

Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Advisory Panel

Communiqué – 3 December 2025



Annual CLLMM CAP field trip

On 3 December, The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Panel (CAP) conducted its annual field trip, visiting the newly upgraded Tolderol Game Reserve on Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Country.

The day concluded with presentations and discussions at the CLLMM Research Centre in Goolwa.

Tolderol Game Reserve

CAP members were led by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Sam Hardy and Aleisha Casson on a guided tour through the newly reopened Tolderol Game Reserve. Under the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin program, new infrastructure was completed at Tolderol in August, which has improved water management and helped restore wetland habitat at the reserve.

The visit highlighted how the site is managed to maximise the benefits of inundations and enhance habitat quality and availability for migratory and resident shorebirds across South Australia's Lower Lakes and South East. Key points included the site's ecological importance, with Tolderol supporting 27 migratory bird species listed under the EPBC Act, with potential to host 10 more.

CAP members observed the upgrades firsthand, gained insights into wetland management practices and enjoyed opportunities for birdwatching.

Tolderol Game Reserve is part of The Living Murray's Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site and the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Wetland.

For more information on restoration works at Tolderol Game Reserve, visit

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/healthy-coorong-ogw>

CLLMM Research Centre

Nick Whiterod from the CLLMM Research Centre presented updates on a selection of current projects, including Horizon Scan, Coastal dunes, Estuarine Connectivity, Coorong Freshwater Soaks and a 10-year evaluation of the success of landscape revegetation projects.

Department for Environment and Water

Shorebird and Wetland Habitat (SaWH) program

SaWH Program Leader, Matthew McCabe provided an overview of the \$17 million Shorebird and Wetland Habitat program, which consists of 25 distinct projects across 35 wetland sites. Working with 12 partner organisations to deliver a significant collective impact across the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and South East regions, the program aims to create a mosaic of critical foraging and breeding habitats for migratory birds and threatened species throughout these landscapes.

CAP members welcomed the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the program's objectives.

Shorebird and Wetland Habitat information can be found on the program's web page at www.environment.sa.gov.au/sawh

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Water operations

Andy Harrison, Acting Program Leader, Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth, presented updates on scientific monitoring outcomes in the CLLMM region under The Living Murray program.

During an update on the harmful algae bloom in the Coorong, input and advice was sought from CAP members regarding proposed Morella operations for shorebird outcomes.

Renee Thompson, Manager, Water Delivery then provided an update on water operations, with highlights including the successful progression of all 3 floodplain operations in the Riverland (at Chowilla Game Reserve, Katarapko Floodplain and Pike Floodplain) and increased barrage releases improving salinity levels in the Coorong North Lagoon. Lake levels were managed at the upper bound of the envelope (0.85AHD) for an additional month to support ecological outcomes. You can view the Lake Level Envelope here: [Water Data SA](#).

Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin (HCHB)

Tom Overall, HCHB Program Leader gave an update on the HCHB program, including hosting a targeted workshop to provide a detailed program update with the CAP.

The day concluded with an open forum, enabling CAP members to raise topics for discussion, including proposed future meeting items for 2026.

The CAP acknowledges retiring member Paul Harvey and thanks him for his dedication, insights and advocacy throughout his service.

Next meeting: The next CAP meeting is scheduled for February 2026.

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

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