

YourSAy Consultation Report

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Action Plan



Australian Government



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Environment and Water

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin is a \$77.7 million investment by the Australian and South Australian governments to manage the Coorong for ecological health and, through this, support the Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar site to be a healthy, productive and resilient wetland of international significance.

The Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Action Plan has been developed to guide this investment.

The action plan presents South Australia's working vision of inter-related projects and activities to help restore the health of the Coorong with abundant and diverse populations of waterbirds, fish and plants.

Our consultation with communities and industries has underpinned the development of the action plan and this summary report of community feedback through YourSAy is being used to prioritise initiatives within it.

Background:

- 2018 – Goyder Institute for Water Research commissioned to assemble an expert panel to report on the status of the ecological character of the Coorong South Lagoon and recommend actions to restore wetland health.
- Coorong Summit convened to develop a working vision and collective solutions for the Coorong South Lagoon.
- Project Coorong Community Discussions October 2019 – Meningie, Goolwa, Robe, Salt Creek, Kingston.
- YourSAy community engagement, 23 August-31 October – summarised in this report.



YourSAy Feedback at a Glance

The YourSAy feedback was gathered through an online survey conducted in between 23 August and 31 October 2019. A total of 124 people took part in the online survey. Here's what they had to say...



36% live in the region



76% visit the Coorong



14% have a business in the region



84% have environmental or conservation interests



19% are a landholder or land manager



25% have cultural interests



39% have a science interest

*respondants could select more than one



Our Vision for the Coorong

The Coorong should be a healthy, productive and resilient wetland system that maintains its international significance.

74.19%
(92)

Agree

12.9%
(16)

Maybe

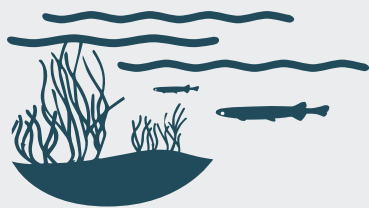
12.9%
(16)

No

* 124 respondents

On-ground works

The action plan proposes possible short and long-term priorities for restoring and revitalising the Coorong. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following priorities for on-ground works that will address immediate threats to the Coorong:



Restore aquatic plants as habitat and wildlife food source.

94.31%
(116) Agree/
strongly agree

3.25%
(4) Neutral

2.44%
(3) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 123 respondents



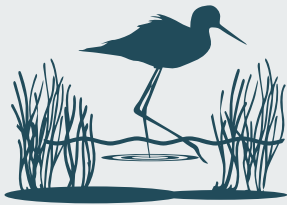
Remove problem filamentous algae.

80.49%
(99) Agree/
strongly agree

14.63%
(18) Neutral

4.88%
(6) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 123 respondents



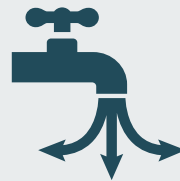
Enhance management/
restore wetland habitat
to provide immediate
refuge for Coorong
waterbird species.

96.74%
(119) Agree/
strongly agree

2.44%
(3) Neutral

0.81%
(1) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 123 respondents



Modify irrigation system
offtakes to enhance
operational flexibility
for the delivery of
environmental water
to the Coorong.

78.33%
(94) Agree/
strongly agree

17.5%
(21) Neutral

4.17%
(5) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 120 respondents

Scientific trials and investigations

Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following priorities for scientific trials and investigations to fill current knowledge gaps:



Reduce nutrient loads and algae.

90.24%
(111) Agree/
strongly agree

5.69%
(7) Neutral

4.07%
(5) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 123 respondents



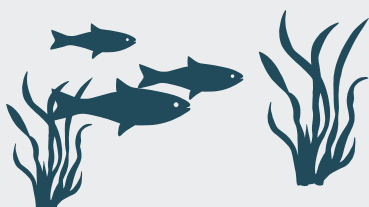
Provide food sources required by waterbirds and fish populations.

90.83%
(109) Agree/
strongly agree

8.33%
(10) Neutral

0.83%
(1) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 120 respondents



Switch South Lagoon back to aquatic plant dominated rather than algal dominated system.

84.3%
(102) Agree/
strongly agree

13.22%
(16) Neutral

2.48%
(3) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



Identify adaptation pathways.

91.74%
(111) Agree/
strongly agree

4.96%
(6) Neutral

3.31%
(4) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



Increase abundance and distribution of waterbird populations.

