

Paringa Paddock

What is happening? – a snapshot

Paringa Paddock is an important wetland located between Renmark and Paringa. It has become disconnected from the main river channel, so important native trees such as river red gums and black box found around the wetland are not getting the water they need.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is restoring this connection by installing or replacing culverts to allow water to flow into and through the wetland, and installing a regulator to manage when and for how long water is held in the wetland. DEW is dredging several creeks and removing a creek crossing to improve water flow.

Why is this work happening?

Since the locks and weirs were introduced to the River Murray in the early 1900s, the river system has changed enormously. Before their construction, wetlands used to have water flowing in and out during different seasons so they had wet and dry cycles.

Relatively stable levels of water in the main river channel have resulted in many wetlands becoming disconnected from the river or are now permanently under water.

This has changed their character by reducing the number and diversity of the plants and animals which live in them.

DEW is working to reconnect some of these wetlands so they can again experience wet and dry cycles. This will help them return to a more natural state and build resilience towards changes in climate and the impacts of drought.

What to expect and when

Work is expected to start in November 2018 and should be completed by early 2019. During construction public access will be restricted for safety reasons.

Signs will be installed on the roads and tracks affected and alternative trails will be marked. On the back of this factsheet is a map showing the areas that will be closed.

Up-to-date information can be found on our website and through our social media channels – see reverse for details.



Why is this important for the environment?

Wetlands are the nurseries of the river. Improving the connection between the wetlands and the main river channel allows native fish to travel between the deeper water of the river and the safer wetland habitats they need to complete their breeding cycle.

Improving water flow helps to flush out any salt or other impurities like dead leaves so that when there is a natural flood in the river there isn't a sudden influx of these into the main river channel.

Dead leaves and other nutrients that are washed off the banks are good for a wide range of bugs which in turn provide food for fish, frogs, bats and reptiles.

The bugs, fish and frogs become food for populations of water birds, turtles and yabbies.

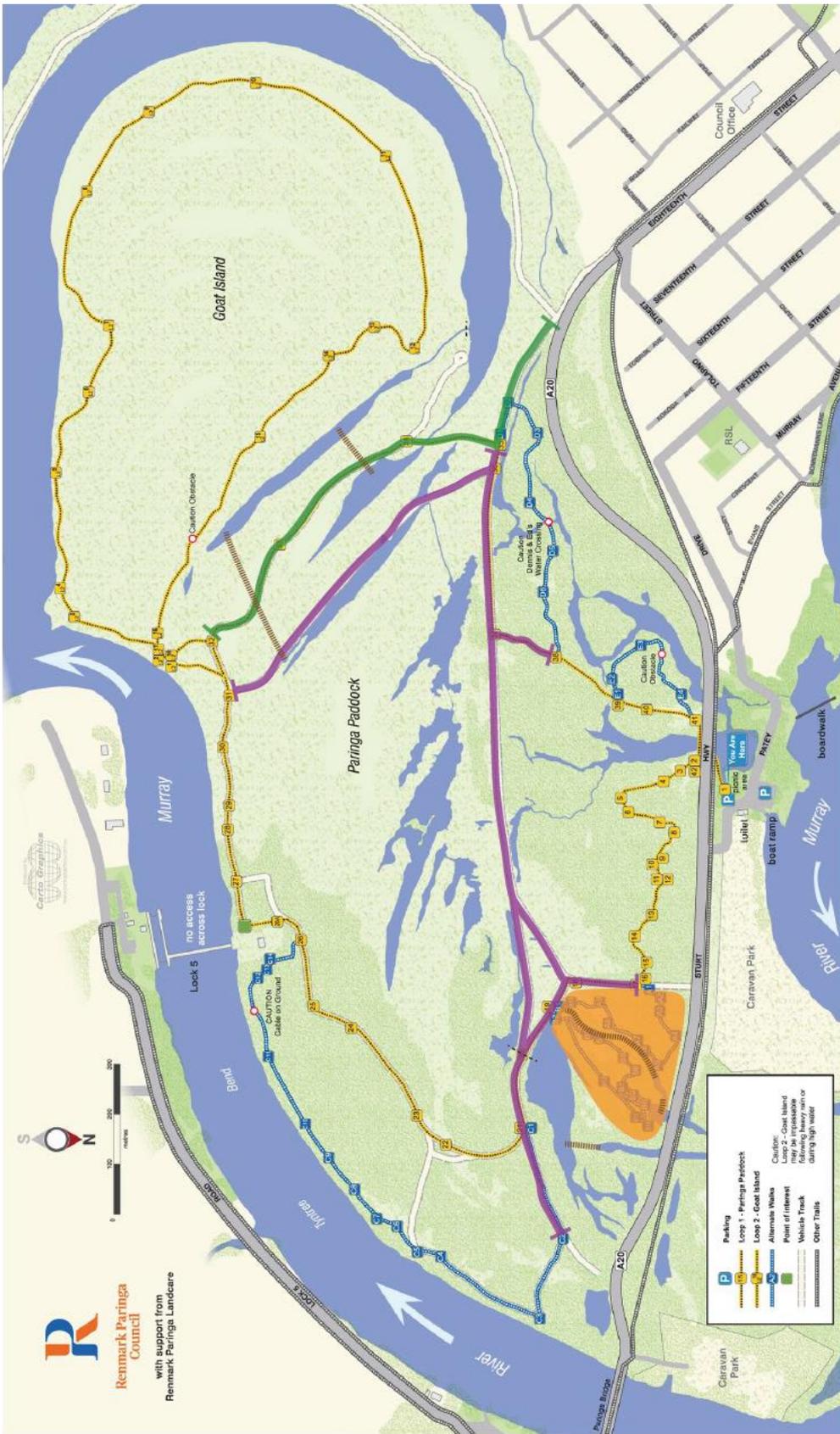
Improving the visitor experience

Once water starts flowing more effectively through Paringa Paddock and Goat Island, it will gradually result in improvement to the condition of vegetation and the health of the wetland. There will be more opportunities for bird and frog spotting and for fishing or yabbing. Plans are also being developed for a new canoe trail which takes advantage of a new permanent water course near the Sturt Highway entrance.

Cultural significance

Helping these wetlands return to their more natural state is important to local Aboriginal groups as the area will look and behave more like it did when their ancestors lived in the region. DEW works closely with the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee to make sure that the work is carried out in a respectful way and that cultural sites are protected.





Please be vigilant at all times during construction and follow the instructions on any temporary signage

- Regulator
- Dredging
- Closed between November and February
- Closed temporarily during construction
- Area closed temporarily during construction

For more information

Email: samdbenquiries@sa.gov.au

call Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin on 08 8580 1800

Visit our website

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin

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This work is part of the Riverine Recovery Project, a joint Australian and South Australian government program



Australian Government



Government of South Australia