

# River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 7: Thursday, 6 April 2023

## LEVEES

**4 KNOT SPEED LIMIT - WITHIN 250 METRES  
OF AN ENGAGED LEVEE**

**NO VESSEL TO BE MOORED, ANCHORED,  
ATTACHED OR SECURED TO A LEVEE BANK**

*Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*

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## Message from the Community Recovery Coordinator

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Newsletter. We're all looking forward to the Easter long weekend and with that comes an influx of visitors to the River Murray region. This will provide a welcome boost to flood-affected communities, but it's important to remain safe on the river. Please heed the safety messages included in this newsletter so we can all have an enjoyable and restful break and ensure we're not damaging levees and other infrastructure.

Trades and businesses along the river are being encouraged to register their interest in working with the clean-up contractor, Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia. Local knowledge and expertise will be vital in the large scale clean-up effort, so I encourage anyone interested to [register here](#).

Pop-up recovery centres have been confirmed for Morgan, Blanchetown, Swan Reach and Bowhill later this month (see article in this newsletter for details). Local residents and nearby community members are encouraged to attend these pop-up centres and access the many support and recovery services available to you. Ongoing recovery centres continue to operate in Berri, Mannum and Murray Bridge.

Open spaces and services continue to regularly be restored to flood-affected areas, from riverfront reserves to sewer systems. We will continue working to make sure our River Murray communities recover as quickly as possible.

We plan on releasing our community recovery plan survey next week. All survey responses will be considered when formulating your community recovery plan, a key document intended to identify what can be done to improve local flood resilience and life on the ground. More details will be made available after Easter and I encourage you to have your say.

Please enjoy this week's newsletter. Our aim is to keep you well informed about the recovery effort on a regular basis. If there is something you wish to see in future editions, or improvements we can make, please do not hesitate to provide your feedback via the link below. Enjoy the Easter break, stay safe and know that we are here to help.



## **Alex Zimmermann**

Community Recovery Coordinator

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

[alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au](mailto:alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au)

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### **Marine safety over Easter**

Marine Safety Officers will have an increased presence on the River Murray and other areas this Easter long weekend, as holidaymakers are urged to take care on the water.

An expected surge in visitors to these popular holiday spots, and the forecasted windy weather, has prompted warnings to all boaties to ensure they are equipped with the most appropriate safety tools.

Though the River Murray is returning to regular levels, boaties are reminded to take care on the water as conditions may have changed, including the potential for hazards and debris to create additional risks for water skiers.

Boat operators are also reminded to observe the four-knot speed restrictions in place within 50 metres of a person in the water or on an unpowered vessel such as a canoe, kayak or paddleboard.

A four-knot speed restriction, commonly referred to as a fast-walking speed, applies within 30 metres of another vessel that may be adversely impacted by wash, within 50 metres of a person in the water and 100 metres within a ferry crossing.

Where there is no speed limit, the skipper must always travel at a safe speed.

The importance of a properly fitted lifejacket is critical for all boaties and their passengers, including children.

Lifejackets are rated either Level 150, Level 100, Level 50, or Level 50S, based on how much buoyancy they provide.

Wearing a lifejacket is compulsory on all unpowered vessels, on vessels that are 4.8 metres or under in length and on jet skis and other personal watercraft.

To protect damaged levees as a result of the flood event between Mannum and Wellington, a four-knot speed limit applies to all vessels operating with 250 metres of any engaged levee.

Vessels must not be moored or secured in any way to an engaged levee, and mariners are advised to navigate the area with caution.

Everyone on the water has a responsibility to make sure all boaties get home safe.

To report navigational hazards and marine safety concerns or non-compliance, visit [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)).

For more safety information and advice visit [Marine Safety SA](http://Marine Safety SA).



Government of South Australia  
Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

# Boat safely on the river this Easter



## Conditions may have changed since the flood event

-  Watch out for submerged debris and hazards on the water
-  Keep 100 metres clear directly behind people being towed by another boat
-  Wear a lifejacket
-  Reduce your speed around the riverbank
-  4-knots within 50 metres of swimmers and unpowered paddlecraft such as a canoe, kayak or paddleboard
-  4-knots within 30 metres of any other vessel that may be affected by your wash

**Marine Safety Advice**



[marinesafety.sa.gov.au/river](http://marinesafety.sa.gov.au/river)

At 1:50pm on Friday, 31 March 2023, the Emergency Services (Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas) Direction 2023 was revoked.

There are no longer restrictions in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas enforced by the Emergency Services (Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas) Direction 2023.

The Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area refers to the floodplain of the River Murray between the townships of Mannum and Wellington reclaimed for agriculture and animal husbandry irrigated from the River Murray.

Regulations, restrictions and requirements prior to the River Murray flood event continue to apply.

