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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 17: Friday, 16 June 2023



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Message from Alex and Deb

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

Another week (although shorter because of the Public Holiday) of more clean-up and rebuilding. Disaster Relief Australia are continuing their great work in the area with volunteer crews making good progress in assisting residents and communities.

Demolitions started this week and we have included a quick reference for demolitions in the Newsletter. This covers both insured and non-insured clients.

The dump voucher program has been extended to help with clean-up. All the links you'll need are provided below. As always, there are certain things you 'can' and 'cannot' take to the dump so please take a look at the article below before you load your trailer. Please endeavour to get your dump runs in before the end of July.

Deb has been out and about in Loxton, Morgan, and surrounds. She has visited some communities and shack areas to talk with community members and provide whatever assistance she can. If you see her in your community, please wave her down and have a chat, she would love to meet you and hear your thoughts.

We are eagerly awaiting the ballot for River Revival vouchers to commence and hope to report on this in coming weeks. This should bring a much-needed boost to local tourism and economies. It will hopefully signify to everyone that the 'River is back and open for business', and encourage the general public to begin rebooking their River Murray getaways.

And for the foodies, there is something in here for you too this week with a bit of an interesting perspective on how to prepare a commonly perceived 'pest' for the dinner table.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need further information or to 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.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au



Deb Richardson

Community Development Officer

[0459 283 878](tel:0459283878)

deb.richardson@sa.gov.au

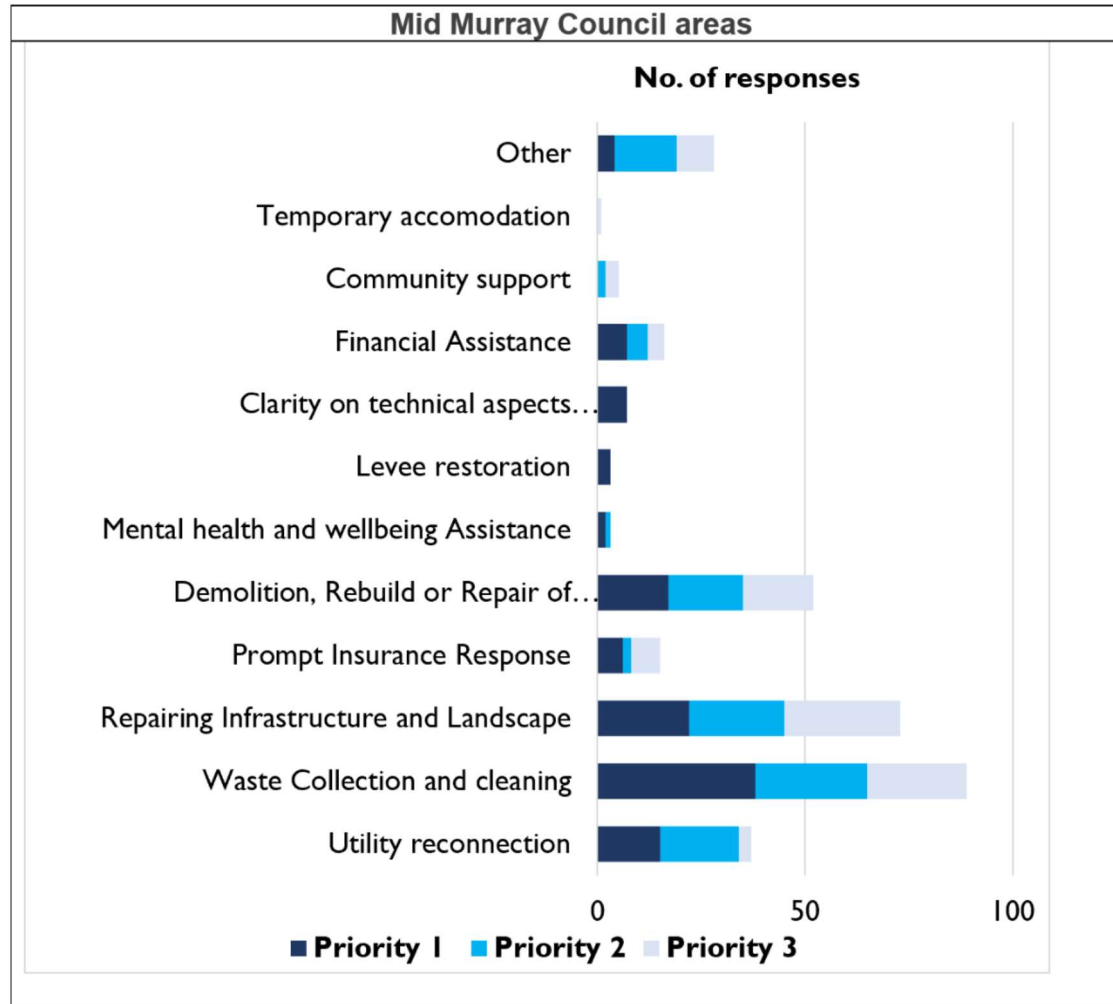
Community Survey Highlight 1 - Priority programs: June 2023

