Vision

To re-establish important linkages in nature to assist with biodiversity conservation and a sustainable future for all.
Sustainability is an interest shared by all South Australians

Our environment underpins all that we do. If South Australia is to have a sustainable future, we must protect our natural environment and the unique biodiversity it supports.

South Australia’s Strategic Plan outlines our commitment to establish five biodiversity corridors across the State by 2010. We’re doing this work now so that in the future, South Australia will contain extensive corridors of healthy and diverse habitat that can best withstand the effects of a changing climate.

NatureLinks has changed our focus from conserving individual species in particular locations to protecting broad areas of habitat and entire communities of plants and animals. Conservation activities will be planned and connected on a landscape scale and applied locally.

But we are not just connecting the Government’s conservation activities. We’re also connecting the work of government, non-government and community organisations. Everybody who lives on and uses our land can make a contribution to the protection of our environment and precious biodiversity.

While it is the Government’s responsibility to lead the innovative changes that are needed to care for our environment, we can’t do it on our own. I ask every South Australian to consider what they can do to protect natural habitats and biodiversity in their area.

The River Murray-South East NatureLink Plan sets the direction for achieving our vision for this important area of our State – a vision of a prosperous society connected to a healthy natural environment.

I am very pleased to present this Plan, and encourage you to contribute to this ambitious vision for South Australia.

Jay Weatherill
Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is NatureLinks?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The River Murray-South East NatureLink</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Changed Landscape</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Resilience in a Changing Climate</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 1 – People in Nature</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australians sharing the benefits of ecological sustainability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 2 – Partnerships and Integration</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working together to meet shared conservation, social and economic goals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 3 – Connectedness</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing ecological connections to maintain natural systems and enable native plants and animals to disperse and adapt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element 4 – No Species Loss¹</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring native plant and animal species and communities are able to survive and evolve.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Way Forward</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NatureLinks focuses on managing and restoring broad areas of habitat and entire plant and animal communities.

What is NatureLinks?
NatureLinks is a landscape-scale approach to conserving South Australia’s plants and animals by managing and restoring large areas of habitat within broad ‘biodiversity corridors’. This will provide the best opportunity for our native plants and animals to survive and adapt to environmental change across the landscape.

Protected areas alone, such as National Parks, do not ensure the conservation of South Australia’s biodiversity. NatureLinks builds on these core protected areas with a broader and more connected approach to nature conservation.

NatureLinks provides the overarching framework for Government agencies, conservation organisations, landholders and local communities to work together to restore and manage land and sea between existing conservation areas.

Why is it needed?
Functioning natural systems underpin South Australia’s social and economic well-being.

Unfortunately, many plant and animal species are threatened or endangered because their habitat has been cleared, degraded or fragmented. Climate change adds to the threat of species extinction by reducing the quality of suitable habitat, and exacerbating the impacts of fire and drought.

Restoring large areas of habitat within biodiversity corridors across the state will help native plants and animals withstand and adapt to environmental change.

Landscape-scale conservation is rapidly becoming the dominant approach for responding to the challenges of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change throughout the world.

NatureLinks is central to the State Government’s No Species Loss strategy\(^1\), which aims to minimise the decline of our biodiversity. NatureLinks complements existing conservation efforts such as state and regional natural resource management plans\(^2,3,4\) and regional biodiversity strategies\(^5\).

How is it different?
In the past, nature conservation has focused on individual species or particular locations. NatureLinks focuses on integrated management and restoration of landscapes, including entire plant and animal communities.

This shift in approach is necessary if we are to meet the challenges to nature conservation that are presented by climate change.

What are we doing?
There are five NatureLinks corridors connecting public and private lands across the state: Arid Lands NatureLink; Cape Borda to Barossa NatureLink; East meets West NatureLink; Flinders-Olary NatureLink; and River Murray-South East NatureLink.

Nature conservation activities will continue to occur in areas outside these broad NatureLinks. However, any on-ground actions will be of greater benefit if they are part of an integrated landscape-scale approach.

South Australia’s economic and social well-being depends upon prudent natural resource management. Building resilience\(^*\) into our environmental, economic and social systems is critical if we are to meet the State’s growth targets, and challenges such as climate change.

To succeed, NatureLinks requires the support and involvement of various partners – those with a responsibility for managing the land and sea, those with an interest in the State’s prosperity, and those with an ability to assist.

