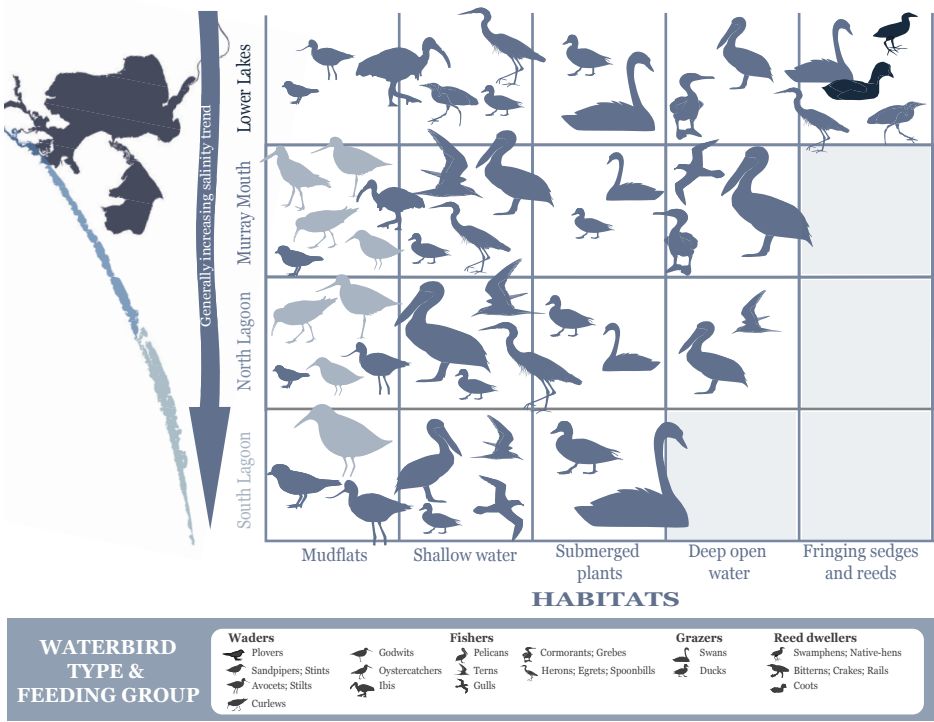
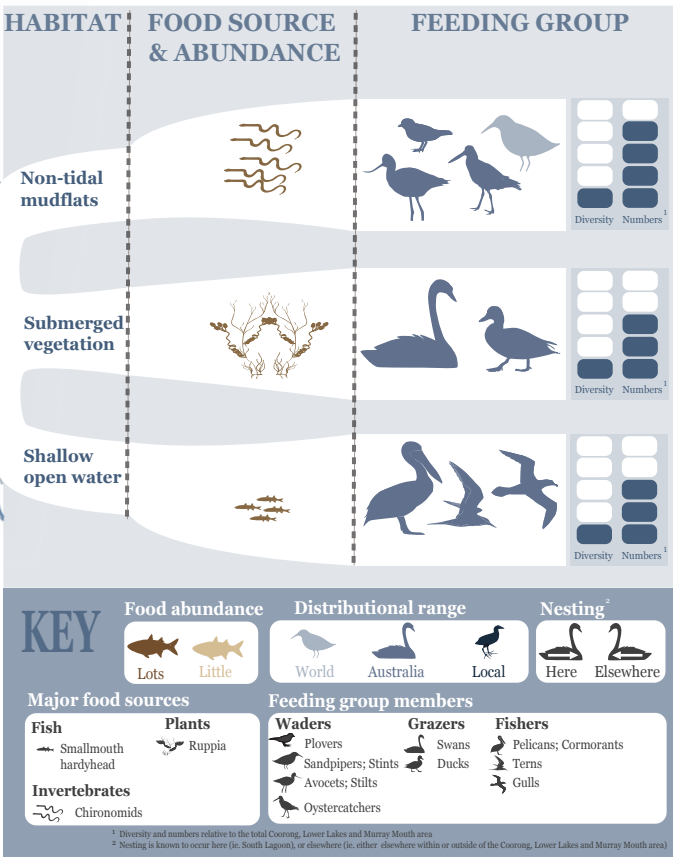
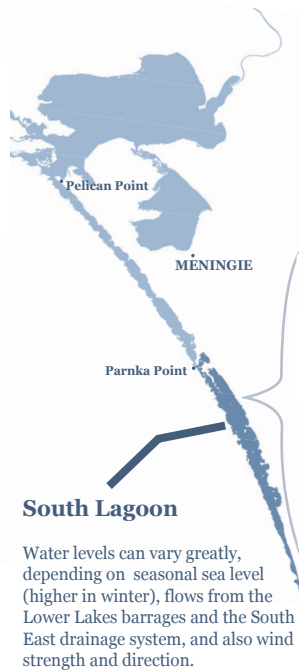


