

Rural City of Murray Bridge Community Flood Recovery Plan 2.0 December 2023



MURRAY
BRIDGE

Contents



- Purpose
- Strategic Alignment
- Funding
- Advocacy
- Assets & Infrastructure
- Roads
- Levees & Flood Barriers
- Boat Ramps
- Bridges, Wharves & Jetties
- Stormwater
- Open Space & Community Infrastructure
- Footpaths
- Environmental Services
- Public Health
- Planning
- Waste
- Tourist, Economic Development & Community
- Tourism
- Economic Development
- Community

Purpose



The River Murray Flood 2022/23 peaked in Murray Bridge on 9 January 2023 and reached 2.34 Australian Height Datum (AHD).

The Flood Recovery Plan (the Plan) aims to inform the community on what areas Council are focusing its recovery efforts on and what role Council plays in the State Government led recovery. In addition, it also provides a clear outline on what resourcing is required and funding Council is advocating for in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

This Plan has been developed in line with Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Strategic Alignment

Valued Environment



Outcomes:

- Stormwater
- Levees

Great People and Lifestyle



Outcomes:

- Open Space & Community Infrastructure
- Public Health

Dynamic Economy



Outcomes:

- Funding
- Planning
- Economic Development
- Tourism

Connected Communities



Outcomes:

- Advocacy
- Community Connection
- Wellbeing

Funding



The engineering and insurance assessments of flood-affected Council assets continues as inundated areas are dewatered. The cost of flood related activities to the end of November 2023 was \$2.47Million.

These costs continue to rise as repair and recovery actions are undertaken.

The exact cost of full recovery is not yet known, however, it is projected that the cost of response and recovery will be in the millions of dollars.

Council has commenced applications to a number of State and Commonwealth supported grant schemes (Disaster Operations and Recovery) which, if successful, will reduce the financial exposure of Council to the High River event.

Where assets are insured, Council is also pursuing recovery of costs through that coverage.

Advocacy



During the River Murray Flood 2022/23, Council developed a positive reputation for communication and engagement with both community and government stakeholders. Council's advocacy efforts throughout the flood were critical for securing financial resources to enable significant flood preparation works to occur in a short time frame.

Council will continue to foster the same approach to advocacy during recovery, as was exhibited during the preparation in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the community.

Council will specifically advocate for funding and a collaborative approach to support the following elements of recovery:

- Betterment of assets
- DEW and private Levee Management

Assets & Infrastructure

Council has a range of assets and infrastructure that have been impacted by the flood. These include roads, riverfront reserves, boat ramps, wharves, houseboat moorings, stormwater systems, open space, wetland areas, community infrastructure, and footpaths.

To capture the scale of the remediation task, where required, Council has engaged consulting engineers to inspect and record each individual impacted asset. This is carried out by recording photos and details of the damage to each asset, which enables planning for remediation works and the estimation of costs. This information will also be utilised to communicate the expected costs for remediation works to potential funding stakeholders.

It is also of the utmost importance to ensure that assets are safe for public use prior to being reopened. This may result in some assets remaining closed for extended periods, whilst Council plans and undertakes the required remediation works.

Council recognises that the highest priority is for residents to have access to their homes and businesses, therefore infrastructure such as access roads has been addressed first. In addition, boat ramps have also been prioritised to enable access for the protection of on river assets such as houseboats and pumping infrastructure.

The task of remediating Council's affected assets and infrastructure cannot be overstated. Council will continue to communicate with the community and stakeholders on the progress undertaken and subsequent reopening timeframes. The following sections detail Council's asset and infrastructure recovery response which has been broken down into asset classes.

Roads

A major focus of Council's recovery efforts will be to rehabilitate and reinstate the 43.2 kilometres of roads that were inundated out of the 58 kilometres of roads which were closed during the flood. The reinstatement of these roads is crucial for the community's well-being and reviving the economy.

For roads that have had minor damage, the reopening process involves allowing the pavement to dry before a strength test is undertaken to ensure no further damage can be caused by the reintroduction of regular traffic. Those roads that have had major damage will require greater planning and in some instances are expected to be closed for a longer period. Roads that act as a major thoroughfare with no alternate route, will be given greater priority to resourcing and remediating.

Many kilometres of roads have now been remediated and reopened. These roads are being regularly monitored for any further deterioration or failures. The following table gives an indication of when key roads were opened and details assets that remain impacted, potential works required, expected timeframes, the extent of works and current status.

