

MEDIA RELEASE

FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRESSES ACROSS MID MURRAY

Recovery works are progressing across the Mid Murray Council, as the area continues to rebuild following the devastating 2022/23 summer River Murray flood.

Much of the Council's essential infrastructure has been restored, including roads and wastewater systems.

Work is continuing on other priority areas, such as public amenities, caravan parks, any remaining road and wastewater infrastructure, open space reserves and riverfront areas.

Mannum's popular Mary Ann Reserve is one such area now under Council's recovery focus.

The reserve was heavily impacted by both the flooding and the construction of a levee bank, built to protect critical infrastructure from the floodwaters. Council has already begun a program of works to restore the reserve to pre-flood condition, estimated at approximately \$1m, with the work subject to internal and external funding which forms the basis of ongoing discussions with the Government.

As Mary Ann Reserve is a popular destination for visitors and events, Council's aim is to have the reserve returned to its pre-flood condition in the coming months, prior to the peak holiday season. This includes welcoming back to the riverfront one of the region's biggest events, the iconic Sounds by the River, in January 2024, which was relocated to the Mannum Golf Club as a result of the recent flood event.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said while the flood may be a memory for many people outside the district, local residents, property owners and business operators were still living with the reality of a long recovery period.

"While the flood may have disappeared from the headlines and people's social media newsfeeds, its impact is still very real for our community," Mayor Bailey said.

"This year has been heavily focused on cleanup and repair, and the reality is that this is something that is going to take a long time. Council has been working hard to get all essential infrastructure such as our roads and wastewater systems back up and running, but there is so much more that also needs fixing.

"It's exciting to see work progressing across our district as we slowly rehabilitate areas to their pre-flood condition. Importantly, it's great to see visitors returning to the Mid Murray area to support us as well.

"With the launch of the Illuminate Adelaide event River Lights held on Friday, 4 August, and as we head into the spring and summer peak season over coming months, we hope to see many more people returning to the river and the broader region to assist with our recovery."

One of Council's biggest recovery challenges continues to be the cost of the flood clean-up and repair bill. It has so far spent \$8.9m on flood mitigation, clean up and recovery, with \$7.1m received or committed so far in grants from the State and Federal Government. Council is continuing its discussions with the Government on further funding opportunities.

This has meant Council has had to prioritise recovery works in line with the funding available, and the need for essential infrastructure to be restored first.

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As the waters receded, Council's recovery focused on re-establishing road access, reconnecting wastewater systems, removing levees and remediating areas impacted by the structures, repairing public toilets, caravan parks, open space and riverfront areas. In many cases, substantial repairs were needed to return much of this infrastructure to a usable state.

A wet winter has hampered some of these recovery works, with some flood-affected roads which had been repaired, in particular needing additional works.

There are still many facilities, including reserves and marine facilities, that are under repair, Mayor Bailey said.

"Council is grateful to the community for its patience and understanding of this process. We will continue to work through our list of projects as our funding and resourcing limits allow."

Illuminate Adelaide's River Lights event runs until 13 August at Mannum. Spectacular light installations will bring the town's historic main street to life after dark.

Find out more to plan your trip at: <https://www.illuminateadelaide.com/program/season-2023/river-lights-mannum/>.

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