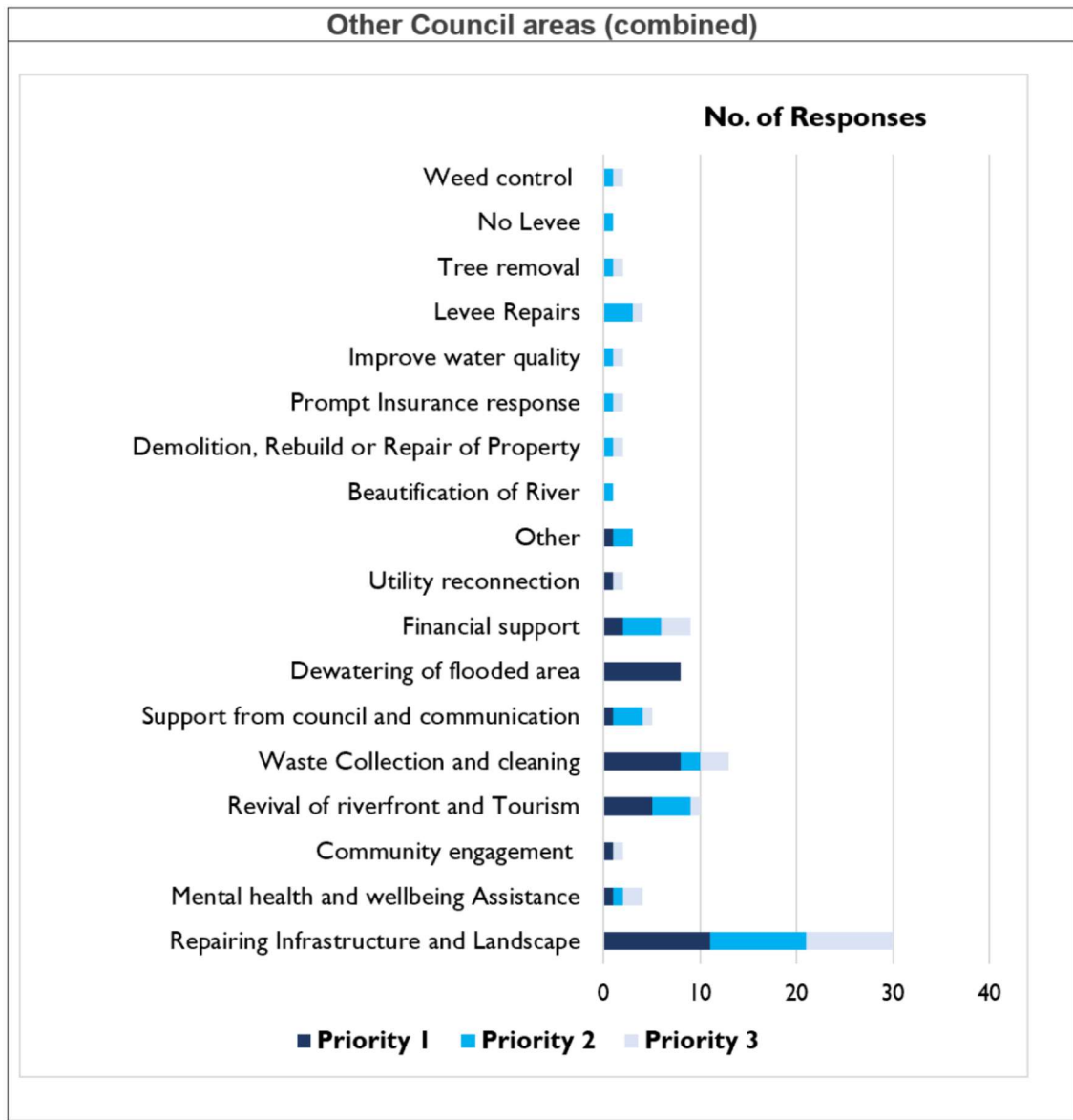
In April this year, Alex invited you to participate in an online community survey about the recovery after the flood. Thank you to those who shared your thoughts, issues, and ideas. We appreciate your input which is being used to inform the development of the River Murray Plan for Community Recovery.

Most of you who responded (165 in total) were from Mid Murray Council (75%), with others responding coming from Murray Bridge (15 people), Berri Barmera (10), Loxton Waikerie (9), Renmark Paringa (5) and Coorong (3).

About 50% of you were shack owners, while 43% of you said that you live and/or work in one of the affected council areas, 17% of you reported that you have a business in the areas.