WATERBIRD DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE IN THE COORONG, LOWER LAKES & MURRAY MOUTH: INFOGRAPHICS

WATERBIRDS OF THE COORONG, LOWER LAKES & MURRAY MOUTH

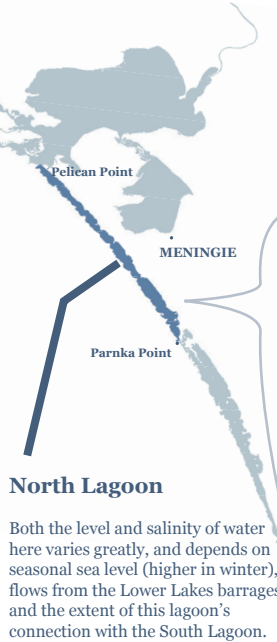


South Lagoon



There is a salinity gradient in the South Lagoon - from higher in the south (5 times as salty as sea water), to lower in the north (2 times as salty as sea water).

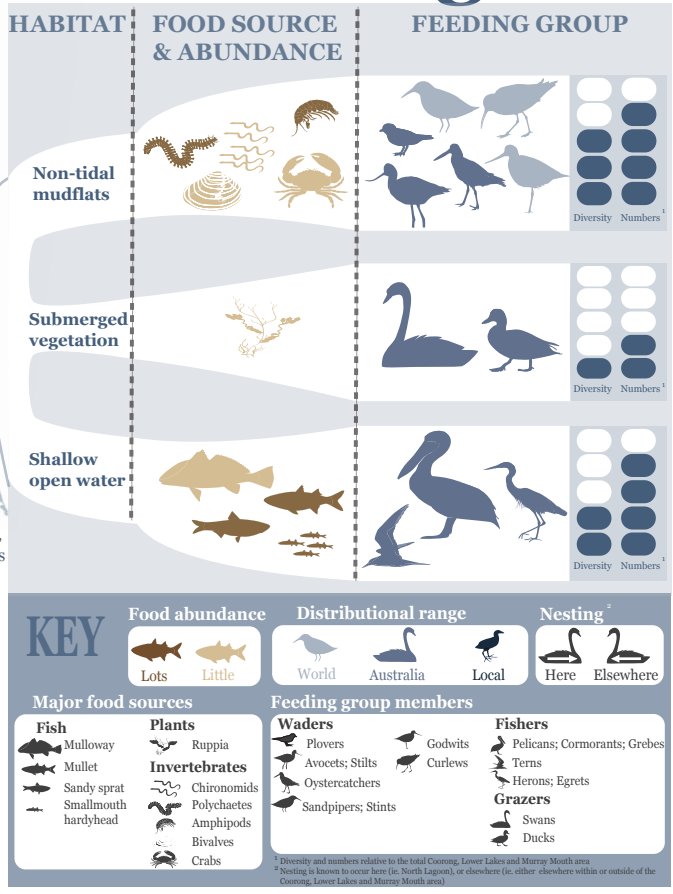
The South Lagoon provides significant areas of island that are important nesting sites for Terns, Gulls and Pelicans.



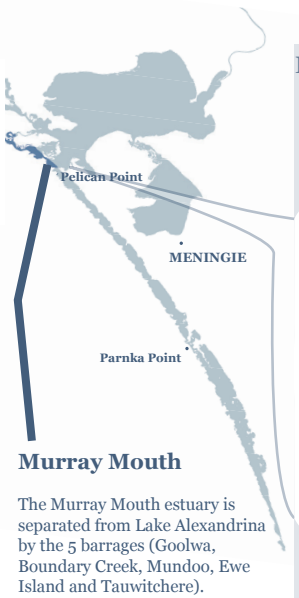
A diversity of habitats occur as a result of a strong salinity gradient, ranging from slightly less than sea water, to twice as salty as sea water.

The North Lagoon provides significant areas of permanent open water, and mudflat habitats. These important habitats are used by a large number of waterbirds, including migratory shorebirds in spring and summer.

