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## What's happening in State and National Emergency Management?

Welcome to our May edition of Emergency Management News. For those with eagle eyes, you may notice a fresh new look! We hope you enjoy the read and are happy to take any feedback, suggestions or otherwise. Feel free to do this via email on [SES.EmergencyManagement@eso.sa.gov.au](mailto:SES.EmergencyManagement@eso.sa.gov.au)

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## **IPCC 6th Assessment Report**

The Pace and scale of climate action are insufficient to tackle climate change -Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) - IPCC (March/2023)  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), under the United Nations umbrella, provides regular scientific assessments on climate change, its impacts, future risks and adaptation and mitigation options. Accordingly, the latest Assessment Report (AR6) has been released on March/23 and salient features are summarised below.

### **Updates**

Green House Gases (GHG) emission continues, the average annual GHG emission was recorded as the highest during 2010-2019 and according to 2019 emissions 79% together from energy, industry, transport and building sectors and 22% from agriculture, forestry and other lands (AFOLU).

Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred and human-caused climate change is affecting weather and climate in every region with adverse impacts, losses and damages to nature and people.

Adverse impacts are intensified mainly in water availability and food production, health and well-being, cities, settlement and infrastructure and ecosystem structure.

Adaptation planning and implementation have progressed, but gaps exist, and maladaptation is happening due to financial limitations jointly with a lack of political commitment, low literacy on climate change (CC) and low/slow research progress.

Mitigation has consistently expanded since AR5, alternative energy sources have expanded, and costs have reduced significantly. Financing for low-emission technologies has increased, but expansion is not sufficient.

### **Future of CC**

- GHG emission continues, global warming (GW) will increase approx. 1.5 °C in near terms. This will lead to continuing the change in multiple impact drivers and intensity climate risks. Deep and rapid emission reductions are necessary to secure a liveable and sustainable life.
- The challenges will be to cut off GHG emissions rapidly (nearly half by 2030) and scaling up practices and infrastructure to enhance resilience and action requires numerous dimensions.
- Political commitment, inclusive governance, international cooperation, effective ecosystem stewardship and sharing of diverse knowledge are enablers for effective climate action.
- Mainstreaming effective and equitable climate action today will reduce future losses and damages to nature and people, climate action provides co-benefits

- Multiple, faceable and effective options are available to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change

[Read the full report here](#)



### **Keep yourself safe from cyber crime**

The security of your personal information is crucial. The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) is urging all Australians to secure their personal accounts and devices to prevent cybercriminals from accessing and stealing your personal information.

Portable devices, including phones and tablets, contain lots of personal information. They often have access to our personal accounts, making them rich targets for cybercriminals.

We take our mobile phones with us everywhere. They hold private information and access to our online accounts.

If your phone is lost, or compromised, your personal information could be at risk. Your social media, email accounts and banking information could be accessed to steal your money or identity.

Good security practices on your phone and other devices will help keep your personal and financial information safe.

Keeping your devices and data secure is essential. Learn more about the easy steps you can take at [cyber.gov.au](https://www.cyber.gov.au).



## River Murray Recovery

The Recovery IMT, within Security, Emergency and Recovery Management in DPC was planning for and coordinating recovery prior to formal transition in February 2023.

The team works closely with Alex Zimmermann, the Community Recovery Coordinator, and all our stakeholders, including local councils, community groups, and Commonwealth & Government agencies to deliver on community recovery outcomes, focusing on the social, economic, built and environmental aspects of recovery.

To date:

- **River Murray Community Recovery Committee:** Six meetings have been held
- **Community Meetings:** 13 meetings have been held from the top to the bottom of the river, in places such as Berri, Waikerie, Morgan, Mannum, Murray Bridge, Pompoota, Meningie and Milang.
- **Green Industries SA:** Oversee the waste removal program. Over 1,290 tonnes of waste have been cleared as of 3/4/2023
- **Recovery Centres:** Over 5,000 presentations have been attended to across the 3 Recovery Centres (Berri, Mannum and Murray Bridge)
- **Case Management:** There are 136 households where it has been determined that some level of case management is required.
- **Outreach:** Pop up style Recovery Offices are also now being held in smaller towns using council facilities such as Swan Reach and Bowhill.

