

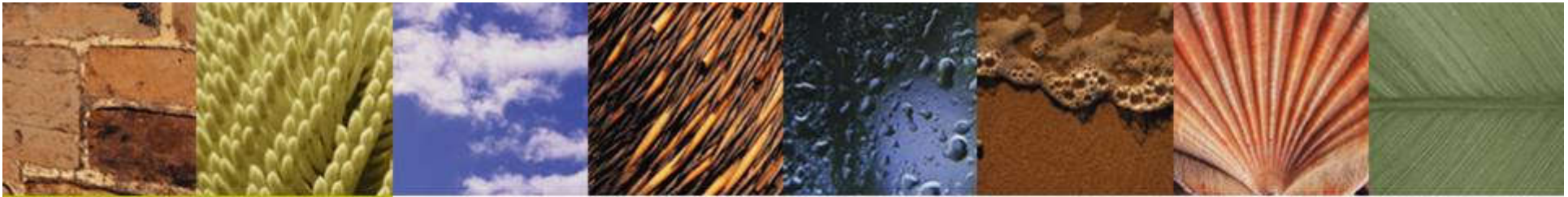
Department for Environment and Heritage

Limestone Coast Conference 2004

Ramsar Site Management in the South East: management, planning,
research and nominations

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South East Ramsar Sites

Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland, South Australia

Designated: November 1985

Area: 140,500 Ha (approx)

Wetland Type: Estuarine waters; coastal brackish / saline lagoons; permanent rivers / creeks / streams; permanent freshwater lakes (over 8 Ha); permanent saline / brackish lakes; and man-made water storage area.

Overview: Coorong – long, shallow saline to hypersaline lagoon more than 100km in length. Lakes Alexandrina and Albert – form mouth of River Murray and are comprised of fresh to brackish water.

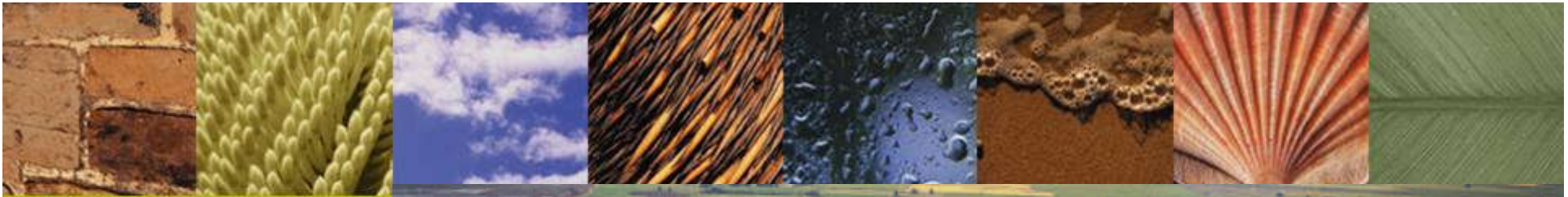
Ecological Features: Diversity of bird species with wader and waterfowl dominating eg. red-necked stint, sharp-tailed sandpiper, banded stilt.

Tenure: Mostly Crown land, National Park, Game Reserve and Conservation Park; private land surrounding lakes and on Hindmarsh Island.

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Samphire – southern lagoon



South East Ramsar Sites

Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park Ramsar Site

Designated: November 1985

Area: 3,200 Ha

Wetland Type: seasonal / intermittent / irregular rivers / streams / creek; permanent freshwater lakes (> 8 Ha); seasonal / intermittent freshwater lakes (> 8 Ha); permanent freshwater marshes / pools (< 8 Ha).

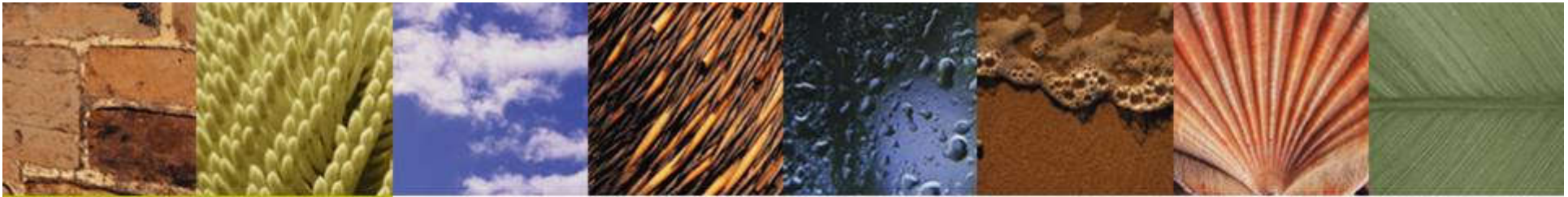
Overview: Bool and Hacks Lagoons are located on an interdunal flat characterised by circular, shallow swamps. Within the larger Bool Lagoon basin lies a complex of smaller lagoons, each with associated lunettes. The lagoons are a mosaic of aquatic and semi-aquatic vegetation interspersed with areas of open water.

