



DEW Reference Number: DEW22/083
Your ref: 16913964

Office of the Chief Executive

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Hon David Speirs MP
South Australian Parliament
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000
E: leaderoftheopposition@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Speirs

I refer to your application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) received by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 14 November 2022, seeking access to:

"A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters (including draft versions), meeting agendas, diary entries, event attendance records and any other correspondence) that contain "Coorong Trust"

Timeframe: 10 October 2022 to 14 November 2022"

[Excluding documents released to applicant in FOI determination DEW22/068]

The department sent you the original determination on 14 February 2023. On 15 February 2023, DEW received your application for an internal review of your original determination (DEW22-083).

DETERMINATION

An internal review has been undertaken and I wish to advise that as Principal Officer I have determined to vary the original determination. I wish to advise that I have determined to uphold the original determination for document number 1. I have determined to vary the original determination of document numbered 1.1. The use of clause 9(1)(a)(i)&(b) has been removed resulting in further information being released to you.

This internal review determination is provided to you electronically.

In accordance with [PC045 – Disclosure logs for Non-personal information](#) once a determination has been provided, the agency is required to make available on our website information and documents that have been disclosed. Information will be publicised online at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log>.

FEES AND CHARGES

There will be no charge to process this application.

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

You have the right to apply for an external review if you are dissatisfied with this determination. All applications for external review should be made to the Ombudsman SA.

An application for an external review must be submitted within 30 calendar days after being notified of this determination. The Ombudsman SA can extend this time limit at their discretion. There is no fee or charge for external reviews undertaken by the Ombudsman. Contact details for the Ombudsman are:

Ombudsman SA
Phone: 8226 8699
Toll Free: 1800 182 150 (outside metro SA)
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au

Should an FOI applicant believe an agency has failed to identify all of the documents within the scope of their FOI application, complaints about sufficiency of searches can be raised with the Ombudsman SA by visiting www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact the Freedom of Information team on telephone (08) 8463 6625 or email DEW.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



JOHN SCHUTZ
Principal Officer, Freedom of Information
Department for Environment and Water

01 / 03 / 2023

Encl: 1. Document Schedule
 2. Release Document
 3. Right of Review
 4. Sufficiency of Search – Factsheet – Ombudsman SA



Scope- A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters (including draft versions), meeting agendas, diary entries, event attendance records and any other correspondence) that contain "Coorong Trust" between 10/10/2022 to 14/11/2022

No	Date	Author	Document name	Determination	Clause	Internal Review Determination	Reason	Public Interest Test in favour of release	Public Interest Test contrary to release
1	14/10/2022	DEW	Email	Partial release (Upheld)	6(1) - Documents affecting personal affairs	Internal Review upheld	<p>Personal email addresses withheld - Release of personal email addresses into the public domain could reasonably be anticipated to attract unsolicited or targeted contact from issue motivated individuals, companies promoting products as well as malicious spam email attacks.</p> <p>Mobile phone numbers redacted - Release of mobile phone numbers into the public domain may result in unsolicited phone calls being received out of business hours, impacting the personal affairs of an individual.</p>	N/A	N/A
1.1	10/10/2022	Dr Jonathan Sobels, Chair Coorong Environmental Trust	Attached Letter	Partial release (Varied)	9(1)(a)(i)&(b)	Internal Review exemption varied	All information previously redacted under clause 9, is now released.	N/A	N/A
				Partial release (Upheld)	6(1) - Documents affecting personal affairs	Internal Review upheld	<p>Personal email addresses withheld - Release of personal email addresses into the public domain could reasonably be anticipated to attract unsolicited or targeted contact from issue motivated individuals, companies promoting products as well as malicious spam email attacks.</p> <p>Mobile phone numbers redacted - Release of mobile phone numbers into the public domain may result in unsolicited phone calls being received out of business hours, impacting the personal affairs of an individual.</p>	N/A	N/A

Morony, Chris (DEW)