The recovery is going to be a long-term undertaking. At the community level, the first few months have been spent dealing with many logistical issues such as dewatering, provision of water and toilet facilities, and of course, clean up.

Currently there is a River Murray flood community recovery plan survey seeking feedback to input into the Community Recovery Plan. The Survey can be found here

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RM-Recovery-Plan>

Deb Richardson will join the team as Community Development Officer to progress the Community Recovery plan and assist with Recovery.

*Content with thanks to Georgina Goodrich, Manager, Assurance and Governance;  
Security, Emergency and Recovery Management from [Department of the Premier and  
Cabinet, Government of South Australia](#)*

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Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia

Earthquakes@GA



## Earthquakes in SA

Although Australia has few Earthquakes globally (Gibson 2010, McCue 2010), it has experienced many devastating earthquakes, most notably the 1954 Adelaide and 1989 Newcastle earthquakes, which caused extensive damage to residential and commercial buildings, especially unreinforced masonry buildings. (Doyle et al. 1968, Gibson 2010). Adelaide is Australia's most prone capital, with earthquakes measuring 5-6 on the Richter scale occurring so often that they are a potential hazard (Doyle et al. 1968). In Adelaide, where large earthquakes are rare, earthquakes can have a significant impact.

### Adelaide Earthquake and its Associated Risks

In the past 150 years, South Australia has recorded 15 earthquakes of magnitude five or more significant. Adelaide is compressing in the east-west direction at a rate of about 0.1–0.2 mm per year, causing substantial stresses in the crust. Earthquakes as primary hazards often produce secondary risks such as soil liquefaction, ground



surface rupture and deformation, fire, flooding, dam failure, tsunami, hazardous material release, landslides, and rock falls. Buildings can collapse, trapping people inside and burying streets in rubble. Broken bridges can disrupt or isolate entire communities (<https://crew.org/earthquake-information/earthquake-hazards/>).

Earthquakes in South Australia mainly occur in two zones:

- the Adelaide seismic zone extending from Kangaroo Island, through the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges, to Leigh Creek in the state's north, and
- the Eyre Peninsula zone (Doyle *et al.* 1968; Sutton & White 1968, Greenhalgh *et al.* 1994)

It is estimated that if any similar earthquake happens as in the 1954 Adelaide earthquake, it will lead to a substantial loss of life, injuries, and damage, with a loss of over AUD\$1 billion (Greenhalgh *et al.*, 1994). The main vulnerable items can be grouped into:

1. Human Resourcing
2. Property and infrastructure damage
3. Economic Loss due to
4. Environmental Risks

### **Recommendation**

Due to insufficient strong motion recorders in South Australia, they cannot determine how the earth shakes during an earthquake (McCue 2010). It must be clear whether earthquakes occurring in relatively similar locations behave differently. Moreover, despite some work on addressing damage during an earthquake, it needs to expand on existing knowledge to improve people's preparedness in Adelaide. Key recommendations have been summarised in Table 1 (Anikeeva *et al.*, <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/2200/ajem-29-02-10.pdf>).

Earthquake preparedness and impact characteristics, such as mortality and injury rates and damage to essential services, may be underestimated when the Adelaide context is compared with places with similar experiences. Civil society engagement through community awareness and preparedness is affected by recent community disaster experiences. However, lacking experience in Adelaide may lead to long-term and short-term impacts on the community, its public policy, organisations, and

individual community members.

For up to date information, head to the **Geoscience Australia** website.



## Blowin' in the wind

In the early hours of the morning on 20 March 2023, a wind storm swept through the north eastern foothills of Adelaide, as most people slept. The SASES and other emergency services responded to hundreds of incidents, with the SASES recording 359 separate jobs, of either trees down or storm damage.

