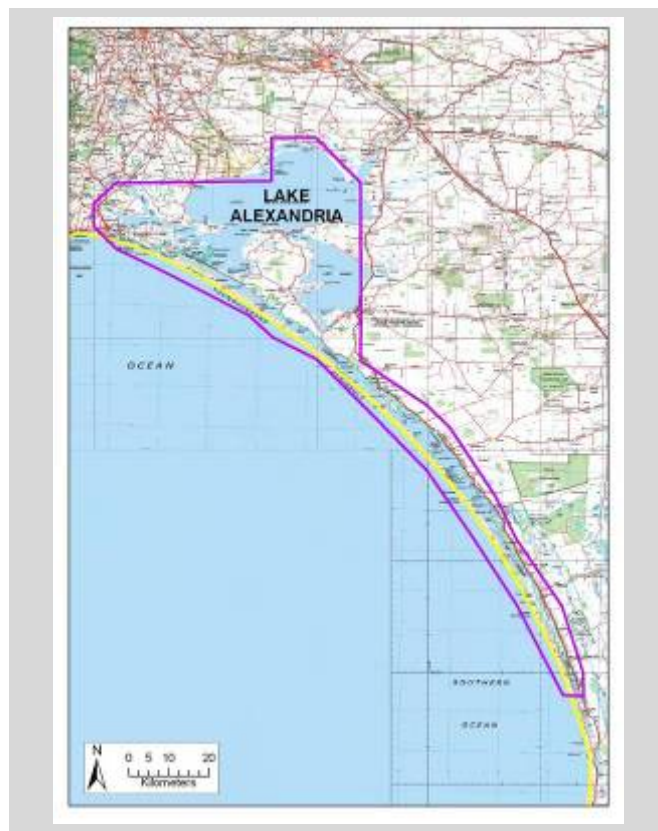


# The Coorong

## MAINLAND ISLAND CHARACTERISTICS

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	South Australia
<b>NRM Regions</b>	Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges South Australian Murray Darling Basin South East
<b>LGAs</b>	Alexandria Kingston Murray Bridge The Coorong
<b>Size</b>	259, 000 hectares
<b>Dominant Type</b>	Other shrublands
<b>Land Tenure</b>	Agriculture National Park
<b>Surrounding Issues</b>	Land use



Overall Priority	Conservation Value	Threat Status
Very High	Very High	Medium

### Key Biodiversity Values

#### Key biodiversity and conservation values of THE COORONG

- 43 threatened species
- 4 threatened communities
- 49 migratory species
- Very high species richness
- Very high endemism
- The Coorong and Lakes Alexandria and Albert Ramsar wetland
- 1 nationally important aquatic ecosystem
- Native vegetation present
- Vertebrate pest species present

## CONSERVATION VALUE

Categories	Ranks/Scores
<b>1 Biodiversity values</b>	Very High (16)
<b>2 Uniqueness</b>	Very High (4)
<b>3 Representativeness</b>	Very High (4)
<b>4 Adjacency</b>	High (3)
<b>5 Area to perimeter ratio</b>	Very High (4)

## THREAT STATUS

Categories	Ranks/Scores
<b>1 Density of pest species</b>	Low (2)
<b>2 Pest impact level</b>	Very High (8)
<b>3 Invasion fronts/range boundaries</b>	High (3)
<b>4 Land use risk</b>	Very High (5)
<b>5 Weed density</b>	Medium (2)
<b>6 Area without statutory protection</b>	Medium (2)



# Key Threats and Impacts

## Pest Species Present or Potentially Present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cane toad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral cat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral pig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rodents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carp, European carp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral water buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilapia, Mozambique Tilapia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European red fox	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral donkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian Myna, Common Myna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather loach; Oriental weather loach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European wild rabbit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feral goat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral camel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral horse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red-eared slider turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