We asked “*What are you and your community’s most pressing needs and concerns for the next six months?*” and you told us:

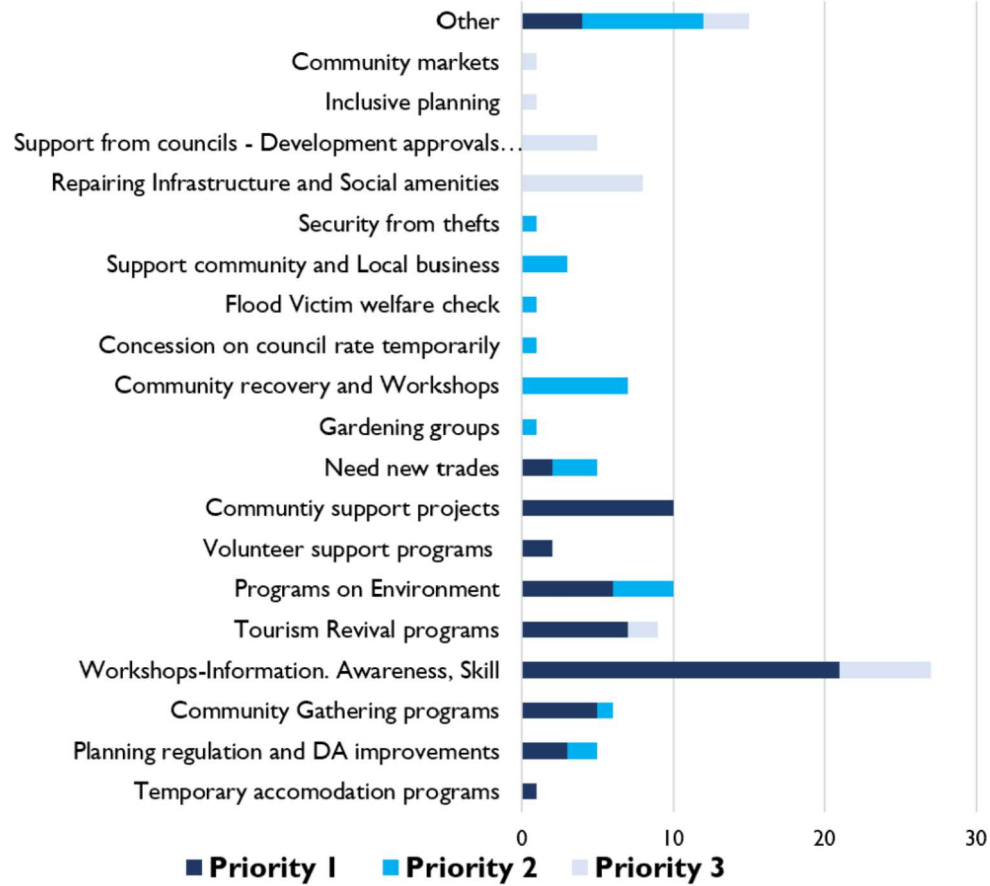


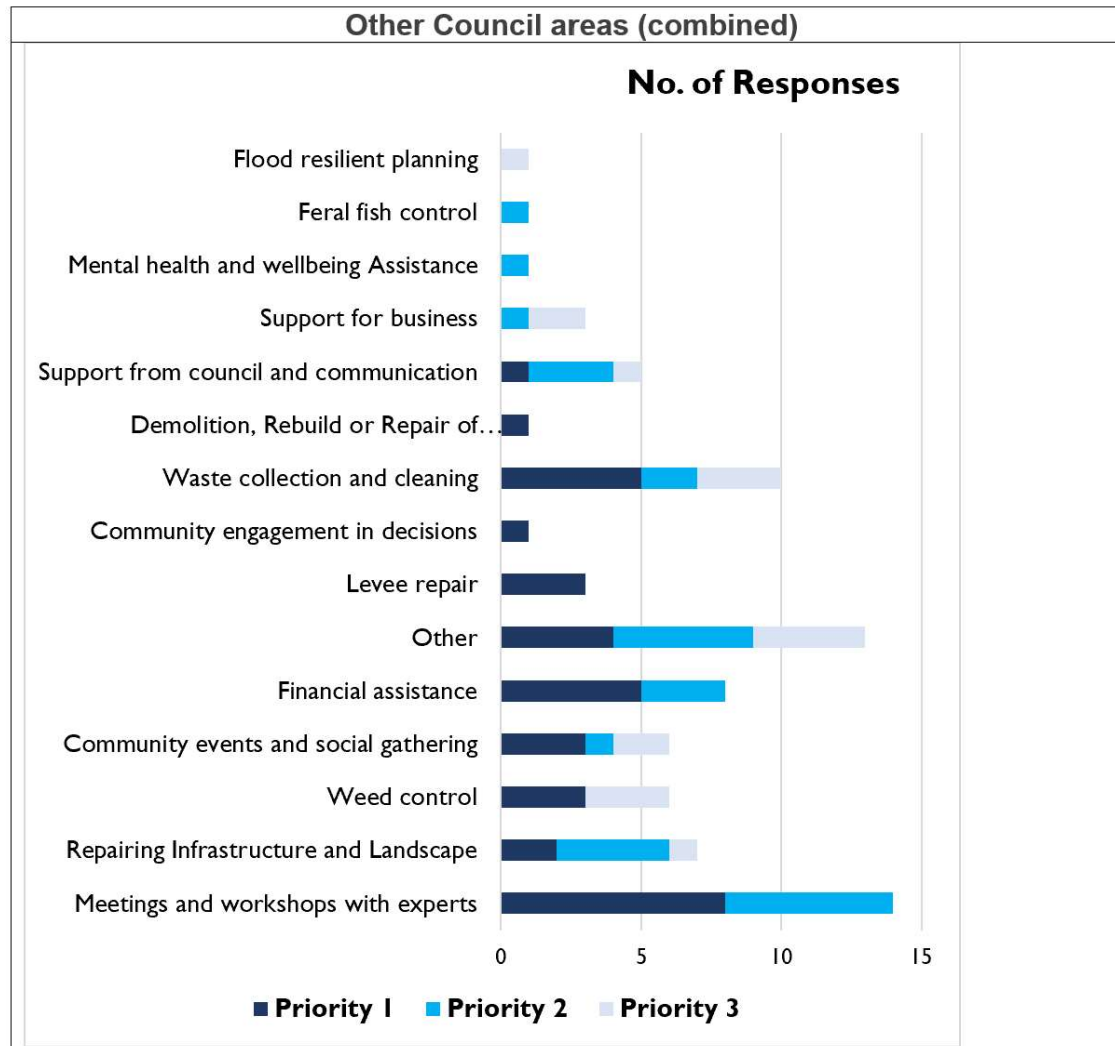


We asked “*What practical projects or programs would you like to see implemented to assist community recovery in the next six months?*” and you told us:

Mid Murray Council areas

No. of responses





We will post more results from the survey in the next newsletter. **Now two months later, what practical project and/or programs would you like to see to assist your community's recovery in the next 6 month?**

