

# Meningie wetland



Pelican Path "Yunti Ngopun Ngami"

Restoration of the Meningie foreshore through infrastructure installation, bank stabilisation and planting activities, in partnership with the local community.

## Restoring the Meningie foreshore

Meningie is the gateway township to the Coorong National Park and is a popular recreational bird-watching, boating, and tourist destination.

## Early works

The Meningie Wetland Project started under the Early Works for the Water for the Future, Enduring Response for the Coorong and Lower Lakes Priority Project (Early Works) – funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative, and delivered through South Australia's Murray Futures program.

The project now has a greater focus on improving habitat for native plants and animals, and improving amenity for the township through plantings and the construction of an interpretive trail. On-ground works between the Meningie Sailing Club and the Lake Albert Caravan Park restored the Lake Albert foreshore by:

- stabilising the banks along the lake's edge
- increasing habitat for plants and animals
- increasing community knowledge of the management of acid sulfate soils
- improving lakefront amenity for the Meningie township and visitors to the area.

This project is a collaboration between the CLLMM Restoration Project, the Coorong District Council, the Meningie community, the Friends of Meningie group, and the Ngarrindjeri.

New facilities have improved habitat and the town's foreshore aesthetics, allowing locals and tourists to continue to enjoy the beautiful shores of Lake Albert.

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Recovery Project is a key component of South Australia's \$610 million Murray Futures program, funded by the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative.

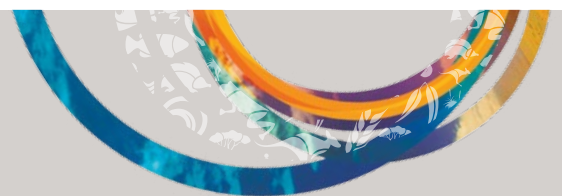
The CLLMM Recovery Project, is comprised of a suite of management actions that collectively aim to improve the ecological features of the CLLMM site to deliver a healthy, productive and resilient wetland of international importance, as well as to increase capacity, knowledge and understanding across communities. It is being delivered in collaboration with the community and Ngarrindjeri, the areas traditional owners.



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Fore shore planting

### Why are we managing this area?

The recent drought of 2006 – 2010 saw Lake Albert’s water level drop and salinity levels rise. The local environment declined, and the town and its people suffered.

As a result of the extended drought and unprecedented low in-flows, Lake Albert suffered significantly as its health declined. The low water levels exposed large areas of potentially acidic soil.

The degraded environmental conditions caused economic and social hardship for Lake Albert communities, including Meningie.

Urgent action was required to address the environmental problems and amenity.

Work undertaken to ensure that any future environmental impacts are managed included:

- bank stabilisation works to repair areas of erosion and protect the lake’s edge against future storm events
- planting vegetation to prevent erosion and weed invasion and increase habitat and amenity.

### Work undertaken

#### Native vegetation planting

Approximately 45 000 local native plants have been planted to restore land and aquatic habitats that will help provide food, shelter, and breeding sites for migratory birds and other animals.

The Ngarrindjeri community has played an important role in the selection of plant species to ensure culturally significant plants are also grown in the area.

Vegetation plays a vital role in achieving habitat complexity, ecosystem stability and resilience for the survival of native species.

The lakefront habitat features a number of native plant species including:

- ruby saltbush – *Enchylaena tormentosa*
- silver banksia – *Banksia marginate*
- round leaf pigface – *Disphyma species*
- native fuchsia – *Corea relexa*
- coast saltbush – *Atriplex cinerea*

The plants chosen are native to the local area.

Vegetation along the lakefront will also attract native wildlife and migratory birds to the area including:

- Australian ibis
- clamorous reed warbler
- dusky moor hen
- masked lapwing
- swamp hen and
- little grass bird.

#### Weed control

Weed control assists amenity and ensures native plants have the best chance of survival and assists in amenity.

Weed control activities have included spraying pest species and the removal of exotic trees.

Before planting sites are prepared with weed matting and mulching to prevent weeds taking over the newly planted areas.



Culvert naturalisation

### Culvert naturalisation

Naturalisation involved:

- the removal of an existing concrete drain
- landscaping the area to create two large filtration ponds, with rocks placed in the inflow and outflow areas
- community planting of about 2500 plants in the naturalised wetland corridor.

The naturalised culvert assists in filtering polluted stormwater run-off before it enters Lake Albert. The area now provides increased habitat for native plants and animals, as well as improved amenity for the Meningie township.

### Bank stabilisation

Bank stabilisation works were completed in mid-to-late 2012 to restore eroded banks and prevent further degradation.

Bank stabilisation work included the installation of a sand bag-like system in the caravan park and also the construction of bank stabilisation seating, a set of concrete steps near the town jetty.

The seating allows for erosion control, as well as improved amenity through improved pedestrian access to the beach area and seating.

### Bird hide and viewing platforms

Construction of the bird hide and two viewing platforms was completed in July 2012.

The bird hide and viewing platforms give local residents and visitors the opportunity to observe the native plants and animals of the Meningie region.

Signage has been installed, illustrating the plants and animals people may see.

### Pelican Path Interpretive Trail

An interpretive trail was designed and built in conjunction with the project Community Reference Group, the Ngarrindjeri community, the Coorong District Council, and Meningie Area School students.

The trail includes a textured pathway, signage, seating, two viewing platforms and beach stabilisation seating.

The signage along the trail highlights the Ngarrindjeri, European and environmental history of the CLLMM region, and discusses the work done as part of the Meningie Wetland Project.

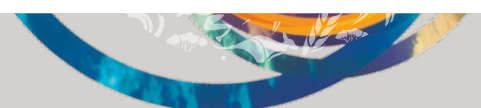
The trail winds its way along the Meningie Foreshore, and is surrounded by local native plants planted by the local community.

A competition was run to name the new path. Year 8 students from Meningie Area School won with their name, Pelican Path. It also carries the Ngarrindjeri phrase "Yunti Ngopun Ngami", which means "Together We Walk".

### Future plans

While on ground works have been completed, maintenance at the site continues through weed control and watering. Up to 10,000 local native species will be planted during autumn in the Meningie Caravan Park and around the naturalised culvert, adding to the thousands of natives already planted along the Meningie foreshore.

The plantings are being maintained – including watering and weeding work – by staff from the Orana Melaleuca Nursery.



## Community involvement

The Meningie Wetland project has a strong focus on community involvement.

The work has been with the community and the Ngarrindjeri. This includes the design and installation of the interpretive trail, which included quotes from Ngarrindjeri elders and local farmers.

Planting events have involved the Friends of Meningie group, the Ngarrindjeri, Meningie Area School students and other Meningie community groups. The local community has also been involved in site preparation and maintenance. The local community's expert knowledge and advice has been central to the project's success.

The Meningie Wetland Project also supports the local Friends of Meningie group. The group assists in planting, maintenance and monitoring activities

## Get involved

The success of the Meningie Wetland Project relies on community volunteers to assist council in actively managing the site on a long-term basis.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the Lakes Hub at Meningie on 08 85751830

## Futher information

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources  
T: (08) 8204 1910

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au)



Members of the Friends of Meningie Group



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