

# MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: **Rural City of Murray Bridge  
Flood Plan**

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KEEPING people and property safe in the face of rising river levels is the driving force behind a comprehensive flood plan being rolled out by The Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Riverfront reserves are closing and sandbag stations are open, along with a range of initiatives being undertaken by Council workers as part of a larger coordinated local flood response.

Mayor Wayne Thorley said community members could be assured the Council was working with emergency services, government agencies and other stakeholders to provide the most effective protection possible for the community.

“People are our number one priority and we will do all that we can to keep them safe during this crisis,” he said.

“We will also do all that is within our power to safeguard Council infrastructure and support the lead agency, [South Australian State Emergency Services](#) (SASES), to protect people's homes and businesses wherever possible.

“This is the greatest natural disaster we have seen here during my lifetime, but together we have made it through drought, bushfire, a pandemic and everything else that's been thrown our way over the years, and together is how we'll make it through this.

“Right now it's vital that we all work together to keep each other safe – follow Council and emergency services directions, don't take any unnecessary risks and check on your friends and neighbours to make sure they're okay.

“The Rural City of Murray Bridge is a Thriving Community and working together to overcome adversity and embrace opportunity is what we do best.”

Council representatives attended community meetings at Murray Bridge, Mypolonga and Toora in recent weeks, where information was provided by [Council](#), [SASES](#), [Department of Environment and Water](#) (DEW), [Department Infrastructure and Transport](#), [Primary Industries SA](#), [Housing SA](#), [SA Power Networks](#) and [SA Water](#).

River reserves closed due to current or potential impact include: Avoca Dell, Boggy Lake, Lake, Hill Road, Hume, Riverglens, Tumbella and Toora.

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Only the southern section of Sturt Reserve is closed so far, however further sections will be incrementally closed as the water level rises.

The Bunyip will stay protected in its riverfront cave during high flows, as the structure and Bunyip are expected to withstand flooding.

The Bunyip's hydraulic system is designed to work underwater, however motors and other power related circuitry have been raised to the highest level in the back of the cave to sit above predicted peak levels.

All events scheduled to be held at Sturt Reserve from Thursday 1 December have been relocated or postponed.

The Sailability jetty at Sturt Reserve and Woodlane Reserve boat ramp are closed until further notice, and the pump track from Sturt Reserve will be relocated to Christian Reserve on Friday 2 December.

When reserves are closed all facilities within those reserves are also closed – including toilets, barbecues, playgrounds, boat ramps and power.

The power supply has been cut to Council land within the expected flood zone, and infrastructure, such as barbecues and irrigation pumps, has been temporarily relocated.

Murray Bridge Showgrounds have been made available to serve as a sandbag collection point for the SASES and people can collect up to 20 sandbags each from 9am to 3pm seven days a week - volunteers are on hand to help fill bags.

Council is making bulk sand available FREE of charge at Murray Bridge Showgrounds, the corner of Jaensch and Sturt Reserve Roads, Monteith Hall and Mypolonga Oval.

Defence cell technology in the shape of large honeycomb sand filled blocks is being used to build levee banks at Sturt Reserve this week, to protect the Murray Bridge Community Club and Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre this week.

All Department of Environment and Water levee banks along the Lower Murray, from Mannum to Wellington, are now closed as a temporary preventative measure to minimise risks to public safety.

Recreational activity along the levee banks will not be allowed during this time.

The Department is confident in the performance of government owned levees in a flood event, up to the levels and flows they're designed for.

Once water levels have fallen low enough, levees will reopen in a timely manner.

A full list of impacted Council services and facilities is available on [The Rural City of Murray Bridge website](#) and updates will be posted to the Council's [Facebook](#) page.