[Let us know what you think – just click on this link to answer a few quick questions.](#)

**Vouchers - SA Houseboats, Accommodation, Experiences?
- Check! Ballot opening soon.**



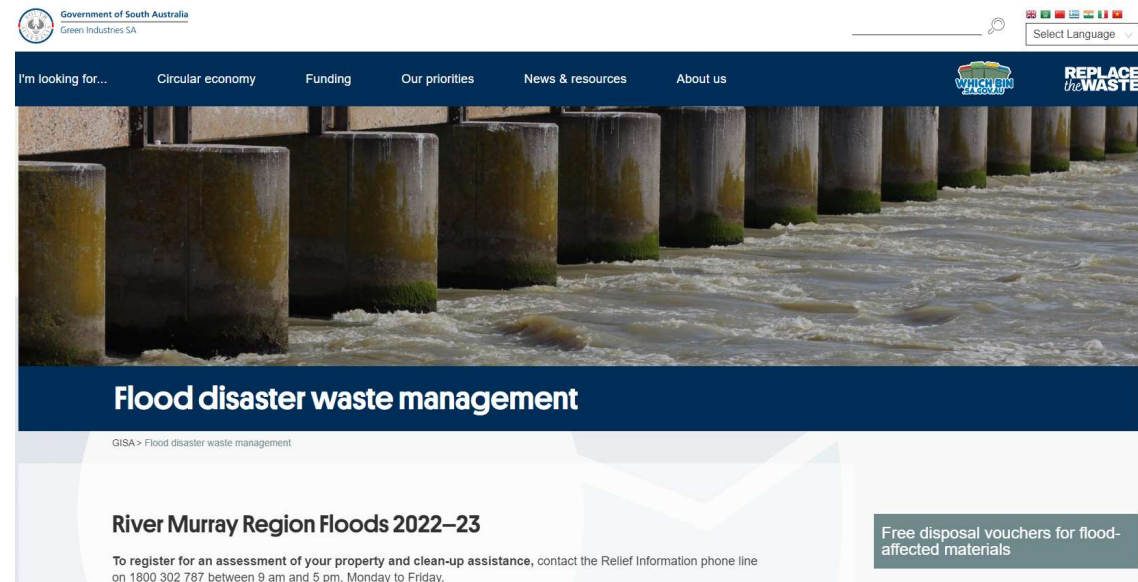
Ballot entries for the River Revival vouchers open next week to consumers. See details [here](#).

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.

Consumers can register for the ballot from 19-21 June, with the ballot taking place on 22 June.

