

River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 3: Tuesday, March 7, 2023



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Message from the Community Recovery Coordinator

Welcome to another edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. The rate of recovery is continuing to gain momentum along the river. Urgent flood waste kerbside collections are underway ahead of a larger coordinated effort which will soon be set in motion by Green Industries SA.

Flood recovery community meetings are continuing, with upcoming meetings to be held in Murray Bridge, Mannum and other impacted areas. These have proven to be highly informative for the local community who are eager to hear the latest news on the process going forward. We're also pursuing live streaming options to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Power reconnections are occurring quickly along the River Murray once properties are deemed safe to re-energise. Work continues to improve road access and mental health services are increasingly in place to assist anyone who needs a helping hand. More information on all of these recovery aspects are outlined in more detail throughout this newsletter.

Primary producers in the Lower Murray region are being consulted on the re-establishment of the levee network and the dewatering process. The appointment of Mr Scott Ashby by the Department for Environment and Water will help ensure each irrigation area can outline their specific needs and unique solutions are offered to address each challenge.

More will no doubt need to be done in the weeks and months ahead but we are working as hard as we can to meet this challenge.

Feel free to contact me directly with any flood-related issues you may have. Your insights are invaluable, providing a clearer picture of reality on the ground.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

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Power reconnection update

As of late last week 474 flood-impacted properties have had their power reconnected. Of the properties still remaining, the greater majority of these customers are flood-affected to the point whereby customers will need to have a private electrician undertake testing or repairs prior to requesting a reconnection.

Residents and contractors are strongly encouraged to take safety precautions when working near power lines. This is particularly necessary during the flood recovery process where power lines may not be fully visible in some areas.

[Working safely near overhead power lines](#)

[Working near utility services](#)

SA Power Networks is continuing to undertake community information hubs for residents eager to learn more about the reconnection process. These meetings are held from 10am to 3pm:

Tuesday, 7 March - Morgan (Morgan Activity Centre, 7 Third Street)

Wednesday, 8 March - Mannum (Mannum Leisure Centre, 51 Adelaide Road)

Thursday, 9 March - Murray Bridge (Local Government Centre, 2 Seventh Street)

Tuesday, 14 March - Renmark (Parklands next to Renmark Club, Murray Avenue)

Wednesday, 15 March - Loxton (Loxton Library & Visitor Centre, 25A East Terrace)

Thursday, 16 March - Waikerie (Waikerie Library & Visitor Centre, 1A Strangman Road)

Tuesday, 21 March - Morgan (Morgan Activity Centre, 7 Third Street)

Wednesday, 22 March - Mannum (Mannum Leisure Centre, 51 Adelaide Road)

Thursday, 23 March - Murray Bridge (Local Government Centre - 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge)

For more information about the reconnection process visit [SAPN's River Murray Flood page](#)

New flood clean-up maps

Green Industries SA have provided updated maps outlining their initial street waste clearance program and participating transfer stations accepting flood-affected materials.