With the wind still blowing strongly as residents awoke the extent of the damage was evident in the daylight, with numerous roads, parks, playgrounds, schools and



businesses having to close, due to storm impact. Power outages impacted over 31,000 customers.

Main council areas affected were Tea Tree Gully, Campbelltown and Burnside. The Local Government Functional Support Group was called upon to assist with the provision of resources, with councils' resources stretched. The storm generated a significant amount of additional work for those councils who were hardest hit.



## Community Engagement: Opportunities and Limitations

Today, an emerging theme of community-based engagement aims to link locally based response initiatives with broader government-led emergency management. No single agency can respond to high-impact events alone, and a whole-of-Government response in partnership with the community will be the only answer. It must be accepted that emergency management agencies will be overwhelmed in a disaster, and more than one agency alone can cope with the expected demands. Therefore, emergency management agencies must recognise their limitations and work with the community. Emergency managers need to build strong trust with the community. Communities should be accompanied in disaster mitigation, including risk-informed

land use planning to prevent amplifying existing catastrophic disaster risks and act in response and recovery phase.

Community engagement is essential in emergency management, as emergency management may fail without considering the public's experience, knowledge, interests, concerns, fears, values, priorities, power, and preferences. Therefore, various participatory-based methodologies should be applied to understand the community better. Recent studies have shown that workshops have been considered the most consistently successful community engagement technique. Information campaigns at any level are successful if their message relates to a specific hazard relevant to the host community. Drills and exercises also succeeded at groups, community, and state-wide levels. Community coalitions was also a well-reviewed intervention, mainly for flood and bushfires in Australia (Ryan et al. 2020).

To empower the community to be engaged more, connectors- individuals who foster connections within and among state-led emergency services, local governments, and the public- use their knowledge to build meaningful relationships within their communities and with others in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. They know the resources (i.e., skills, knowledge, material, connections) available within their communities. They apply them to foster long-term collaboration, coordination, and co-production of knowledge, centring on empowering marginalised groups and creating ways to respond to specific needs and desires.

Despite the role of efforts of connectors, there may be a disconnection between the public, community representatives and emergency agencies due to the political economy of state-led emergency management. The bureaucratic, temporal, and financial constraints of state-led community engagement may lead to miss opportunities to listen, learn and work with connectors. Therefore, improving financial arrangements, a larger workforce, and better working conditions within the state-led emergency sectors would be a solution to reform emergency management from top-down to down-top type (Satizábal et al., 2022).

### Reference

Barbara Ryan, Kim A. Johnston, Maureen Taylor, Ryan McAndrew, Community engagement for disaster preparedness: A systematic literature review, 2020,

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Paula Satizábal, Isabel Cornes, María de Lourdes Melo Zurita, Brian R. Cook, The power of connection: Navigating the constraints of community engagement for disaster risk reduction, 2022, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction.

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**Cracked but never broken**  
**– Rose-Anne Emmerton**

Resilient Australia Photography Award Submission



Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience



## Resilient Australia Awards now open

The awards recognise outstanding contributions in each state and territory 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 risk assessment and mitigation, mental health and wellbeing, education, training and research, and community engagement, as well as response and recovery.

State and territory winners are considered for national awards, along with projects entered directly to the national awards – projects selected as national finalists will benefit from national exposure through a range of communication channels.

Entries in the 2023 awards program must relate to projects or initiatives that commenced after 1 January 2021, or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2021.

The Resilient Australia Awards is proudly sponsored by the Australian Government in partnership with the states and territories and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR).

Further information on the program structure and submission requirements are contained in the [guidelines](#).

(Above is one example of a Photography Award submission - the **People's Choice winning photo** - from Rose-Anne Emmerton, 2022)





## **The Zone Emergency Management Symposium 2023 is coming up!**

The SASES is busy organising the Symposium for this year and are pleased to announce it will be held on:

**20 July 2023 at Sferas Park Suites and Convention Centre in Modbury.**

"Watch this space" for more information shortly. In the meantime, please pop the date in your diary.