[Terms and conditions apply.](#)

Vouchers - Dump vouchers extended!



The screenshot shows a website header for the Government of South Australia, Green Industries SA. The navigation menu includes: "I'm looking for...", "Circular economy", "Funding", "Our priorities", "News & resources", and "About us". There are also logos for "WHICH RIVER" and "REPLACE the WASTE". The main content area features a photograph of a river with concrete pillars and a dark blue banner with the text "Flood disaster waste management". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "GISA > Flood disaster waste management". The main heading is "River Murray Region Floods 2022–23". A sub-heading reads: "To register for an assessment of your property and clean-up assistance, contact the Relief Information phone line on 1800 302 787 between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday." A call-to-action box on the right says: "Free disposal vouchers for flood-affected materials".

The voucher program for disposal of flood-affected materials, which was due to end on 30 June, has been extended to Monday 31 July.

All existing vouchers will be honoured until this date, and can be collected and redeemed at any [participating transfer station](#).

For a complete list of participating transfer stations and their respective opening hours, [visit the GISA website](#).

The types of flood-affected materials you can dispose of include:

- hard waste (furniture, mattresses, household items, whitegoods)
- garden waste and trees, branches and reeds that may have washed onto your property
- debris from your house and sheds (metal, bricks, timber, piping, fittings)
- plant and machinery (tools, lawnmowers, bikes and similar)
- water sport equipment.

Other accepted items which must be kept separate include:

- electronic equipment and electrical items
- hot water systems
- air conditioners.

To learn more about the disposal vouchers for flood-affected materials, [read the FAQs](#).

Ongoing kerbside waste clean-ups will continue until all flood affected materials have been removed.

Assessments across the River Murray region have commenced. To check the status of your assessment or get further information on progress, contact Disaster Management Australia on [1800 418 491](#).

Further information

For details on flood waste management, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/floods.

**Grants - Small Business Flood Grants
application periods extended and eligibility
updated**

**River
Murray
Flood**

**Small business
grants**

**Application periods
extended &
eligibility updated**

 Office for
Small & Family
Business


Government
of South Australia

Flood Recovery Grant has been extended until 31 December 2023.

The **Flood Recovery Grant** is available to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of small businesses and not-for-profit organisations that experienced damage as a result of the River Murray flood. Recently the definition of a **sole trader small business** changed, to those that derive at least 50% of the income from the business.

Industry Support Grant has been extended until 30 September 2023.

The **Industry Support Grant** is a \$10,000 payment for an eligible business that usually operates in the affected area and has experienced a downturn of 30% or more in revenue over three consecutive months, up to and including April-June 2023. This grant may cover your usual business costs or used to make changes to your business so it can operate effectively post-flood.

Eligibility now includes **businesses that have been operational for less than one year**, if the business can demonstrate that income received was 30% less than anticipated.

Information on all small businesses flood supports, including guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found at www.business.sa.gov.au/floods.

Financial counselling through Rural Business Support (RBS) is available to help you on 1800 836 211 (freecall), email enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au or visit [Rural Business Support](#).

Grants - Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that **prevent and prepare** for future climate related impacts, or **recover** from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster.

Grants **up to \$25,000** are available for not-for-profit organisations to deliver a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the capacity and capability of local people, organisations, networks, and systems that help communities to be informed, skilled, connected and resourced for the future.

For more information and specific funding requirements for South Australian flood-impacted communities, please visit the [Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal](#) website. **Application close 31 August 2023** (with funding announced in late November).

Grants - Non-Government Organisation (NGO) grants



Non-Government organisations (NGOs) and/or Not-for-profit organisations (NFP) play an important role in assisting communities and individuals with recovery from emergencies and disasters.

These organisations generally deliver their services through volunteers who are crucial in helping out communities. While volunteers offer their time for free, it is acknowledged that NGOs/NFPs have ongoing costs in providing the supervision, training, equipment, and supplies that enable volunteers to undertake activities and work safely and effectively.

In recognition of this, funding is available to support non-government and not-for-profit organisations assisting flood-affected communities to recover from the flood. Grants can be used towards supervising or training volunteers, purchasing critical supplies and assist with the rapid deployment of crews on the ground to assist with recovery activities.

The first round of flood-related NGO grants was announced in February 2023 and Round 2 is now open. If you are an eligible organisation, we encourage

you to have a look at the fund guidelines and get your application in to help you help others.

The closing date for Round 2 is 31 August 2023. For more information or to apply, please visit [Relief and financial assistance | Recovery](#).

