrindjeri Thukabi Monitoring

Preliminary trends and data from the Ngarrindjeri Thukabi (Murray short-necked turtle) Monitoring project were shared by Dr Scotte Wedderburn from Adelaide University, alongside CLLMM project officer, Rebecca Carey.

The Ngarrindjeri Thukabi Monitoring project commenced in 2023 and is a joint initiative between Adelaide University and the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation. Almost 50 Ngarrindjeri community members have been involved since the inception.



*Ngarrindjeri Thukabi Monitoring, February 2026. (Photo. Scotte Wedderburn, Adelaide University)*

## CLLMM Research Centre

Dr Nick Whiterod from the [CLLMM Research Centre](#) provided an update on the centre's current activities and forward outlook. It was highlighted that approximately 180 team members have been involved across the centre's projects, with and close to 100 community engagement opportunities presented through them.

## CLLMM 2026-27 annual environmental watering priorities

A large part of the morning was focused on discussing environmental watering priorities for the 2026-27 water year. Adrienne Rumbelow, CLLMM, Program Leader presented modelled proposals under different climatic conditions and led discussions between community and scientific members regarding options and priorities for environmental water delivery.

The session was productive and included feedback on preferred seasonal lake level management and barrage flows for key ecological processes. The input provided will be used to refine the final CLLMM 2026-27 watering proposal, which will be submitted to the Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee.

## Water Resource update

Renee Thompson, Manager, Water Delivery provided a water resource update, including highlighting the mid-April 2026 opening water allocation forecast of 62%. It was acknowledged that this announcement is not the final determination for water allocations in the 2026-27 water year and we will be closely monitoring Basin conditions over the coming months.

## Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

Kym Walton, Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin Authority focused on explaining the [Basin Plan Review process](#) and encouraged attendees to make a submission by the 1 May 2026 deadline. This was followed by Sara Omond, from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH), who provided an update on current CEWH supported operations and water management.

## Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin

To conclude the day, Tom Overall, Program Leader [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) (HCHB) provided an update on HCHB on-ground works and thanked attendees for providing meaningful contributions throughout consultation sessions.

Progress of the HCHB program is continually shared and Tom looks forward to sharing outcomes with the CAP and SAG at future meetings.



*Adrienne Rumbelow, CLLMM Program Leader discussing 2026-27 environmental watering*

## Next meeting

The CLLMM CAP will reconvene in June 2026, and a joint CAP/SAG meeting will be scheduled for October 2026.

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

### About the CLLMM CAP

Since 2006, a community advisory panel has been meeting regularly to provide guidance on water resource management and projects in the CLLMM region. The panel's collective experience, alongside scientific expertise and First Nations' knowledge, plays a vital role in guiding water management and helping restore the health of the Coorong.

**Learn more** [environment.sa.gov.au/CLLMM-CAP-SAG](https://environment.sa.gov.au/CLLMM-CAP-SAG)

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