

River Murray Flooding

What is happening now:

On Wednesday, 30th November 2022, SASES issued an Emergency Alert message for properties along the River Murray advising them they may be in danger of rising flood waters and to take action now to prepare their home. SASES supported by SAPOL, CFS, MFS and PIRSA commenced door knocking for local residents to ascertain their plans for the high river levels.

The gradual increase in water flows through the River Murray has continued to impact houses and properties across the Riverland and Murraylands. A relief centre was opened in Berri on Tuesday, 29th November 2022 and has supported individuals to access government funded grants and accommodation.

The current flow rate for the River Murray remains at Moderate Flood Level.

Current Warnings:

On Friday, 2nd December 2022, the SASES updated the following warnings:

- Flood Watch and Act message for Lower River Murray
- Flood Watch and Act message for Upper River Murray

The next update on these messages is expected by Friday, 9th December 2022, or as the situation changes.

On Monday, 5th December 2022, the SASES issued the following warning:

- Flood Watch and Act message for parts of Crescent, near Renmark

The next update for this message is expected by Thursday, 5th January 2023, or as the situation changes.

Flow Rates:

The latest forecasts upstream of the South Australian border indicate that the flow to SA will continue increasing during December 2022. It is expected that there will be two peaks, detailed below.

First Peak - Early December

- There is a high probability that the flow will reach a peak of at least 170 - 180 GL per day.
- Data for moderate and lower probability was not available at the time of this newsletter.

Second Peak - Late December

- There is a high probability that the flow will reach a peak of 185 GL per day.
- There is a moderate probability that the flow will reach a peak of 200 GL per day.
- There is a lower probability that the flow will reach a peak of 220 GL per day.

What are we doing:

The SASES continue to support door knocking efforts of land and houseboat properties along the river. Community members are encouraged to visit sandbagging locations at Blanchetown, Bowhill, Glossop, Mannum, Murray Bridge and Paringa which are available 7 days a week from 9am - 3pm until further notice. SASES volunteers will be available to provide information and assistance to community members.



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Additional community meetings have been scheduled for the Barmera, Loxton, Blanchetown and Morgan communities to share impacts of the River Murray flooding and what you can do to prepare. Specific details for each meeting can be found on the SASES website or Facebook page.

Deployment of the DefenceCELL flood barriers have been established in various areas.

SASES have worked with the National Translating and Interpreting Service to translate how and why to contact the Flood and Storm Information Line or Relief Information Line into Greek and Punjabi. These resources can be accessed via the SASES website.

What you should do

Consider your emergency plan and enact if appropriate. Below are some considerations you should make.

Personal circumstances

It is important that everyone considers their own personal circumstances and abilities during this flooding event. If you have essential medication that you require access to, you should speak with your healthcare professional to ensure you can manage this for long periods of time.

If you have been displaced as a result of the River Murray Flooding, you may be able to access financial assistance or accommodation. Please visit www.sa.gov.au or call the Relief Information Line on 1800 302 787 for further information.

Essential services

There is a high chance that properties that are going to be impacted by floodwaters or around the same area as these properties will have essential services disconnected. This can include power, water, gas and sewerage. It is important that you have a plan in place if this occurs at your property, noting the duration could be up to three months. You may be eligible for financial assistance if this occurs. Please visit www.sa.gov.au or call the Relief Information Line on 1800 302 787 for further information.

Inform your family, friends and neighbours

Part of your plan should be to speak with your family, friends and neighbours and make them aware of what you plan to do should decide to leave or you have to evacuate your property.

If you have not been impacted by floodwaters yet, take the time to get to know your neighbours, learn about their plan and think about people in your neighbourhood who may need your help. For example, older people living by themselves, people with disabilities, people with illness, single parents with young children, large families or people newly arrived, including tourists, refugees or immigrants.



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General reminders

With school holidays and warmer months approaching, it is important to remember water safety. SASES recommend that individuals refrain from swimming or engaging in recreational water activities in the River Murray due high flows and debris risk. Community members are reminded never to drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

Individuals seeking to undertake levee construction on their private property are encouraged to discuss with their local council in the first instance.

A River Murray Flood Mapping Tool is available on the SASES website. The tool has been developed to assist Riverland and Murraylands communities in checking the flood risk to their home or property with a flow of 180 GL or 200 GL per day. It can be accessed at www.ses.sa.gov.au/mappingtool.

Important Contacts:

- Life-threatening emergencies: 000 (triple zero)
- Flood and Storm emergencies: 132 500
- River Murray Hotline: 1800 362 361
- Relief Information Line: 1800 302 787
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- National Translating and Interpreting Service: 131 450
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport: 1300 872 677
- www.ses.sa.gov.au for alerts and warnings
- www.sa.gov.au for River Murray flood information