As aforementioned, to protect damaged levees as a result of the flood event between Mannum and Wellington, a four-knot speed limit applies to all vessels operating with 250 metres of any engaged levee.

Vessels must not be moored or secured in any way to an engaged levee, and mariners are advised to navigate the area with caution.

To report navigational hazards and marine safety concerns or non-compliance, visit [SA.GOV.AU - Report a marine safety concern \(www.sa.gov.au\)](http://www.sa.gov.au).

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## Community temporary toilet request

The State Government is currently providing temporary toilet facilities in various sites along the River Murray. While tourists will use these, they are primarily for residents who have not had their normal facilities reconnected at this stage. **We ask that you do not move these** as they are positioned to address community needs and have been organised with local councils. If you need to discuss placement of temporary toilets please call your local council or contact Logistics Manager, Marcus Turner on 0428 571 907.

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## Green Industries SA forward clean-up schedule

Green Industries SA (GISA) has provided their latest forward clean-up schedule. Health and safety street waste clearances will pause over the Easter long weekend and resume on Tuesday, 11 April. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy at the time of publication, however the forward schedule may be subject to change. For more information on the flood clean-up visit [GISA's website](#).

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**Easter Long Weekend**

No kerbside collections

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**Tuesday, 11 April**

South Punyelroo, Caurnamont,  
Brenda Park, Old Murbko Road

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**Wednesday, 12 April**

South Punyelroo, Big Bend Landing,  
Brenda Park, Old Murbko Road,  
Pellaring Lane

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**Thursday, 13 April**

South Punyelroo, Big Bend Landing,  
Brenda Park, Old Murbko Road,  
Pellaring Lane

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**Friday, 14 April**

South Punyelroo, Big Bend Landing,  
Brenda Park, Old Murbko Road,  
Pellaring Lane & Cowirra

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**Saturday, 15 April**

Caurnamont, Purnong

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## **Flood clean-up trade registrations now open**

Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia (DMA), the contractor appointed to coordinate the River Murray flood clean-up, will be engaging local contractors to assist with increased kerbside collections, along with free asbestos, sandbag and mud removal.

Local trades and businesses of all sizes are encouraged to register their interest with DMA. For more information and to register [click here](#).

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## **Electricity reconnections continue**

SA Power Networks has additional people deployed along the River Murray over the next few weeks to reconnect power for customers.

While it is acknowledged reconnection is unfortunately a long way off for some customers who have suffered significant inundation damage, more than 1,300 properties have now been reconnected.

Almost 90% of the network transformers disconnected along the river have been reconnected, meaning supply is available to the kerb.

Property owners are reminded that you need to lodge a reconnection request

via your retailer and if you have suffered any water inundation you will need an electrician to confirm power can be reconnected safely.

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## Flood recovery community meetings

Local councils and relevant departments and agencies will join Community Recovery Coordinator Alex Zimmermann at the flood recovery community meetings listed below.

These meetings are open to the general public and are an opportunity to hear first hand the latest information on the flood recovery.

**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](http://sa.gov.au/floods) and through this newsletter closer to the event.*

To view the most up to date community meeting schedule visit [sa.gov.au/floods](http://sa.gov.au/floods).



Approximately 50 people attended the Meningie flood recovery community meeting held on Wednesday, 5 April.

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## AFL Gather Round community events

A series of AFL Gather Round community events will be held in Bordertown, Renmark and Blanchetown next week. An AFL Greats Dinner will be held in Bordertown and Renmark on Tuesday, 11 April and Wednesday, 12 April respectively. Tickets are \$35 a person including a main course and drink on arrival. To book please contact [The Woolshed Inn](#) at Bordertown and the

[Renmark Club](#) in Renmark.

A Gather Round Super Clinic will also be held at the Blanchetown Oval on Wednesday, 12 April. Mark Ricciuto and Nathan Jones will be on hand to have a kick and a catch with the local community.

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**Tuesday, 11 April**

**AFL Greats Dinner**

The Woolshed Inn, Bordertown

From 6:30pm

See Mark Ricciuto, Jordan Lewis  
and Shaun Burgoyne

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**Wednesday, 12 April**

**Gather Round Super Clinic**

Blanchetown Oval

4:30pm to 5:30pm (Please arrive at  
4:20pm)

Come have a kick with Mark Ricciuto  
and Nathan Jones

Free BBQ and Zooper Doopers for  
kids

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**Wednesday, 12 April**

**AFL Greats Dinner**

Renmark Club, Renmark

From 6:30pm

See Mark Ricciuto, Nathan Jones  
and Shaun Burgoyne

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**GATHER ROUND**

**GATHER ROUND ROAD TRIP  
AFL GREATS DINNER**

RENMARK CLUB, RENMARK - WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL, 6.30PM  
With AFL greats Mark Ricciuto, Nathan Jones and Shaun Burgoyne

**\$35 per head** includes a main course and drink on arrival

[www.renmarkclub.com.au](http://www.renmarkclub.com.au)

## State Recovery Plan

The recovery team, in consultation with local councils and relevant State Government departments and agencies, has created a State Recovery Plan infographic. This infographic is designed to concisely explain the many efforts taking place to recover from the River Murray flood event.

