

Helping the community understand coastal flood risk

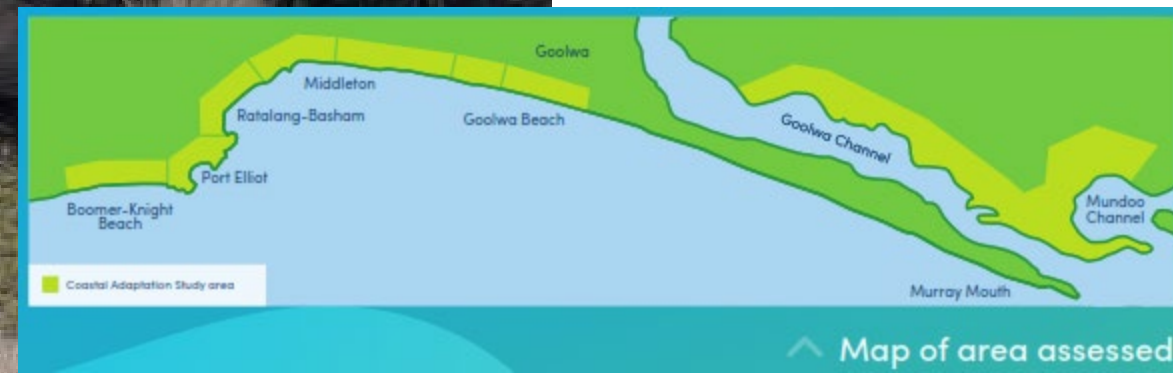
Developing the Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan with the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel community

SA Coastal Councils Forum – 8 November 2024





Photo: B Wright



Background



Communicate flood risk to community, discuss adaptation options and develop Flood Emergency Plans

2021 Coastal Adaptation Study

2022 Coastal Adaptation Plan

2023 Funding

2023-24 Prepared Plan

Low-lying areas of the Mundoo Channel and Goolwa Channel at potentially higher risk from flooding and/or erosion

Secured joint Council and Coast Protection Grant funding

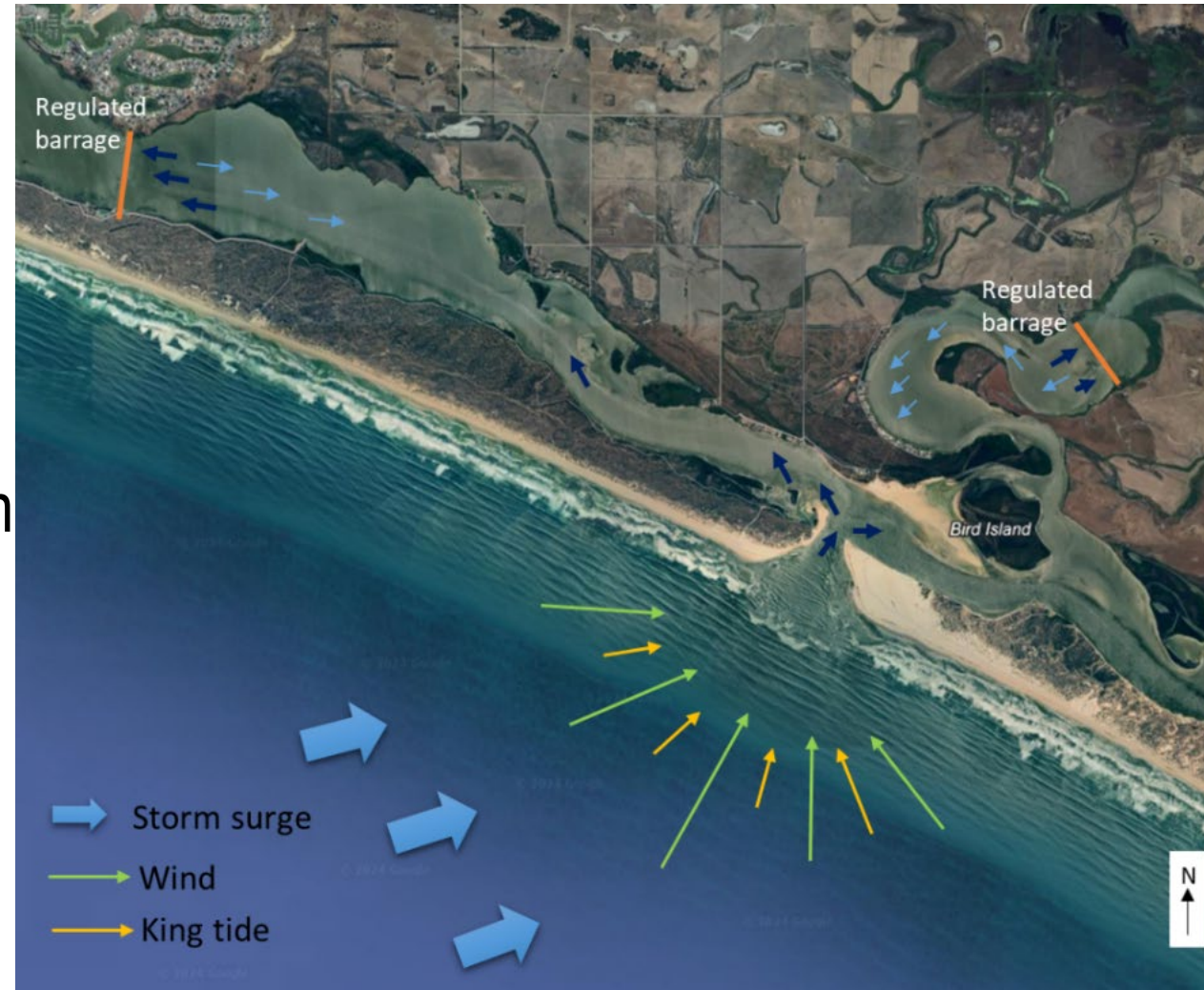
LG role is to support our communities to be prepared for emergencies and encourage shared responsibility



