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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **An unlikely alliance is working together to bring Cadell wetlands to life**

The wetlands at Cadell will soon be teeming with bird-life thanks to a project that has brought together an unlikely alliance of irrigators, community, two environmental groups and government.

Nature Foundation SA's Chief Executive Officer Hugo Hopton said "It is a wonderful story – we often see these groups in conflict but at Cadell we are all working together to help a dry and struggling wetland."

"Because of the way the river is managed, the lagoon is almost permanently dry when normally it would have received regular natural floods. The last time it was wet was following the high river in December 2016. This project will provide an important drought refuge for waterbirds, providing them with food, roosting and nesting habitat. There will also be benefits for the fringing vegetation."

"The wetland will take some time to be fully restored, but by pumping water into it this year we can give nature a chance to recover and build its resilience ahead of future dry years."

Chair of the Cadell Community Tourism Association Jason Lukacs said "The CCTA is proud and excited to be involved in this project that will soon bring some life back to the wetlands area. It will be wonderful for visitors and locals to be able to see the flora and fauna return to this drought affected area."

Riverland West Landcare hosted two information nights to give the local community an opportunity to learn more about the project. Project Officer Karen Bishop said "It is fantastic to see the Cadell community get behind this watering project. I have personally seen the benefits of environmental watering and I'm looking forward to seeing the response, especially from local wetland bird species."

The water will be pumped into the lagoon using Central Irrigation Trust (CIT) Infrastructure. Chief Executive Officer Gavin McMahon said "CIT is very supportive of this project that will see a great improvement in the local Cadell environment. We are very pleased to be working with local community and environmental groups."

The water will be held in the lagoon for approximately 8-12 weeks. The project will utilise Commonwealth environmental water which is allocated under the Basin Plan, and is expected to start within the next week.

## About Nature Foundation SA:

Over the past 37 years Nature Foundation SA has invested in conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes to ensure nature survives and thrives in our magnificent state. We do this by:

- restoring unique habitats and revitalising damaged ecosystems
- saving threatened species
- revitalising wetlands and floodplains along the River Murray with environmental watering
- working with local communities
- funding conservation research projects
- encouraging environmental education and citizen science
- nature-based tourism and geotourism on our Nature Reserves

## Fast facts:

- Nature Foundation SA has helped protect over 1.1 million hectares of South Australia and is currently working on protecting the next 1.1 million!
- Over 400 post-graduate student grants awarded by Nature Foundation SA continue to yield amazing work and attract wonderful, bright minds to nature science
- Our Water For Nature Program has delivered more than 11 gigalitres of environmental water to help revitalise 80 River Murray wetland and floodplain sites
- We have developed a My Healthy River Toolkit to help private landholders get involved in saving local wetlands and floodplains along the SA River Murray Valley.
- Nature Foundation SA manages six Nature Reserves with significant conservation value. This land protects threatened species, builds wildlife corridors and provides a base from which scientific studies can be undertaken.

For media information, high-res images or to arrange an interview, contact:  
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