To view the high-resolution State Recovery Plan infographic [click here](#).

# STATE RECOVERY PLAN

Coordinated recovery for River Murray communities

## SOCIAL

- First Nations communities**  
Proactive engagement with impacted First Nations communities
- Coordinating community recovery**  
Community informed recovery
- Easing personal hardship**  
Grants and programs to provide support
- Temporary housing**  
Keeping people safe
- Individual and community wellbeing**  
Outreach, recovery and mental health services
- Communications**  
Consistent, timely information to impacted communities



## ECONOMIC

- Tourism**  
Restoring and promoting regional tourism  
Providing incentives to visit the region
- Small business**  
Supporting small business and restoring consumer confidence  
Grant assistance
- Primary producers**  
Standing by our primary producers  
Assist with clean up, recovery and reinstatement



## ENVIRONMENT

- River amenity**  
Repairing our waterways
- Water quality**  
Targeted irrigator support
- Mosquitoes**  
Protecting and educating the community on mosquito diseases
- National Parks and Wildlife**  
Protecting our Flora and Fauna  
Clean-up and re-opening our National Parks and Reserves



## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Transport**  
Reopening road and ferry networks
- Waste management**  
Disposal of debris and flood waste
- Improving infrastructure**  
Enhanced infrastructure resilience
- Reconnection grants**  
Connecting to essential services



## Transfer waste station opening hours over Easter

Easter opening hours for transfer waste stations participating in the flood waste voucher program are listed below.

For more information on disposal vouchers for flood-affected materials and participating transfer waste station opening hours [click here](#).

### Berri Barmera Council area

Closed Good Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Easter Monday

### Loxton Waikerie Council area

Closed Good Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Easter Monday

### Mid Murray Council area

Operating hours per the extended schedule but closed on Good Friday

### Murray Bridge Council area

Open Saturday from 10am to 3pm  
Closed Good Friday, Sunday and Easter Monday



Renmark Paringa Council area

Open Sunday from 10am to 2pm  
Closed Good Friday, Saturday and  
Easter Monday



Free disposal vouchers  
for **flood-affected**  
**materials.**

## Locks reopen for River Murray traffic

Boat users can once again safely navigate South Australia's network of locks and weirs along the River Murray, with the structures reopening following their temporary closure in late 2022 during the peak of the floods.

Rising river levels saw SA Water close the lock chambers from Blanchetown's Lock One up to Lock Nine in Victoria, with people instead able to freely pass across the top of the adjacent weir structure during this time, without the need to access the lock chamber.

SA Water has recently safely completed all of the required mechanical and electrical testing required at each site, allowing each lock chamber to return to normal operation.

"Taking early action to close each of our locks allowed us to best protect the sites from any flood damage and enable us to reopen the locks as quickly as

possible once water levels receded,” SA Water’s Senior Manager of River Murray Operations Garry Fyfe said.

“We thank everyone for doing the right thing and keeping outside the temporary buoy markings and abiding by speed restrictions put in place around locks and weirs throughout this rare natural event.”

On behalf of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, SA Water manages Locks One to Six in South Australia, Lock Seven at Rufus River and Lock Eight at Wangumma in New South Wales, as well as Lock Nine at Kulnine in Victoria.

Information about how to safely navigate SA Water’s network of locks and weirs, as well as contact numbers for each location, can be found on the [SA Water website](#).



Lock 5 in Paringa was among the River Murray lock chambers closed throughout flooding down the river system.

Image: SA Water

## SA Water sewer services restored in Mannum

SA Water’s wastewater network in Mannum has now been fully restored for normal operations, following the temporary disconnection of services for low-lying local properties ahead of the River Murray floods.

127 SA Water customers had their wastewater services proactively disconnected from the utility’s wider underground pipe network in December 2022, to stop flood inundation impacting the town’s wider sewer system, reduce the risk of sewer overflows into the environment and best place services to be restored once floodwaters receded.



Throughout this period, affected properties were unable to discharge water from their toilets, showers or sinks. A further 61 customers were also identified early on as residing in flood-impacted areas of the town, but were able to continue discharging into the sewer network, following the use of temporary pumping and wastewater tanks put in place ahead of the flood peak.

SA Water's dedicated operational and stakeholder engagement teams worked with each impacted customer over recent months to provide individual support as needed, including providing bill relief towards their quarterly water and sewage charges, and the use of temporary shower and toilet facilities at its Mannum depot.

