



Comments on

MURRAY FUTURES Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Directions for a healthy future

by

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
(SAFF)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

On

May 2009

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General Comments:

The document needs to broaden its context. It must have linkages with the Murray Darling Basin, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the end of the river system, etc. The relationships with these areas need to be strengthened within the document.

The document does not discuss how it links with the Basin Plan which is being developed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority. This document has no status if it does not relate to this plan.

The document does not talk about the importance of water allocation planning and cross-coordination between states. It should describe how this currently occurs and how it could contribute to a healthy lower lakes and Coorong

It is not clear how the processes listed in the document will help inform/influence short term decisions, eg. If decisions about the weir are made in July, the management actions identified for the Lower Lakes may not be used.

This document focuses on environmental impacts for the Lower Lakes and Coorong. Social and economic impacts need to be considered and directions for a healthy future should be developed in a parallel process.

Specific Comments:

Chapter 2

- No discussion about the Lower Lakes and Coorong providing ecosystem services to the whole of basin, eg. They act as an escape for salt from the system.
- The section on regional community and economy is minimal and needs to be expanded as it is highly important to discuss the current plight and future of the rural communities in this region.

Chapter 6

- SAFF supports the six core elements listed.
- However one important core element should be added, which is 'healthy lakes and Coorong are essential for a healthy river'.

Chapter 6, Core Element 1

- Additional action: Need to identify indicator species for benchmarking and management plans, such as Rupia. Actions could then be developed to support this indicator species.

Appendix 8

- An additional action is to have an environmental allocation specifically for the management of the Lower Lakes and Coorong. This would ensure that the Lower Lakes and Coorong is able to receive an environmental flow when it is needed rather than the current process for allocating environmental flows which includes as part of its criteria 'that the allocation can be used multiple times'.