Grants - 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

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.](#)

**Free Event - Regrowth: Garden recovery after flood
(various dates and locations)**



REGROWTH: GARDEN RECOVERY AFTER FLOOD

FREE EVENT

Join Sophie Thomson from Sophie's Patch and Gardening Australia as she guides us through:

- ✓ Gardening for Health & Wellbeing
- ✓ Gardening After Flood - Practical Steps to Rebuild a Garden After Flooding & Plant Soil Recovery
- ✓ Growing Food with Raised and Wicking Beds

EVENT DATES & LOCATIONS

- Friday 9th June at Mannum - Mannum Golf Club
- Friday 16th June at Murray Bridge - Edwards Square
- Friday 23rd June at Monteith - Monteith Town Hall

Book via the
Location Specific
QR Codes
or contact iREACH
Rural Health
on 8531 1303

Funded by

- Friday 30th June at Swan Reach - Swan Reach Town Hall

10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Free Morning Tea & Lunch Provided



Click on your preferred session for flyer and booking QR Code

MANNUM - 9th June 2023

MURRAY BRIDGE - 16th June 2023

MONTEITH - 23rd June 2023

SWAN REACH - 30th June 2023

**Success Story - Sophie Thomson's first Regrowth session
a great success**



The first Regrowth session (above in this newsletter) has been held. From initial reports, the session was of immense value from not only a gardening and regeneration perspective, but from a mental health and wellbeing perspective.

We encourage you to get along to one of them if you can. See above in this newsletter for more details and session times.

"It was really lovely to see the change in people from when they arrived to when they left, it was a lot lighter mood at the end."

*Lisa Courtney
Clinical Service Manager
iReach - Rural Health*

Welcome - Deb Hamdorf (SAHA)



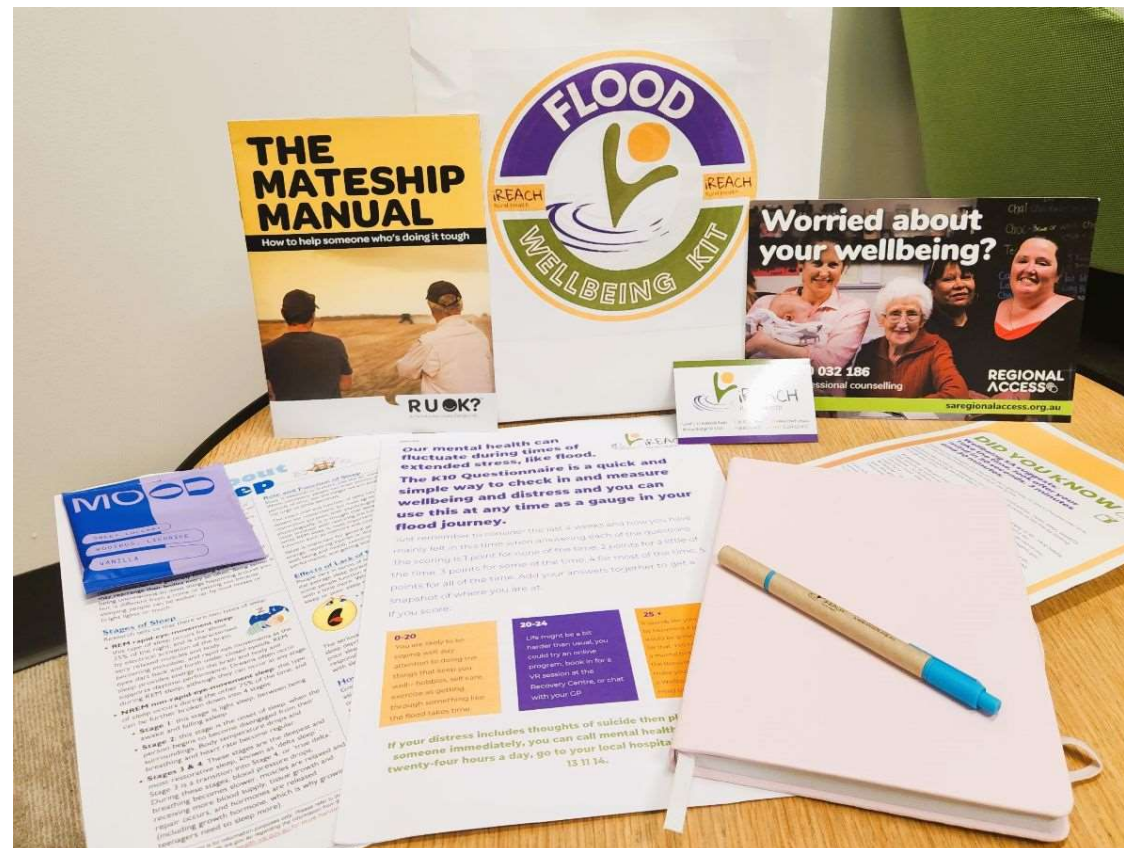
I am Deb and currently employed as a recovery officer in the Berri Recovery Centre.

I have previously been employed in a variety of positions in SA Government agencies and as a Coordinator of a rural not-for-profit Community Centre where we assisted people with Emergency Relief and other services.