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## **Grants for South Australia**

### **2023 Funding Opportunities**

## Future Drought Fund

The Australian Government - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Future Drought Fund helps farmers build drought resilience and assist in Australian communities to prepare for the impacts of drought.

[More about the Future Drought Fund...](#)

## Green Industries SA Grants

There are currently thirteen Green Industries SA grants available all relating to understanding and improving productivity and environmental performance across industries, businesses and government.

[Funding from Green Industries SA](#) various grants available

[More about Green Industries SA Grants](#)

## Thriving Communities Program - PIRSA

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia have small grant opportunities for projects that build social capital through facilitating community group participation, a sense of belonging and equity of access.

([PIRSA](#))

Applications close on **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023** or when funding is fully allocated, whichever happens first.

[More about the Thriving Communities Program...](#)

## Grants and Programs Finder

### Grants & Programs Finder

If you're doing business in Australia, this guided search will help you find grants, funding and support programs from across government.

Answer a few questions about your business to find grants and programs you may be eligible for.

[More about Grants and Programs Finder](#)

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## Conference Corner



There are a number of opportunities for collaboration, networking and new ideas in 2023. Explore the range of Conferences for the emergency management sector below:

- [Disaster and Emergency Management Conference 2023](#) 11-12 July 2023, Brisbane QLD
- [2023 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference](#) 23-24 August 2023, Gold Coast QLD
- [International Conference on Urban Disaster Mitigation, Land Use Planning and Management](#), 30-31 August 2023, Sydney NSW

[AFAC 2023](#) 22-25 August, Brisbane QLD ([Women and Firefighting Australasia joins AFAC23](#))

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## Professional Development Opportunities

The following training is available through the Local Government Association of South Australia:

- [Audit and Risk Committees: General Overview](#)
  - [ChemAlert Search, Stock and Risk Assessment Program](#)
  - [Grant writing: a new approach](#)
- 



## Would you like to be a part of the community-led action plan?

Provided by the Australian Red Cross and Mount Barker District Council, a series of two free workshops for the Nairne Community will be run. In this workshop, you will learn about emergencies and their impact on your community and build your understanding of resilience. The workshop will be launched in Adelaide between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Sunday 4th June 2023 in the Nairne Soldiers Memorial Hall Princes Highway Nairne, SA 5252. Click here to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nairne-community-led-disaster-resilience-workshops-tickets-600887890857?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>





## Ground Zero – Cyber Security for Business-May 2023

Would you like to have the confidence and understanding of cyber security to take a pragmatic approach in implementing strong countermeasures to protect and defend your business assets.

Cyber Security for Business workshop provided by Business Foundations will provide an overview of the current cyber security risk context in which we all operate when we access the internet in a business or home office scenario.

For more information go to the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ground-zero-cyber-security-for-business-tickets-602984150827>

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## Charles Sturt University (CSU)

The CSU have launched a **free** online self-paced course [Disaster Resilience in Community Service Organisations](#), available now through CSU and OpenLearning.

This short course offers practical strategies to improve disaster preparedness in community service organisations. These capabilities will equip you and your organisation with skills to manage service disruption in the face of disaster events. Through this course, community service organisations are recognised as fundamental to improving community disaster resilience and reducing the inequitable impacts of disasters on disadvantaged groups. The course adopts the ULTRIS model for disaster-resilient organisations, developed out of a community-based project with community service organisations, and emergency services and researchers from Charles Sturt University (Boetto & Bell, 2022).

