

MEDIA RELEASE

Beacon 19 Boat Ramp Major Upgrade Funding Announcement

16 April 2021

The popular Beacon 19 boating facilities near the Goolwa Barrage will soon be upgraded to provide an improved and safer boat launching point for fishers accessing the Coorong.

Alexandrina Council welcomes the State Government's \$650,000 grant from the Economic Stimulus funding program. This amount will be matched by Council and will assist in bringing the 40 year old structure to a modern facility that will be popular with locals and visitors from around the State.

Beacon 19 is one of the main access points to the Coorong National Park and is a significant boating asset for Goolwa residents and the local economy.

The project will assist to promote Goolwa and surrounding areas as a boating destination, and will also encourage greater opportunities to link Beacon 19 with natural attractions such as bird watching, walks and other marine experiences found in the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

Alexandrina Council's CEO, Glenn Rappensberg, said that the upgrade of Beacon 19 will complement the number of quality popular boating destinations in the Goolwa region that form part of the Murray, Coorong Estuary and Lower Lakes boating hub, and reinforce Goolwa as the State's premier aquatic recreation playground with beach, river and lake all easily accessible within close proximity of each other and the town of Goolwa.

Mr. Rappensberg said *"One of the main benefits of the \$1.3m project is to improve safety and make it easier for boat users to launch and retrieve their vessels. The project involves the replacement of the existing wooden jetties with modern, longer structures and will include the installation of beacons to improve safety and navigation. Levees will be installed to protect the access road from rising tides, and better lighting and signage will be put in place to make the boating experience safer and more enjoyable"*.

Mayor Keith Parkes is pleased and very thankful the State Government is providing funding for the upgrade of one of Goolwa's popular boating destinations.

"Upgrading the facilities will capitalise on local and regional tourism opportunities, such as leveraging educational and tourism tours associated with the Storm Boy feature film, South Australian Wooden Boat Festival, and boating events in the Lower Lakes." Mayor Parkes said.

The project will also assist the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to Goolwa, increasing the demand for local goods and tourism services and creating long term jobs.

The new facilities will raise the profile of the Coorong, Sugars Beach and Murray Mouth by improving access and this will benefit the many businesses in the town.

Council recognises that upgrading Beacon 19's existing infrastructure is an important and productive community asset and is keen to make a start as soon as possible to obtain approvals and undertake detailed design.

The project is expected to be completed by late 2022.