My goal within the recovery role is to assist the flood affected community with a friendly and open approach, creating a smooth application process for grants, assist with registration for clean up and referrals to other agencies, including health and well being. I want people to feel they are able to enquire about what assistance is available to them and feel comfortable asking any questions.

I like to approach work with a motto, if you don't know, ask.

Resources - iReach Wellbeing Kit anyone?

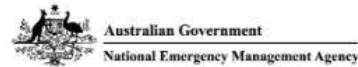


Our mental health and wellbeing exists on a continuum and changes over time. The [iREACH](#) flood wellbeing kits provide resources to assist people affected by flood to track their mental health, suggest ways that they may be able to enhance wellbeing and provide useful resources and links.

Recovery after natural disaster is a marathon not a sprint and our need for support and wellbeing can change over time. Whilst these changes may occur when someone is connected to services and agencies, this may not always be the case. The kits are a great way to encourage conversation, empower people to manage their wellbeing and support them to connect with services such as recovery and community wellbeing officers.

The kits will be rolled out over the next month, so keep an eye out for yours **at community events and the recovery centres!**

Award - Resilient Australia Awards



The [Resilient Australia Awards](#) recognise outstanding contributions across seven categories: business, community, government, local government, mental health and wellbeing, school, and photography. The awards recognise a wide range of initiatives with past projects centred on mental health and wellbeing, education, training and research, and community engagement, as well as response and recovery. **Submissions are open until 30 June 2023.**

Update - Johns Lyng Disaster Management Australia



DMA has made significant strides in progress over the past week. We have witnessed the commencement of demolitions, ongoing site assessments of flood-affected properties, targeted kerbside collection and removal of flood debris, and the support of Disaster Relief Australia.

DMA has already initiated one significant demolition, with another scheduled to begin next week. This achievement is noteworthy, and its impact will become more evident in the community, aiding residents in their recovery. Consent

Deeds for demolitions are being signed by registrants who wish to have their properties demolished. We appreciate the community's patience as we continue this work.

Site assessments are being conducted based on registrant demand and availability. Once these assessments have been reviewed, reports will be returned to registrants as soon as possible. We sincerely appreciate the community's patience, as this work is a crucial component of the program.

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) support is ongoing and focused on areas where the community requires volunteer assistance. DRA will soon operate from Blanchetown, and if you have requested their support but have not received a response, or if you require volunteer assistance, please contact DMA using the number provided below.

Kerbside collection activity has been adjusted due to decreased demand. We are scheduling collections based on observed waste and requests received through our Contact Centre. We kindly remind the community to ensure that all waste is placed well clear of council connections to prevent any damage to council infrastructure.

Extended kerbside collection will continue as requested. This is intended to be a one-time collection to enhance efficiency and minimize the impact on registrants. If you would like to book an extended kerbside collection on your property due to the inability or impracticality of moving waste to the kerb or roadside, we appreciate your cooperation. To arrange this support, please call the Contact Centre using the DMA number provided below.

Kerbside Collection Schedule

This schedule may change due to demand, weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Registrants will receive the collection schedule updates through this newsletter, the GISA website flood clean-up map, and SMS messages.

Monday, 19 June 2023

Old Murbko Road
Paisley Island
River Drive, Paisley
Teal Flat
Blanchetown – McPhee Ave and Page Drive

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

River Drive, Paisley
Teal Flat
Blanchetown – McPhee Ave and Page Drive

**Wednesday, 21 June
2023**

Bolto – Khartoum
Bowhill – Chucka Bend Road
Blanchetown – McPhee Ave and Page Drive

**Thursday, 22 June
2023**

Bowhill – Chucka Bend Road
Scrubby Flat - Scrubby Flat Shack Drive
Beaumonts
Pelican Point
Scotts Creek

Friday, 23 June 2023

Walker Flat – Rob Loxton Road
Big Bend

Scotts Creek
Cadell

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.

Update - Demolition

Insured and uninsured properties are eligible for a **free demolition**.

1. First step is to talk to your insurer and follow their assessment process.
 2. If you are advised that your property is considered a total loss and that you will receive a payout from your insurance provider you can opt in for a free demolition.
 3. Check your settled sum against your policy details. Some policies include the cost of a demolition in the sum insured, while others will be in addition to the sum insured. As the state government is covering the costs of demolitions, insurance providers have agreed to pass on these savings to policy holders. If your policy has demolition costs as an additional sum, ensure that this has been paid to you. You can discuss this with your insurance provider.
 4. Have your insurance documents ready for discussion
 5. Once you have done these steps, or if you are uninsured, please call Disaster Management Australia (DMA) on 1800 418 491 to discuss next steps.
-

Update - Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (JEV) still available

★ ★ ★ ★ 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



Eligible people are encouraged to book their vaccination now.

Eligibility:

- 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.