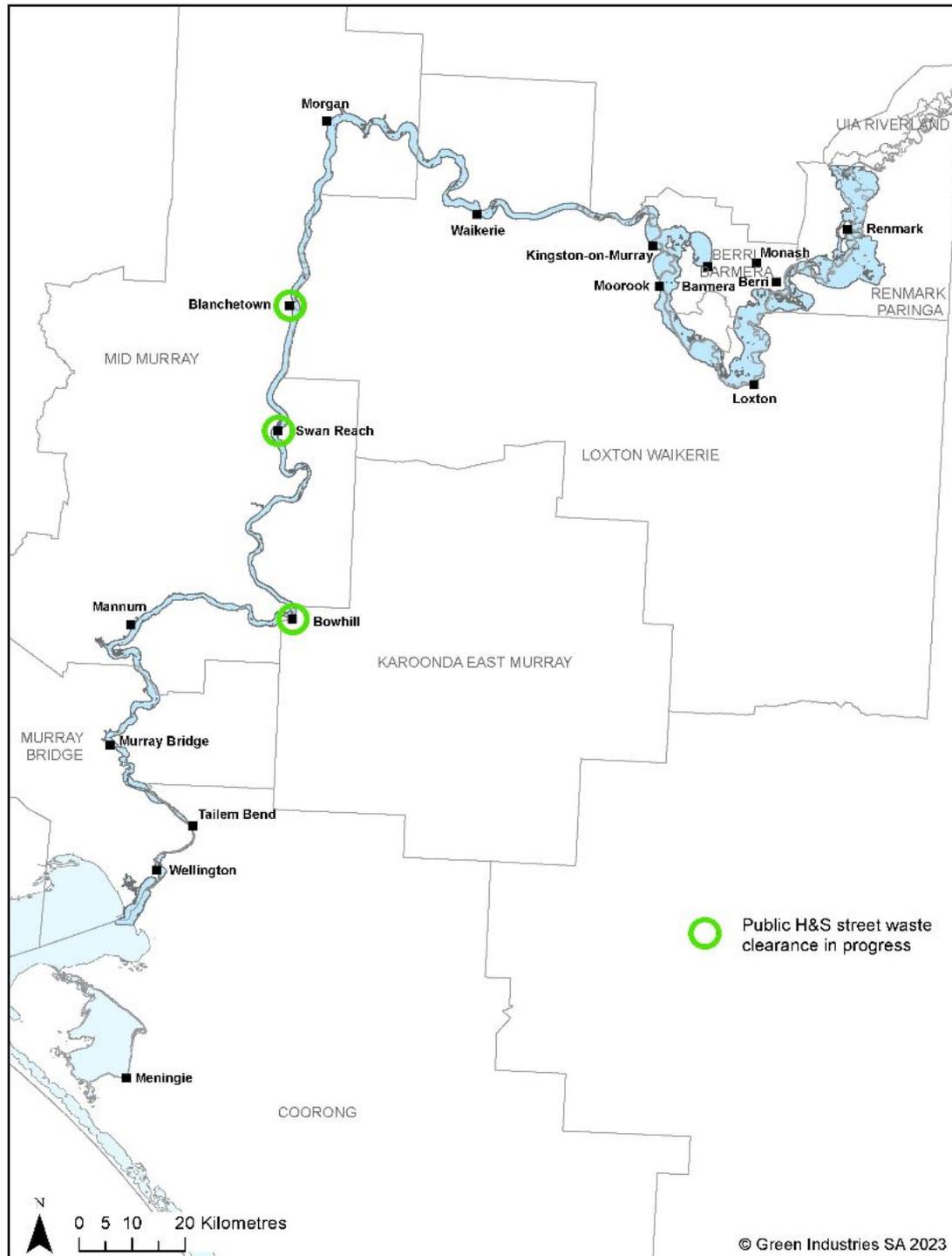
To register for a structural assessment and assistance with clean-up call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787.

For a comprehensive list of participating transfer stations and for more information on the clean-up process visit [Green Industries SA](#).

