

Coorong Partnership

Communique No. 5

29 July 2020



The fifth meeting of the [Coorong Partnership](#) was held on 29 July 2020 and included a tour of the Coorong North Lagoon hosted by [Spirit of the Coorong](#) followed by a formal meeting at [Signal Point Gallery](#) in Goolwa, hosted by [Alexandrina Council](#).

The Partnership viewed the location of Alexandrina Council's Sugars Beach Icon Project on Hindmarsh Island and dredging operations at the Murray Mouth before travelling down the Coorong North Lagoon.

The Partnership visited [Long Point](#) and met with [National Parks and Wildlife](#) (NPWS) staff to discuss how National Parks renewal funding has been improving the visitor facilities and experience in the [Coorong National Park](#). The Partnership welcomed that the NPWS had responded to its request to install signage at Long Point to warn visitors of the risks (to children in particular) posed by Long-Nosed Fur Seals. The Partnership noted the opportunities being explored, including through [Friends of the Coorong](#), to enhance multi-day walking opportunities within the Park. The Partnership visited the [Barker Knoll Boating Campground](#) on the Younghusband Peninsula, which is a popular landing site for commercial tourism operators and school camping groups. The Partnership welcomed the news that culturally sensitive safety improvements would be made to parts of the walking trail and reiterated its calls that the reinstatement of toilet facilities at this location should be a priority.

In the afternoon, the Partnership convened at Alexandrina Council's Signal Point Gallery in Goolwa to discuss key developments in the [Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin](#) (HCHB) program.

HCHB Coorong Infrastructure Investigations Project staff presented on the process to shortlist potential infrastructure options to support the long-term health of the Coorong, with a focus on the South Lagoon. Preliminary results from the environmental, constructability and First Nations assessments were discussed, along with the community survey and workshop outcomes. The Partnership reinforced that the ecological recovery of the Coorong South Lagoon should be the priority in shortlisting infrastructure options and noted the similarities between the community survey and First Nations assessment results. The Partnership discussed the benefits, knowledge gaps and uncertainties associated with each option. The Partnership agreed that no single option is likely to restore the Coorong South Lagoon and welcomed that DEW will examine combinations and phased implementation scenarios of those options that are short-listed. The Partnership recommended that the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) progress the following concepts for further investigation over the next 12-18 months:

- Coorong dredging between the North and South Lagoons to improve connectivity (noting that sub-options within this need to be investigated individually)
- Further augmentation of South East Flows to the Coorong
- Permanent connection between the Coorong South Lagoon and the Southern Ocean.
- Temporary pumping from the Coorong South Lagoon to the Southern Ocean (salinity reset)
- Coorong – Lake Albert Connector

DEW undertook to consider the Partnership recommendations as part of its final shortlisting process, which is expected to be finalised in September 2020.

The Partnership received an update on the HCHB On-Ground Works Project, which is examining the feasibility of on-ground works to support key Coorong species in the short to medium term while long-term management solutions are investigated and implemented. The Partnership recognised the potential for the On-Ground Works concepts to provide collaborative opportunities for community groups to assist with implementation. The Partnership welcomed the opportunity to provide regular feedback to this project as in transitions from detailed design in late 2020 to implementation in 2021.

The next Coorong Partnership meeting will be a socially distanced site visit to the Coorong South Lagoon in late August 2020.

Further Information

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