

CLLMM Community Advisory Panel and Scientific Advisory Group

Communique - 15 October 2025

On 15 October 2025, the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) met on Kurna Country at the South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre in West Beach, hosted by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

The meeting brought together more than 35 representatives from community, research, government and the Ngarrindjeri nation to discuss environmental health, water management and current research in the region. Key topics included the Sustainable Rivers Audit, algal bloom monitoring, ecological research, environmental water delivery and H5 bird flu.

Basin Plan evaluation and Sustainable Rivers Audit

Members received a briefing from the Murray-Darling Basin Association's (MDBA) Executive Director for Basin Science and Knowledge, Scott Ashby on the 2025 Sustainable Rivers Audit (2025 SRA).

The 2025 SRA is a snapshot of current Basin health and provides information about trends and influences on the Basin's economies, environment, cultures and communities. Information and reports from the 2025 SRA are available at: www.mdba.gov.au/science-and-knowledge/sustainable-rivers-audit

CAP/SAG members were encouraged to provide feedback (issues, ideas and advice) for the 2026 Basin Plan Review.

Karenia algal bloom update

Professor Mike Steer, Executive Director with the South Australia Research and Development Institute (SARDI) provided an update on the algal bloom currently impacting areas of South Australia's coast and previously in the Coorong North Lagoon. This included an overview of the latest monitoring observations in coastal areas and the Coorong, and the challenges in predicting where and how long the bloom will last for. It was noted that *Karenia* had not been detected in or along the Coorong and Lower Lakes for a number of weeks.

CAP/SAG members welcomed the opportunity to ask questions about the algal bloom to Professor Steer. Algal bloom updates continue to be provided at www.algalbloom.sa.gov.au

Department for Environment and Water updates

The Department for Environment and Water's (DEW) Environmental Water and Water Delivery teams provided an update on environmental water delivery, upstream floodplain operations and barrage water data monitoring with regards to recent storm surge events, which have seen the highest recorded levels in over 50 years.

An update was also provided on the current H5 Avian Influenza (bird flu) outlook for South Australia, including current surveillance measures and the conservation planning and actions being undertaken. For more information on the H5 Avian Influenza please visit the PISA website at [Avian influenza - PIRSA](http://Avian%20influenza%20-%20PIRSA).

Research in the CLLMM

Researchers from SARDI, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the CLLMM Research Centre shared insights into some of the latest scientific research being conducted in and around the CLLMM region, including:

- native fish movement (congolli) in the Upper Southeast Drainage system and Coorong (Chris Bice & Qifeng Ye, SARDI)
- 2022-23 River Murray flood and benefits to the marine ecosystem (Brenton Zampatti, CSIRO)
- aquatic vegetation monitoring in the Lower Lakes (Jason Nicol, SARDI)
- Beyond the Horizon: horizon scan project to identify future challenges and opportunities for the CLLMM region (Nick Whiterod, CLLMM Research Centre).

To participate in the Beyond the Horizon study please visit

https://unisasurveys.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8ku83gHf2FmTACW?Q_CHL=qf

SARDI facilities tour

CAP/SAG members enjoyed a tour of the South Australian Aquatic Sciences Centre, learning about the latest algal testing capabilities being developed, together with fish age and health analysis undertaken within the SARDI laboratories.



Next meeting

The CAP will reconvene for a field trip in early December to visit the newly opened Tolderol Wetlands. For more information on the restoration works completed at Tolderol Game Reserve, please visit <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/healthy-coorong-ogw>

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

Contact dew.ewater@sa.gov.au