Learning outcomes from the course:

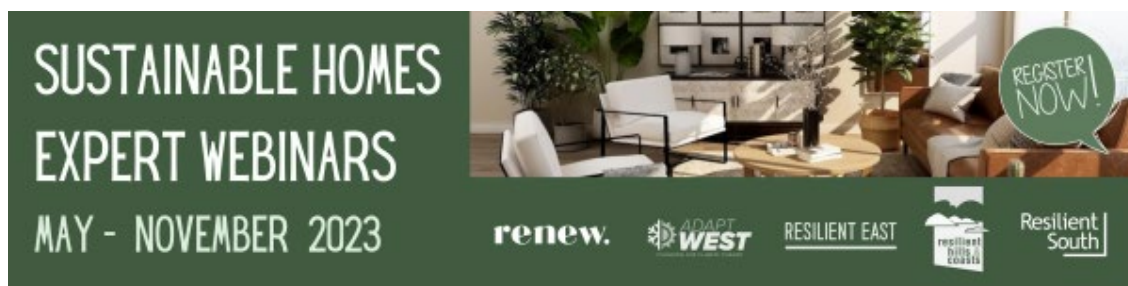
- Understand the role of community service organisations in the context of disaster preparedness and resilience
- Benchmark organisations' internal and external capacity for disaster preparedness and resilience
- Produce an action plan for building sustainable and resilient organisations in the context of disasters

For more information, or to start the course, visit:

<https://www.openlearning.com/csu/courses/disaster-resilience-in-community-service-organisations>

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## Podcasts and webinars



### Sustainable Home Webinar Series

Are you looking for practical steps you can take to cut energy bills and make your home more comfortable all year round, prepared for the cold of winter and heat of summer in Adelaide's changing climate?

Get the latest information from industry experts, Renew, in this free evening webinar series starting in May.

**First up is Winter Comfort in May:** Sessions will explain and provide advice on prioritising energy saving measures, more efficient use of heating and hot water, your bills and understanding your energy usage.

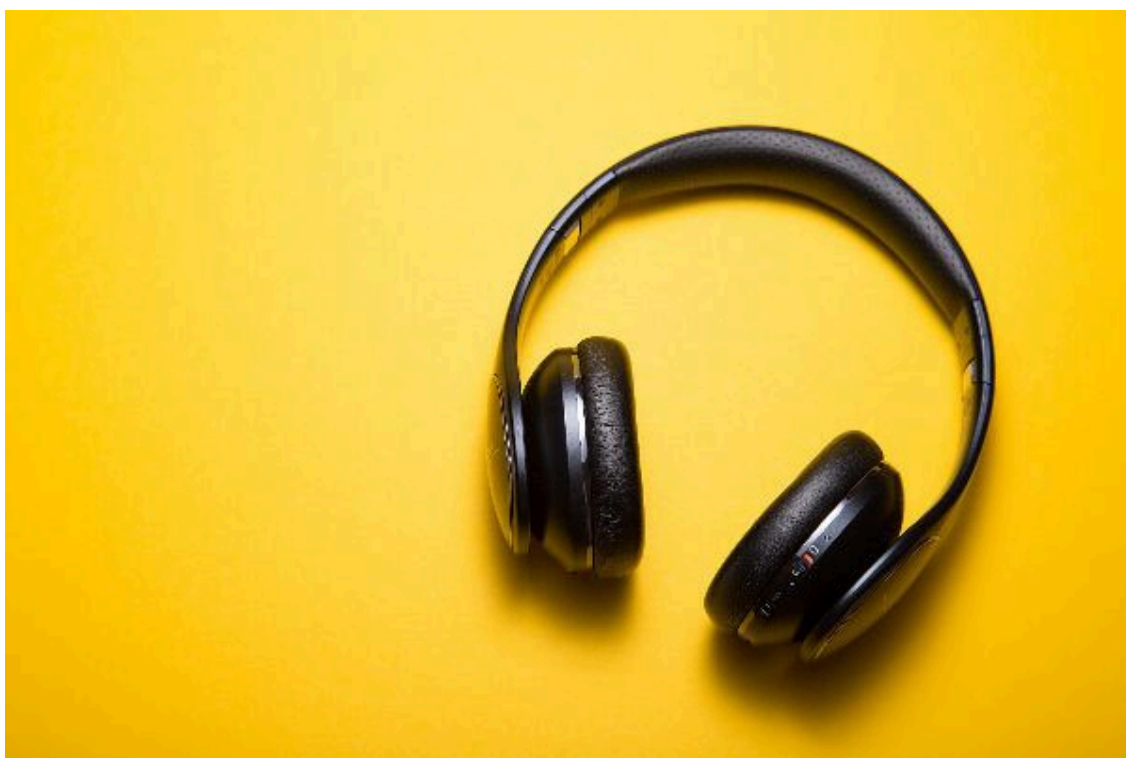
- Winter comfort for renters – will also discuss strategies for approaching your landlord for appliance upgrades (**Tues 16 May 6-8:30pm**)

