

The objective of the First Nations Partnerships project is to partner with Ngarrindjeri and First Nations of the South East to shape, inform and participate in initiatives across the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* (HCHB) program based on their cultural knowledge, values and interests.

Project Partners:

"The First Nations Partnership project has been a crucial part of building positive partnership and ongoing relationships between the Department for Environment and Water and Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation. The Partnership has enabled the Ngarrindjeri people to meet their cultural obligation to care for and manage Country. The HCHB First Nations Partnership project has been extremely effective and we have encouraged our new partners to follow a similar process."

Tim Hartman,
CEO Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation

"The South East Aboriginal Focus Group was established in 2004 to represent the interests of the First Nations People of the Southeast. The First Nations Partnership project has helped strengthen links between the department and First Nations People of the South East and allowed for genuine partnership. This has been integral in building trust between First Nations and the HCHB project team."

Robyn Campbell,
HCHB Project Officer and Burrardies CEO.

Activities:



The First Nations Partnerships project is a recognised action to **build strong and capable Aboriginal communities** under the Premier's Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan 2021-2022.



Solution-focused to achieve both cultural and program outcomes through **two-way knowledge sharing** between Elders and HCHB project teams on Country.



Building meaningful relationships with Ngarrindjeri and First Nations of the South East, and between the two communities.



Employment of three part-time community-based project officers who facilitate First Nations voices being incorporated into HCHB planning and implementation.



Cultural awareness training held for HCHB staff to better understand cultural values of our program partners and their connection to the Country on which we work.

19 HCHB staff participated in Ngarrindjeri cultural awareness training at Meningie on the banks of Lake Alexandrina with three Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation staff and two Ngarrindjeri Elders.

19 HCHB staff participated in First Nations of the South East cultural awareness training held at Teeluk, in close proximity to the culturally significant site of the Granites with 12 representatives from the South East Aboriginal Focus Group.



Three large-scale cultural heritage surveys

undertaken with representatives and Elders from Ngarrindjeri and First Nations of the South East to identify optimal locations for potential infrastructure and management solutions. Surveys have been undertaken along the Coorong which is an area rich in cultural heritage, including shell middens, hearths, artefact scatter and ancestral remains.



Four Coorong National Park Cultural Rangers

work with the HCHB Trials and Investigations researchers in monitoring of significant bird species, hydrology and food webs. The Cultural Rangers are integral members of the Parks team and are at the forefront in management of the Coorong National Park.



Facilitating On-Country workshops

to successfully highlight opportunities for the community.



Australian Government



This project is part of the South Australian Government's Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program, which is jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian governments.