

Stormwater Management Authority News

April 2022

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Outcomes of Meeting 76

The board of the Stormwater Management Authority met on 7 April 2022. Key outcomes of the meeting were:

- The board noted the implementation status of the Authority's business plan for 2021-23 and approved revised timelines and priorities.
- Drew Jacobi from Southfront presented on the development of a stormwater management planning prioritisation framework and draft stormwater management planning priorities for South Australia. The Authority is preparing to consult on the new stormwater management planning priorities later this year.
- The board received a follow up presentation on the impacts of the severe weather event in January 2022, with a focus on those towns that have implemented or begun to implement a stormwater management plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 June 2022.

Stormwater Expert Panel Begins its Work



One of the key actions from the [Urban Water Directions Statement](#), which was released in February 2022, is the establishment of the **Stormwater Expert Panel**. The Panel will provide independent advice to the government on the future management of stormwater in South Australia.

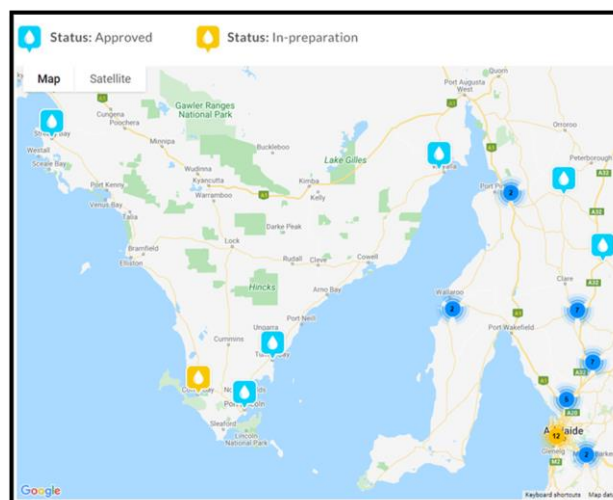
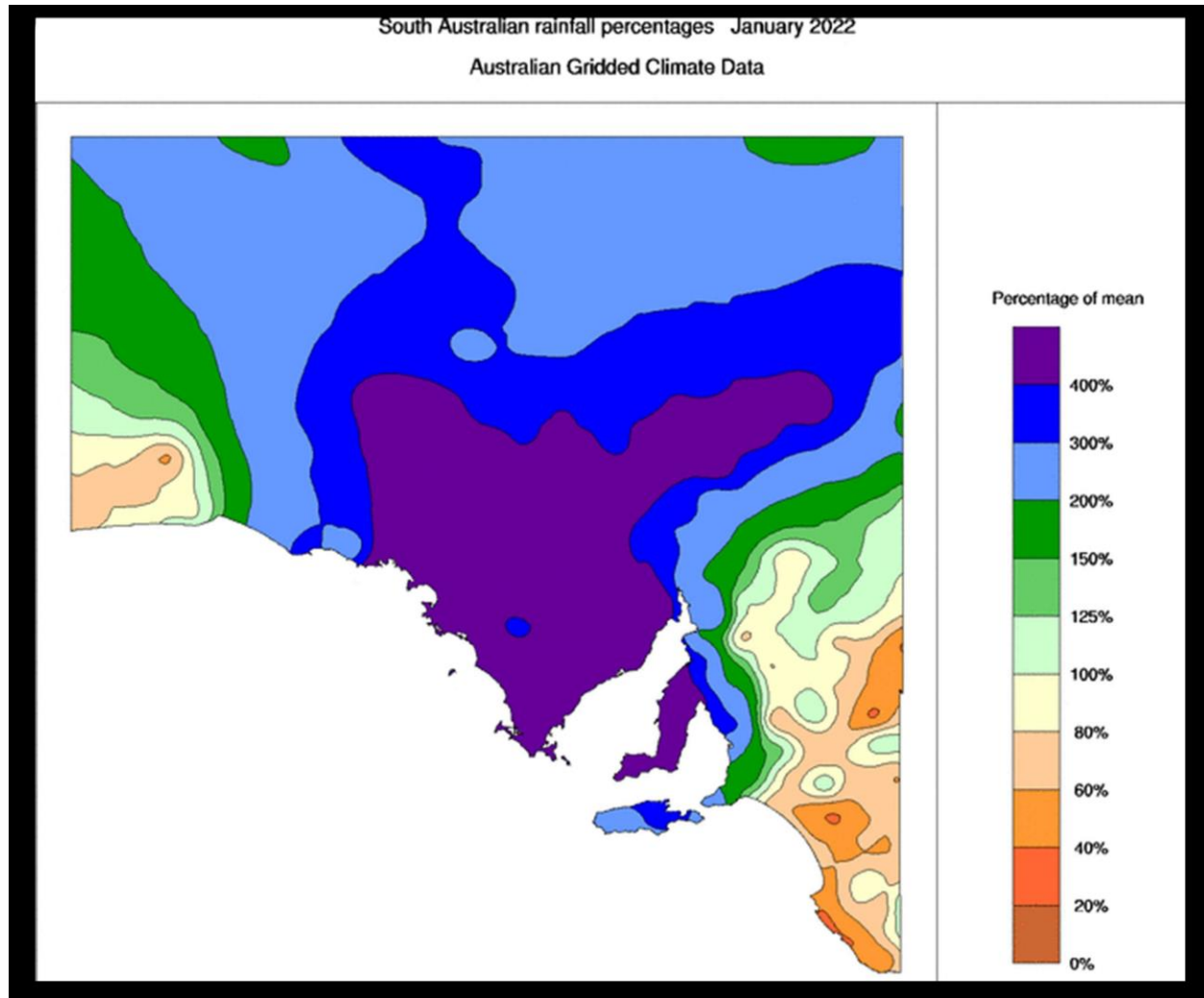
The Panel comprises Ms Christine Bierbaum, Mr Stephen Hains, Ms Amanda Price-McGregor and Mr Jeff Tate.

