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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 5: Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Image: Grant Schwartzkopff



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Message from the Community Recovery Coordinator

Welcome to another edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. The latest flood recovery community meeting will be held in Milang tonight. This will be our tenth meeting since we began a month ago. All members of the public are welcome to attend and I encourage anyone interested in these meetings to visit sa.gov.au/floods for the latest schedule.

Road users will be pleased to hear that all State Government flood-impacted roads are now open. Tyranny of distance can be a pain point for river communities, so the opening of these major thoroughfares will provide much needed relief for all. On the river the iconic Murray Princess has returned to cruising for the first time in months. Flood-affected communities can be comforted by these positive updates as a sign that life is returning to normal up and down the river.

Flood recovery community events are a great opportunity for locals to come together and bond over what has been a difficult yet historic event. I am more than happy to attend these events in an informal manner where possible. Feel free to get in touch with the details and we would also be happy to promote these events in future newsletters.

Speaking of newsletters, The Department for Environment and Water and The Department of Primary Industries and Regions have created a joint flood recovery newsletter. Regular updates will be provided from the two agencies, providing a key recovery resource in the weeks and months ahead. To view the latest information [click here](#).

A recovery effort of this scale comes with a significant amount of information and it can be difficult to process at times. If you need assistance or advice on your situation I am just a phone call away. I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter and I look forward to seeing some of you tonight in Milang.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

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Large scale clean-up details

[Green Industries SA \(GISA\)](#) is in the process of finalising the details of the large scale flood clean-up support. This support will include removal of all debris and flood-affected materials across the River Murray region and structural assessments of properties.

Assessments will look at the safety of the structure and hazards like asbestos and mould. The assessment will belong to the property owner, and it's up to the owner to decide who to share that assessment with.

No one wants to demolish a property that doesn't need to be demolished. GISA's focus is to clean up the debris and get the River Murray region back to business as usual.

If you haven't already registered with GISA or don't know your client ID call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787 for more information.

SA Power Networks update

As of Wednesday, 22 March SA Power Networks (SAPN) have reconnected 842 flood-impacted properties.

99% of properties are currently being reconnected within five business days once they are deemed safe for reconnection.

Meanwhile, SAPN are reiterating the need to keep safe when returning to River Murray properties or visiting flood-affected areas.

People in flood-affected areas are asked to exercise caution when working and operating machinery around energised powerlines.

The safety call comes as River Murray communities anticipate an influx of visitors over the upcoming Easter holiday period.

SAPN have also advised there is no longer a requirement to hold community information hubs at locations along the River Murray due to decreasing community need.

To remain informed about power to your property [sign up for SAPN email and SMS notifications](#).

For more information visit the [SAPN website](#).

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 community meetings.

Agencies and departments that have and will continue to feature in community meetings include Green Industries SA, SA Power Networks and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

Confirmed future meetings are outlined below.

Wednesday, 22 March - Milang (Marine Search and Rescue Squadron Club,

Woodrow Drive) 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, 5 April - Meningie (Meningie Bowling Club) 6pm to 8pm

Thursday, 13 April - Pompoota (Pompoota Hall, 373 Billabong Road) 1pm to 3pm

***Tuesday, 18 April - Adelaide** (Norwood Town Hall, 175 The Parade, Norwood) 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**This meeting will be live streamed. Live stream details will be made available on sa.gov.au/floods and through this newsletter closer to the event.*

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.

All flood-impacted State Government roads now open

The flood-affected section of Hunter Road, west of Burdett Road in Cowirra, reopened to all vehicles with a 40km/h speed restriction over the weekend, following the completion of temporary repairs.

Normal service has resumed on the Mannum downstream and upstream ferries, without vehicle weight restrictions.

The temporary additional passenger-only ferry service running between Cowirra and Mannum is no longer needed and was also closed over the weekend.

Immediate works to repair the sections of Hunter Road that had washed away to considerable depth, west of Burdett Road, have now been substantially completed. Road assessments have also been completed.

While Hunter Road has been reopened to all vehicles, a 40km/h speed restriction will remain in place while works continue to rebuild the edge of the road formation. These works are expected to be completed by the end of April.

The reopening of Hunter Road, west of Burdett Road, marks a milestone in the River Murray flood recovery effort. It is the first time since November 2022 that all 12 State Government-managed roads impacted by the flood event have reopened.

While speed restrictions remain in place on Kingston Road, Morgan Road, Stott Highway, Angas Valley Road, Hunter Road, Burdett Road and Ferry Road, the Department of Infrastructure and Transport is undertaking pavement testing and repair works to allow restrictions to be lifted as soon as possible.

Oversize/overmass restrictions remain in place on Bookpurnong and Kingston Roads, while Ferry Road is restricted to light vehicles only.

Some local government roads remain closed, with updates being provided by the relevant local councils.

Road users are reminded to comply with all road signage and always drive to the conditions, with speed restrictions in place. Please continue to be mindful of other motorists and staff on site.

Attention has now turned to longer term repairs and reconstruction activities. The Department continues to work closely with local councils, and emergency and essential services to ensure a coordinated approach to activities.

Planning to identify potential longer term works to improve the resilience of the impacted transport network has also commenced.

Three tonne load limits in Murray Bridge council area

Three tonne load limits are being implemented on many flood-affected roads in the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council area, as the council begins reopening thoroughfares as part of their flood recovery plan.

While some roads remain partially submerged, many other previously inundated roads in the area have re-emerged, been inspected, repaired and can now be cautiously reopened with weight limits in place.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge Chief Executive Officer Michael Sedgman urged drivers to pay attention to updated signage and respect traffic load limits.