Public health and safety street waste clearances in progress

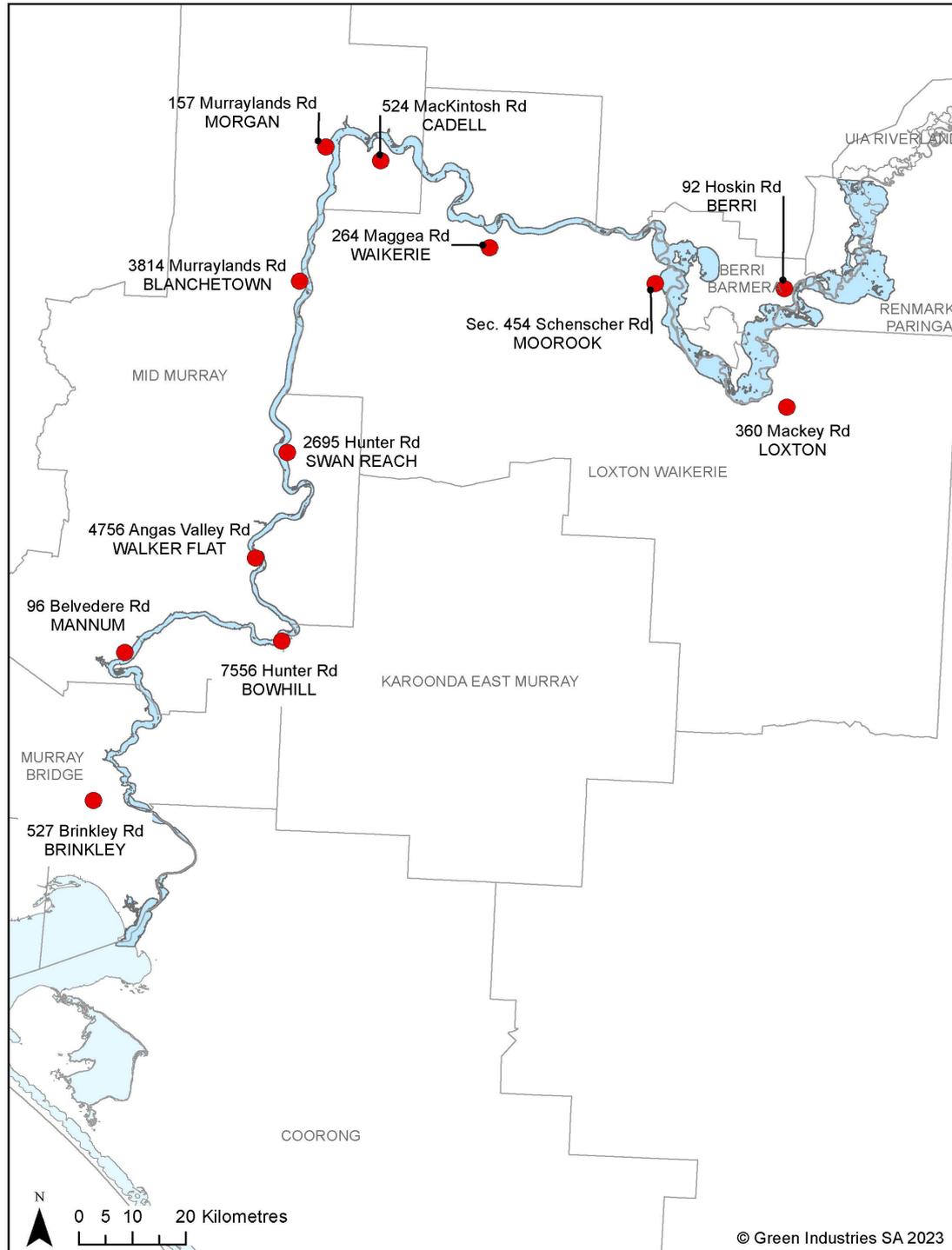


As at 27/02/2023



Transfer stations accepting flood-affected materials

As at 27/02/2023



Flood recovery community meetings

Community Recovery Coordinator Alex Zimmermann, local councils and relevant departments and agencies are continuing their outreach into flood-affected regions by hosting a series of community meetings. Confirmed meetings are outlined below.

Thursday, 9 March - Mannum (Mannum Leisure Centre, 51 Adelaide Road, Mannum) 2pm to 4pm

This meeting will be live streamed and a recording will be made available on the [Mid Murray Council's Facebook page](#).

Thursday, 9 March - Murray Bridge (Town Hall - Performing Arts and Function Centre, 17 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge) 6pm to 8pm

This meeting will be live streamed and a recording will be made available on the [Murray Bridge Performing Arts and Function Centre's YouTube page](#).

Future meetings are currently being organised and local communities will be informed as they are finalised. To view the most up to date community meeting schedule visit sa.gov.au/floods.



A flood recovery community meeting was held in Adelaide last week at Lot Fourteen.

Levee repairs and dewatering in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas

Work on re-establishing the levee network along the River Murray has gathered pace with the process of dewatering impacted agricultural flats from the recent River Murray flood event now underway.

The State Government is working with landholders within the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area (LMRIA) and the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association (SADA) to implement a co-ordinated approach to short-term levee repairs and dewatering of agricultural land impacted by the recent flood event.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is leading the engagement with landholders on agriculture recovery and is working closely

with key industry groups to coordinate the dewatering process.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is working with engineers and landholders to undertake levee assessments and look at what repair solutions may be feasible once on-ground works are possible.

The program will apply to government and privately-owned levees to provide short term support to return inundated areas to production. Program funding will cover the costs of dewatering pumps and relevant operating costs. Operational details will be worked through with each irrigation area to suit the local circumstances.

