

# Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 18

2 June 2022



The eighteenth meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 2 June 2022 at Coorong District Council, Taillem Bend.

The [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) (NPWS) and [Effektiver](#) provided a summary presentation on the Coorong Visitor Experience Plan stakeholder engagement. The engagement ran from January to May 2022 and involved a wide range of stakeholders across a variety of mediums. 169 online survey responses and over 800 total responses were segmented into 22 categories to identify two overarching themes: Nature, Wildlife & Wilderness; and Aboriginal Connection. The engagement identified a number of considerations, enabling visitor infrastructure and partner projects of significance which will feed into the forthcoming Coorong Visitor Experience Plan. The Partnership acknowledged the comprehensive engagement process and highlighted the need for the plan to prioritise areas of most importance, whilst also ensuring implementation extends across multiple sites in the region.

The Partnership expressed concern that some commercial tour operators in the Coorong are promoting the feeding of wildlife as part of their tours.

[Alexandrina Council](#) provided an update on the Sugars Beach – Murray Mouth Icon Project, which will be reviewed and further consulted upon in response to community feedback. The Partnership acknowledged that incorporating the experience, knowledge and aspirations of the local community and First Nations is critical to this project, and further recognised that there are elements of this project that are long overdue. In particular, the Partnership considered that any re-scoped project should include:

- Lookouts, boardwalks and car parking – especially at the eastern end of the precinct, opposite the Murray Mouth.
- Interpretive/educational experiences – highlighting the ecological and cultural significance of the area, inclusive of its role and importance to the entire Murray-Darling Basin, and Ngarrindjeri culture and heritage.
- New toilet facilities
- New jetty / boat landing facilities

The Partnership resolved to write to Alexandrina Council in support of the project, including the recommendation that 'no regrets' components could be brought forward and progressed in a phased approach while residual concerns with other parts of the precinct are worked through with community.

[Limestone Coast Landscape Board](#) staff provided an update on the [Our Coorong | Our Coast](#) project, which aims to restore and protect the habitat of beach nesting and migratory shorebirds throughout the Coorong and Limestone Coast. In 2021/22 the project has undertaken fox, deer and weed control within the Coorong National Park resulting in a significant reduction in numbers. The project is partnering with the Ngarrindjeri Lands & Progress Association (NLPA) to undertake revegetation works in June 2022 at Marks Point, Parnka Point and Cantara Homestead. Educational activities with schools in the region occurred throughout the year with a shorebird workshop, talk and bird watching scheduled this month with Raukkan Aboriginal School.

The [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) program provided an update on 2021/22 achievements, as highlighted in the recently released [program and project summaries](#). In 2022/23 HCHB will accelerate progress towards the possible implementation of large-scale infrastructure, continue community and First Nations partnerships, as well as science integration, restoration and monitoring activities. The regional bird habitat [on-ground works at Tolderol, Teringie and Waltowa](#) are progressing towards construction in summer 2022/23.

The Partnership Chair thanked the members and presenters for their attendance and ongoing participation and contribution.

The next meeting of the Partnership is scheduled for 4 August 2022 at Coorong District Council, Taillem Bend.

## Further Information

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