## Potential impacts of pest species on matters of National Environmental Significance

<b>Carp, European carp</b> <i>Craterocephalus fluviatilis</i> <i>Nannoperca obscura</i> <i>Litoria raniformis</i>		<b>Mosquito fish, Plague Minnow</b> <i>Craterocephalus fluviatilis</i> <i>Nannoperca obscura</i> <i>Litoria raniformis</i>	
<b>Feral cat</b> <i>Apus pacificus</i> <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> <i>Diomedea exulans</i> <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> <i>Halobaena caerulea</i> <i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> <i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i> <i>Pterodroma mollis</i> <i>Cinlosoma punctatum anachoreta</i>		<b>Feral goat</b> <i>Olearia pannosa subsp. pannosa</i> <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	
<b>European red fox</b> <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> <i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i> <i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> <i>Sterna albifrons</i>		<b>European wild rabbit</b> <i>Acacia rheticocarpa</i> <i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> <i>Caladenia tensa</i> <i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i> <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus</i> <i>Prasophyllum pallidum</i> <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> <i>Pterostylis arenicola</i> <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> <i>Senecio macrocarpus</i> The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions	

### Other threatening processes

- Situated on pest invasion front / range boundary
- High risk land use
- Water availability issues

### Highest priority biodiversity issues

Pest impacts on *Leipoa ocellata*

Pest management actions listed in recovery plans for *Leipoa ocellata*, *Craterocephalus fluviatilis*, *Caladenia tensa*, *Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*, *Diomedea exulans*, *Halobaena caerulea* and *Pterodroma mollis*

Water availability issues



## CRITICAL SYNOPSIS OF VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT REGIME

<b>Need for vertebrate pest management</b>	<p>Management of vertebrate pests is required in order to protect and conserve the ecological character of the Coorong Ramsar site in order to meet Australia's international obligations as a signatory nation to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Management is further required to ensure Australian Ramsar management principles are met as prescribed under the <i>Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Ramsar wetland provides key habitat for a number of migratory bird species recognised as species of national significance under the EPBC Act.</p>
<b>Planning instruments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coorong National Park Management Plan 1990 (VNPWS, 1999)</li> <li>Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Management Plan 2000 (DEH, 2000)</li> </ul> <p>The South Australian government has been provided with funding from the Commonwealth for the development of long-term plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth by the end of 2009 (DEH, 2009).</p>
<b>Management actions</b>	<p>The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Management Plan 2000 (DEH, 2000) identifies the following management actions required for the control of vertebrate pest species within the Ramsar site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake integrated management programs for exotic species, particularly foxes, cats and rats, aiming for eradication where this is deemed feasible, for example of feral geese.</li> <li>Support national carp management initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>No information is available as to the degree to which these management plans have been implemented to date.</p>
<b>Monitoring regimes</b>	<p>The South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service maintains on-going monitoring of the habitats and wildlife associated with the Coorong and adjacent areas in accordance with objectives established in the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Management Plan 2000.</p>
<b>Management responsibility</b>	<p>South Australia Department of Environment and Heritage South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service</p>
<b>Cost-benefit analysis</b>	<p>SA NRM Plan has a goal of ensuring regional NRM plans include technically feasible and cost effective control measures to contain and reduce established populations of aquatic and terrestrial pests and prevent cross-regional spread.</p>
<b>Special features</b>	<p><i>Working on Country</i> funding provided in 2007 to Ngarrindjeri Land and Progress Association and the Ngopamuldi Aboriginal Corporation to undertake restoration and management actions within the Ramsar site, including the management of pest species.</p>
<b>Summary / comments</b>	<p>The Coorong Ramsar site has undergone significant alteration to its ecological characteristics since 1880 due to intensive use of water resources and impacts resulting from drought. The South Australian and Commonwealth Government are currently allocating significant resources into the protection of the site through a number of restoration initiatives to manage falling lake levels and water flows.</p> <p>When considered in this context, the need for management of vertebrate pest species may be of low priority to the management of the Ramsar site.</p>

## References:

Department of Environment and Heritage (2000) *Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Management Plan 2000*. South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage. Adelaide, South Australia.

Department of Environment and Heritage (2009) *Murray Futures Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery*. Department of Environment and Heritage. Victoria. Viewed 20 May 2009. <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/cllmm/murray-futures.html>

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation South Australia (2006) *State Natural Resources Management Plan 2006*, DWLBC, 2006. [http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/assets/files/NRM\\_StateNRMPlan2006.pdf](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/assets/files/NRM_StateNRMPlan2006.pdf)