89.17%
(107) Agree/
strongly agree

10%
(12) Neutral

0.83%
(1) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 120 respondents



Water resource optimisation

Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following priorities for optimising water resources in the Coorong. These measures will ensure that water intended to restore the Coorong ecological values is able to achieve its intended purpose, and water is used efficiently and effectively:



Develop hydrological forecasting to test short and long-range scenarios.

79.68%
(98) Agree/
strongly agree

16.26%
(20) Neutral

4.07%
(5) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 123 respondents



Coorong flow gauging and depth assessments.

92.56%
(112) Agree/
strongly agree

6.61%
(8) Neutral

0.83%
(1) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



Develop action database to coordinate storage and retrieval of water management information.

85.95%
(104) Agree/
strongly agree

11.57%
(14) Neutral

2.48%
(3) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



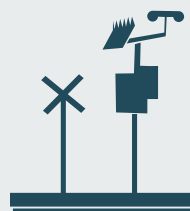
Targeted monitoring of water quality samples.

95.04%
(115) Agree/
strongly agree

3.31%
(4) Neutral

1.66%
(2) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



Improve existing Coorong monitoring stations.

86.55%
(103) Agree/
strongly agree

12.61%
(15) Neutral

0.84%
(1) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 119 respondents



Investigation of long-term infrastructure options

Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following priorities for investigating long-term infrastructure options to feasibility assessment stage:



A connecting pipe/channel between Lake Albert and Coorong to improve environmental water delivery to the Coorong.

27.27%
(33) Agree/
strongly agree

35.54%
(43) Neutral

37.19%
(45) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 121 respondents



Options to maintain an open Murray Mouth, mitigate need for dredging and provide greater seawater exchange with Coorong.

58.33%
(70) Agree/
strongly agree

15%
(18) Neutral

26.67%
(32) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 120 respondents



Improve connectivity between North and South Lagoons and Lower Lakes.

38.34%
(46) Agree/
strongly agree

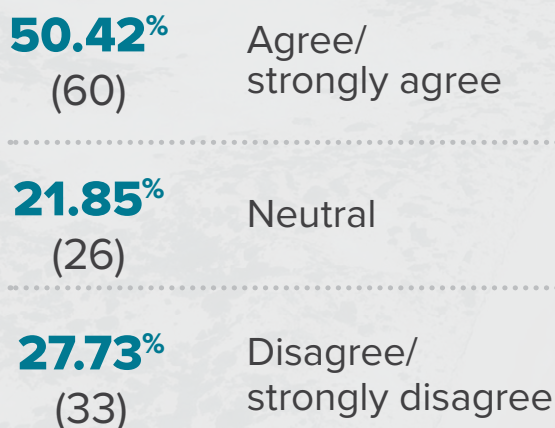
35%
(42) Neutral

26.66%
(32) Disagree/
strongly disagree

* 120 respondents



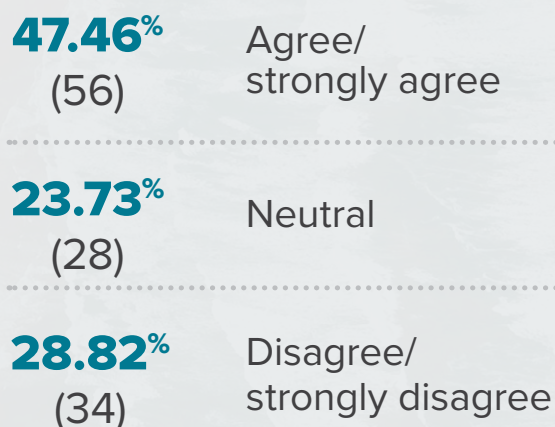
Options to regulate and maintain water levels in the Coorong South Lagoon.



* 119 respondents



Augmenting South East Flows Restoration Project with additional water from the South East that currently flows out to sea.



* 118 respondents

Would you like to stay informed about upcoming voluntary opportunities:



Please nominate your interest in:



* 124 respondents

Feedback about the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Action Plan will influence the vision and priorities delivered under this important program.

Community input is carefully considered, referred on and/or acted upon wherever possible, as it assists us in together guiding, shaping and delivering successful projects and activities.

See our [website](#) for the latest information.

This project is part of the South Australian Government's *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program*, which is jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian governments.

More ways to get involved:

Subscribe to the [River Murray Update mailing list](#) to receive information about what's happening in the Coorong direct to your inbox.

Find out more about the [Coorong Partnership](#).



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia | 2020 | FIS 96038



Australian Government



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for
Environment and Water