From: Keuning, Justine (DEW)
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 1:16 PM
To: Morony, Chris (DEW)
Subject: FW: coorong trust
Attachments: Letter 07_10_22 to Minister.docx

OFFICIAL

From: Paul, Jacob (DIIS)
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2022 1:03 PM
To: Keuning, Justine (DEW) <Justine.Keuning@sa.gov.au>
Subject: coorong trust

OFFICIAL

Can you please use this number **CEW22/01738** - SOBELS Jonathan Dr - Appointment of Trust Directors and Members

From: Paul, Jacob (DIIS)
Sent: Tuesday, 11 October 2022 2:54 PM
To: Keuning, Justine (DEW) <Justine.Keuning@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Formal Approval of members

OFFICIAL

One to chat about when you have a second – good to know what has happened following the signed brief

From: Jonathan Sobels 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs
Sent: Monday, 10 October 2022 4:25 PM
To: Office of the Deputy Premier <OfficeoftheDeputyPremier@sa.gov.au>
Cc: ptadelaide@parliament.sa.gov.au; 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs
Subject: Request for Formal Approval of members

Dear Minister Close,

Please find attached our request for your formal approval, as SA Minister for the Environment and Water, of the Coorong Environmental Trust Inc Members and two government appointees as Directors.

We look forward to the realisation of community and scientific actions and objectives, in concert with government at local, state and federal levels, regarding the delta and estuarine reaches of the Murray Darling system incorporating the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

Yours sincerely,

Dr JD Sobels
 Chair, Coorong Environmental Trust Inc.

Email: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Phone: 6 - Documents
affecting personal



Dr Jonathan D Sobels
Chair, Coorong Environmental Trust

6 - Documents affecting personal
affairs

6 - Documents affecting
personal affairs

The Honourable Dr Susan Close
Deputy Premier of South Australia
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

OfficeoftheDeputyPremier@sa.gov.au
ptadelaide@parliament.sa.gov.au

1/111 Lipson Street, PORT ADELAIDE SA 5015

10^h October 2022

RE: Coorong Environmental Trust Bill 2021 - Appointment of Trust Directors and Members

Dear Minister,

I write to you on behalf of the Coorong Environmental Trust Inc. (the Trust) as founding Chair (AGM #1, 18/09/2022). The Trust would like to confirm its ongoing unequivocal support for the Coorong Environmental Trust Act 2021 (the Act) and request your appointment of initial Trust directors and organisational members as soon as possible.

We would like to get on with the work of obtaining funds for executive staff, premises, events and database development.

We would like to begin work with appropriate scientists, communities and stakeholders to further our understanding of the Lakes and Coorong wetland complex and Murray River delta.

To do so we would like to harmonise the connection between *the Act* and the Trust, which is where you appoint the first cohort of member organisations (listed below) as accepted at the September 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM). We also would appreciate your selection of two initial directors to join the Board. An Annual Report of activities by the Trust is attached as would normally be expected when *the Act* is promulgated.

Once appointed, the Board of Directors can formally accept the rules of the Trust. The formalising of these rules is needed to complete our application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

We would also like to hold a community event to celebrate the commencement of the Act, and coordinate this with your office to ensure this is the celebration it deserves to be!

I therefore ask that as the Minister for Environment and Water, you approve the initial Trust members as soon as practicable and select the two ministerial appointments.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jonathan Sobels

Chair, Coorong Environmental Trust

Cc: Mrs Rosa Hillam, Secretary

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP OF COORONG ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST (at 18th September 2022)

