

# Focus on boating

GOOLWA – With the dredging of the wharf area at Hector's Jetty in Goolwa for the new public boat mooring facility near completion, the Alexandrina Council are now focusing on the next stage of the project.

The floating pontoons are set to be created, which will provide safe access for small boats as short term mooring spaces.

Council is currently developing concept plans for the mooring facility before lodging a development application within the next two to three months.

The Alexandrina Council is also lobbying the Minister for the River Murray, Karlene Maywald, for the Goolwa lock to be opened prior to the October long weekend, and remain open through until the Easter long weekend in 2010.

Council has written to the minister in regards to this request, but is awaiting a response.

Ultimately council says it would like to see an automated system implemented at the lock, which would permit access to the Coorong all year round.

Council Chief Executive John Coombe explained that this was a view expressed by some business people in the region, and something council agrees would be of benefit.

"We would like to put that suggestions forward (to the state government) to enable some regular use of the locking system," Mr Coombe said of the automated system.

Council believe the boat-mooring

project is a positive step towards rebuilding Goolwa after low water levels has resulted in tough times for the community.

"This project will complement council's plan to revitalise the Goolwa wharf precinct by attracting tourists to an area that previously was inaccessible to smaller recreation boats," Mayor Kym McHugh said.

"The construction of the mooring facility combined with the implementation of the Cadell Street Streetscape Improvement Plan sends a clear message to visitors that Goolwa is alive and well and can provide an attractive tourist destination by focusing on Goolwa's strengths – our relaxed lifestyle, scenic coastlines, magnificent beaches, our historic wharf precinct hosting major tourism events such as the Wooden Boat and Music Festival and access to one of the country's most pristine natural environments – the Coorong."

Chairman of the Wooden Boat and Music Festival, Mike Moseley, says the opening of the lock is something that the boating community are pushing for in a bit to attract boats back to the region.

"Otherwise they are limited to the area up to Clayton," Mr Moseley said.

"If you can get access to the Coorong it would help bring people back to Goolwa."

Mr Moseley said the new public mooring facility was also a drawcard for boat users, and would be a particular help during the Wooden Boat and Music Festivals.