

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## \$20,000 GRANT FOR COORONG'S FIRST CANOE TRAIL



Already known as a 'paddler's paradise', the Coorong District Council is about to take its work in eco-recreation a step further after winning \$20,000 to develop the *Lower Murray Canoe Trail* between Tailem Bend and Wellington.

Coorong District Council recently developed plans for the canoe trail as part of a cross-portfolio project, which will support outcomes in biodiversity, environmental education, health, recreation and tourism.

Now, after going out to a public vote via the State Government's *Fund My Project - Riverine Recovery* initiative, the project has been given the seal of approval with overwhelming support from across the State securing its bid for \$20,000 in funding.

Coorong District Council Mayor Neville Jaensch said this successful funding bid for the Lower Murray Canoe Trail again reiterated the strong direction of the Council in establishing itself as a national leader in eco-tourism and recreation.

"We know we have the best backyard here in the Coorong. Projects like this mean we can help share its unique beauty with everyone else, and at the same time bring economic benefits to our local businesses and community," Mayor Jaensch says.

"The trail has been designed to provide something for everyone; from novice paddlers, to experts who want this to be part of a much larger recreational journey along the Coorong.

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“It also complements our work on the Murray Coorong Trail and public arts trails, ensuring a full complement of on and off-water experiences are available to visitors and locals.

“Here in the Coorong, we’re passionate about keeping people active, educated and engaged with the local environment, and the trail’s user-friendly resources will ensure this is the case.

The Lower Murray Canoe Trail project will focus on environmentally-friendly recreation. Plans include water-proof maps, a responsive website, directional and educational signage, new geocaches, expert design and a project launch (to coincide with a Scouts SA event).

The Council is also working to ensure the trail is up and running in time for the 25th Australian Scout Jamboree in 2019, which will bring thousands of young families into our community.

“The other great news is that this project attracted one of the largest vote-counts within the funding program - up against 20 others in its field - so we know we have support from other people across the State already,” Mayor Jaensch says.

“The best way to create a passion and understanding of our River, Lakes and Coorong environment, is to experience it.

“This project provides a scenic and adventurous way to get people on the water, learn more about riverine recovery, local history and create a memorable experience they will want to have again.”

The State Government’s *Fund My Project - Riverine Recovery* is a grant program that provides \$200,000 to projects that promote the environmental objectives of the Riverine Recovery Project (RRP), and leave a lasting legacy of knowledge, understanding and involvement in wetland management and riverine recovery.

Votes were counted throughout May 2017 and more than 200 South Australians helped to decide which projects should be funded through the program.

For more information on the project, visit the YourSay project website [here](#), and keep an eye on the [Coorong District Council Facebook page](#) for updates as the project progresses.

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