Ecological Features: Habitat for migratory birds under JAMBA / CAMBA; important refuge for Australasian Bittern, stronghold of the Growling Grass Frog, nationally important for colonial breeding waterbirds.

Tenure: Hacks – conservation park pursuant to NPW Act; Bool – game reserve pursuant to NPW Act.



Bool Lagoon – tea tree boardwalk



Key Management Issues

Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert
Hydrology – flow management at Tauwichee and Goolwa Barrages; Murray Mouth; water release at Salt Creek (Upper South East Scheme); Hindmarsh Island Channels (Wyndgate)

Recreation – boating (lakes, northern channels and north lagoon), day-visitor (Jacks Camp, Parnka Point, Sugars Beach), 4WD & camping.

Native Species Management – weed and pest animal control (YHP); bird monitoring; strategic revegetation.

Traditional Owners – liaison and negotiation with Ngarrindjeri community.

Industry – irrigation (grapes, dairy); fishing;

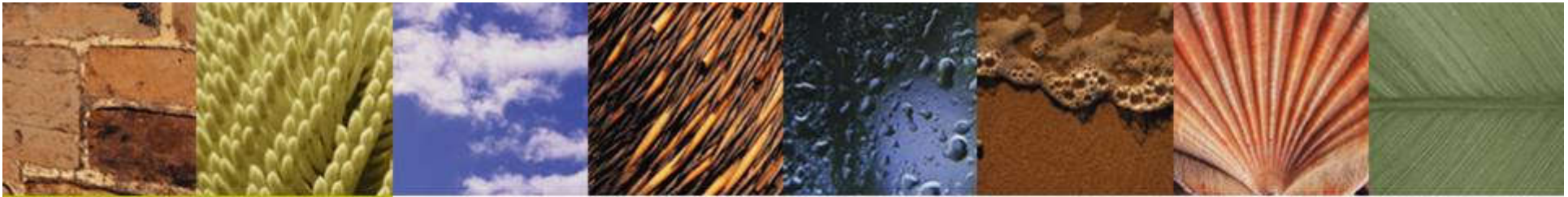
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Mud flat – avocets, ducks, pelicans



Coorong – Salt Creek estuary



Key Management Issues

Bool Lagoon & Hacks Lagoon

Hydrological Management – wetland pondage / equalisation basin for the South East Drainage Scheme.

Visitor Facilities – passive recreation infrastructure (boardwalks, camping sites, picnic grounds); maintenance of assets.

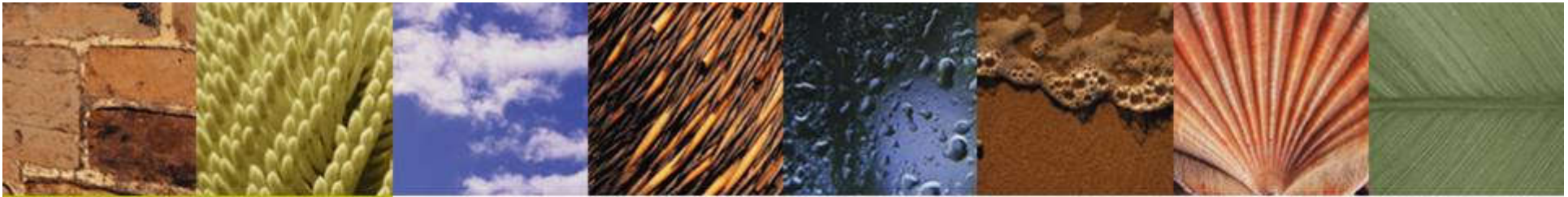
Neighbour Liaison – land use changes (cropping) conflict with wetland management practices – local drainage issues; fire management.

Duck Hunting – determining opening days; assessing waterfowl resource; regulating lead free shot; managing animal liberation protestors.

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Bool – swan & cygnet



Planning

Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert

Ramsar Management Plan Review: plan review period – release draft 30 Dec 05; key topic discussion papers; ecological character determination.

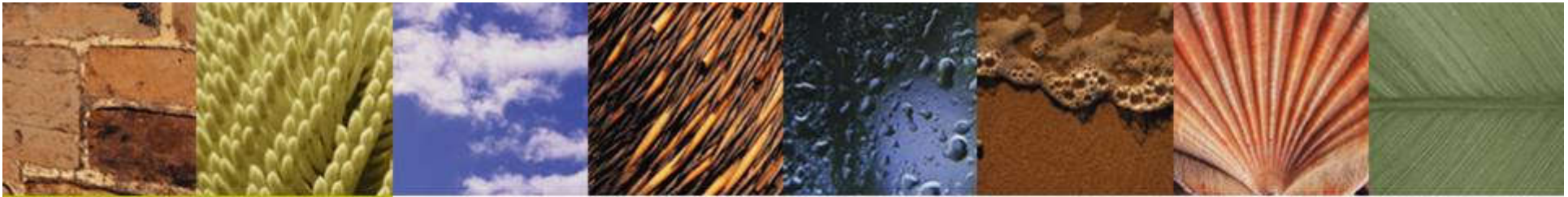
Sir Richard Peninsula: SA Water, Crown and Local Government lands to be assessed and re-allocated to an appropriate tenure and management authority; Ramsar site potential; Ngarrindjeri interests.