With flood levels now receded, SA Water has removed temporary bungs and fibreglass seals from all local customers' sewer connection points, including the Mannum Bowling Club and Pretoria Hotel.

For up-to-date information on SA Water's response to the River Murray floods, visit the [SA Water website](#).

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## **Riverfront reserves reopen in Murray Bridge**

Several riverfront reserves in the Murray Bridge Council area have reopened ahead of Easter.

Avoca Dell, Sunnyside, Thiele and Woodlane Reserves, along with Bells Landing have reopened with some restrictions.

Playgrounds remain closed at Thiele and Woodlane Reserves due to flood damage, while the boat ramp at Bells Landing also remains closed.

Outgoing Rural City of Murray Bridge CEO Michael Sedgman said the reopening of these reserves marked a significant milestone in the council's flood recovery plan.

"It's been a lot of work to get to this point, but we are extremely happy to be reopening the rest of our most popular riverfront reserves while the weather's still warm enough to enjoy them," he said.

"The safety of our community and our workers has been our top priority throughout the high river event and recovery process.

"We have been undertaking regular inspections and engaging qualified experts wherever necessary to determine the best way forward, while our open space and infrastructure teams have been working hard to clear debris and repair damage – and they've done a great job."

Mr Sedgman said the council's flood recovery focus had moved to Hume, Riverglen and Tumbella Reserves.



He also reminded river users to remain alert when on the water.

“Water levels have dropped and while it may look like things are returning to normal on the surface the landscape below has changed, so it’s important to be aware of potential submerged objects and exercise caution on the river at all times,” he said.

As more roads and reserves reopen during the flood recovery period, a full list of Council services and facilities impacted is available on [The Rural City of Murray Bridge website](#) and updates will be posted to the [Council’s Facebook page](#).

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## **Redeem your River Revival Voucher**

Successful River Revival Voucher recipients are able to book experiences and accommodation in the Riverland and Murray River, Lakes & Coorong regions until Friday, 28 April.

The travel period began on Friday, 31 March and runs until Thursday, 29 June.

If you were lucky enough to be successful in the first ballot [click here](#) to redeem your voucher. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to register for future ballots as they open later in the year.

#RiverRevivalVoucher

# Book now

[SOUTHAUSTRALIA.COM/VOUCHER](https://SOUTHAUSTRALIA.COM/VOUCHER)

T&CS APPLY. LICENCE NO. T23/271

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## **DEW & PIRSA's flood recovery newsletter**

The Department for Environment and Water and The Department of Primary Industries and Regions 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.

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## **Renmark Paringa Council's Flood Recovery Strategy**

Renmark Paringa Council has endorsed a flood recovery strategy which aims to focus council's recovery efforts, define the advocacy role with State and Federal Governments, and inform the community of the scope and timing of works.

For more information and to view Renmark Paringa Council's flood recovery strategy [click here](#).

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## 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.

[See previous editions](#)

[Sign up for future updates](#)

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## 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 and the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science.

In addition, pop-up recovery centres will be operating in Morgan, Blanchetown, Swan Reach and Bowhill. Recovery officers will be on hand to assist with queries including:

- Access to recovery information and referrals
- Quick and easy grant assessments
- Well-being check-ins and referral if needed
- GISA clean-up registrations
- Access to clean up suits & paint brushes
- Foodbank boxes
- A friendly ear to talk to
- Business grant information referrals/assistance

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### Berri

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

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### Mannum

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

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**Murray Bridge**

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

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**Morgan**  
**Wednesday, 12 April**

10am to 3pm  
Morgan Activity Centre  
[Corner of Fourth and Eighth Street, Morgan](#)

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**Blanchetown**  
**Friday, 14 April**

10am to 3pm  
Blanchetown Community Hub  
[3 Shaw Street, Blanchetown](#)

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**Swan Reach**  
**Wednesday, 19 April**

10am to 3pm  
Swan Reach Town Hall  
[3-5 Nildottie Road, Swan Reach](#)

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**Bowhill**  
**Friday, 21 April**

10am to 3pm  
Bowhill Community Centre  
[88 Weber Road, Bowhill](#)

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## 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](#).

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## 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](#).

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## Foundation SA flood recovery fund

Foundation SA is 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](#).

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## Spend your support

Help businesses in flood-affected areas by shopping with them online.

[Brand SA](#) is supporting River Murray businesses to join the Shop Local SA online marketplace. [Browse participating shops in the region](#) to purchase gift cards and a range of goods.

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## 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](#)

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## 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](https://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.

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## 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**



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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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[Sign up for future newsletters](#)

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 [Share this newsletter](#)



## Support for flood-affected River Murray communities



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