North Lagoon

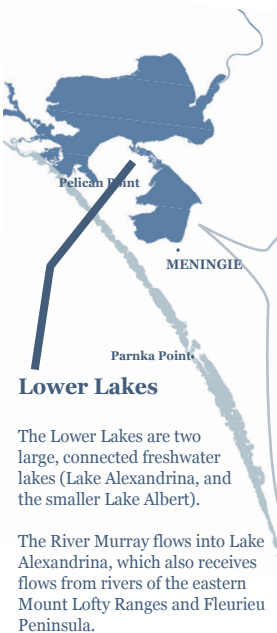
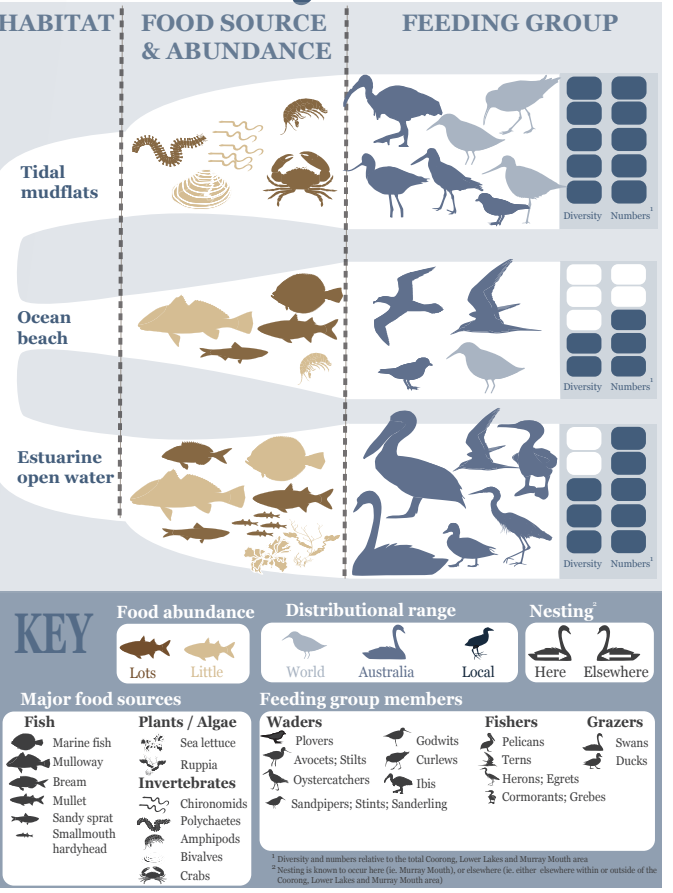


Murray Mouth



Salinity levels fluctuate widely. Flows through the barrages freshen the estuary and connect it to Lake Alexandrina. When flow ceases, the estuary is predominantly marine, whilst the estuary can be freshwater when the barrages are fully open. Water levels and mouth open-ness are influenced by marine storms, tides, and barrage flows.

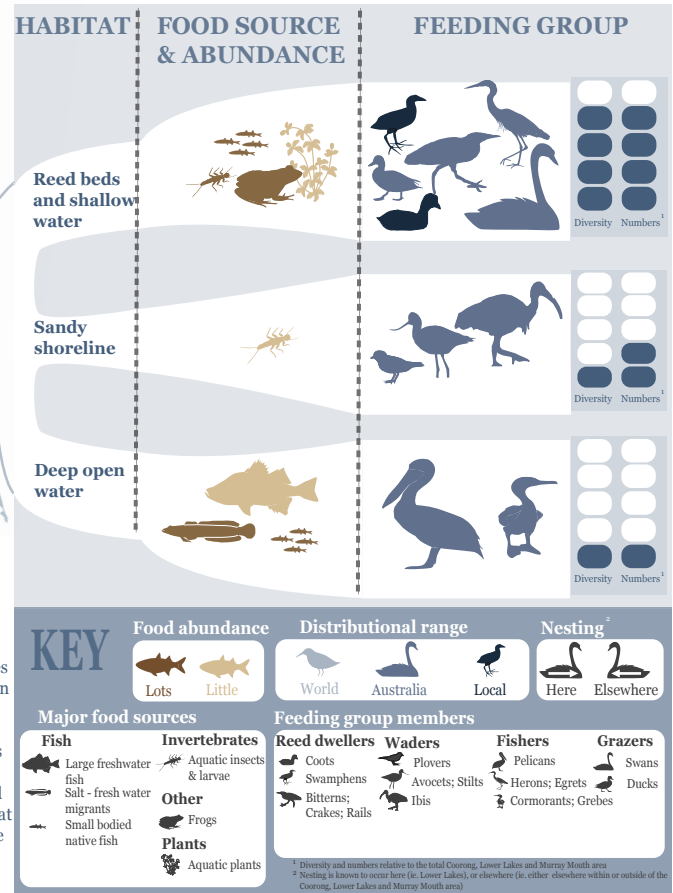
A high productivity and availability of both feeding habitat and food sources boost the diversity and numbers of waterbirds found here.



Flow from Lake Alexandrina to the Coorong and Murray Mouth is regulated by a series of five barrages spanning a total length of more than 7 kilometres.

Reeds and sedges fringing the lakes provide habitat for frogs, and feeding and nesting habitat for bird species. The deep open water habitat is used by waterbirds when they are moulting.

Lower Lakes



Diagrams based on a contemporary and generalised understanding of bird distribution and abundances for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (developed June 2013)