

# Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 3

13 May 2020



The third meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 13 May 2020 by teleconference.

Mayor Keith Parkes and representatives from [Alexandrina Council](#) provided the Partnership with an overview of the Sugars Beach Icon Project. This exciting preliminary concept proposes a range of possible improvements (such as boardwalks, viewing platforms, shelter facilities, toilets, and a visitor information hub) on Hindmarsh Island immediately opposite the Murray Mouth to enhance the visitor experience of this iconic location. Site improvements would enable visitors to seek the rich culture of the Ngarrindjeri, discover the scope and story of the Murray-Darling Basin, and connect with the people, food, landscape and wildlife of the Coorong. The Partnership acknowledged the involvement of the Ngarrindjeri in the concept development to date and reaffirmed the importance of this engagement continuing. The Partnership noted that public consultation on the concept was forthcoming and looks forward to supporting this project wherever possible.

Associate Professor Luke Mosley from The University of Adelaide presented preliminary findings of the Coorong sediment quality research underway as part of the [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) Scientific Trials and Investigations Project. The presentation discussed the conditions that made sediments in the Coorong unhealthy, showcased the breadth of sampling being undertaken, and presented some preliminary results. Conceptually, increased flushing of nutrients from the Coorong South Lagoon is required, with complementary *Ruppia* and benthic ecosystem restoration activities. The Partnership supported this principle.

The On-Ground Works Project provided the Partnership with an update on the regional bird refugia concepts that are being prioritised for Tolderol, Waltowa and Teringie wetlands, in collaboration with the Tolderol Working Group, Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, and Waltowa landholders respectively. The On-Ground Works Project updated the Partnership on the Coorong Ecosystem Restoration concepts and presented the outcomes from the Coorong Ecosystem Restoration Co-Design Workshop. The Partnership stressed the importance of getting the timing and sequencing of on ground works right to ensure early action can inform longer term management decisions.

Emily Jenke from [democracyCo](#) provided the Partnership with an overview of the forthcoming community consultation process to identify and shortlist long-term management options for the Coorong under the Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project. The Partnership and community will be engaged in each step of the process through surveys and workshops.

The Community Partnerships Project presented on the findings of their recent Citizen Science Program Design Survey and discussed the need for citizen science to be fit for purpose and genuinely contribute useful data to the program. The Partnership offered ideas for possible projects and First Nations representatives indicated a strong interest in linking cultural knowledge into the program.

The Partnership reiterated its calls for improved visitor facilities in the [Coorong National Park](#) and will continue to make representations to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to improve toilets, campsites, interpretive signage and waste management.

The Partnership, which does not support the removal of the barrages, welcomed the findings of the MDBA [Lower Lakes Independent Science Review](#) which confirms water management of the Lower Lakes is informed by evidence-based science.

The next meeting of the Coorong Partnership will be held on 17 June 2020.

## Further Information

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