

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 2

15 April 2020



The second meeting of the Coorong Partnership was held on 15 April 2020 by teleconference.

The Partnership discussed the challenges of engaging with Coorong communities and stakeholders under the COVID-19 social distancing measures enacted since its [inaugural meeting](#). The Partnership affirmed its commitment to keep communication lines open during this period and embrace opportunities to engage differently going forward.

The meeting focused on rounding out the Partnership's introduction to the range of activities under the [Project Coorong](#) initiative.

Natural Resources South East provided an introduction to the [Our Coorong | Our Coast](#) program. There was strong interest from Partnership members in the fox control and deer abatement programs across the Coorong to protect Malleefowl and their habitat. The Partnership has sought further information on this program so that they might assist the community in understanding the importance of these control measures.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service provided an overview of the [Coorong National Park](#), including its natural features, facilities and ranger services. The Partnership noted the recently completed and future planned activities underway to further activate the Coorong National Park and enhance the visitor experience, including improvements to signage, walking trails and campsites. The Partnership expressed particular interest in seeing new visitor facilities that would support commercial tourism operators.

The Department for Environment and Water's Nature-Based Tourism and Economic Development Branch provided the Partnership with an overview of the regional tourism industry and spoke of the [nature based tourism](#) and economic development opportunities that the Coorong presents. The Partnership members recognised that the domestic tourism market will become very important in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery of regional South Australia, and acknowledged there is opportunity to promote the Coorong to domestic holiday makers. Managed well, this could highlight to the wider community the ecological and cultural significance of the area.

The Partnership noted the potential of the forthcoming \$5 million Nature-Based Tourism Co-investment Fund recently announced under the [Parks 2025](#) investment initiatives.

The [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) program updated the Partnership on the Water Resource Optimisation Project which aims to improve the effectiveness, timeliness and efficiency of Coorong operations, including through a significant enhancement of the Coorong water quality monitoring network. The Partnership received an update on the On-Ground Works Feasibility Investigations to support key Coorong biota, and the forthcoming community consultations on long-term management options for the Coorong. The Partnership members expressed a strong interest in water management and are looking to engage with more experts from this program at future meetings.

The May 2020 Coorong Partnership meeting will include extensive discussion of the water depth and hydrology of the connection between the North and South Lagoons, Alexandrina Council's options for improving the Sugars Beach / Murray Mouth area, and the development of a Citizen Science program under the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* initiative.

Further Information

If you would like to receive regular updates about the [Coorong Partnership](#) and [Project Coorong](#) please contact Kerri Waldhuter, Community Engagement Officer via email: kerri.waldhuter2@sa.gov.au