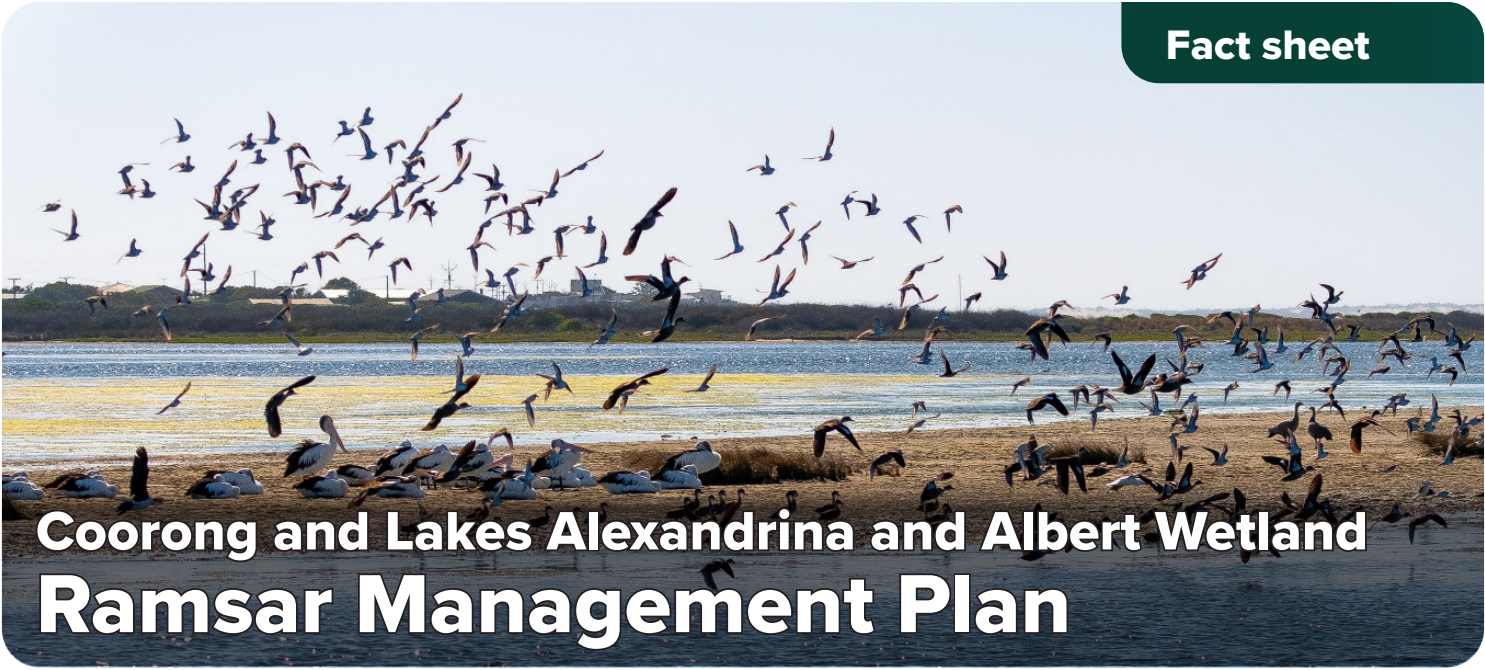




Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar Management Plan

The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar Management Plan has been reviewed and the community are now invited to provide feedback on the revised draft.

Overview

The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland was originally nominated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention in 1985, as the 25th Australian Ramsar site.

The first Ramsar management plan for the site was adopted in September 2000, with the first ecological character description finalised in 2006.

This fact sheet is designed to assist you with submitting feedback by explaining the key documents.

The draft Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar Management Plan and further information can be viewed at yourSAy.com/RMP

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international intergovernmental treaty established in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The broad aims of the Ramsar Convention are to halt and, where possible, reverse the worldwide loss of wetlands and conserve those that remain through wise use and management.

The Convention encourages the protection of representative, rare or unique wetlands, and wetlands that are important for conserving international biodiversity.

Sites that are designated as Wetlands of International Importance become known as Ramsar sites, and to ensure the best management outcomes for Ramsar wetlands, each site requires the following documents:

- Ramsar management plan
- Ramsar information sheet
- Ramsar site ecological character description
- Ramsar site boundary description and map.

Ramsar management plan

A Ramsar management plan outlines the management actions required to manage and promote a site's ecological character and maintain the features that make a site internationally significant. It also identifies how the site supports the region's communities, industries and cultural values, and describes the governance associated with site management, stakeholder involvement and community consultation processes.

A Ramsar management plan identifies priority values and threats to the ecological character of the wetland, monitoring programs to be undertaken for reporting any changes in the ecological character, targets for managing different parts of the site (resource condition targets) and triggers for taking action to protect the site's environmental features (management triggers).

