

Community advocacy and ongoing involvement in the long-term management of the Coorong is fundamental to its future health and sustainability. It is important that the community is supported to build its skills and knowledge to become caretakers of the precious wetland.

Outcomes:

- Raising community awareness.
- Building community relationships and invite input into the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* program to ensure information and knowledge is shared effectively.
- Building community stakeholder relationships, inviting input and sharing knowledge.
- Building community knowledge and skills through involvement in citizen science and on-ground activities.

The Coorong Partnership



Established to provide local communities and groups with an unprecedented opportunity to help shape the work to restore the health, vitality and visitor experience of the Coorong.



Comprises a broad range of expertise including conservation, recreation, science, agriculture, local government, tourism, fishing, heritage and First Nations culture.



Provides ideas and community insights into the development and implementation of project initiatives.



Provides advice on major decisions across *Project Coorong*.



Communiques are published following each meeting at www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong/coorong-partnership.

Engagement Principles:

Informing the community throughout the program – through community updates and communication of significant milestones.

Involving the Coorong Partnership, First Nations and stakeholders ahead of major decision points.

Consulting the community ahead of final decisions – through workshops, meetings and online consultations.

Flexibility in our approach - willing to adapt to the needs of the program and community.

Activities:

Coorong BioBlitz

Increasing community understanding of Coorong science.



Activities covering the topics of; birds, aquatic plants, water and sediment quality and macroinvertebrates.



92% of attendees said they had an increased understanding of scientific survey practice and the biodiversity of the Coorong.



The Science and Citizens of the Coorong video, developed with the Murrylands and Riverland Landscape Board, was shown as part of the Scinema International Film Festival, which was accessible globally online!



Community E-Newsletters

providing updates from across the program.



470+ subscribers, and growing!



100+ stakeholder briefings



Extensive community consultation processes, including:

- meetings
- discussion forums
- webinars
- surveys.



Annual Science Forum



More than **11,000** South Australians invited to engage.

WHAT WE HEARD:



“Options for improving the ecology of the south lagoon should be determined by scientific evidence, given water availability and constraints.”