



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Signal Point Experience Centre 'Telling Old Stories, New Ways'**

**2 July 2021**

The Goolwa Wharf Precinct's Signal Point building has received \$980,000 grant funding this week from the Federal Government's Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Grant funding program (Round 3) to create a state-of-the-art Experience Centre.

This exciting project will include the design and internal fit-out of the Signal Point Gallery building and an interpretive story telling centre to enhance visitor experience. The Centre will showcase indigenous and colonial heritage, local produce and arts, and activate the building space.

The Signal Point building is an icon of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct and will be the centre piece for sharing history and significance of place, and act as a launch pad into the surrounding experiences on offer in the greater Alexandrina region. The fit-out will encapsulate and leverage the building's unique location overlooking the mighty Murray River, a river system that is symbolic and significant for the River Port Town of Goolwa for its social and economic wellbeing.

The refurbished building works will include display systems, joinery and the latest technology (screens, iPads, and headsets) to provide the physical environment to support future employment creation in the region, and in particular providing opportunities for local Ngarrindjeri-led businesses to be created.

The project will deliver progressive and functional facilities and unlock strong opportunities for economic growth and business expansion through increased public awareness of the area's rich history and opportunity for recreational visitation, and will capture and tell the rich stories surrounding the Goolwa Wharf precinct and its waters. The stories will be based on place, culture, economy and environment; and themed against a timeline stretching from 'deep time' origins, linkages to Ngarrindjeri and their connection to place and water, through to colonisation and the role the wharf, wooden boats, steam and rail played in opening up Australia's first export trade opportunities.

Alexandrina Council's CEO, Glenn Rappenberg, said that *"the internal upgrade of the Signal Point building will complement and leverage the current \$2M investment as part of the existing Goolwa Wharf Revitalisation project (\$7.5M in total) which includes replacing the roof and adding solar panels to the building, installing an air handling system and landscaping the forecourt to improve the connection between the building and the Wharf. The Wharf directional wayfinding component of the Wharf Revitalisation project as funded by Council, State and Federal Government will improve visitor linkages with the Centre"*.

Mayor Keith Parkes is pleased and very thankful of the Federal Government funding to upgrade the building and ensure the rich history and authentic stories are shared and celebrated in meaningful way.

*"This location is a symbolic indicator of the health of the Murray-Darling Basin, of which Goolwa is so reliant for its social and economic wellbeing. This was never more evident given the hardship suffered through the millennial drought. Such hardship remains entrenched in the memories of the local community and investing in a project of this nature highlights the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling basin in ensuring a resilient and thriving community."*

*The Signal Point building is a key and recognisable feature of the Precinct and will continue to serve as a landmark offering expression, education and entertainment.*

*Council's co-contribution to the project will show further support for our region's visitor economy and growth of local businesses. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by July 2022,"* he said.

This project will provide significant benefits to Goolwa and the wider communities, promoting the region as an ideal tourist destination and playing an integral role in the preservation of the region's cultural history. The internal fit out will complement and complete the Signal Point building works currently scheduled as part of the Goolwa Wharf Revitalisation project (co-funded by Council, State and Federal Government).

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