

River Murray Flooding

www.sa.gov.au/floods

What is happening now

Floodwater is receding along the River Murray, with water levels dropping rapidly.

It's important for you to continue to monitor the situation, stay updated with South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) warnings, and—if you own or operate a houseboat—regularly check your houseboat moorings and inspect tether lines to reduce the risk of becoming grounded or serious movement.

Final SASES River Murray Flood Community Newsletter, turning attention to recovery

With the water level dropping, the SASES are working closely with other state government agencies to turn the attention to recovery. The community level recovery program will be managed by the **Community Recovery Coordinator Alex Zimmerman** and the **Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)**. The first of many meetings of the River Murray Community Recovery Committee took place on Monday 30 January 2023. DPC is also coordinating state-level recovery activities and initiatives.

Due to this transition to recovery, this will be the final Community Newsletter created by the SASES for the River Murray flood. Keep an eye out for a Recovery Community Newsletter, which will be produced and provided to the community by the Recovery Incident Management Team in the near future, as well as other regular updates via a variety of channels.

If you've got a question or you're experiencing issues which can't be addressed by either speaking to someone on the Information Line (1800 302 787), visiting www.sa.gov.au/floods, or by attending one of the Emergency Relief Centres in Murray Bridge and Mannum, you're encouraged to contact:

- **Community Recovery Coordinator, Alex Zimmerman**
 - **Mobile:** 0455 984 411
 - **Email:** alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au
- **DPC Community Recovery Coordinator Support, Malinda Steenkamp**
 - **Mobile:** 0427 007 368
 - **Email:** malinda.steenkamp@sa.gov.au

While you may not see as many SASES vehicles or personnel on the ground in the area as you would have seen over the last few months, the SASES will always be available if you need us. You can call 132 500 if you require emergency flood or storm assistance.

Emergency Management Declaration revoked, restrictions still in place and risks still present in river

At 12:00pm on Thursday 9 February 2023, the Emergency Management Declaration (River Murray High Flow and Flood event) was revoked. A Direction is still in place for the



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River Murray. It will continue to be reviewed and restrictions will be lifted as conditions change along the river.

For the latest information on River Murray restrictions, visit www.sa.gov.au/floods

There are still risks present in the river. The SASES reminds the public:

- parts of the river are still in flood, so continue to monitor warnings on the SASES website (www.ses.sa.gov.au) and social media
- be aware of debris in the water when undertaking activities on or in the river, such as logs, trees, household items and damaged infrastructure which may be difficult to see
- obey road closure signs – do not drive, ride or walk around them
- do not let children play in or near floodwater or drains
- do not walk, ride or drive through floodwater
- beware of unstable and undercut riverbanks and trees as the water recedes
- if you own a houseboat, regularly check its moorings and inspect tether lines to reduce the risk of becoming grounded or serious movement.

Where the floodwater has dropped, it may still be unsafe in areas that were previously flooded. The soil has been wet for many weeks and the ground may not be secure, and it may take a while for the soil and ground to dry up. Trees may have also become loose, so there may be an increased risk of them falling in windy weather.

If a tree has fallen on your property and is causing a safety risk, or you require emergency flood assistance, contact us on 132 500.

Levee safety

The current Direction states that a person must not enter or remain on an **engaged levee** except as provided for an emergency response or inspection, maintenance, and repair (including inspection, maintenance and repair of the levee, power lines or other infrastructure). You also cannot moor, anchor, attach, or secure any vessel to an engaged levee.

Engaged levee means levees that are still in contact with water.

Although this means that it is no longer restricted for people to enter or remain on a disengaged levee (where the levee is no longer in contact with water), there are still risks and you should take care when around them.

If you see any defects or have any concerns regarding the safety or integrity of an engaged levee, contact the SASES on **132 500**.

You can find more information about the current Direction at www.sa.gov.au/floods



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Thanking volunteers, businesses, agencies and the community

The River Murray Flood is one of the most significant floods in South Australia's history, and it continues to impact many people across the state.

Since mid-August 2022, the SASES has been active in response to the River Murray flood, including planning, preparing communities, and responding to the threat. This included basing our Incident Management Team in Loxton in the first half of October.

We're very proud of our volunteers' response to this event and thank them for all their dedicated hard work. This has included responding to requests for assistance, doorknocking, facilitating and supporting community meetings, and so much more. We're also incredibly grateful to volunteers from other organisations who stepped in to support the community to keep them safe.

We have also received support from many businesses locally and across the state. We'd like to thank all the businesses who have supported us in any way during this event. They kept us at our best through the services they provided and have made sure the community was prepared and kept safe.

We also thank all the councils along the river and the many government agencies across the state and interstate that assisted in the response.

Finally, we wish to thank and acknowledge the community. Through listening to advice, taking action and supporting one another, you have all worked together to ensure the safety of your families, friends and community members.

Although the Emergency Declaration for the River Murray has been revoked and the focus is turning to recovery, the SASES will always be available when the community needs us. If you need emergency flood or storm assistance, call 132 500.

General reminders

Current warnings

For more detail and the most up to date warnings visit ses.sa.gov.au/incidents-and-warnings/current-warning-list or call 1800 362 361.

Relief and recovery

For more information on Community Relief Centres, applying for a grant or registering for a structural assessment and assistance with clean-up, contact the Information Line on **1800 302 787** or visit sa.gov.au/floods.



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River levels and flow rates

For the latest information on river levels and flows, visit the Department for Environment and Water website: environment.sa.gov.au.

River safety

If you come across water over the road - **turn around**.

When a road is closed, do **NOT** drive or walk around the sign and do **NOT** go up onto levees. Please use an alternative route and take care on other roads in the area.

Water quality

For more information on water quality and wastewater services, visit sawater.com.au. You can also register to receive SMS updates including wastewater services in your area. SA Health will issue information about water quality issues that may affect your health.

Houseboat owners and operators

As conditions continue to change, houseboat owners are being encouraged to:

- regularly check that the mooring location of your houseboat remains suitable
- inspect tether lines to reduce the risk of becoming grounded or serious movement
- wear a lifejacket while making inspections.

A SASES fact sheet for Houseboat Users can be downloaded here:

<https://www.ses.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=191953>

Further information can also be found on the Department for Infrastructure and Transport's Marine Safety SA website at www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au

For the latest information on the River Murray floods, including road and ferry information, visit www.sa.gov.au/floods

Important Contacts

Life-threatening emergencies: 000 (triple zero)

Flood and Storm emergencies: 132 500

Flood and Storm Information Line: 1800 362 361

Information Line: 1800 302 787



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Lifeline: 13 11 14

National Translating and Interpreting Service: 131 450

ses.sa.gov.au for alerts and warnings and flood resources to help (checklists, information sheets and videos)

sa.gov.au/floods for River Murray flood information and mental health support information.