Working together, South Australians can secure a stable social, economic and environmental future. This Plan provides a starting point for all parties interested in shaping the future of the River Murray-South East NatureLink of South Australia.

\* ‘Resilience’ is the capacity of an ecosystem, economy or community to undergo change and still retain its basic function and structure.
The River Murray-South East NatureLink encompasses the River Murray, the Lower Lakes, the Coorong and the interlinking watercourses of South East South Australia.
The unique array of interrelated aquatic environments is a fundamental feature of the region and a key focus for this NatureLink Plan.

**The River Murray-South East NatureLink**

**Iconic Landscapes**

The River Murray-South East NatureLink encompasses the River Murray, the Lower Lakes, the Coorong and the interlinking watercourses of south eastern South Australia.

Outstanding natural features and a rich diversity of plants and animals are found here. The unique array of interrelated aquatic environments are a fundamental feature and a key focus for this NatureLink Plan.

The northern area covered in this plan incorporates approximately 650 km of the River Murray from the South Australian border through to the Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert) and Southern Ocean. The area includes the floodplains, wetlands and other habitats within approximately 20 km either side of the river. Over a thousand wetlands are associated with this stretch of the River Murray.

The southern area includes the many wetlands and interlinking watercourses of the South East region that previously connected to the Coorong. Wetlands represent a significant natural asset for the South East, although only 6% of the region’s wetlands remain.

These wetlands and watercourses provide refuge and habitat for many species recognised as significant regionally, nationally and internationally. The River Murray-South East NatureLink incorporates four of the State’s wetlands of international importance (‘Ramsar’ listed for outstanding environmental and/or cultural values). These Ramsar sites are the Riverland (incorporating the Chowilla floodplain system), the Banrock Station Wetland Complex, the Lower Lakes and Coorong, and Bool Lagoon.

The River Murray Channel, Lower Lakes and Coorong and the Chowilla floodplain are iconic sites under The Living Murray Initiative, managed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

**A Rich and Diverse Community**

Aboriginal people have had an intimate involvement with the land and water in this region for tens of thousands of years, and have played a role in shaping the ecology of the landscape. It continues to have significance to the region’s Aboriginal people, who hold strong spiritual affinity with the landscape. Aboriginal affiliations with the NatureLink are valued.

Today the region supports people from diverse backgrounds in rural communities, townships and several major regional centres. Rural settlements dominate the more fertile areas with permanent water supplies.

**Industry and Land Use**

The diversity of land uses and businesses that rely on a sustainable natural resource base include irrigated horticulture, cropping, viticulture, dairy farming, livestock production, forestry and fisheries. Various other industries associated with the many townships are reliant on water provided primarily by the River Murray and underground aquifers. Tourism is also a key industry.

There are several National Parks and protected areas across the NatureLink, including the Coorong National Park, Murray River National Park, and Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park. In 2005, the State entered into a co-management agreement with the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc. for Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park. The management of Ngaut Ngaut is enhanced by sharing skills and knowledge between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
The River Murray-South East NatureLink

Conservation Areas:
- Public Protected Areas
- Private land
- Indigenous Protected Areas

Shading denotes NatureLink (Boundary indicative only; refer to ‘What is NatureLinks’)
Over-allocation of water resources for human use, coupled with reduced rainfall, has resulted in a lack of water to meet environmental needs.

A Changed Landscape

Creating a sustainable future for the NatureLink requires an understanding of the way the landscape has changed, and the challenges and threats to its environment.

Rivers, floodplains, lakes and other wetland habitats were once nature rich, productive and connected. Generally, water flowed from the River Murray catchments (in the eastern states and Mt Lofty Ranges) and from Victoria through the South East, toward the coast via the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

Since early last century, structures have been built to ensure constant water supply in the River Murray for human use and to divert and drain floodwaters in the South East to allow primary production. These structures have interrupted natural water flows and significantly changed the ecology of the watercourse systems. Over-allocation of water resources for human use, coupled with reduced rainfall and decreased flows has resulted in a lack of water to meet environmental needs and increased salinity in many areas. Many wetlands and watercourses are now in decline or have been lost as a result.

