

Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan

For the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel Settlements

What is a Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan?

A Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan is a plan that outlines the actions a community can take before, during and after coastal flood events to help reduce the likelihood and consequences of emergencies on people, their properties, local infrastructure, and the environment.

Why do we need a Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channels?

The low elevation and coastal setting of the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel settlements mean they already experience flooding during storm surge events. Coastal flood risks to the settlements are projected to increase in frequency and extent as the climate changes and sea levels rise. This means more people may be affected more often.

The 2021 Coastal Adaptation Study for Alexandrina Council showed that there are many houses in the settlements that may experience flood waters over the floor levels of their houses during coastal flood events under current conditions. Many sheds and yards may also be flooded.

What is a storm surge?

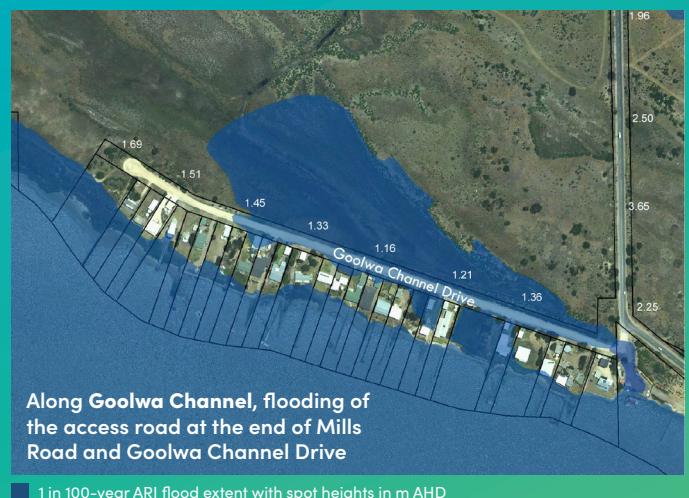
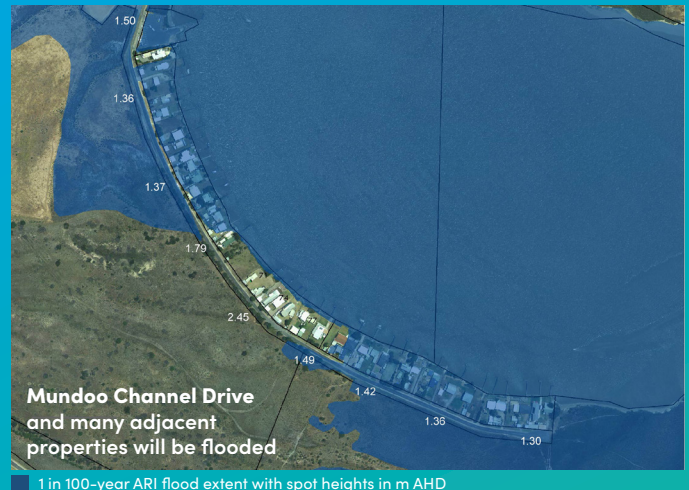
A storm surge is an abnormal rise in sea level over and above the normal (astronomical) tide levels. It can be thought of as the change in the water level due to the presence of a storm.

bom.gov.au/cyclone/tropical-cyclone-knowledge-centre/understanding/storm-surge/

Many of the roads that are important for emergency access are flooded during storm surge events. Some emergency service vehicles (e.g. ambulances) may not be able to reach all houses if flood waters cover the roads.

The maps below show the extent of coastal flooding that could be expected now in some locations for a 1 in 100-year average recurrence interval (ARI) storm surge event (source: Coastal Adaptation Study, 2021).

Along Goolwa and Mundoo channels, access roads and properties may experience coastal flooding during storm surges and annual high water.



Government of South Australia
Coast Protection Board

The development of the Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan is jointly funded by the Coast Protection Board and Alexandrina Council

How will the Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan help the community?

Preparing a Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channels will help the community to better understand why flooding occurs along the Channels and how this is changing as sea levels rise. The Plan will identify types of actions landholders can take to prepare their homes and properties to reduce the impact of flooding. It will also identify what the community could do when it does flood, and how to recover from flood events.

Experience has shown that communities that have prepared for emergency events have increased confidence when responding to emergencies and are more likely to keep themselves, their families, their pets, and their properties safe during a flood event.

Why should I get involved in the preparation of the Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channels?

Community involvement is really important for the preparation of the Plan.

As Goolwa Channel and Mundoo Channel landowners or residents (either permanently or seasonal), you are the people who may be most affected by coastal flooding. You are also the people that know the area best. We will be calling on your local knowledge and your ideas for what to do before, during or after flood events to inform the Plan.

How can I participate in the preparation of the Community Flood Emergency Plan for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channels?

A series of three community workshops will be run between February 2024 and April 2024. All workshops will be held at the Centenary Hall, Goolwa.

WORKSHOP	DATE	KEY CONTENT
Workshop 1	Thursday 8 February 2024, 6pm – 8pm	» Introduction to community emergency management planning » How will flooding impact you and your property now and in the future?
Workshop 2	Thursday 29 February 2024, 6pm – 8pm	» What are your experiences with flood events and what happened during and after these? » How are flood events currently managed? » How prepared do you think the community is? » What household or community strategies could help reduce the impact of flooding before, during or after a flood event?
Workshop 3	Thursday 11 April 2024, 6pm – 8pm	» Presentation of draft Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan » Preparing a household emergency management plan

These three community workshops are open to all but especially the residents and landowners of Mundoo and Goolwa Channels and you will be able to attend online. To register for the workshops, visit mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/CA2024.

Where can I find out more about Council's coastal adaptation planning

Many coastal areas in South Australia, including Alexandrina's 25 kilometre coastline, are subject to erosion and seawater inundation that will be exacerbated by rising sea levels. In our region, sea levels have been rising on average at 4–5mm per year. The rate of change is projected to increase over coming decades, increasing the extent and frequency of coastal erosion and flooding.

In February 2021, Council adopted the Coastal Adaptation Study that investigated how people, the natural environment and built assets might be impacted by rising sea levels over coming decades so that Council and other stakeholders, such as State Government and private landowners, can plan for the future.

The outcomes of the Study, including the reports, fact sheets and outcomes of the community engagement undertaken in 2020, can be found on Council's website under alexandrina.sa.gov.au/connect/environment/coastaladaptation.

For further information please contact
Council's Environmental Strategy Officer on
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