“We understand people are eager to access roads that have been unavailable for some time due to the River Murray flood, and we are working hard to restore access as quickly and safely as possible” he said.

“We don’t want to keep any roads closed longer than is absolutely necessary, but the safety of people remains our top priority and protecting council roads from unnecessary degradation as conditions dry out and the environment settles is important.”

Mr Sedgman explained when roads are submerged in floodwater the pavement and road base becomes soft, and once water is no longer visible on road surfaces ground water can keep the roads vulnerable for some time.

“All flood-impacted roads need to dry out to a certain extent before debris can be cleaned off and safety inspections can be undertaken by qualified experts,” he said.

“Once any road failures are repaired, heavy machinery is used to proof roll the roads and load limits are implemented if necessary.

“If too much weight is put on those roads too early it can cause further damage and become a more expensive exercise for council in the long run.”

Mr Sedgman said some roads with extensive damage, such as sections of Long Flat Road in Murray Bridge, would remain closed for some time.

As more roads and reserves reopen during the flood recovery period, a full list of council services and facilities impacted is updated on [The Rural City of](#)

[Murray Bridge website](#) and updates will be posted to the [Council's Facebook page](#).

Status of River Vessel Waste Disposal Stations

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

As at Wednesday, 15 March 2023 the following river vessel waste disposal stations are online and operational:

- Loxton
- Berri
- Goolwa

The Waikerie river vessel waste disposal station came online on Wednesday, 22 March 2023.

The other stations have been initially assessed for damage and repair works required. Based on initial assessments, indicative timeframes for recommissioning of the remaining stations are as follows:

Blanchetown, Renmark	Mid to late March 2023*
Morgan, Swan Reach	Late March 2023*
Walker Flat, Mannum	Early April 2023*
Lock 6	Mid to late April 2023*
Murray Bridge	TBC

**These times may be subject to change dependent on further damage being identified, reconnection to services etc. Updates will be provided as further information becomes available.*

Final commissioning of the river vessel waste disposal stations is dependent on a number of 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 houseboat owners and operators' expense while the disposal stations are closed.

The Lock 3 river vessel waste disposal station has been out of commission since January 2020 due to a significant infrastructure failure.

If you have any questions, please contact the DEW Engagement Team at DEW.WIOCommunications@sa.gov.au

Flood support information sessions for small and family business

The Office for Small and Family Business will be visiting River Murray communities on Friday, 31 March and Monday, 3 April.

Information sessions will be held about the South Australian Government's support for small businesses affected by the River Murray flood.

Details will be provided on the support services available to flood-impacted small businesses, including financial counselling and grant funding programs.

Counsellors from Rural Business Support (RBS) will be in attendance and you'll have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers in an open Q&A format, as well as conduct one on one conversations about your individual circumstances.

Capacity is limited so please register your interest via the links below.

Mannum

Friday, 31 March
Mannum Motel
76 Cliff Street, Mannum
2pm to 3.30pm
[Register](#)

Murray Bridge

Friday, 31 March
Bridgeport Hotel
2 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge
5.30pm to 7pm
[Register](#)

Blanchetown

Monday, 3 April
Blanchetown Hotel
1 Egerton Street, Blanchetown
2pm to 3.30pm
[Register](#)

Renmark

Monday, 3 April
Renmark Hotel

Murray Avenue, Renmark

5:30pm to 7pm

[Register](#)

Murray Princess cruises return

The Murray Princess returned to cruising late last week after being moored in Mannum for the past four months.

Renowned for being the largest inland paddle wheeler in the southern hemisphere, The Murray Princess returned to the open waters on Friday 17 March, marking a major flood recovery milestone.

To celebrate the return, The Murray Princess will host additional departures in May, June and July 2023.

For more information visit the [Murray Princess website](#).

First River Revival Voucher ballot set to open

Help revive our river communities by entering the ballot for a chance to win a River Revival Voucher to spend on accommodation, houseboats and tours in South Australia's Murray River regions.

The promotion starts on Monday, 27 March at 9am and ends on Wednesday, 29 March at 10pm.

Prize vouchers can be redeemed between Thursday, 30 March and Friday, 28 April.

The travel period for bookings opens Friday, 31 March and closes on Thursday, 29 June.

For more information and to enter the ballot visit southaustralia.com/voucher.

DEW & PIRSA's flood recovery newsletter

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and PIRSA have developed a flood recovery update 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 from DEW and PIRSA are also provided.

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

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 - 17 March 2023](#)

[**See previous editions**](#)

[**Sign up for future updates**](#)

★ ★ ★ ★ 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

Visit a Recovery Centre

Recovery centres are operating in Mannum and Murray Bridge, with recovery services also available at the Berri Housing SA office. These centres can assist with:

- Accessing a number of grants, including private rental assistance and emergency accommodation
- Psychosocial support
- Support for primary producers

- Financial counselling
- Legal services
- Community outreach

A range of agencies are available through these centres including Australian Red Cross SA, Disaster Ministries, Services Australia, Good Shepherd, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions and the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science.

Berri

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

Mannum

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
9am to 5pm
Mannum Institute
[47 Randell Street, Mannum](#)

Murray Bridge

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

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](#).

New Foundation SA flood recovery fund

Foundation SA's South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund is now live.

Foundation SA are working with communities to identify immediate and long-term flood recovery needs.

Donations will be pooled with philanthropic gifts to generate a series of grants that will support on the ground community-led recovery activities.

South Australian community organisations and non-profits working in flood-

impacted communities will be invited to apply for grant funding to support the delivery of programs, activities and events that bring people together, enhance community resilience and support local needs throughout the long-term recovery efforts.

For more information on Foundation SA's South Australian Disaster Recovery Fund [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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