



Government
of South Australia

Department of Water,
Land and Biodiversity
Conservation

MEDIA RELEASE

**MONDAY
4 MAY 2009**

BANK SLUMPING ALONG THE RIVER MURRAY

Residents and visitors to the River Murray have been urged to keep a lookout for the signs of slumping along the riverbank and to report any slumping immediately.

The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) has warned that sections of riverbank between Lock 1 and Wellington are at risk of slumping.

In the latest development, a 500m section of riverbank at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge, has developed major cracking. The owners of 15 shacks on the reserve are advised that the major cracking has increased the chance of slumping along that riverbank.

Officers from DWLBC and the Rural City of Murray Bridge have visited the site to speak directly to shack inhabitants. Owners of unoccupied shacks will be contacted by phone.

There have been several riverbank slumping incidents between Lock 1 and Wellington in recent months, which have involved soil, and in some cases trees and vehicles, quickly sliding into the river without warning.

The signs of potential riverbank slumps include:

- Longitudinal cracking along riverbanks, sometimes well away from the River edge.
- Fallen or leaning trees or vegetation tilting or slipping towards the River.
- Other nearby slumps.
- Where banks are steep and the channel deep, with sudden 'drop off' to depth.
- Where there are other signs of erosion or bank collapse on a smaller scale.
- Bubbling in the water near the riverbank.

Residents and visitors to the River Murray have been urged not to:

- Enter areas that have been fenced off and/or are signed with warnings.
- Park vehicles on riverbanks close to the water's edge, or where signs of cracking occur.
- Camp or picnic on riverbanks where signs of cracking occur.
- Walk on recently collapsed riverbanks, or where signs of cracking occur.
- Attach mooring lines to trees close to the water's edge, or moor at sites where tall trees grow along the riverbank.
- Approach areas by boat that have already collapsed or are identified as having the potential to collapse.
- Sleep aboard vessels if bubbling is observed near the riverbank after mooring.

Incidents of riverbank slumping, or major cracking, should be reported to the MurrayWatch Hotline on (08) 8531 0710.

For further information contact DWLBC on 8204 8548, or visit www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html#Riverbankslumping