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MEDIA RELEASE

Goolwa Wharf Precinct Revitalisation Project \$7.5 Million Project funding announced 5 June 2020

Council is celebrating today's funding announcements from Federal and State Governments for the Goolwa Wharf Precinct Revitalisation Project.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Michael McCormack, and South Australian Liberal Senator, Andrew McLachlan CSC announced \$3.75 million in funding under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund, Round 4. This is supplemented by a further funding commitment from the State Government's Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone MP of \$1.25 million for the project.

Alexandrina Council, Mayor Keith Parkes and Chief Executive Officer Glenn Rappensberg, were joined today at this iconic and stunning location by South Australian Liberal Senator, Andrew McLachlan CSC and Member for Finnis, David Basham MP to acknowledge the co-contributions of all levels of government.

Combined with Council's funding commitment of \$2.5 million, the total project value is \$7.5 million. This project will greatly support Alexandrina's regional economy and the 27,000 plus people who live in the Alexandrina Local Government Area as well as the plethora of potential visitors to the area.

Mayor Parkes recognised the strong community support received for the project over the many years of planning and advocacy.

"The Goolwa Wharf Precinct Revitalisation Project has been long-awaited by the Alexandrina community. This outstanding collaboration from all levels of government, combined with other major grant-funded projects such as the Mount Compass Recreation Park and Strathalbyn Town Centre Revitalisation Project, will build a high level of confidence within the entire Alexandrina region, demonstrating that we are 'open for business' and that we are a great place to live, work and play.

We are thrilled with the projected economic and employment benefits during the two to three year construction period, as well as the generation of on-going jobs in the region. We also know the project will bring substantial social benefits to the community who enjoy what the Precinct has, and will have, to offer into the future. It couldn't have come at a better time for our community, as we look to recover from the impacts of COVID-19."

Mr Rappensberg highlighted the potential impacts of such a project.

“This much anticipated investment will elevate and grow the Precinct into a must-visit “hero destination” for local, interstate and international visitors, showcasing and capitalising on the confluence of environmental, Indigenous and European cultural heritage values that make our region so very special and unique. It will leave a lasting legacy that we can be proud of.”

Priority infrastructure upgrades to be delivered as part of this project include:

- Goolwa Wharf Shed and Wharf Upgrade/Replacement – to include improved food offering and volunteer facilities as well as an interpretive and visitor centre.
- Signal Point Regional Art and Cultural Centre – roof renewal, air conditioning and improved accessibility providing a significantly enhanced art gallery and event space.
- Open air function space, shared paths, communal public areas and car park extension - open space for large communal festivals and events, off road shared paths for safe pedestrian access and improved access for large vehicles - touring buses, caravans and trailers.
- Wayfinding and WiFi – to meet visitor demands and expectations for high quality and smart technology.

Council were also successful in Building Better Regions Fund Round 3 for \$25,000 of matched funding towards the complementary Ngoppen Ngarrindjeri Ruwe (Walking Ngarrindjeri Land) Project to develop a Ngarrindjeri-led Cultural Tourism Plan for the Goolwa Wharf Precinct. The Plan will be used to seek further funding sources for initiatives that will increase Ngarrindjeri cultural presence at the Precinct into the future.

Together, these initiatives highlight exciting times ahead for the historic Goolwa Wharf Precinct, the Alexandrina community and its visitors. Alexandrina Council thanks the Australian and State Governments for their funding contributions as well as all those who have supported the project to reach this stage, including advocacy from State Member for Finnis, David Basham and Federal Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie.

