



**Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth
Community Advisory Panel**

Meeting #7 – 14/2/2013

The Wine Centre, Langhorne Creek

Communiqué

World Wetlands Day Science Forum – Bill Paterson:

CAP Chair Bill Paterson commented on the success of the World Wetlands Day Science Forum held at Goolwa on Friday 1 February, and said he was pleased it was open to the general public and not just scientists. There's an intention to repeat the event next year. Bill said the community wants to get more information about what's going on.

Lake Albert Scoping Study – Neil Shillabeer:

CAP member Neil Shillabeer provided an update on the Scoping Study. The Study's Community Reference Group met for the second time on 4 February. Neil reported the Scoping Study is currently investigating core sampling to try to identify potential acid sulfate soils issues. A preliminary draft 'literature' review of previous engineering reports and works was circulated for CAP members' comments. Neil asked CAP members to encourage community members to come forward with any information they have (e.g. research, historical knowledge) about the Narrows. Neil noted that it's very important community input is recorded during the Scoping Study. A report on community input will be presented to the Commonwealth.

NatureLinks & Naming of the CLLMM plantings – Stella Kondylas (DEWNR) and Anne Hartnett:

CAP members received a presentation about NatureLinks, its next steps, and how community groups can get involved. Stella Kondylas explained that NatureLinks aims to create bigger and better habitat through five 'corridors' across the State, and that the program started because of biodiversity loss and climate changes. A new NatureLinks website was launched last year (www.naturelinks.com.au), and a new electronic newsletter has been launched. Matt Humphrey is the NatureLinks Co-ordinator for the Murraylands region. CAP members asked Stella questions about community involvement in NatureLinks.

Anne reported to CAP members that she attended a Natural Resource Management (NRM) conference in 2012, where she heard the phrase “if you want to change the way people see things, you need to change the story”. Anne suggested the plantings project be added to the NatureLinks website, and that submissions naming the plantings need to be in by Friday 5 April. The naming competition is a project for schools, with input from the community, and the entries can be in the form of a name or logo.

CLLMM Program Manager’s update – Russell Seaman (DEWNR):

Russell provided an update for CAP members on behalf of Janice Goodwins. He reported that the SE Flows business case is still being edited. CAP members asked for more information about the business case. Russell also updated members on CLLMM projects, including the Currency Creek regulator removal. Russell thanked Bill Paterson and Anne Hartnett for helping to facilitate the World Wetlands Day Science Forum. Gemma Cunningham informed CAP members that the project to create an annual ‘Outcomes Report’ is work in progress.

CLLMM Environment Manager’s update – Liz Barnett DEWNR):

Liz discussed the CLLMM Program’s environmental management actions and outcomes with CAP members, including that the Acid Sulfate Soils project is on hold because of the current environmental conditions. Liz explained the importance of the environmental management team’s work with the community, research organisations such as the CSIRO, and other government agencies. Liz distributed an Environment Management progress report to CAP members, which included information about freshwater muscles, recruitment of fish in the lagoons, and an increase in water bird numbers. CAP members asked Liz questions about the management of Wyndgate, acid sulfate soils, and the ‘value’ of the environment.

CLLMM *Ruppia* Translocation & Fishways projects – Katherine Goss (DEWNR):

Kat outlined for the CAP members the ecological objectives of the Fishways project, as well as the preferred locations and designs, and a summary of the project’s stages. CAP members asked questions about the population of New Zealand fur seals at Tauwitchere, the funding and timeline for the project, and the effect of the Fishways project on fish populations. Kat also updated CAP members about the *Ruppia* Translocation project, including research and monitoring, and the seed sediment approach being taken.

CLLMM Vegetation Program update – Hafiz Stewart (DEWNR):

Hafe provided an update on the Vegetation Program’s activities. He wants to ensure the vegetation team’s new staff members get an opportunity to present to the CAP. Planning for the 2013 plantings is continuing, with site plans being completed, and a review of the site plans for the community planting program. Hafe explained that site planning is a major focus for the team. Guidelines for a new fencing program are also being developed, and nursery

inspections are being undertaken. This year's commercial planting includes six different nurseries growing for 15 sites, with tenders to go out soon.

CLLMM Vegetation Program Survivorship update – Thai Te (DEWNR):

Thai introduced himself, and his role in the CLLMM vegetation team, to the CAP members. He then provided a snapshot on the survivorship of plants from the 2011 planting season. Thai also explained that the survivorship results of the 2012 plantings are currently being compiled. CAP members asked questions about the 2011 survivorship results and fencing opportunities under the CLLMM Program.

River Operations update – Richard Brown (DEWNR):

Richard provided CAP members with an update on the latest flows into South Australia, which were at 8.2 GL per day (at the time of the meeting). In response to a question about environment flows, Richard said he would put together a table explaining flows for distribution to CAP members. A CAP member also asked Richard about monitoring of erosion around the lakes to better inform barrage operations.

The Living Murray update – Kirsty Wedge (DEWNR):

Kirsty presented to CAP members on the current amount of environmental water delivered on behalf of The Living Murray and CEWO in 2012-13.

Kirsty clarified that if TLM requests 100 GL for the CLLMM region, it doesn't mean that exact volume will be dispersed through the barrages. The volumes of environmental water delivered to SA are calculated from the SA border and currently do not factor in losses occurred during transit to the CLLMM. TLM and River Operations staff are having discussions with the water holders (TLM and CEWH) to factor in these losses through water accountability, as is calculated for upstream deliveries.

CAP members also viewed the video produced by Change Media in partnership with TLM and the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority.

Other business:

The current Terms of Reference was discussed by CAP members the frequency of CAP meetings – it was agreed that every two months is reasonable – and terms of appointment to the CAP was raised. CAP members also discussed the format for future meetings, with more topics and discussions to be led by CAP members. The Minister has indicated he will attend the next CAP meeting if he's available. A CAP member also asked about the funding cuts to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Community Advisory Panel Contact:

Gemma Cunningham – Community Partnerships

Major Projects

Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Ph. 8204 9453 or Mb. 0427 018 783 E. gemma.cunningham@sa.gov.au