- Winter comfort at home – will also discuss the ways you can take control in your own home for your appliances, insulation and double glazing! (**Tues 23 May 6.8:30pm**)

The webinars will be presented by sustainability and energy experts from [Renew](#), who have provided independent information on household sustainability for over 40 years. They are brought to you on behalf of the Regional Climate Partnerships, representing 20 councils in and around Adelaide: [Resilient South](#), [AdaptWest](#), [Resilient East](#), and [Resilient Hills and Coasts](#).

Book here now ([www.resilienteast.com/sustainable-homes-webinars](http://www.resilienteast.com/sustainable-homes-webinars)), or forward on to a friend or family member who needs this information!

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## Other webinars and podcasts

- [State of the Climate 2022 webinar recording](#): A detailed review of the State of the Climate Report by the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology.
- [Building Capability in Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness webinar recording](#): The University of Sydney and supported by the Australian Government

and Resilience NSW take a look at the implementation of Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP). P-CEP is the process taken by people with a disability to create an emergency plan that works for their needs in an emergency.

- [Phoenix Australia: Responder Assist Podcast](#) Phoenix Australia has partnered with the Mental Health Professional Network to develop a number of podcasts on mental health and emergency workers.
- [Extreme Heat and Human Health – Sydney Talks Podcast and Presentation](#) In this Sydney Ideas event, experts from the University's Heat and Health Research Incubator discuss the latest research and provide us with some pretty cool solutions.

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## Spotlight on Disaster



### Western Australia Tropical Cyclone Ilsa April 2023

Cyclone Ilsa met land near the Port Hedland in the Pilbara region. The full force was felt at the remote Pardoo Roadhouse in the Pilbara region of the Northern WA coast



on April 14 2023, as a Category 5 cyclone.

Heavy winds of up to 218 km per hour were recorded on Bedout Island, just off the coast. In the remote Indigenous community of Punma, up to 122 mm of rain has fallen and many roads were cut off. Damage in some areas is still being assessed.

The Pardoo Roadhouse suffered extensive damage.

Photo above from ABC [News:Cason](#) Ho

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## Over the Horizon





We've introduced a new section into the quarterly EM News, called "Over the horizon". In each edition, we will be showcasing an actual event that has occurred, but is "out of the norm". Our aim is to encourage thinking about scenarios that are out of the box!

## Roads and Potholes

Whilst many South Australians complain about potholes in their roads, a whopper was exposed after a flood event in western New South Wales in 2022. The "pothole" measured 40 metres in length, 15 metres in width and was in parts, 9 metres deep. That's bigger than many public swimming pools!!! Thousands of litres of water, including fish and crustaceans had to be removed, in order to repair it. No doubt it took an enormous amount of work for the Hay Shire Council.

Above is a photo of road damage from a storm here in SA.

Click on the link below for the amazing photo and the "supersized" pothole in ABC NEWS article. It makes our road damage shown above look like a crack in the pavement!

[Riverina council repairs 40-metre pothole created during 2022 flood disaster \(msn.com\)](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-15/riverina-council-repairs-40-metre-pothole-created-during-2022-flood-disaster/10158548)

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## Contact us

**Do you have a question or feedback? Would you like to contribute to the next edition of EM News?**

Contact us at [ses.emergencymanagement@eso.sa.gov.au](mailto:ses.emergencymanagement@eso.sa.gov.au)

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