

## RIVER MURRAY ACT OBJECTS

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*The River Murray Act 2003 is guided by a set of objects or guiding principles to ensure adequate protection of River Murray values.*

- i. to ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to protect, restore and enhance the River Murray in recognition of its critical importance to the South Australian community and its unique value from environmental, economic and social perspectives and to give special acknowledgement to the need to ensure that the use and management of the River Murray sustains the physical, economic and social well being of the people of the state and facilitates the economic development of the state; and
- ii. to provide mechanisms to ensure that any development or activities that may affect the River Murray are undertaken in a way that provides the greatest benefit to, or protection of, the River Murray while at the same time providing for the economic, social and physical well being of the community; and
- iii. to provide a mechanism so that development and activities that are unacceptable in view of their adverse effects on the River Murray are prevented from proceeding, regulated or brought to an end; and
- iv. to promote the principles of ecologically sustainable development in relation to the use and management of the River Murray; and
- v. to ensure that proper weight is given to the significance and well being of the River Murray when legislative plans and strategies are being developed and implemented; and
- vi. to respect the interests and aspirations of Indigenous peoples with an association with the River Murray and to give due recognition to the ability of those Indigenous people to make a significant contribution to the promotion of the principles of ecologically sustainable development in relation to the use and management of the River Murray; and
- vii. to respect the interests and views of other people within the community with an association with the River Murray and to give due recognition to the ability of those people to make a significant contribution to the promotion of the principles of ecologically sustainable development in relation to the use and management of the River Murray, and
- viii. otherwise to ensure the future health, and to recognise the importance, of the River Murray.

## OBJECTIVES FOR A HEALTHY RIVER MURRAY (ORMs)

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*The River Murray Act also sets out a list of 'Objectives for the River Murray' (ORMs). The ORMs were developed by the (former) Murray-Darling Basin Commission and endorsed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. They outline some of the specific improvements being sought for the River Murray.*

### RIVER HEALTH OBJECTIVES

There are four river health objectives collectively covering the issues of:

- maintenance, protection and restoration of key habitats and ecological processes;
- protection and restoration of River Murray environments, particularly high-value floodplains and wetlands of national and international importance;
- prevention of native plant and animal extinctions; and
- avoiding and overcoming barriers to the migration of native animal species.

### ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW OBJECTIVES

Three environmental flow objectives address the matters of:

- reinstatement and maintenance of ecologically significant elements of the River Murray system natural flow regime;
- keeping open the Murray mouth in order to maintain navigation and fish passage and to enhance the health of the River Murray system and Coorong; and
- significantly improving connectivity between and within the environments constituted by the River Murray system.

### WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

The four water quality objectives seek to:

- improve water quality within the River Murray system to a level that sustains the ecological processes, environmental values and productive capacity of the system;
- minimise the impact of salinity on the ecological processes and productive capacity of the River Murray system;
- manage nutrient levels within the River Murray system so as to prevent or reduce the occurrence of algal blooms, and to minimise other nutrient related impacts; and
- minimise the impact of potential pollutants, such as sediment and pesticides, on the environments within the River Murray system.

### HUMAN DIMENSION OBJECTIVES

The human dimension objectives aim to:

- implement a responsive and adaptable approach to the management of the River Murray System, taking into account ecological outcomes, community interests and new information as it comes to hand;
- promote the health and proper management of the River Murray system by gathering, considering and disseminating the community's knowledge and understanding of the system;
- take into account the interests of the community by recognising indigenous and other cultural and historical relationships with the River Murray environs, and by ensuring appropriate participation in processes associated with the management of the system; and
- recognise the importance of a healthy river to the economic, social and cultural prosperity of communities along the length of the river, and the community more generally.