PIRSA and SADA have identified a small number of irrigation areas that are ready for dewatering while assessment works continue for the remaining areas.

As part of the recovery planning process, State Government representatives also met with key representatives from each irrigation area last week at Murray Bridge to discuss the known repair work required and to provide input.

With flood waters still receding and the unknown nature of levee stabilisation works that may be required, it is too early to determine the timeframe for completion of the dewatering process.

For more information on levees and dewatering view the fact sheets below.

[PIRSA's levee network repairs & dewatering process fact sheet](#)

[Flood dewatering fact sheet](#)



Free school bus for ferry-going Mannum students

A free school bus shuttle service will assist students affected by road closures in Mannum.

The service will allow students on the Cowirra side of the River Murray to complete their journeys to and from Mannum Community College once they disembark from the ferry each school day, until road access to their homes is restored.

The State Government is running a free passenger-only ferry service between Mannum Bowling Club and Edwin Street, Cowirra, to provide Cowirra residents access to and from Mannum until access via Hunter Road is restored.

Following feedback from the ferry service operator regarding students using the service, a free bus service has been organised for Mannum Community College students who have been using the ferry to get to and from school every weekday.

The bus service will help them complete the 1.5 kilometre journey from the Mannum Bowling Club to Mannum Community College.

The bus service will depart the Mannum Bowling Club at 8:30am every morning and Mannum Community College at 3:20pm every afternoon (except Wednesdays, when it will depart at 2:30pm due to early school dismissal).

The passenger-only ferry runs every hour and can seat 20 people on each service, with the crossing taking approximately 15 minutes.



The free bus service will ease transport issues for Mannum students.

Image: Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Easter park access

National Parks and Wildlife staff are working diligently to assess and clean up flood-affected Riverland national parks. The priority work is to enable more access to areas for day visitors, with camping to follow when it's deemed safe to do so.

Tourists are still encouraged to use local accommodation providers and visit parks during the day.

For more information and to keep up to date visit the [Parks SA website](#).

Rainwater tank safety

Rainwater tanks that have been submerged and have large amounts of floodwater inside need to be drained and cleaned to remove contaminated water and sludge. This includes rainwater tanks whose entry points have been submerged.

If you are concerned your tank water may have been contaminated, it should be disinfected before drinking.

For more information visit [SA Health's guide to cleaning rainwater tanks impacted by floodwater](#).

Update from the houseboat sector

With the water receding along the River Murray most of the commercial houseboat operators and managers have been able to access their commercial houseboat mooring areas. Access has been hindered where some inundated roads have had to dry out and be repaired for heavy vehicle access.

The clean-up of riverbanks, marinas, offices, workshops and other facilities is now underway, in some cases with limitations. This is followed by the reinstatement of infrastructure for day to day operations, reconnection of power, fuel tanks, security fencing and so on.

In some instances River Vessel Waste Disposal Stations need to be repaired, have power reconnected and then recommissioned by reinstating equipment, and made operational by the Department for Environment and Water. Berri and Goolwa are now online; Lock 6, Renmark and Blanchetown are expected to be operational in mid-March; Loxton, Morgan and Murray Bridge in late-March; Swan Reach, Walker Flat and Mannum in early April, with Waikerie still to be confirmed.

Operators will be checking traditional mooring locations for hirers and the suitability to tie-up, and checking for submerged debris. Safety is paramount. Each operator will decide when they believe they can re-commence hiring operations. Operators are eager to get underway and recover from the economic impact the flood caused to their businesses. Some are hoping to

start in mid-March, others by Easter and some at a later stage. There is also the need to check on missing kilometre markers and dislodged navigational directional signage along the river.

The SA Government announced last week the “Rise Up For Our River” campaign with three rounds of River Revival Vouchers (\$50, \$100, \$200) being released over the second, third and fourth quarters of this year, to be used for experiences and accommodation on the River Murray, Lakes and Coorong regions. A \$750 houseboat voucher will be introduced in the third and fourth quarters this year for houseboat holidays in the winter and spring periods, when all houseboats will be operational again.

Mid Murray Council's river update

The latest Mid Murray Council High River Update information sheet is now available. This outlines the council's assessment and recovery work timetable and other important information.