Reduced flow from the River Murray and various tributaries has left the Lower Lakes with low water levels, exposed shorelines, increased salinity levels, and severe acid-sulphate soil exposure and associated acidification of water. The Murray Mouth closed for the first time in recorded history in 1981. As water availability has declined, the connectivity between the Lakes, the Mouth and the Coorong has been threatened, and greater human intervention has been necessary to manage the presence of water and its use. The Murray Mouth has been kept open only as a result of continual dredging since 2003.

Historical water-related development in the South East has severed many former flow paths into the Coorong. This has contributed to declines in the health of the Coorong, and with it a severe reduction of the migratory bird species for which it was once famous. The extreme salinisation of waters in the Coorong’s South Lagoon has dramatically reduced aquatic-dependent populations of plants and animals, particularly native fish.

The land surrounding the water bodies in this NatureLink once comprised native vegetation that provided important habitat for many species. Extensive clearance of tracts of native vegetation has left only remnants in small patches, surrounded by agricultural land, roads and townships.

The environment is now so greatly modified that not only are many remaining habitats (both on land and in water) in poor condition, but they have lost connectivity between habitats. Decline in habitat quality, and increased isolation limits the ability of species to disperse and successfully breed, and evolve to suit new conditions in the longer-term.

Introduced plant and animal pests, changed fire regimes, damage by overgrazing, and climate change compound the problem of isolation.

There are a number of major Commonwealth-State initiatives that are endeavouring to redress the problems facing the wetlands of the River Murray-South East NatureLink. The Living Murray Initiative, Murray Futures, Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth, The South Australian Environmental Water Management Program and the Upper South East Program are all aimed at improving the long-term sustainability of the NatureLink.

There will be opportunities to develop partnerships and integrate NatureLink principles into these initiatives to ensure the best outcomes at a landscape level.
The River Murray South East NatureLink incorporates four of the State’s wetlands of international significance.
Building resilience into our environmental, economic and social systems is critical if we are to meet the challenge of climate change.

**Building Resilience in a Changing Climate**

Climate change is predicted to result in warmer temperatures and reduced rainfall over the next 30 years. The volume of water flowing in the rivers and other watercourses of the region will decline further. Surface waters will be reduced and ‘permanent’ waters may dry out in some years.

A rise in sea level will affect the River Murray mouth and Coorong at their connection to the Southern Ocean. Rising seas may also lead to seawater intrusion of aquifers and salinisation of coastal wetlands in the South East.

Prolonged droughts have contributed to significant falls in the region’s primary production in recent years. The extent of future change is difficult to predict, but we do know that climate change poses a serious threat to the conservation of native plants and animals and the productivity of industries reliant on natural resources. Climate change will test the ability of wildlife and people to adapt as warming and drying occurs.

A healthy natural ecosystem underpins a prosperous and sustainable society. Building resilience into our environmental, economic and social systems is critical if we are to meet the challenge of climate change.

We can support communities, businesses and the environment of the River Murray-South East NatureLink to be more resilient in the face of climate change by focusing on the four elements of NatureLinks:

**Element 1 – People in Nature**
South Australians sharing the benefits of ecological sustainability.

**Element 2 – Partnerships and Integration**
Working together to meet shared conservation, social and economic goals.

**Element 3 – Connectedness**
Managing ecological connections to maintain natural systems and enable native plants and animals to disperse and adapt.

**Element 4 – No Species Loss**
Ensuring native plant and animal species and communities are able to survive and evolve.

**Changing Climate**

By 2030 the climate in the South East region may warm from 0.4 to 1.1°C. By 2070 the increase is projected to be 0.9 to 3.5°C. Annual rainfall could decrease by 1 to 10% by 2030 and 2 to 30% by 2070.

In the South Australian Murray Darling Basin, temperatures are projected to increase between 0.5 and 1.3°C by 2030 and between 1.0 and 4.0°C by 2070. Projections in rainfall changes are highly variable. Annual rainfall could remain similar to the current level in some areas, but projections show up to 8% decrease by 2030 and 25% decrease by 2070.

Significant decreases in rainfall are projected to occur mainly in spring for both regions.
By 2030 the climate in the South East region may warm from 0.4 to 1.1°C. Annual rainfall could decrease by 1 to 10% by 2030 and 2 to 30% by 2070.

