

Coorong Partnership

DRAFT Terms of Reference



NOTE: This draft Terms of Reference has been prepared to facilitate an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to establish the Coorong Partnership. Full administrative Terms of Reference will be prepared for consideration at the first Partnership meeting and subsequent approval by the Minister for Environment and Water.

Introduction

[Project Coorong](#) is the South Australian government's initiative to take action to restore the health, vitality and visitor experience of the Coorong through environmental projects and activities to boost eco-tourism, focusing on the Coorong National Park.

It is recognised that incorporating the experience and knowledge of the local community and First Nations is critical to successfully restoring the health of the Coorong.

As part of the broader Project Coorong initiative, a new Coorong Partnership community governance model is being established that will provide local communities and groups with an unprecedented opportunity to help shape the work being undertaken.

Purpose

The purpose of the Coorong Partnership is to:

- Provide community insight, ideas and perspectives into the development, implementation and performance of Project Coorong initiatives.
- Ensure Project Coorong initiatives incorporate local knowledge and contribute to achieving community desires and aspirations.
- Build cooperation, support and trust across Project Coorong by improving transparency of government decision making.

Roles and responsibilities

The Coorong Partnership will:

- Advise and guide the development and implementation of Project Coorong, ensuring community views are understood, respected and influence decision making.
- Represent the various community and stakeholder interests in shaping the future of the Coorong.
- Work with government in the creation of a Project Coorong that is supported by local communities.
- Communicate Project Coorong progress and raise awareness broadly through community networks.
- Provide advice and feedback regarding community attitudes, issues and expectations of Project Coorong initiatives and provide advice on actions and responses to address these.
- Advocate and support Project Coorong and its outcomes.

Reporting relationships

The Coorong Partnership will have a direct advisory relationship with:

- Department for Environment and Water (DEW) representatives across the range of Project Coorong initiatives.
- The Minister for Environment and Water, through regular meetings between the Minister and the Coorong Partnership Chair.

Relationship to other groups

The Coorong Partnership is not intended to duplicate existing advisory or reference groups (e.g. NRM (Landscape) Boards, River Murray Advisory Committee, Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Panel, CLLMM

Scientific Advisory Group), which have established and ongoing roles with DEW business areas, including natural resource management, water resource planning and operations, and environmental water planning and delivery.

The Coorong Partnership will complement these existing groups, with anticipated cross-membership providing a valuable exchange of information and knowledge.

Membership

The Coorong Partnership will comprise a Chair and up to eight members appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water.

DEW will administer an 'expression of interest' nomination process (advertised in regional and Adelaide newspapers, on social media and on the DEW website) to identify prospective members.

Five (5) members will be appointed who, as far as is reasonably practical, demonstrate a broad range of community knowledge, skills, leadership and experience across one or more of the following areas:

- conservation
- tourism and recreation
- science
- commercial fishing
- agriculture
- economic development
- heritage

One member will be appointed from each of the following:

- Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
- First Nations of the South East
- Coorong District Council

Each member will reside in and/or has demonstrated linkages to the CLLMM region.

The Minister for Environment and Water will consider a balance of age, gender and geographical representation when appointing members to the Partnership group.

Members will be appointed for one or two years, after which a review and re-nomination process will be undertaken.

Meetings

The Coorong Partnership will meet bi-monthly for the first 12 months and at least quarterly thereafter.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred will be made to appointed members, corresponding proxies and observers invited in writing by request of the Chair, in accordance with the *Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular – PC016 – Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-Time Boards and Committees and Commissioner's Standard 3.2*.

Terms of reference

Terms of reference will be approved by the Minister for Environment and Water.

The Minister, through DEW, may vary the Terms of Reference for the Coorong Partnership at any time by notice in writing to members.

Dissolution

The Coorong Partnership will dissolve with the completion of Project Coorong initiatives. While the Project may be extended, funding is currently available to 30 June 2022.