

Information Sheet – River survey, levee repair and vegetation management



The Gawler River survey, levee repair and vegetation management project is one of four short-term projects to improve flood management across the Gawler River region.

This project is part of a partnership between the South Australian Government and local councils in the Gawler River catchment to assess and action flood management strategies to enable the community to be as resilient as possible.

How will the project benefit property owners along the Gawler River?

From time to time the Gawler River has flooded. While this changing water level is natural and often important for the native plants and animals that live in and around the river, water level rises can have a significant impact on people and property.

Levee banks can improve the predictability of flood behaviour and reduce flood impact, leading to reduced flood risks during events, however the protection against flood events depends on how these levees were designed, constructed and are maintained. Collecting data and having improved information will assist us to make informed decisions about flood management actions.

For example, levee repairs and vegetation management can improve the capacity of the river to convey water and reduce the likelihood of water spilling from the river out into the surrounding area, and causing damage to property and assets.

How can property owners register interest in participating in the project?

Property owners along the Gawler River can register their interest in participating in the project by completing the online form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GawlerRiverProject4> or scan the QR Code on this fact sheet below.

What happens once interest has been registered?

Once a registration of interest has been received, a representative of the Department for Environment and Water will contact you to arrange a property visit.

At the visit, representatives will undertake a simple visual assessment of the section of Gawler River that runs through the property.

Representatives will talk with property owners and residents further about the project, understand any requirements in accessing your property and respond to any questions you may have.



Following the visit, property owners will be informed whether their property has been selected for inclusion in the project, along with the details of what next.

Our project has been staged and can respond as you do. Initially we have allowed for 15 detailed property inspections, but would like to do many more so we can capture as much information as possible.

Registering your interest will help us to secure the funding required.

Permission will be sought from the property's owners ahead of any activities occurring. The project team will work with property owners to arrange a suitable time and any specific access requirements.

What works will occur?

Once we have your permission, work will commence with detailed data collection about things like levee condition and vegetation types. This will help us to plan potential activities like earth works to repair levee banks, removal of silt from the channel or weed removal and tree trimming. In many cases, no work may be required.

Will there be a cost to property owners?

The project is being funded by state and local government. There won't be any cost to property owners for the initial property visit or detailed field data collection, and all property owners will be provided with a report about their property.

Funding of recommended works to repair levees or manage vegetation will be on a priority basis and may not happen immediately.

Ongoing land management following completion of any works, will be the responsibility of the property owner, as is the case now.

Who would deliver the work?

Work, including data collection, will be undertaken by qualified contractors, engaged by the Department for Environment and Water.

When would the works happen?

Work is expected to start in the second quarter of 2022. Works will be staged across participating properties. A suitable time for any on-property activities to occur will be agreed with property owners and residents.

More information

Email DEWFloodProjects@sa.gov.au

For general flood preparedness information, visit ses.sa.gov.au/flood

For information about complementary work visit landscape.sa.gov.au/ny

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>