In the South Australian Murray Darling Basin, temperatures are projected to increase between 0.5 and 1.3°C by 2030. Projections in rainfall changes are highly variable. Annual rainfall could remain similar to the current level in some areas, but projections show up to 8% decrease by 2030 and 25% decrease by 2070.
Providing guidance and sourcing financial incentives will help inspire and support private landholders and community members to protect and restore water resources and associated ecosystems.

Element 1 – People in Nature
Healthy environments are essential for healthy, sustainable communities. Many people and organisations manage land or have an interest in the River Murray-South East NatureLink. It is important that they are engaged in and support this initiative.

A strong local understanding of the linkages between the condition of aquatic ecosystems (e.g. watercourses, lakes and floodplains) and community aspirations and goals, is vital for the success of this initiative.

Providing guidance and sourcing financial incentives will help inspire and support private landholders and community members to protect and restore water resources and associated ecosystems.

Outcome

- Communities recognise and contribute to re-establishing the linkages in nature that are necessary for a productive, sustainable future for all.

Directions

- Communities are provided with up-to-date information about environmental issues and future environmental, economic and social risks, particularly those associated with lack of water, interrupted water flows, loss of habitat and climate change.
- Educational packages and initiatives (for school students and adults) that illustrate the inter-dependence between environment, society and economy are updated or developed, and disseminated.
- Organisations specialising in community education, training, raising awareness and empowerment are engaged in the NatureLink vision.
- Appropriate resources (e.g. financial incentives, technical advice, training opportunities) are sourced and allocated to support stakeholders (particularly the community and private landholders) to take action to realise the NatureLink vision.

Community rescue of tortoises in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert
Since March 2008, a large number of native tortoises in the Lower Lakes and Goolwa Channel have been found by community members to be suffering from the effects of a change in water quality and tubeworm infestation.

The occurrence of tubeworm is a symptom of rising salinity from the extended drought and inadequate flows down the River Murray. Tubeworms encrust the shells of tortoises, interfering with their ability to feed and making them more vulnerable to predation. In addition, prolonged exposure to salty water can cause tortoises significant health problems.

A number of volunteers, including local schools and community members, have rehabilitated hundreds of affected tortoises by detoxing, cleaning, feeding and housing them. The Department for Environment and Heritage then identifies suitable sites for the animals to be released.

Native fish collaborations
The Native Fish Drought Response project addresses a sharp decline in the abundance of threatened native fish in the South East, bought about by a reduction in aquatic refuges. An alliance between the Department for Environment and Heritage and private landholders provides and maintains suitable aquatic habitat for threatened freshwater fish.

The project is integrated with curriculum activities at the Kingston Community School where an aquaculture facility is being used to maintain populations of Yarra pygmy perch and river blackfish. The school program is undertaking captive breeding with a view to supplementing and reintroducing stocks under threat. Beyond providing emergency care for native fish, this project is helping to raise the profile of water connectivity and the value of aquatic habitat.
NatureLinks aims to find common ground and build partnerships to achieve environmental, social and economic benefits.

**Element 2 – Partnerships and Integration**

The success of the River Murray-South East NatureLink will ultimately hinge on the support and co-ordination of key government agencies, non-government organisations, the community and landholders.

NatureLinks aims to find common ground and build partnerships to achieve environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits. If the vision and outcomes are to be achieved then key parts of the formula for success will be cross-sector collaboration, public-private partnerships, open dialogue and shared expertise and resources.

Cooperative approaches and joint projects aim to provide opportunities to integrate conservation activities with production.

**Outcome**

- People and groups work together in partnership to coordinate and deliver nature conservation actions.

**Directions**

- Natural resource management and development plans, government policy and environmental water management plans at the local, regional and state level are aligned with the vision for this NatureLink.
- Individuals and groups with common interests and goals reflecting the NatureLink vision are identified and supported to exchange information and ideas, and collaborate in implementing on-ground actions.
- Form new or strengthen existing Aboriginal partnerships to guide natural resource management and improve cultural understanding.
- Case studies and business models that can broaden economies and on-farm income, while also improving ecological connectivity, are further developed to inspire relevant stakeholders and partners.
- Nature-based tourism and associated products are further developed and supported to promote the NatureLink vision.
- On-ground conservation works are integrated to achieve multiple outcomes for landholders or investors where feasible.