A Ramsar management plan also outlines how the community will be engaged in decision-making and management programs for the site.

A Ramsar management plan must comply with the Australian Ramsar Management Principles, as outlined in Schedule 6 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and is required to be updated every 7 years.



Ramsar management plan terminology

Resource condition targets

The measurable outcomes that management actions at the site are hoping to achieve.

Management triggers

A limit that, if reached, requires specific actions to be undertaken to prevent a limit of acceptable change being exceeded. Management triggers are set at limits well below a limit of acceptable change to allow the maximum chance to reverse the trigger.

Management actions

Actions undertaken when the conditions of a management trigger are met. They include practical actions that aim to mitigate threats or risks to critical components, processes and services.

Key documents

Ramsar information sheet

A Ramsar information sheet captures essential information about the site and summarises why it is important. This information provides a baseline for measuring changes in the ecological character of the wetland.

A Ramsar information sheet comprises site-specific information including:

- location, boundary and tenure*
- justification for inclusion as a Ramsar site
- physical, ecological and hydrological features
- wetland types
- noteworthy flora and fauna
- conservation measures
- land use, recreation and tourism information.

A Ramsar information sheet is updated every 6 years (or sooner if there are significant changes to the site's ecological character).

**The boundary description of a wetland in the Ramsar information sheet legally defines the 'declared Ramsar wetland' site boundary for the purpose of the EPBC Act in Australia.*

Ecological character description

An ecological character description is a technical document that provides scientific information and describes the wetland's ecological character in more detail than the Ramsar information sheet. It provides a baseline description of the wetland at a given point in time and provides information about the critical environmental features (components and processes) and benefits of the site.

As site conditions may change naturally over time, the ecological character description also includes limits of acceptable change, in order to describe what is known about the site's natural variability (or the expected range for artificial wetlands). This information can be used to help ensure the ecological character of the site is maintained.

Ramsar site boundary description and map

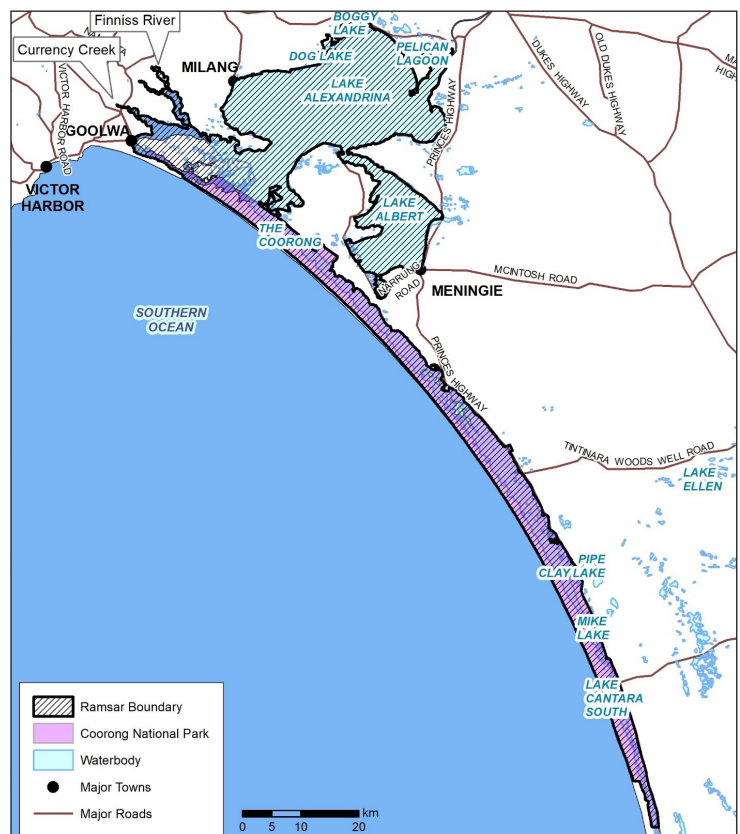
The site boundary description includes accurate spatial data and maps to supplement the boundary description summary in the Ramsar information sheet.

It describes the site's geographical boundary and clearly shows the decision-making process and the intent of boundary decisions.

Information includes:

- description of site location and boundaries*
- features that make up the site and data sources for those features
- process for ensuring accuracy and/or ground-truthing
- consultation processes
- land parcels and tenure (fully/partially included or excluded).

**For legal purposes, the detailed boundary description included in a Ramsar information sheet is what defines the 'declared Ramsar wetland' and sets the legal boundaries under the EPBC Act, rather than the Ramsar site boundary and map. Therefore, the written description of the boundary must be included as part of the Ramsar information sheet.*



More information

For more information about the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar Management Plan, contact the Department for Environment and Water at DEW.WIOcommunications@sa.gov.au

environment.sa.gov.au



Australian Government



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Department for Environment and Water