Road	Works to be completed	Timeframe	Extent of works	Status
Long Flat Road	Monitoring of repaired areas for further deterioration	Last segment was opened in June 2023	Significant civil works were undertaken	Monitoring
North Bokara Road	Major civil intervention due to separation of embankment from road	Works commenced Late November 2023	Reconstruction of embankment which will include benching layers into current road to tie together	Ongoing

Roads

Road	Works to be completed	Timeframe	Extent of works	Status
Murrawong Road	Monitoring of repaired areas for further deterioration	Opened in May 2023	Civil intervention including drainage and resheeting	Monitoring
Billabong Road	Monitoring of repaired areas for further deterioration	Opened in July 2023	Civil intervention including drainage and resheeting	Monitoring
Toora Road	Monitoring of repaired areas for further deterioration	Last segment opened in September 2023	Civil intervention including drainage and resheeting	Monitoring
Multiple unsealed roads located in flood plains	Monitoring of repaired areas for further deterioration	Late 2023	Civil intervention including drainage and resheeting	Monitoring

Levees & Flood Barriers

Rural City of Murray Bridge does not manage nor maintain any river levees.

Only one emergency levee was constructed to protect the lower parts of the Mypolonga township and the school – The levee was removed during October 2023 and final remediation works to Hannaford Terrace are due to be completed in early 2024.

Flood barriers were constructed at Sturt Reserve to protect the Regional Rowing Centre, Murray Bridge Community Club and SA Water assets including the town's main sewer connection. These barriers have been removed.



Mypolonga Levee – 5 January 2023

Boat Ramps

During the flood, all riverfront reserve boat ramps were inundated and required varying levels of repair.

The impact to these assets ranged from removing debris and the silt deposited through to scour repairs at the toe of the concrete ramps.

All required remedial works have been undertaken and all boat ramps are open to the public.



Woodlane Reserve – 27 December 2022

Wharves & Jetties

Riverfront Infrastructure such as jetties and wharves have experienced differing levels of damage from the flood and therefore the extent of remediation and repair works vary in complexity. The damage encountered has been minor in some cases requiring minimal intervention which has been completed. In other areas the damage has been significant and requires a much greater level of intervention or infrastructure replacement. The following table outlines the actions to recover Council's jetty and wharf assets.

Asset	Timeframe	Extent of works	Status
Sturt Reserve Lower and Heritage Wharves and adjacent landside facilities	Unknown	Significant deterioration of wharf, damage to retaining walls and subsidence of adjacent land – note significant area still fenced off from public access	Investigations by relevant consultants underway. Results will be used in discussions with parties such as Heritage SA
Sturt Reserve 'Covered Jetty'	Unknown	Jetty suffered significant structural damage including loss of decking	Investigations by relevant consultants underway – results will be used to determine appropriate actions.

Stormwater

As part of Council's Flood Preparedness Strategy, a number of areas of Council's stormwater system required significant works in order to prevent flooding from back flow.

A number of stormwater outlets were closed using varying interventions (from simple to major) and where required, active pumping solutions were implemented to prevent subsequent flooding caused by rain events while the stormwater systems were blocked.

All stormwater systems have been un-blocked and returned to service



Sturt Reserve – 27 December 2022

Open Space & Community Infrastructure

Open space areas, riverfront reserves and wetlands were impacted differently throughout the flood. Many areas required minor remediation (clean up etc) which has already been attended to.

The following table outlines outstanding tasks required to reinstate these infrastructure and assets to become available to the community again.

Location	Timeframe	Extent of works	Status
Thiele Reserve	Unknown	Significant bank erosion issues suffered during high river event – large portion of river frontage still closed	Design of remediation solution underway
Avoca Dell Reserve	Unknown	Bank erosion issues suffered during high river event – approx 50% of river frontage affected	Design of remediation solution underway
Long Island Reserve	Unknown	Approx 10m length of bank erosion suffered during high river event	Design of remediation solution underway
Riverfront Reserve Playgrounds at Sturt Reserve, Woodlane and Thiele Reserve	Last playground opened in October 2023	Repairs required to the rubber soft fall around the play equipment	Availability of suitable contractors was an issue in timing of repairs

Footpaths

As parts of Council's footpath network are alongside the River Murray, these were impacted during and post flood.

All affected footpaths have been remediated and are open to public use.



Sturt Reserve – 31 January 2023

Environmental Services



During and after a flood event, environmental and public health risks to communities are prevalent. As part of recovery, Council are committed to providing factual and useful information to the community on a range of environmental and public health topics such as;

- how to safely access properties which were inundated
- how to ensure properties are safe to reside in
- assessments of private property and wastewater systems
- re-building
- reconnecting of services
- mould removal

In addition to the above, monitoring and treatment of mosquito breeding sites has been undertaken which has played an integral part in minimising the risk of mosquito borne diseases within the community.

