

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 8

4 February 2021



The eighth [Coorong Partnership](#) meeting was held on 4 February 2021 at Taillem Bend, hosted by [Coorong District Council](#).

The focus of the meeting was a presentation from the [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) (NPWS) on nature-based tourism and economic development opportunities for the region. The Partnership welcomed the intent that NPWS is leading a new project to develop a Coorong Visitor Experience Master Plan in 2021 and looks forward to being involved in its development going forward. NPWS provided an update on recent tourism trends, most notably the increase in demand for intrastate and domestic tourism opportunities. In December 2020, South Australia saw a 77 per cent rise in National Park entry numbers compared to December 2019, with the Coorong National Park experiencing a 46% increase in park-based camping. NPWS advised that there have been strong expressions of interest in the [Nature-Based Tourism Co-Investment Fund](#) from across South Australia, which will remain open until June 2022 (or until exhausted). The Partnership discussed the need to provide a more diverse range of accommodation options for a broader range of travellers to the Coorong. The Partnership were unanimous that further tourism and economic development of the Coorong needs to be balanced with protecting the natural environment and respecting and promoting First Nations culture.

The [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) (HCHB) Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project presented some preliminary hydrodynamic modelling of three of the five infrastructure options that are being investigated to potentially improve the health of the Coorong South Lagoon. Modelling for a base "do nothing" case, a connection between the Coorong South Lagoon and Southern Ocean, Coorong Lagoon dredging to improve connectivity and a Lake Albert to Coorong Connector was summarised and will now be further refined. The Partnership noted that the preliminary hydrodynamic modelling was only the first step in an extensive and iterative feasibility process. The Partnership looks forward to ongoing input into the investigations progress through 2021.

The [Limestone Coast Landscape Board](#) provided an update on the [Our Coorong | Our Coast](#) program, which is improving the ecological character of the Coorong and enhancing habitat for threatened species along the Limestone Coast such as the hooded plover, orange-bellied parrot, eastern curlew, malleefowl and other migratory shorebirds. The Partnership noted the continuing efforts of the Limestone Coast Landscapes Board in tackling land-based threats to biodiversity.

The Chair, the Hon Dean Brown, thanked Partnership members for their attendance and participation at the [Project Coorong](#) Science Forum held on World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2021, at Goolwa. The Partnership noted that the high attendance at the event (130 people, with a further 40 streaming online) demonstrated the strong community interest in the ecological health of the Coorong. The Partnership agreed that the Science Forum provided a broad and comprehensive update on the research currently being undertaken across Project Coorong and looks forward to videos, abstracts and summaries of the day being released.

The Partnership will next convene on 25 March 2021 at [Alexandrina Council](#) in Goolwa.

Further Information

If you would like to receive regular updates about [Project Coorong](#) please email: projectcoorong@sa.gov.au