The key tasks of the Panel are to:

- recommend clear responsibilities for each part of the drainage system (private local, public local, and regional (major) drainage); and
- recommend funding options for stormwater management that recognises multiple benefits and beneficiaries.

The panel has begun considering key issues relating to stormwater management and planning for stakeholder engagement. It is due to report to the government within twelve months (February 2023).

Infrastructure Performance During Severe Weather Event



1 - Townships with a stormwater management plan include Whyalla, Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, Port Pirie, Moonta and Kadina.

In the last issue of SMA News we reported on the severe weather event which impacted South Australia's north and west in late January and early February 2022. The Authority has since investigated how stormwater management planning and infrastructure assisted in the management of flooding during that event.

- In **Whyalla**, the observed pattern of flooding was consistent with flood mapping prepared for the 2019 Whyalla Stormwater Management Plan. The town's northern levee protected Whyalla from the worst effects of the storm event.
- The **Tumby Bay** Stormwater Management Plan was approved in 2015. One of the key actions proposed in the plan was the creation of a levee and swale system through the town, which was completed in 2020 with part funding provided from the Stormwater Management Fund. The levee and swale system performed well during the recent event and no significant flooding was reported.
- **Port Lincoln's** Stormwater Management Plan was approved in 2014. Following development of the plan, the Authority part funded a major upgrade to the pump station in Liverpool Street in the Port Lincoln CBD. The pump station operated effectively during the recent event to prevent inundation of shops and businesses. Port Lincoln Council also proactively prepared for the event by ensuring that stormwater pipes and culverts were free from blockages.
- **Moonta** and **Kadina** also have Stormwater Management Plans in place and have progressed many of their recommended works and measures. Impacts of the severe weather event were consistent with flood mapping predictions. The Authority recently provided grant funding for works in George Street, Moonta and Moonta Road, Moonta Bay. Detention basin works linked to the Moonta Road system performed exceptionally well.

With a changing climate and the increase of intense weather events, the Authority encourages metropolitan and regional councils to have up to date Stormwater Management Plans in place and take the necessary measures to protect their communities. Funding is available from the Stormwater Management Fund - see www.sma.sa.gov.au.



2 - The Stormwater Management Fund part-funded the Liverpool Street Pump Station, which provided flood protection for Port Lincoln during the severe weather in January.

Commonwealth Funding Opportunity

On 13 February 2022, the Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, announced that \$50 million in funding from the **Emergency Response Fund** will be allocated to the **Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation program**.

The \$50 million Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program in the 2022-23 financial year will help assist communities to mitigate disasters relating to coastal hazards.

This Program was established under the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund. It targets high priority locally and nationally significant coastal and estuarine disaster risk mitigation projects. For further information and to apply for funding go to: [Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program](#)

Applications close on Friday 17 June 2022.

Uni SA Research Calls for Urban Greening



University of South Australia PhD candidate Mina Rouhollahi has investigated the loss of suburban trees across Australia which has led to hotter neighbourhoods and increased energy costs.

The study of 90 Australian residential suburbs shows tree-inclusive gardens and yards provide up to a 30 metre buffer around each land unit that can provide relief from summer heatwaves. However, new housing subdivisions, smaller yards and a dependence on air conditioning have resulted in a 30 per cent decline in Australian residential trees in the past decade, leading to hotter neighbourhoods and increased energy costs.

Rouhollahi and her colleagues have designed an optimal tree strategy for different housing configurations. It incorporates all seasons and microclimates, allowing planners, developers and designers to adopt the tree options that suit specific environments.

The research calls for a more cohesive urban planning approach to compensate for residential tree loss in recent decades. For further information see the University of South Australia media release:

[Neighbourhoods feeling the heat as medium density housing robs suburbs of street and garden trees - News and events - University of South Australia \(unisa.edu.au\)](#)

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at www.sma.sa.gov.au.

The [Stormwater Management Authority](#) (SMA) is a partnership between the Government of South Australia and the Local Government Association of South Australia. The SMA operates under the [Local Government \(Stormwater Management Agreement\) Amendment Act 2016](#) and comprises a seven-member board appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. The board meets bi-monthly.