

# Katarapko Floodplain

## 2024-25 proposed environmental water operations



A low-level watering operation may be undertaken at Katarapko floodplain, which proposes raising water levels behind The Splash environmental regulator by up to 2 m (to 12 m AHD) and raising Lock 4 by up to 10 cm above normal pool level. Further consideration of monitoring outcomes and floodplain conditions is occurring to confirm the scale of the operation.

The decision to proceed with these operations will be informed by environmental monitoring outcomes and depend on River Murray flows and conditions, environmental water availability and approvals.

If operations at Katarapko Floodplain proceed, these will commence in early September 2024.

The main outcomes sought from this operation are to:

- Provide a breeding opportunity for frogs, with frog monitoring suggesting there was a poor frog breeding response in 2023-24. This comes after the Southern bell frog was recorded in 2022-23 at Katarapko for the first time since 2018.
- Improve soil moisture and export of salt to support vegetation development, particularly in the lower Eckerts Creek section of the floodplain. This includes shrub species that germinated after the 2022-23 River Murray flood.
- Maintain drying in low-lying wetland basins that have experienced prolonged inundation. The infrastructure allows a low-level inundation to occur whilst the regulators at Ngak Indau and Piggy Creek remain closed to exclude water and keep these basins in a drying phase.

If River Murray flows are expected to exceed 30 GL/day at the SA border, this operation will not proceed as levels will naturally rise and achieve inundation equivalent to the planned operation.



A low-level inundation will provide additional foraging habitat for waterbirds



A red gum tree seedling that germinated after the 2022-23 River Murray flood



Peron's tree frog, one of six frog species recorded at the Katarapko floodplain

### More information

For further information about Katarapko Floodplain, visit [environment.sa.gov.au/katarapko-floodplain](https://environment.sa.gov.au/katarapko-floodplain)

If you would like to be added to future floodplain operation updates, please join our subscriber list at [environment.sa.gov.au/ewater-subscribe](https://environment.sa.gov.au/ewater-subscribe) and select the locations you are interested in. Alternatively, you can email your preferred details to [DEW.ewater@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.ewater@sa.gov.au)

Updates regarding water for the environment planning, including operations at Pike, Katarapko and Chowilla floodplains, weir pool manipulations and other activities are also provided in the weekly SA River Murray Flow Report (released each Friday). To view the Flow Report or subscribe to receive it directly to your email, please visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au/flow-report](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/flow-report) [environment.sa.gov.au/katarapko-floodplain](https://environment.sa.gov.au/katarapko-floodplain)

If you have further queries about the proposed floodplain operations, please contact the Department for Environment and Water's Environmental Water Team at [dew.ewater@sa.gov.au](mailto:dew.ewater@sa.gov.au)