

River Murray Flooding

What is happening now:

An increase in water flows through the River Murray has now started impacting houses and properties across the Riverland and Murraylands. Due to an increase in river level predictions, the 'High Flow' event will now be known as the River Murray Flood Event.

On Monday, 21st November 2022, Police Commissioner Grant Stevens declared the River Murray Flooding a Major Emergency under the Emergency Management Act 2004.

Current Warnings:

On Friday, 18th November 2022, the SASES issued 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, 25th November 2022, or as the situation changes.

Flow Rates:

As of Friday, 18th November 2022, the flow at the South Australian border was approximately 108 GL/day and is forecast to increase to around 125 GL/day over the coming week.

The latest forecasts upstream of the South Australian border indicate that the flow to SA will continue increasing during November 2022. It is expected that:

- there is a high probability that the flow will reach a peak of at least 175 GL/day in early December 2022;
- there is a moderate probability that the flow will reach a peak of 200 GL/day (this flow may occur with future rainfall and/or improved accuracy in forecasting in the coming weeks);
- there is a lower probability that the flow will reach a peak of 220 GL/day (There is a chance that this flow may occur with significant future rainfall and/or improved accuracy in forecasting in the coming weeks. Be prepared for this flow and river levels "just in case")

What are we doing:

Over the past couple of weeks, the SASES has facilitated Community Meetings in Waikerie, Murray Bridge, Blanchetown, Mannum, Berri, Cobdogla and Renmark, with meetings scheduled for Meningie and Goolwa. Additionally, a 'Shack Owners' Community Meeting will be held tonight, Tuesday 22nd November 2022, at the Norwood Concert Hall for people in the wider metropolitan Adelaide area to attend. Planning is underway for further community meetings in the River Murray area including Renmark.

The SASES continue to provide sandbags for impacted communities through several Community Sandbagging locations at Blanchetown, Bowhill, Glossop, Mannum and Murray Bridge. There will also be an additional site located in Paringa from Thursday 24th November 2022. Sandbags and sand will be available 7-days a week from 9 am - 3 pm at all of these locations, as well as SASES Volunteers who can provide information and assistance to community members.



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Locations are subject to change. Please refer to the SASES website for the most current sandbag locations. If you require sandbags due to water entering or about to enter your home from under your front or back doors, please call 132 500 and press 1 for assistance.

The SASES are currently working with Local Government, engineers and private contractors to assess levee banks in both the Riverland and Murraylands. Some work has commenced strengthening these levees further, including the deployment of DefenCell.

The SASES also continue to work alongside many state government agencies, including SA Country Fire Service, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to support communities over this time.

Houseboats and Shacks:

The SASES has fact sheets on our website - ses.sa.gov.au/rivermurray - which provides advice on what shack and houseboat owners can do to prepare.

Road and Ferry closures:

Over the coming days and weeks, roads and ferry services may be interrupted, closed or suspended. It is important that you keep up-to-date with this information through the Department for Infrastructure and Transport who can be contacted on 1300 872 977 or by visiting www.dit.sa.gov.au

What you should do:

The SASES ask that you be prepared for any water inundation at your property. You can find more information on the SASES website - www.ses.sa.gov.au on how to prepare your property or shack and what to do before, during and after a flood.

Every property should have an Emergency Plan that needs to be followed if required. Things to consider for your Emergency Plan include your personal circumstances (medical, financial, etc), the likelihood of losing power, what you need to do if you decide to leave, planning your route carefully to avoid flooded roads and allowing extra travel time, and more. Make sure you advise your family, friends and neighbours of your plan and if you decide to leave. If you are leaving, consider leaving early and carefully consider last minute decisions to leave.

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 160 GL or 200 GL per day flow examples.

Important Contacts:

- Life-threatening emergencies: 000 (triple zero)
- Flood and Storm emergencies: 132 500
- Flood and Storm general information: 1800 362 361
- www.ses.sa.gov.au
- www.sa.gov.au

