

MEDIA RELEASE

RIISING MURRAY RIVER LEVELS PROMPT CALL FOR CAUTION IN MID MURRAY

Murray River users and property owners along the riverfront and in low-lying areas are encouraged to be cautious as water levels and flows continue to rise.

Flows into SA are expected rise to 53GL per day on Friday, 5 August and hold until around 10 August 2022. Following this the flow will reduce to about 49GL/day by Friday, 12 August.

When flows above 50GL per day are forecast, a *High Flow Advice* is issued, alerting river users and nearby property owners of the increased risk of faster currents, higher water levels and submerged debris.

The Mid Murray Council is encouraging river users and nearby residents to be cautious over the coming weeks as the river level and flows rise.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said Council staff are monitoring Council's own infrastructure and may implement minor road closures and interruptions to Community Waste Water Management Schemes at localised and individual areas along the river in preparation.

"It's great to see the Murray River flowing strongly – and the environmental benefits this brings to our region," Mayor Burgess says.

"However, with the expected peak in flows now due, we all need to be mindful of the changes and risks that additional water can bring."

If flows at the SA border are forecast to exceed 60GL a day, the SA State Emergency Service will issue a *Flood Advice – River Murray Shack Areas* as an official warning of the increased risk of flooding to shack communities between Cadell and Mannum.

"While we don't expect water levels will reach the level where there's a risk of flooding to properties in our district based on current forecasts, we're encouraging property owners and residents to take precautions just in case. Localised interruptions may occur where roads may need to close and CWMS decommissioning may need to occur at individual shacks. Affected property owners will be notified.

"Things can change quickly and it's best to be prepared. We have many shack owners who don't live in the district and may need advance notice in order to secure their properties against the risk of minor inundation."

River users should exercise caution when out and about on or in the water.

"The increased flows create stronger and faster currents and new submerged dangers that may not be visible," Mayor Burgess says.

"It doesn't matter how well you think you know your favourite stretch of river, backwater or fishing spot – things can change quickly. Make sure you're prepared by checking your surroundings, wearing the right protective gear such as a personal floatation device, and letting someone know where you're going.

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“Make sure you also keep up to date with river level forecasts and regularly check on low-lying properties and river assets such as boats, pontoons and jetties.”

Council is also continuing to monitor river flows and levels, and will take precautions to protect infrastructure in low-lying areas whilst the water levels are high.

Property owners and residents who need sandbags can collect these from Council’s Depots by appointment. For details contact 8569 0100.

Find the latest on Murray River flows online here: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au.

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