



At the End of the River: The Coorong and Lower Lakes

David Paton

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"The millenium drought brought to the fore the over-allocation of River Murray water over the twentieth century, illustrated by large changes at the lower end of the River. Water levels in Lakes Albert and Alexandrina have fallen dramatically, and without dredging, the Murray Mouth would be closed. Salinities in the North and South Lagoons of the Coorong have risen sharply over just four years, with the extinction or sharp decline in key components of the system. These wetlands are recoverable, but their recovery is reliant on fundamental changes being made to the way Australians manage the River Murray and allocate its water. Environmental requirements need to be considered up front rather than as an after-thought. From his unique perspective, ecologist David Paton AM examines the changes that have occurred in the Coorong and Lower Lakes since European settlement. He summarises research collected over thirty years on the different ecosystems that comprise these wetlands at the end of the River. The book is enriched with personal accounts from twenty contributing authors who share a passion for this part of South Australia through their connection with the environment for recreation, scienti?c pursuit or livelihood.Over 200 magni?cent images depict the Coorong and Lakes in their many guises – from the life beneath the waters to the pelicans soaring high, from the wild ocean beach to the sheltered waters and rocky islands of the lagoons. More than a guide to the region, this book will give you an understanding of the causes of the current crisis and possible solutions. "



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