**Protecting Parrots in Partnership**

A collaboration between government and non-government organisations, community groups, volunteers and education institutions is proving an effective way to achieve on-ground action to restore habitat for the nationally vulnerable regent parrot at Hogwash Bend on the River Murray.

The Riverland West Local Action Planning group is driving the ‘Hogwash Bend Regent Parrot Restoration Project’. Community volunteers and students from the University of Adelaide assist with the surveying of regent parrot colonies and researching behaviour. A regent parrot ‘Spotter’s Diary’ recently produced by the Local Action Planning Groups is used by spotters to record regent parrot sightings.

This work is partly funded by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board and Greening Australia, and coordinated by the Department for Environment and Heritage.

**The River Murray Forest**

The South Australian Government has committed $5.7 million over four years to establish a River Murray Forest in a corridor area extending 20 km either side of the Murray River, from the SA-Victorian border to the Coorong. The project focuses revegetation for the sequestration of carbon and long-term landscape-scale biodiversity benefits.

Revegetation is Kyoto-compliant for carbon sequestration and includes plant species essential for a range of declining mallee birds (e.g. chestnut quail thrush, regent parrot, malleefowl and southern scrub-robin).

To date, the SA Government has developed collaborative arrangements with Greening Australia, Trees for Life and S.Smith and Sons (owners of Yalumba winery) to implement the project. An innovative market-based tender approach has been used, enabling the establishment of over 3 000 hectares of native vegetation on private land.
Protection and improvement of core areas of terrestrial habitat within the NatureLink will complement the management of aquatic habitats.

Element 3 – Connectedness

The aquatic ecosystems that are the focus of the River Murray-South East NatureLink require ‘hydrological connectivity’ for long-term health. Water must flow through the watercourses, lakes and floodplains at the appropriate times and in volumes that suit the lifecycles of aquatic species and communities.

Securing and innovatively managing adequate water supplies is the key to reconnecting flows and buffering the effects of climate change.

Protection and improvement of core areas of terrestrial habitat within the NatureLink will complement the management of aquatic habitats. Strategically reinstating additional terrestrial habitat over large scales is also required in some areas to reduce the isolating effects of past clearance, and facilitate the movement of wildlife.

Outcome

- Hydrological and ecological connectivity is increased, improving the viability of populations and providing opportunities for adaptation to climate change.

Directions

- Threats to key aquatic habitats and surrounding environments within the NatureLink are identified, and mitigating actions prioritised.
- Areas of existing habitats that form a cohesive network or refugia for wildlife within the NatureLink are identified, protected against high-risk threats, monitored, and adaptively managed for long-term viability.
- Priority works needed to improve hydrological and ecological connectivity for target communities are identified in appropriate plans related to the NatureLink.
- Vegetation in key areas is managed and restored where possible to improve connectivity and habitat quality.
- The water needed to retain or improve hydrological connectivity is secured and managed appropriately to optimally meet ecological, social and economic goals.
- Water allocations and water use efficiencies address potential declining water availability.
- Groundwater and surface water monitoring systems are further developed, supported and utilised to facilitate transparent and equitable allocations of water.
- Structures are installed, modified or removed, to re-establish hydrological links and to permit native fish movements and migrations along appropriate waterways within the NatureLink.
- Connections between core areas of habitat are enhanced by improving the condition of natural corridors (e.g. creeklines) and restoring habitats in effective locations.

Piccaninnie Wetland System Restoration

The Piccaninnie wetland system is a series of interconnected spring-fed ponds and shallow swamplands south of Mt Gambier in the South East of SA. Past drainage, stock grazing, partial vegetation clearance and weed encroachment damaged the habitat quality. Over 50 threatened species of flora and fauna rely on the remaining habitat refuges.

In 2004, work commenced to restore the wetland system. In 2005, Pick Swamp, a 230 hectare grazing property immediately to the west of Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, was purchased by the South Australian Government with the aim of improving habitat quality and reconnecting some of the original wetland system.

In 2006 and 2007 farm infrastructure was removed, drains blocked and levees built. During the winter of 2007, the low-lying areas of Pick Swamp were inundated as they had been historically. The results were stunning as reeds, sedges and aquatic plants, all thought to be lost from the property, reappeared. With the water and the plants came thousands of birds, many of which stayed to breed in the restored habitat.