[High River Update - Recovery - 3 March 2023](#)

[See previous editions](#)

[Sign up for future updates](#)

New Community Wellbeing Officer for the Murrayands

Sally Harding has been appointed as a Community Wellbeing Officer for flood-impacted communities in the Murraylands. The role is funded by Wellbeing SA to assist community members affected by the flood with mental health and wellbeing support.

“Every recovery experience will be different but the one thing we have in common in this region is a strong community spirit, with people who care about each other.” Sally Harding said.

“Some days will be easier than others, so it is important to know there is always someone willing to listen and offer help. You are not alone.”

Sally Harding will be based at the Mid Murray Council office in Mannum as part of the Community Services team and will work closely with local community groups and the Local Recovery Centre team to identify and promote mental health and wellbeing support initiatives.

To get in contact with Sally email sharding@mid-murray.sa.gov.au or phone [0448 868 459](tel:0448868459)



Dedicated mental health support for flood-affected communities

Residents impacted by the flood event are now able to access a free self-referral support service from Neami's Murray Bridge office.

Neami is a community-based organisation providing services to improve mental health and wellbeing in local communities.

Short-term support or a single session can assist people aged 16 and over whose mental health has been impacted by the floods. Support can also be given to families where there's a young person below the age of 16. This may include help accessing longer-term psychological or other mental health supports, assistance with navigating government and non-government agencies or just having someone to talk to. Medium-term assistance is also available including individual recovery support for people experiencing ongoing mental health issues. The type and amount of support available vary depending on needs.

For more information call 08 8531 2395 or contact murraybridge@neaminational.org.au.

[Neami Flood Relief Support Flyer](#)

Flood-induced vegetation a bushfire risk

AFAC, the National Council for fire and emergency services, has released their Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2023.

The outlook identifies drier than average soil moisture in late autumn for the Murray Darling Basin and other areas, suggesting vegetation growth from high moisture in spring 2022 may be drying out in the first half of 2023, leading to high bushfire fuel loads in some places.

[View the Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Autumn 2023](#)

Bowhill Community Pizza Night

Bowhill flood-affected residents and shack owners are encouraged to attend a free community pizza night at the Bowhill Community Centre.

The event will be held on Saturday, 29 April from 5pm to 9pm. RSVP's are required. More information can be found in the flyer below.

Have a flood recovery community event coming up? Let us know by using the feedback button below and let us spread the word in our upcoming newsletters.

Free COMMUNITY PIZZA NIGHT

for Bowhill Flood Affected Residents + Shack Owners



SAT 29 APRIL

5-9PM

BOWHILL COMMUNITY
CENTRE

\$5 RAFFLE TICKETS
PONDE MEAT PRIZES & YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN SLABS OF BEER

Bowhill Progress Association, Our Town Mid Murray & Wellbeing SA invite Flood Affected Bowhill Property Owners & Residents to a Community Wood Oven Pizza night.

Pizza served from 5-7pm - Alcohol & Soft Drinks Available for Purchase.

RSVP'S REQUIRED  **GO TO BOWHILL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE**



Donate to the State Emergency Relief Fund

The State Emergency Relief Fund has been created to collect and distribute financial donations to help South Australians impacted by the River Murray floods. Donations can be made via credit card, bank transfer or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch.

For more information about the relief fund and to donate [click here](#).

Assist with the recovery effort

[Volunteering SA&NT is taking registrations](#) from people interested in helping River Murray communities recover from flooding.

Volunteer opportunities may include clean-up efforts, transport, administration tasks, building and environment restoration and supporting community organisations.

[Register now](#)

Keep informed

Recovery can be complicated so we're frequently updating our websites to ensure you remain up to date.

Visit sa.gov.au/floods for information on the River Murray flood recovery. You can also view details of upcoming community meetings, subscribe to this newsletter and view previous editions.

Tell us what you think

Please use the link below to let us know what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters.

[Provide your feedback](#)

Missed a newsletter?

Missed a previous edition of the recovery newsletter? Catch up on all the recovery news.

Please share this newsletter with anyone interested in the River Murray flood recovery.

[See previous editions](#)



Support for flood-affected River Murray communities

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