Public Health

Following initial damage to property and infrastructure, water left behind from flooding can cause sickness and serious injury. Our role in recovery is to provide information and advice regarding assessments of private property and wastewater systems, re-building, reconnecting services, mould clean up and monitoring and treatment of mosquito breeding sites.

Initiative	Timeframe
Provide advice to land-owners re wastewater systems, removal, control and elimination of mould, rainwater tank cleaning and general clean-up via all social mediums	Complete
Provide relevant contact details and advocacy for agencies managing service reconnection, mental health services	Complete
Ensure mosquito management program incorporates any new sites and are monitored and treated	Ongoing
Continue to promote the Fight the Bite message regarding mosquito management	Ongoing
Provide advice regarding Food Safety in an Emergency – in the home	Complete

Planning

In response to the floods, the State Government changed the Planning Development and Infrastructure (PDI) Regulation to bring in the following exemption for 'temporary accommodation':-

The parking of a caravan or other vehicle of any weight on land on which a dwelling, or part of a dwelling, has been destroyed or significantly damaged by a bushfire or a flood if the vehicle is to be used as accommodation by the owner of the land-

- or a period not exceeding 2 years; or
- until a Dwelling on the land is approved and completed.

This enables landowners to be on site while they remediate their properties and rebuild.

In addition, the State Government commenced a Code Amendment to amend policies within the Planning and Design Code to provide more accurate floor levels, greater flexibility in building heights, guidance around building materials and underfloor structures and better align referral triggers to the Department of Environment and Water.

Initiative	Timeframe
Work collaboratively with State Government and other key agencies to assist with any necessary legislative or planning policy amendments deemed necessary to manage the flood impact on property recovery and redevelopment	Complete
Provide advice to landowners about planning process for redevelopment	Ongoing

Waste

Flood water has caused a significant amount of damage across our region. The damage has not only been to our natural landscape and our community spaces but also to our residential, commercial and primary production properties.

To assist the community with the clean-up process we have been able to secure clean-up and disposal funding through Green Industries SA for flood damaged waste for all flood affected properties.

Initiative	Timeframe
Promoting the State Government waste assistance program through Green Industries SA	Complete

Tourism, Economic Development & Community



The River Murray Flood 2022/23 not only impacted Council assets and infrastructure, it had a profound impact on the tourism sector which has had a flow on effect to economic development and the community.

Council has identified the issues which arose in the above sectors and has outlined the role it will play in recovery.

Tourism

Due to the River Murray Flood 2022/23 the tourism sector suffered significantly due to their heavy reliance on the River Murray as the focus of all recreation activities. Council's role in recovery is as follows:

Initiative	Timeframe
ARt Trail (Augmented Reality / mural marketing and promotion	15 June Event - Complete
Murray River Glows : <i>A celebration of strength and unity</i> - Event	15 to 18 June 2023 Event - Complete
Promotion of Tourism SA "Rise Up for Our River" marketing campaign and the River Revival Voucher program.	Complete

Economic Development

Short-term downturns to the local economy were experienced during the River Murray Flood 2022/23 with increased operating cost for flood affected primary producers, the inability for on-water related businesses to operate, reduced visitors and community uncertainty. As such Council's role in recovery is as follows:

Initiative	Timeframe
Promote Shop Local SA to support local business.	Ongoing
Support and pursue opportunities to attract economic growth in the community including increasing residential land and commercial expansion.	Ongoing
Establish a Co-Working Business Hub to enable flood affected start-ups and home-based businesses to establish and grow	Complete
Applications for postponement of rate payments due to financial hardship created by flooding are considered in an equal and fair manner.	Complete

Community

Council's Flood preparedness strategy was executed effectively, therefore the impact to the community was fortunately minimal.

As such Council's role in recovery is as follows.

Initiative	Timeframe
Effectively communicate with the community to ensure they are informed of Council's Recovery Plan.	Complete – updated report to be uploaded to the Council website.
Ensure that Council's customer facing staff are informed of recovery works occurring to enable exceptional customer service delivery.	Complete
Rate relief provided to flood affected properties through the Rates Hardship Policy	Complete
Advocate and seek funding for additional social initiatives which contribute to social inclusion, enhance livability and wellbeing	Ongoing

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Contact details

Telephone: 8539 1100

Email: council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Web: <https://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/>