



TONY PASIN MP

Federal Member for Barker



30 November 2022

The Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001

Premier@sa.gov.au

Dear Premier,

URGENT CONCERNS RE RIVER MURRAY FLOODING

I write regarding the impending flood waters along the river corridor in my electorate of Barker.

I have spent considerable time in these communities in recent weeks speaking with constituents regarding preparations and flood mitigation efforts.

While I have facilitated resolutions to many individual issues raised, I have however, identified some common concerns that need to be addressed on a more systematic basis. I outline these matters below together with suggested recommendations.

1. Vulnerable people

There are many elderly, frail or physically compromised residents in flood prone areas who require support with flood mitigation, preparation and relocation. These are the most vulnerable amongst the community and need to be provided with additional support. No member of our community should be left behind, particularly not those most vulnerable.

Recommendation 1. Develop and implement a coordinated plan to assist vulnerable residents with flood mitigation, preparation and if required, relocation.

2. Alternative accommodation for displaced residents

Potentially thousands of residents will be required to evacuate flood affected dwellings. Many of these people have no alternative accommodation. Residents have expressed the wish, and in my respectful opinion, need to be able to relocate to a property within their community. Currently no co-ordinated strategy exists for alternative accommodation. I note some residents were required to relocated more than six weeks ago and are now facing relocation for a second time. It will be many months before they are able to return to living at their residences. Appropriate alternative accommodation in each community is required urgently.

Recommendation 2. Develop and implement an alternative accommodation strategy which includes options for residents to remain, should they wish, in their respective communities.

Murray Bridge Office

Shop 5, Murray Bridge Green, Riverview Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Phone (08) 8531 2466 Freecall 1300 301 648

Mount Gambier Office

27 Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone (08) 8724 7730 Freecall 1300 723 935

Email tony.pasin.mp@aph.gov.au Web tonypasin.com f [TonyPasinMP](https://www.facebook.com/TonyPasinMP) t [@TonyPasin](https://twitter.com/TonyPasin)

3. Communication of advice regarding utilities

Many residents are reporting frustration with the lack of communication regarding power and sewage connections. SA Power networks and SA Water need to be better communicate their plans and proposed actions with communities right along the river corridor.

Recommendation 3. Have SA Power Networks and SA Water conduct local drop-in sessions in all communities along the river corridor.

4. Clarity regarding Local Government flood mitigation costs

A number of senior members and officers from impacted LGAs have contacted me expressing concern regarding the opaque nature of commitments made regarding the costs associated with the wide range of flood mitigation efforts. Clarification is required urgently regarding how these works are to be funded.

Recommendation 4. Immediately clarify funding arrangements for all flood mitigation efforts being undertaken by Local Government Agencies.

5. Consistency of evacuation requirements.

Residents have been given inconsistent advice regarding when they will be required to evacuate. This inconsistency is causing significant anxiety, uncertainty and giving rise to unnecessary losses.

Recommendation 5. Develop and communicate a clear and consistent set of guidelines and protocols regarding evacuation.

6. Funding support measures

The recently announced support package is welcome but it is deficient in a number of respects. In particular, the package fails to appreciate the gravity of this situation and the very real likelihood that the associated impact will continue for a protracted period of time.

Recommendation 6. Immediately announce further supports for those whose losses are likely to extend over a protracted period.

I request that you implement the above six recommendations immediately in the interest of communities throughout the river corridor.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Pasir MP

TP/CE