Future efforts will be focused on weed control and further habitat restoration through large-scale revegetation. The site is proposed for inclusion under the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Importance.
Long-term species conservation requires a blend of actions at various scales.

Element 4 – No Species Loss

Many species and communities are threatened within the NatureLink. Their long-term conservation requires a blend of actions at various scales across varied aquatic systems and land uses.

Safeguarding the biodiversity of the River Murray-South East NatureLink will require adaptive conservation strategies for those species most vulnerable to the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change.

Primary threats other than water availability and management include the impact of pests, total grazing pressure and salinity. These threats also require prioritisation and coordinated mitigation strategies to be supported within the NatureLink.

Outcome

• The native species and ecological communities that inhabit the River Murray-South East NatureLink survive, evolve and adapt to new conditions over the long-term.

Directions

• Species important in maintaining structure and function within aquatic ecosystems are identified and managed to maintain viable populations.
• Long-term adaptation strategies for those species and ecological communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are identified and implemented.
• Refuge sites for threatened aquatic species are maintained or restored, to secure populations in times of severely reduced rainfall or surface water availability.
• Pest management plans identify the risks of invasive species within the NatureLink and prioritise control actions to meet ecological, social and economic goals.
• Total grazing pressure is managed strategically and collaboratively to protect biodiversity, other natural resources and assets.
• Salinity management for wetlands and aquatic systems is researched and management actions implemented.

Katfish Reach Project

The Katfish Reach Project is located on the River Murray between Berri and Loxton in the Katarapko/Eckert Creek system within the Murray River National Park. The project area covers 9 000 hectares of diverse floodplain and wetland habitat and is home to at least 20 threatened species. It is also popular with large numbers of visitors who use the area for recreational activities.

The area faces multiple threats. Past and current River Murray management and drought have caused major impacts. A future lack of water flow has been identified as a significant threat to the site. The ability to manage the site’s hydrology is needed to ensure the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the site during future droughts, as well as to mitigate the impacts of climate change. An ecologically adaptive management system will be created by:

• increasing flows and fish passage through 56 kilometres of waterway;
• flooding at low flows of over 1 000 hectares of floodplain;
• temporary partial drying and varying pool level of 20 kilometres of waterway and associated wetlands;
• improving inundation of 180 hectares of wetland habitat; and
• securing habitat for the threatened Murray hardyhead by creating an additional site (18 hectares) of secure habitat.

The project also aims to demonstrate how rehabilitation can be achieved through well-integrated actions such as riparian zone rehabilitation, pest management, re-snagging, improving water quality, improving fish passage and enhancing aquatic vegetation.
The South Australian Government is committed to maintaining a strong and resilient landscape in the River Murray-South East NatureLink. This plan provides a vision for a landscape that will sustain people, industry, culture, plants and animals through healthy ecosystems.

Implementation of this NatureLink Plan will be guided by contemporary ecological science and landscape-scale conservation principles. These principles will be used to inform planning processes that shape land-use, natural resource management and nature conservation.

Current and future regional Natural Resource Management, Water Allocation, Biodiversity and Environmental Water Management Plans will play a vital role in guiding the implementation of this NatureLink.

This NatureLink Plan provides a starting point for all parties interested in shaping the future of the River Murray-South East NatureLink of South Australia. It represents the first stage to focus efforts of many stakeholders toward common conservation goals that have a positive impact on the economy and social network of the region.
References


Photo credits

Foreword Riverland Bookpurnong (Bill Doyle DEH)

Contents Young sapling gums, Katarapko section, River Murray NP (Bill Doyle DEH)

Page 3 The Murray Mouth (SATC)

Page 7 The Splash, Katarapko section, River Murray NP (Bill Doyle DEH)

Page 9 Azure Kingfisher (SATC)

Page 11 Lyrup Flats (Bill Doyle DEH)

Page 13 Ngak Indau Wetland (Bill Doyle DEH)

Page 15 Diving at Piccaninnie Ponds (SATC)

Page 17 Welcome Swallow (Bill Doyle DEH)

Page 18 The Heading Cliffs, Murtho Forest Reserve, River Murray (Bill Doyle DEH)
Want to know more?
If you would like to know more about NatureLinks, please visit www.naturelinks.sa.gov.au or call the Department for Environment and Heritage on (08) 8204 1910.

FIS 90541 ISBN 978 1 921466 62 5