Living Murray Initiative: draft Asset Management plan – environmental flow requirements as per 500GL.

Wyndgate, Hindmarsh Island: addition of the Wyndgate property to Coorong National Park.



Coorong – banded stilts



Planning

Bool Lagoon and Hacks Lagoon

Review Ramsar Management Plan: significant community consultation process; ecological character review; dual planning purpose – Ramsar and NPW Act; reserve status; hunting status.

Regional Flow Strategy: Catchment Water Management Board; discharge for Mosquito Creek; water resource for Upper South East and Lake George wetlands, Cross-Border Flow Agreement (Vic & SA)

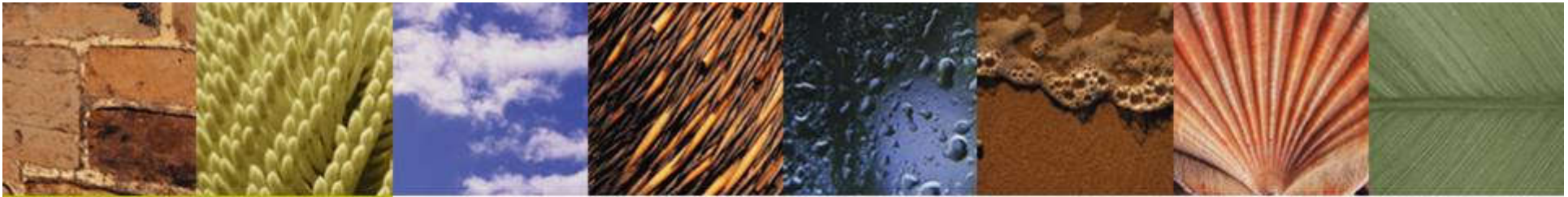
Water Allocation Plan: Naracoorte Prescribed Wells WAP – groundwater management.

Wetlands Waterlink (Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Scheme): water resource for Marcollat Watercourse and Bakers Range Watercourses.

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Bool Outlet Channel -
Gahnia sedgelands



Research & Monitoring

Coorong, Lakes Alexandrina & Albert

- Partners – CSIRO (Water for a Healthy Country), SARDI, DEH, DWLBC, University of Adelaide, Flinders University, AWSG, Earthwatch.
- Ecological character
- Hydrodynamic modelling
- Mud flat investigation
- Key species preference curves
- Wader and waterfowl monitoring
- Sediment coring
- Habitat identification and mapping
- Hydrological monitoring

Bool Lagoon and Hacks Lagoon

- Partners – University of Adelaide, SEWCDB, DEH, DWLBC
- Hydrological monitoring (surface and groundwater monitoring)
- Water regime and floristic composition
- Waterbird and wader populations

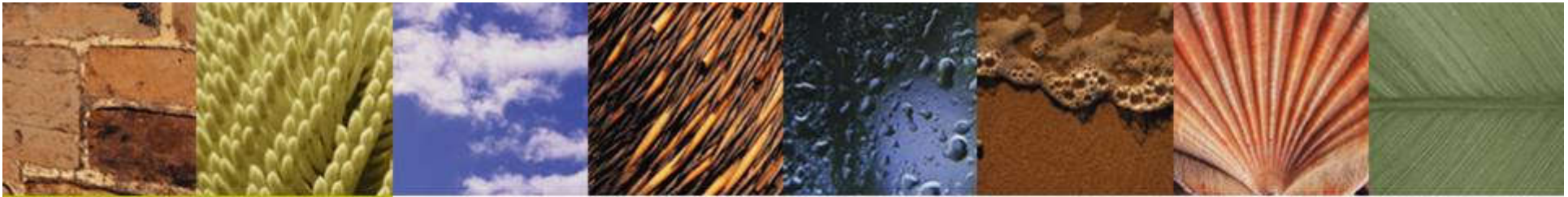
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Hacks Lagoon CP



Tauwitchere Barrage –
reverse flow



Potential Future South East Nominations

Piccaninnie Ponds

A representative, relatively well-conserved karst rising-spring ecosystem.

A core area (Piccaninnie Ponds CP) with potential adjoining habitats suitable for nomination as Ramsar areas and inclusion in protected area system.

Protection and improvement for no less than 10 nationally threatened species eg. swamp greenhood, yarra pygmy perch, growling grass frog

Reversal of trends (clearance and drainage) for Biodiversity Hotspot #6.

Watervalley Wetlands

A representative, large seasonally / permanent brackish/saline inland wetland ecosystem.

Conservation of nationally threatened species eg. growling grass frog, yarra pygmy perch, malleefowl and JAMBA / CAMBA waders

Concern regarding threatening processes eg. hydrological (drainage and saline inflow) & pest animals (deer, goats, buffalo)



Piccaninnie Ponds – outlet lookout



Piccaninnie Ponds - Swamp Greenhood

