

Part of the South Australian Government's overarching Project Coorong initiative, the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* (HCHB) Action Plan outlines possible on-ground works, management tools, research, trials and investigations, and other activities between 2019 and 2024 to get the Coorong back on track for a healthy future.



**The Action Plan presents a working vision to help restore the Coorong's health, characterised by healthy vegetation with abundant and diverse populations of waterbirds, fish and plants.**

- Development of HCHB program supported by establishment of community, First Nations and scientific partnerships.
- Phase One (2019-2022) funding announced to deliver key works including detailed feasibility assessments and scientific investigations, leading to long-term management solutions.
- Scientists and environmental managers came together to build a shared understanding of the existing and emerging scientific knowledge of the Southern Coorong.
- Following these discussions, the "Desired state of the Southern Coorong discussion paper" was produced, providing a rationale for long-term management options being explored through HCHB.
- The discussion paper can be viewed here: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong/publications](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong/publications)

### Activities:



*Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* is a \$77 million commitment to restore a healthy Coorong, announced by the Australian and South Australian governments in December 2018.



Identifying and investigating longer-term management options and implementing those deemed feasible to provide the most benefit.



Undertaking short-term, no-regrets trials, investigations and on-ground works.



Developing tools and systems to improve the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of water delivery and management.



Addressing critical scientific knowledge gaps.



Partnering with First Nations and local communities in on-ground action.

### 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.



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



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



Provides advice on major decisions across Project Coorong.



Communiques are published following each meeting.



Australian Government



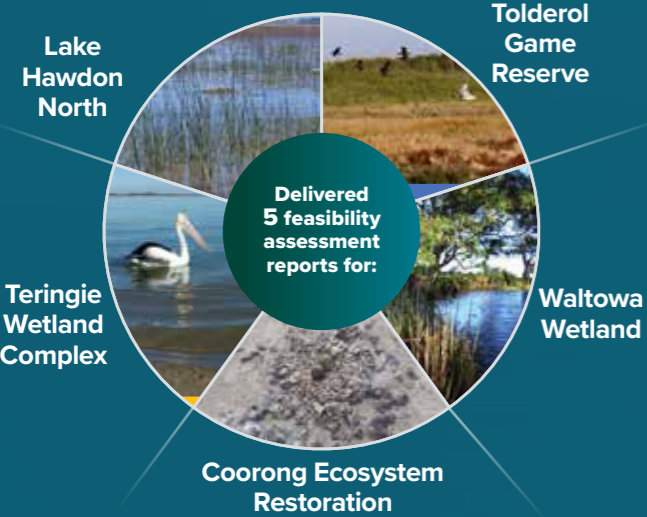
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment and Water

# On-Ground Works

Completed feasibility investigations across 5 sites to **restore more than 3,000 hectares of priority wetlands** in the Lower Lakes and South East.



**\$10 million investment** to improve the **quality and availability of waterbird habitat** at Tolderol, Teringie and Waltowa.

**Regional Bird Refugia Implementation Proposal** for Lake Hawdon North being finalised for Commonwealth consideration.

# Community Partnerships

**100+ stakeholder briefings**, community consultation and engagement events held to date.

**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.”

**92% of 2021 Coorong BioBlitz attendees** said they had an increased understanding of scientific survey practice and the biodiversity of the Coorong after attending the BioBlitz.

# Water Resource Optimisation

**4 continuous monitoring sensor stations** installed, **2 meteorological (weather) stations** installed and **1200+ water samples** taken.

**Coorong Automated Forecasting System** uses water monitoring, weather and ecological monitoring data to inform when and how much water should be released through the barrages for the best environmental benefit.

**CLLMM\* Management Action Database** uses information from the Coorong Automated Forecasting System to allow water managers to improve the effectiveness, timeliness and efficiency of Coorong operations and environmental water decisions.

\*Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth

# Coorong Infrastructure Investigations

Investigating the feasibility of long-term infrastructure and management options to improve the health of the Coorong.

**14 Infrastructure options** (including three community submitted options) underwent Options Analysis and community consultation.

**5 infrastructure options were shortlisted** following feasibility investigations.

**3 remain under consideration.**

Using the best available science and technology, complex models predict the benefits proposed infrastructure could deliver to the Coorong South Lagoon.

Extensive engineering investigations have ensured that infrastructure being designed is optimised, to deliver benefits to the Coorong South Lagoon.

# First Nations Partnerships

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

**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.

**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.

# Trials & Investigations

Unprecedented **\$10.9 million investment** in scientific research to **inform restoration** and future management of the Coorong.

**Significant collaboration** across scientific disciplines and 13 organisations.

More than **70 researchers and 20 government scientists**.

Address critical scientific knowledge gaps across 7 key themes:

