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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 14: Friday, 26 May 2023



In this issue

Message from the Community Recovery Coordinator

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter.

Firstly, I need to just let you know that the Business Levee Embankment Construction Grant applications close very soon. Please, please if you are intending to submit an application, I urge you to get this in before the deadline. For further details, see the first section of this newsletter for all you need to know to apply.

The second round of Pop-up Recovery Centres have been extremely well received and were of great assistance to individuals and communities. A further round is being planned and we will let you know as soon as the dates and locations are set. I appreciate it can be difficult to visit a Recovery Centre for some of you who need to travel large distances so I encourage you to please contact the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787 should you feel their services might be of assistance. See below for the Recovery Centre opening times and locations. The Recovery Centre staff are eager to

hear from you.

Clean-up efforts are continuing with some great results in relation to getting rid of kerb-side waste. Marine assessments are also underway in respect of identifying 'in river' hazards and submerged debris. If you become aware of anything which may pose a marine hazard or safety issue, please report this to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Marine Safety, via the link below in this newsletter.

If you haven't yet registered for clean-up assistance, please contact the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787.

The River Murray flood impacts survey is progressing nicely, and I would like to thank all those who have provided input to the PIRSA River Murray flood survey thus far. It is only through your input that accurate assessments can occur. The more input the better for all.

As always, please be mindful of not only your physical wellbeing but also your emotional and mental wellbeing during this time. The thought of winter looming while you're trying to clean-up may be unsettling for you and I recommend checking in with friends, family, and other community members of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest. If you feel that you are struggling or finding it overwhelming please feel free to contact State Relief and Recovery Infoline and/or the mental health support networks in the [Mental Health Fact Sheet](#) to get some assistance. There are also GP's and local established formal support networks that are more than happy to hear from you. And as always, my team and I are here to assist in any way we can. Please consider this as our personal "Are you okay?" check-in.

Public utilities are continuing to come back online, so communities are slowly beginning to return to normal functionality from that perspective. Whilst we endeavour to keep you informed of these you can also visit your local council website for further information.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you need further information or be linked to someone who can assist with issues you may be confronting.

For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, visit sa.gov.au/floods, visit a [Recovery Centre](#), or contact either Deb Richardson or myself. I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.



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Community Recovery Coordinator

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Business Levee Embankment Construction Grants - closing soon!

When Applications for the **Business Levee Embankment Construction Grants** or for the *Business Levee Embankment Engineering Support Grants* will be accepted up to 31 May 2023. The grants are available for works that commenced from 1 October 2022 and completed by 31 January 2023. For further information on the grants and how to apply please visit the [Department for Environment and Water website](#).

A graphic for a grant application. It features a dark teal background with a light blue semi-circle at the top. The text 'River Murray Flood' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font within the semi-circle. Below the semi-circle, the text 'Generator Grant' is written in a larger white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'Applications close Wednesday, 31 May' is written in a yellow, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are two logos: the Office for Small & Family Business logo on the left and the Government of South Australia logo on the right.

**River
Murray
Flood**

Generator Grant

**Applications close
Wednesday, 31 May**

 Office for
Small & Family
Business


Government
of South Australia

Power Shut-Off Generator Grant closing soon

River Murray Power Shut-Off Generator Grant closes soon! If you purchased a generator for your household or business during the River Murray flood due to a notified power outage, and you have proof of purchase, you can still apply for reimbursement before 31 May 2023:

<https://business.sa.gov.au/floods/generator-grant>



Houseboats set to cruise again...

As part of ongoing tourism recovery activities, the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) is soon to launch round two of the River Revival Vouchers.

Round one of the River Revival Vouchers created a direct economic injection of \$1.8 million into the river regions in bookings value alone. The wider economic impact (which incorporates what voucher holder visitors will spend on other things while they are in region such as meals, retail, petrol, experiences, etc) is expected to be substantially more. In total, 84 of the 93 operators in the program received at least one booking.

The SATC held two operator workshops in Renmark and Murray Bridge, met

with industry representatives and surveyed consumers as part of the review of round one, and is now in the final stages of confirming the details for the next round, which for the first time will include a \$750 houseboat voucher.

Once launched, more information will be available at southaustralia.com/voucher.



Foundation SA's Disaster Recovery Grants remain open

Applications for Foundation SA's Disaster Recovery Grants remain open, offering South Australian-based non-profit organisations up to \$10,000 to support community-led recovery initiatives in the Riverland and Murraylands areas.

The South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund was developed by Foundation SA as a disaster response for non-profit organisations working in impacted regions.

Foundation SA activated the fund to gather donations and support flood-impacted communities.

Thanks to the generous support of four South Australian philanthropic foundations and the general public more than \$75,000 for these grants has been raised so far.

Who is eligible to apply?

All local South Australian community organisations, non-profits and local councils working in flood-impacted communities across the following LGA's are invited to apply:

Alexandrina
Berri Barmera
Coorong
Karoonda East Murray
Loxton Waikerie
Mid Murray
Murray Bridge
Renmark Paringa

Applicants do not require DGR 1 status, however organisations must prove charitable purpose, ideally through registration with The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

How much funding is available and when do applications close?

Grants will be offered between \$5,000 to \$10,000 depending on the nature of the proposed project.

Foundation SA understand not all organisations are ready to apply for funding. Applications will remain open until all funds are expended. Foundation SA encourage you to apply when you are ready. Applications will be assessed as they are submitted.

Grants will be offered for projects in two focus areas

Community Recovery

Grants to support the delivery of programs, initiatives and events that bring people together, enhance community resilience and support local needs throughout the long-term recovery efforts; and programs that build preparedness for future disasters.

Environmental Recovery

Foundation SA will fund projects that aim to restore natural environments and leverage positive environmental outcomes the floods have presented, such as native flora and fauna restoration and recovery projects, cultural site protection measures and research and education for future resilience and preparedness.

[For more information and to apply click here.](#)

Riverlands & Murraylands mental health support

When a disaster happens, it is common to feel stress and grief. Some people will recover without formal help, and others might need some extra support to help get things back on track. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, reach out to local services that can provide mental health and wellbeing support – they're here to help.

Click here to view the [Riverlands and Murraylands mental health support fact sheet](#) where you will find all the relevant contact information for each service and provider.

Floods and Drought - Simplified by the CSIRO

Sometimes the weather can be all too confusing. Have you ever wished for a simple explanation of what influences rainfall, flooding, drought and heatwaves? One of our team came across this [quick article by the CSIRO](#) and thought it might be useful for understanding some climate events and how they can influence weather patterns that we experience.

We hope you find it interesting and useful.

A message from Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia

The SA Flood Waste Clean-up program is adapting to the changing nature of the flood recovery, addressing fluctuations in demand and prioritising assessments to meet the ongoing needs of the community. With reduced demand for kerbside collection, DMA has shifted its primary focus to conducting site assessments while also continuing the collection of flood-affected waste and sandbags. To date, DMA has completed over 270 assessments and disposed of more than 1,453 tonnes of waste. Property work for registered individuals will commence in the coming weeks, supported by volunteers from Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) for eligible cases.

In the past week, the program has transitioned from kerbside clean-up to prioritising site assessments. DMA has reached out to all registrants, and our understanding of their support needs is evolving as the recovery progresses. Over 270 assessments have been completed so far, with ongoing assessments still in progress. The amount of kerbside waste has significantly reduced, enabling us to schedule work more efficiently and precisely.

Our assessment teams are diligently conducting site visits and assessments, making good progress. We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation during this critical phase. If you haven't received a scheduled assessment yet, we are actively contacting registrants to arrange a suitable time. If you would like an update on your assessment, please contact DMA using the provided number.

Kerbside collection activities have been scaled back due to decreased demand. We kindly request the community to continue placing their flood-affected waste on the kerb or roadside. In cases where this is not feasible, we can arrange an extended kerbside collection, which requires registrant approval and will be scheduled alongside other works. Registrants will receive schedule updates through this newsletter, the [GISA website flood clean-up map](#), and SMS messages.

Shoulder remediation works in Bowhill have been completed as a result of

kerbside collection activities, and the feedback from residents has been positive. We will continue monitoring any impacts of kerbside collection and schedule remediation work accordingly.

Sandbag collection is ongoing, and all registered individuals have been scheduled for standalone collection, separate from the kerbside collection. If you haven't been contacted for sandbag collection but would like to utilize this service, please contact DMA using the provided number.

DRA will deploy to the Riverland on Monday 29 May 2023. Work will begin later the same week. DMA has worked closely with the Recovery Centres and Officers to escalate people who have registered for assistance. This has been incorporated into DRA's planning.

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) will be in the area for minimum of four weeks to assist the community. With a volunteer base of more than 2000, DRA was founded in 2016 and is a veteran-led non-profit volunteer organisation that unites the skills and experiences of Australian Defence Force veterans, emergency responders and civilians to deploy disaster relief teams in Australia and around the world.

For more information about Disaster Relief Australia, you can visit www.disasterreliefaus.org

Kerb-side collection schedule

This schedule is as accurate as possible and seeks to meet the demand of a dynamic waste collection requirement and is subject to change based on workload. DMA is coordinating the collection of all eligible flood-affected waste in the following areas:

Monday, 29 May 2023

Morphetts Flat Road
Paisley – Hunter Road
Swan Reach – Victoria Street
Walker Flat – Rob Loxton Road, Bond Street,
Lakeside Drive

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

Brenda Park
Walker Flat – Rob Loxton Road, Bond Street,
Lakeside Drive

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

Brenda Park
Caurnamont – Purnong Road

**Thursday, 01 June
2023**

Brenda Park
Nildotti – Kruoens Landing Road, Shack Front
Road
Bowhill – Providence Drive

If you have not yet registered your property and would like assistance, please register with GISA on 1800 302 787 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. If you have already registered and wish to discuss your case, please contact DMA on 1800 418 491.

PIRSA/DEW and River Waste

As water levels recede, The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is recommissioning each waste disposal station when it is deemed safe and possible to do so. The recommissioning process includes regaining safe access to the site, inspecting the infrastructure for any damage, repairing any damaged infrastructure, reinstating equipment, and reconnecting and testing services.

The following river vessel waste disposal stations are now operational:

- Swan Reach
- Renmark
- Loxton
- Berri
- Waikerie
- Morgan
- Blanchetown
- Walker Flat
- Goolwa.

The Lock 6, Mannum and Murray Bridge stations have been assessed for damage, and repair works are underway. Based on assessments and works completed to date, indicative timeframes for recommissioning Lock 6 is late May 2023*. Confirmation of the others will be provided as soon as possible.

**These times may be subject to change dependent on factors outside DEW's control including, SA Power Networks, removal of adjacent temporary levee banks (where applicable), and safe road access.*

Until the river vessel waste disposal stations can be recommissioned, commercial options remain available for businesses to utilise temporarily, at the houseboat owners or operators' expense.

Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Program Expansion

Eligibility for the Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) vaccine has been expanded in South Australia.

The expansion removes the requirement to be outdoors for four hours on most days for people living or engaging in outdoor flood recovery (clean-up) efforts in eligible high-risk areas adjacent to the River Murray.

This expansion criteria brings South Australia in line with Victoria and New South Wales, and includes those who:

- regularly spend time outdoors placing them at risk of mosquito bites, or
- are experiencing homelessness, or
- are living in conditions with limited mosquito protection (e.g. tents, caravans, dwellings with no insect screens), or
- are engaging in outdoor flood recovery (clean-up) efforts, including repeated professional or volunteer deployments.

It follows an expansion in December, in which the vaccine became available to shack owners who have, or were expecting to have, their holiday property flooded.

Eligible emergency services workers supporting the Riverland community were also included in that expansion.

Since the targeted JEV vaccination program began in October last year, almost 23,800 JEV vaccinations have been administered in South Australia. The vaccine continues to be available at participating local pharmacies and GPs.

The increased eligibility comes as 9,000 extra vaccines are available to SA Health with limited stock nationally.

People are encouraged to book their vaccination now.

Nine people in South Australia acquired JEV in South Australia last year – with all cases hospitalised and sadly two deaths. There have been no cases reported this year to date.

For more information about JEV, eligibility, and where to get vaccinated please follow the link below:

[Japanese encephalitis virus \(JEV\) vaccine | SA Health](#)

★ ★ ★ ★ AT HOME OR ON HOLIDAY ★ ★ ★ ★

★ FIGHT *the* BITE ★

PROTECT YOURSELF *against* **DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES**

★ COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE. ★

WEAR LONG, LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING.

USE INSECT REPELLENT.

ELIMINATE THE WATER THEY BREED IN.

Mosquitoes spread serious and potentially even deadly diseases when they bite. For more important information on how you can Fight the Bite, contact your local council or visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite

Government of South Australia
SA Health

Marine safety hazard reporting

As the water subsides, people are back on the water, and clean-ups begin, you may notice some substantial debris either in the water or submerged. If you do, and believe it to be a safety hazard created, please do not hesitate in reporting it. The most effective method to do this is via the Report a marine safety concern link (listed below). This will ensure that the report is the appropriate place to have it assessed and dealt with as necessary.

[SA.GOV.AU - Report a marine safety concern \(www.sa.gov.au\)](http://SA.GOV.AU - Report a marine safety concern (www.sa.gov.au))

DEW & PIRSA's flood recovery newsletter

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to provide regular updates through their flood recovery newsletter.

The newsletter provides information on flood recovery activities undertaken by the two departments, including the dewatering process and levee assessment and stabilisation. Key flood recovery contacts are also provided.

[Click here](#) for more information and to view the latest newsletter updates.

DEW River Murray newsletter

Subscribe to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) River Murray SA monthly e-newsletter to help keep you updated on the latest environmental projects, opportunities and events for industry and community in the River Murray area.

For more information and to subscribe [click here](#).

Community Justice newsletter

Community Justice is a registered charity providing free legal advice on Family, Criminal and Civil law matters to everyone in our catchment areas, regardless of their income or assets.

As a trusted community legal service for the past 40 years, we understand the importance of empowering the community with up-to-date information about the law, their legal rights and importantly, where to get free legal help and information when you need it.

Our new Community Justice E-News aims to provide:

- regular updates on our programs and initiatives
- information about upcoming events and free community legal education
- up to date legal information and resources
- latest news and announcements

We look forward to connecting with you!

For more information about [Community Justice](#), [please click here](#).

Visit a Recovery Centre

Recovery centres are operating in Mannum and Murray Bridge, with recovery services also available at the Berri Housing SA office. A range of agencies are available through these centres including Disaster Ministries, Services

Australia, Good Shepherd, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS).

In addition, another round of pop-up recovery centres are continuing. Have a chat with a friendly Recovery Officer who can help with:

- Access to recovery information and referrals
- Quick and easy grant assessments
- Well-being check-ins and referral if needed
- GISA clean-up registrations and assistance with follow up
- Access to clean up suits, paint brushes and cleaning products
- A friendly ear to talk to
- Assistance with recovery grant applications

Berri

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
Housing SA office
[29 Vaughan Terrace, Berri](#)

Mannum

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
9:30am to 4:30pm
Mannum Institute
[47 Randell Street, Mannum](#)

Murray Bridge

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
[28 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge](#)



Recovery Centre welcomes Tim Heffernan

Hi, I'm Tim Heffernan, a dedicated recovery officer committed to helping people rebuild their lives after the Murray River Flood.

With a background in various community organizations and a deep passion for helping others, I'm proud to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Over the past decade, I've gained valuable experience working in government departments such as Housing SA and Disability SA, allowing me to develop strong communication and problem-solving skills that I now use to assist flood-affected people. As a Recovery Officer, it is a humbling experience to be given the opportunity to contribute towards their recovery and see the positive impact.

In my personal life, I am happily married, and my incredible wife brings balance and support to my life. Despite the daily commute from Adelaide to Murray Bridge and back being tiring, I'm fortunate to have a family that understands my passion for helping others. They recognize the importance of my work as a recovery officer and continuously encourage me in my efforts to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the Murray River Flood. Their unwavering support and love fuel my dedication to serving the community.

Fun fact: I'm an avid reader, writer, and fan of radio theatre. My love for radio drama led me to work with a Foley Artist (sound fx technician), where I ended up contributing my shopping bags for sound effects in a Denzel Washington movie. This quirky and ridiculous brush with Hollywood is a fun memory that still brings a smile.

Flood recovery health fact sheets

SA Health has developed a series of fact sheets to assist flood-affected communities recover from the River Murray flood event. These fact sheets cover a range of topics including managing flies after flooding, dealing with mould and snake bite first aid advice.

For more information and to view these fact sheets [click here](#).

Keep informed

Recovery can be complicated so we are frequently updating our website 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.



Government of
South Australia

Helping flood-affected River Murray communities recover

 **1800 302 787**
State Relief and Recovery Infoline

 **sa.gov.au/floods**
Latest recovery information,
financial assistance and support



For clean-up information and assistance,
call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787

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](#)

[Sign up for future newsletters](#)

 [Share this newsletter](#)





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Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

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