Organization	Representative	Organizational objectives
Beach and Dune Systems (BEADS Laboratory)	Professor Patrick Hesp; Dr. Garziela Miot da Silva	Research group conducting research on coastal systems including beach-dune dynamics and interactions, and nearshore-coastal processes and oceanography. Part of the Flinders University.
Colin Koch (<i>trades under own name</i>)	Colin Koch	Coorong Landowner / Consultant
Conservation Council of SA (Conservation SA)	Craig Wilkins	The Conservation Council of South Australia is a movement of passionate people who care about our state's incredible natural environment. For 50 years, Conservation SA has been committed to protecting, restoring and conserving our unique and beautiful natural spaces, and promoting a truly sustainable future for our state - powered by 90,000+ people from more than 60 member groups. Together we are a force for nature.
Coorong Wild Seafood Pty Ltd	Glen Hill	<p>The fishing license is in the Lakes and Coorong fishery and Glen has been a fisherman for over 30 years. The processing business, Coorong Wild Seafood is based at Meningie in the upper South East region of South Australia. Both the fishing and processing business is located near the Coorong where the commercial fishery operates. Owner and fisherman, Glen Hill supplies his catch to the processing factory run by wife Tracy.</p> <p>Glen serves on several industry and community committees in the local region and industry</p>

Coorong Wildside Tours	Tracy Hill	<p>Coorong Wildside Tours is tour business giving visitors the opportunity to explore the Coorong in a unique way. Offering small boat tours of the Coorong, and associated RAMSAR listed wetlands and surrounds.</p> <p>The sightseeing and ecotours are designed to educate the visitor about the environment of the Coorong and surrounds. Glen also provides a vast amount of knowledge about the Murray Darling basin system and formation and current state of the Coorong.</p> <p>They have developed several tour options that give tourists a hands-on experience, with science-based content and the latest scientific information</p>
Delta Environmental Consulting	Peri Coleman	Provides environmental services in the areas of coastal, estuarine and salt-lake ecosystems with a focus on the ecology and botany of saltmarshes
Dr Jonathan Sobels (<i>trades under own name</i>)	Dr Jonathan Sobels	<p>Academic/Consultant: Local rural organisations (e.g. Landcare networks), Groundwater compliance, Population growth and physical environmental limitations, Lecturer Environmental Management, Social impacts of drought on riverine communities – Lower Lakes and Coorong (SA Government and MDBA).</p> <p>Teacher: @ Naracoorte High School.</p> <p>Farmer: @ 'Kay Park'</p> <p>Volunteer: English teacher for Afghani men</p>
EcoProTem	Faith Coleman	Provides contract environmental managers to community and industry groups within the environmental and natural resource sector. Specializes in estuarine natural history.
Garry & Christine HeraSingh (<i>trades under own name</i>)	Garry Hera-Singh	Commercial fishing business within the Lakes and Coorong for 38 years.
Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc. (GWLAP)	Ross Oke	GWLAP is a community based NGO established in 1998. Operating primarily across the catchments that flow to Lake Alexandrina. They design and deliver environmental restoration and sustainable agriculture projects with a focus on onground action.

K M Sawers <i>(trades under own name)</i>	Ken Sawers	Natural resource consulting services
Merravale Pty-Ltd - Warreena	Adam Merry	Beef and sheep producer.
Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Aboriginal Corporation (NLPAC)	Rita Lindsay (Chairperson)	<p>Formerly known as the Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Association Inc (NLPA), the Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Aboriginal Corporation (NLPAC) is a local Ngarrindjeri organisation that manages multiple programs and assets across the region, including the Working on Country program. Some of the relevant objectives of the corporation include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote cultural matters involving the cultural heritage of Ngarrindjeri people in the area and in particular matters relating to land and protection of sites and burial grounds that are of significance to Aboriginal people of the area and to make claims for formal recognition of land rights by the appropriate authorities • assist the Ngarrindjeri People to protect areas of cultural significance to them in accordance with tradition and custom • to manage Ngarrindjeri land and waters for the purpose of traditional or cultural significance and for economic and cultural benefits, growth and advancement, to the Ngarrindjeri People and to hold any interest in such land as trustee or otherwise for the members of the corporation and the Ngarrindjeri People