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

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

Contact - Riverlands & Murraylands mental health support



Fact Sheet

Riverland and 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.

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.

Contact - 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 directed to 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://www.sa.gov.au)

Info - 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](#)

Article of Interest - Pest or Plate?



While the recent floods have seen many more Carp, an interesting article by ABC Rural in 2022 was brought to our attention which saw a new perspective on a fish species that is considered a pest by many.

An interesting read if nothing else and even if not for the plate, kids and adults alike love fishing and catching them either on a day trip or camping along the river somewhere.

While reading this, should you come across any large bodies of fish in distress or fish kills please you can free call PIRSA Fishwatch on 1880 065 522.

Article information:

[Celebrity chefs say carp recipes could help clear environmental menace](#)

[ABC Rural](#) / By [Eliza Berlage](#)

Posted Mon 9 May 2022 at 10:36am Monday 9 May 2022 at

10:36am, updated Mon 9 May 2022 at 11:04am

Info - PIRSA's flood recovery update



Bushfires

Drought

Storms & floods

River Murray flood recovery

Lower Murray reclaimed
irrigation areas

Flood recovery update

Flood recovery update

On this page

[Levee recovery and dewatering update](#)

[Predicted water levels](#)

[Meter readings](#)

[Grants closing](#)

[River Murray flood impacts survey](#)

[LMRIA Recovery Subcommittee update](#)

[Structural assessments for flood-affected properties](#)

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to provide regular updates through their flood recovery update web page.

The web page provides important information on flood recovery activities undertaken by the PIRSA and the Department of Environment and Water (DEW), including the dewatering progress and levee assessment and stabilisation. Key flood recovery contacts are also provided.

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

Info - DEW River Murray newsletter - The flood of a generation



[< Topics](#)

[Topics > River Murray > Latest news and announcements](#)

[River Murray floods](#)

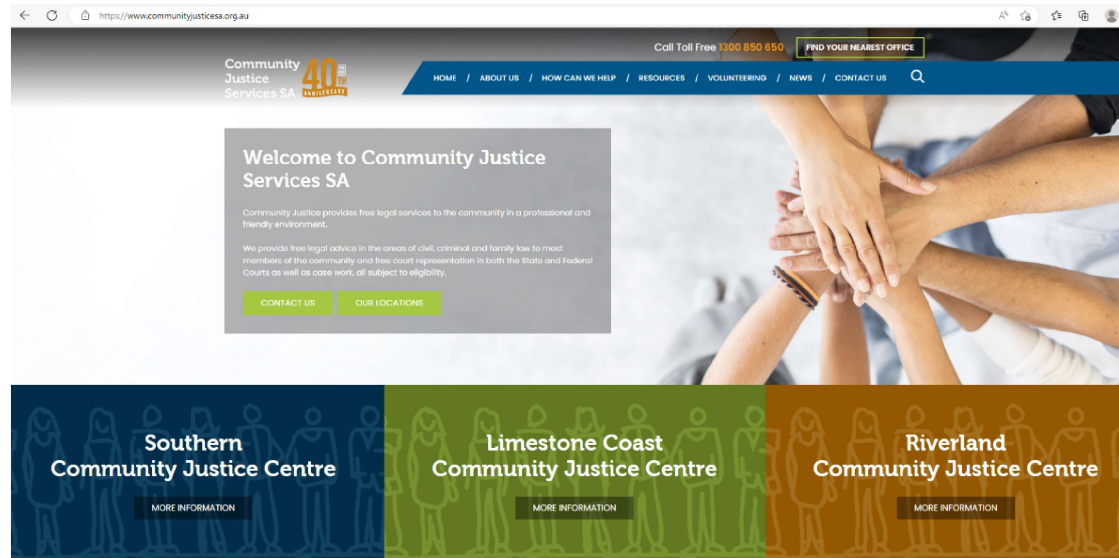
River Murray news

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) region continues to receive water from the largest South Australian flood in more than 50 years.

The influx of freshwater to the Coorong throughout the summer months led to some of the largest peaks in average daily water levels on record, at both the Southern and Northern lagoons.

To read more or to subscribe to the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) newsletter, [click here](#) or the click the image above.

Info - Community Justice e-News



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](#) or simply click the image above.

Info - Flood recovery health fact sheets

The screenshot shows the SA Health website header with the Government of South Australia logo, a search bar, and a navigation menu. The main content area features the title 'Staying safe and healthy during and after a flood' and a sub-header 'On this page' with a list of links: 'Avoid contact with floodwater', 'Cleaning up after a flood', 'Protect against disease as floodwaters recede', and 'Watch out for snakes, spiders and other pests'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Public health > Flood - staying safe and healthy'.

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](#).

Info - Keep informed



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

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.

Feedback - 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

Catch up - 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](#)

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\) Share this newsletter](#)





Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

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