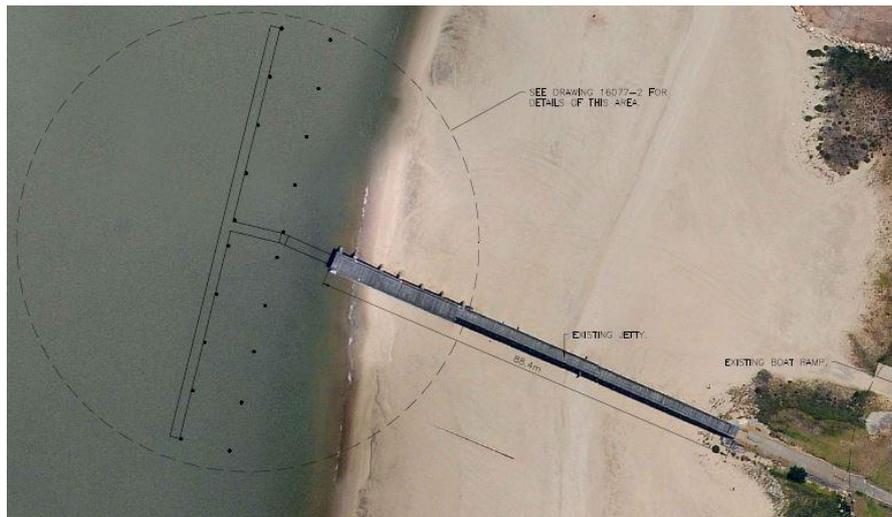


MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 9 April 2019

COORONG WINS \$1M FOR MENINGIE NORTH JETTY UPGRADE AND MURRAY COORONG TRAIL



Above: Image taken from concept plan for the Meningie north jetty upgrade.

A major upgrade to the Meningie North Jetty and an extension of the Murray Coorong Trail into Raukkan will both go ahead this year, thanks to a \$1 million federal funding win for the Coorong District Council. The grants were approved by the federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud MP.

Announced this week, the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program (MDBEDP) funding highlighted the Lower Lakes area as being one of the most impacted by water recovery activities under the Basin Plan.

Now, the cash injection will be used to support economic development activities, with the rollout of new facilities set to support growth in the tourism sector and long term employment opportunities.

The **\$500,000 Meningie Jetty project** will include the construction and installation of an 85 metre floating pontoon on to the end of the existing structure. The facility will be able to berth up to 16 (12 metre) vessels, providing more space for recreation activities and more depth during times of low water. It will also support long-term functions of the Meningie Sailing Club and other lake-based tourism and recreational activities.

The **\$500,000 Murray Coorong Trail** project is one portion of the major 450 kilometre regional walking and cycling trail project which will eventually connect the lower stretches of the Murray River to the Coorong. This funding specifically, will see the construction of a 6.6 kilometre path and interpretative signage within the Raukkan township – forming part of the trail loop around the Narrung Peninsula. The project team will work with the Raukkan

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Community Council and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) to support Aboriginal employment opportunities throughout construction, and long-term cultural tourism opportunities, with a goal to increase visitation to Raukkan. It's also planned that this section will eventually connect to Noonameena along the edge of the Coorong and Lake Albert.

Coorong District Council Mayor Paul Simmons was pleased when the news came through.

"This is huge for our Coorong communities. We've had some tough times over the past decade, both on the land and on the lakes, so this news could not have come at a better time," Mayor Simmons says.

"Plans for the Meningie north jetty upgrade were drawn up three years ago, and as a small rural Council, there's simply no way we would've been able to fund it ourselves.

"Also, the ongoing development of the Murray Coorong Trail relies on external funding each year, but this is the biggest bucket of funding delivered to this project to date.

"The total \$1 million will complete two major projects for our district, which will provide new jobs, new lakeside facilities and a new sense of confidence for local people."

Coorong District Council Chief Executive Officer Vincent Cammell said economic forecasting on both of the projects showed that there would be a considerable injection into the local economy during construction, and approximately ten jobs created once completed.

"Through the Raukkan project, we're hoping to see local Aboriginal people employed during construction. We have also included funding for a Ngarrindjeri tour guide to be employed and upskilled to help increase visitation to the town and encourage global interest in its rich cultural history.

"For the Meningie north jetty project, we expect that up to four new jobs will be created during construction and up to nine more long term.

"We also expect that the new floating pontoon extension will encourage more visiting schools for outdoor education opportunities, not to mention support the needs of our local schools.

"But this is just scratching the surface on the new projects' potential. Both provide an exciting range of opportunities for our local communities and businesses beyond 2022 and we look forward to seeing them transpire."

Each project is set to commence before the end of 2019, with the MDBED guidelines requiring completion by the end of June 2022.

Council is planning an information session to inform the community on the Meningie north jetty project; session details, including the date will be circulated to the community in due course.

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For more information on the MBBEDP, visit their website here:
<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/murray-darling-basin-economic-development-grants-program>.

- ENDS -

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