River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group	Janette Brooks (Secretary)	Independent community organization formed in 2006 to advocate for the health of the Coorong, Murray Mouth, Alexandrina and Albert Lakes and Murray Darling Basin system. Objects are: To protect, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the River Murray, Lakes and Coorong. Liaise with appropriate bodies over the management of the River Murray, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, the Coorong and immediate surrounds. To educate the community in River Ecology.
Rosa Hillam <i>(trades under own name)</i>	Rosa Hillam	Healthy Rivers Ambassador and Statement Based Artist. Passionate about the preservation and restoration of the environment for our future generations
South Australian Murray Irrigators (SAMI)	Judith Rose	SAMI represents irrigation businesses along the SA river Murray including 46 irrigations businesses below Lock 1 SAMI is an incorporated body governed by a committee of 12 irrigators ranging from the border to the mouth.
Southern Fishermen's Association Inc.	Neil MacDonald	A member based seafood industry body that represents the interests of commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery license holders.
Traeger Services Pty. Ltd.	Gail Traeger	Plumber and Builder
Woods Well Station	Rick Martin	Grazier and Coorong landholder.



Lakes and Coorong Environmental Trust

2022 AGM (18/09/2022): Some achievements to date

Organisational:

- Establishment of the private Coorong Environmental Trust organisation and appointment of interim Trustees
- Several meetings with politicians at all levels prior to the elections.
- Coorong Environmental Trust legislation passed - Yet to be integrated with private organisation
- Contracting of a part-time executive officer for six months of this year.
- Construction of a website (still lots of work to go, but it is live and is looking good).

- Written briefing to new Environmental Minister with proposed integration of legislative trust with the current private Trust.
- Prepared draft organisational rules.
- Appointment of first group of member organisations to private Trust
- Appointment of first voted-in Board.

Purposeful:

- 44,000 observations of over 58 million animals entered and negotiations started with BioCollect for them to host the data, with an access-by-Trust-approval data system
- Identification of blooms such as the Alexandrium minutum and sea-sparkle events
- Ongoing funding of a PhD stipend by Trust members
- Locating and identifying remnant stands of Coorong Fox-tailed Stonewort in Salt Creek
- Presentations to six overseas conferences and four Australian conferences, along with seven community groups and two community science forums with regard to the Trust structure, the natural history of the Coorong and outcomes of the member-funded PhD research.
- Presentations to MDA, Coorong Council,
- "What's that Smell?" kits provided to landholders who are reporting odour issues along the South Lagoon
- Facebook page sharing news of all current scientific work in the Lakes and Coorong Ramsar site. The page currently has 384 page followers, with 2-5 new people finding the page each day.
- Collaboration with GeoScience Australia to identify and track phytoplankton intensity across the Ramsar site.
- Collection and submission of macro-algae samples to the SA Herbarium, in collaboration with Coorong Wildside Tours and SA Herbarium staff
- Received and identified more than thirty samples of plants, animals and water from community members, which have been logged on iNaturalist where appropriate. Of particular interest were samples of estuarine leaches and an unusual form of Parartemia, both of which were vouchered and submitted to the SA Museum.

- Informal collaborations with academics from Federation University, Adelaide University and Flinders University as the opportunities have arisen, assisting with locating sample sites, exchanging copies of historic materials or current reference materials from other organisations, negotiation of private bore or wedge hole access.
- Informal conversations regarding community macroalgae reestablishment trials in both the Lakes and Coorong with several stakeholders including Landscape Board staff.
- Initial conversations with AusOcean and local schools regarding the potential for local school children to build monitoring buoys for deployment in the Ramsar site.
- Attendance at and promotion of OzFish underwater camera workshop.
- Negotiations with international engineering firms re potential provision of pro bono advice
- Rosa did a "Lost Coorong" display at the Coorong Council Meningie Hub, to raise awareness of the species which have gone missing from the system.

Upcoming:

- We are hoping to run a few "Science in the Pub" sessions this year, to encourage those researching the Ramsar site to both interact with each other and with community stakeholders.
- Seeking funding for operational costs, monitoring and data management measures.
- Community run science including redoing the 1970s water moment assessments, Stonewort hunts and hopefully some micro macroalgae reestablishment experiments.