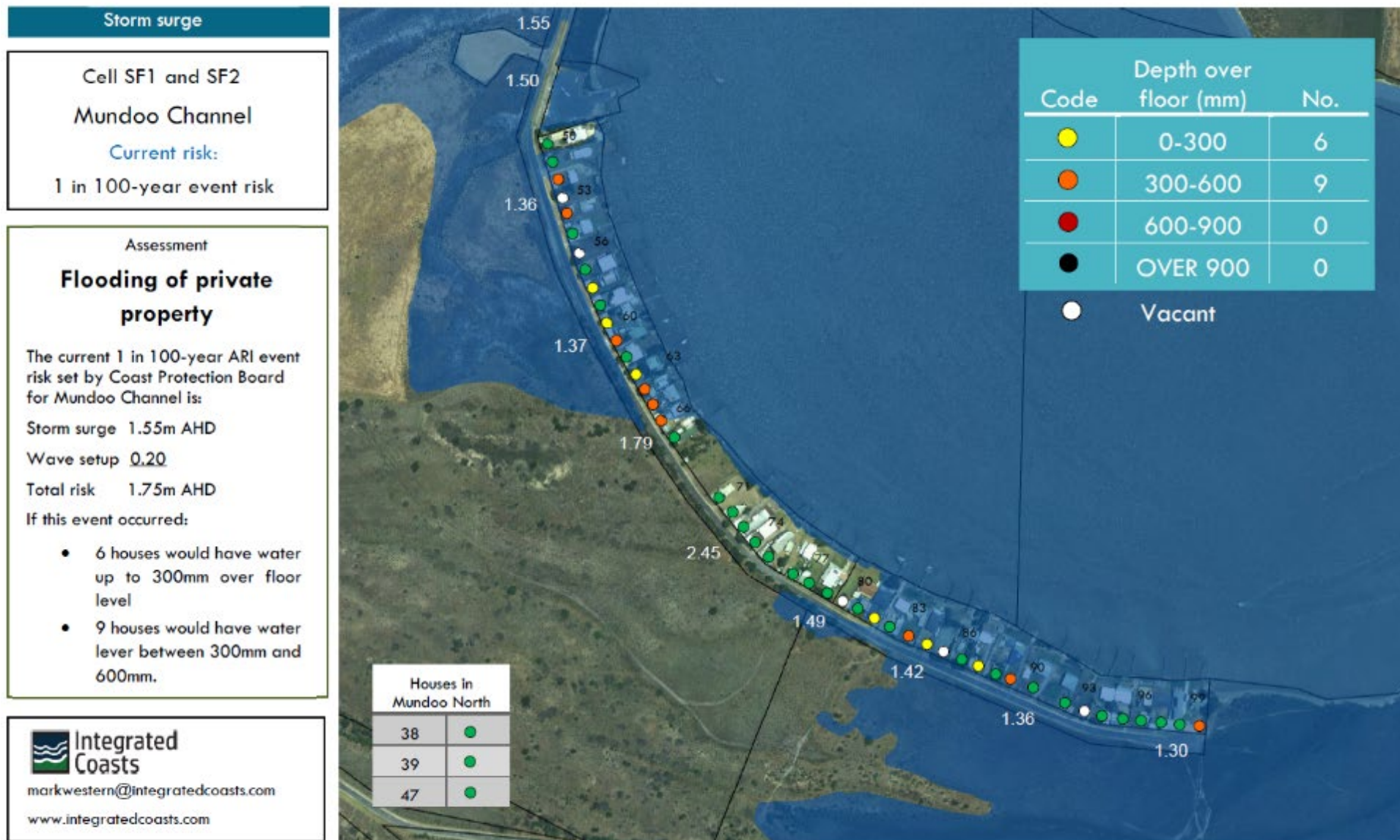
Photo: Coast Protection Board

Why does it flood along the channels?

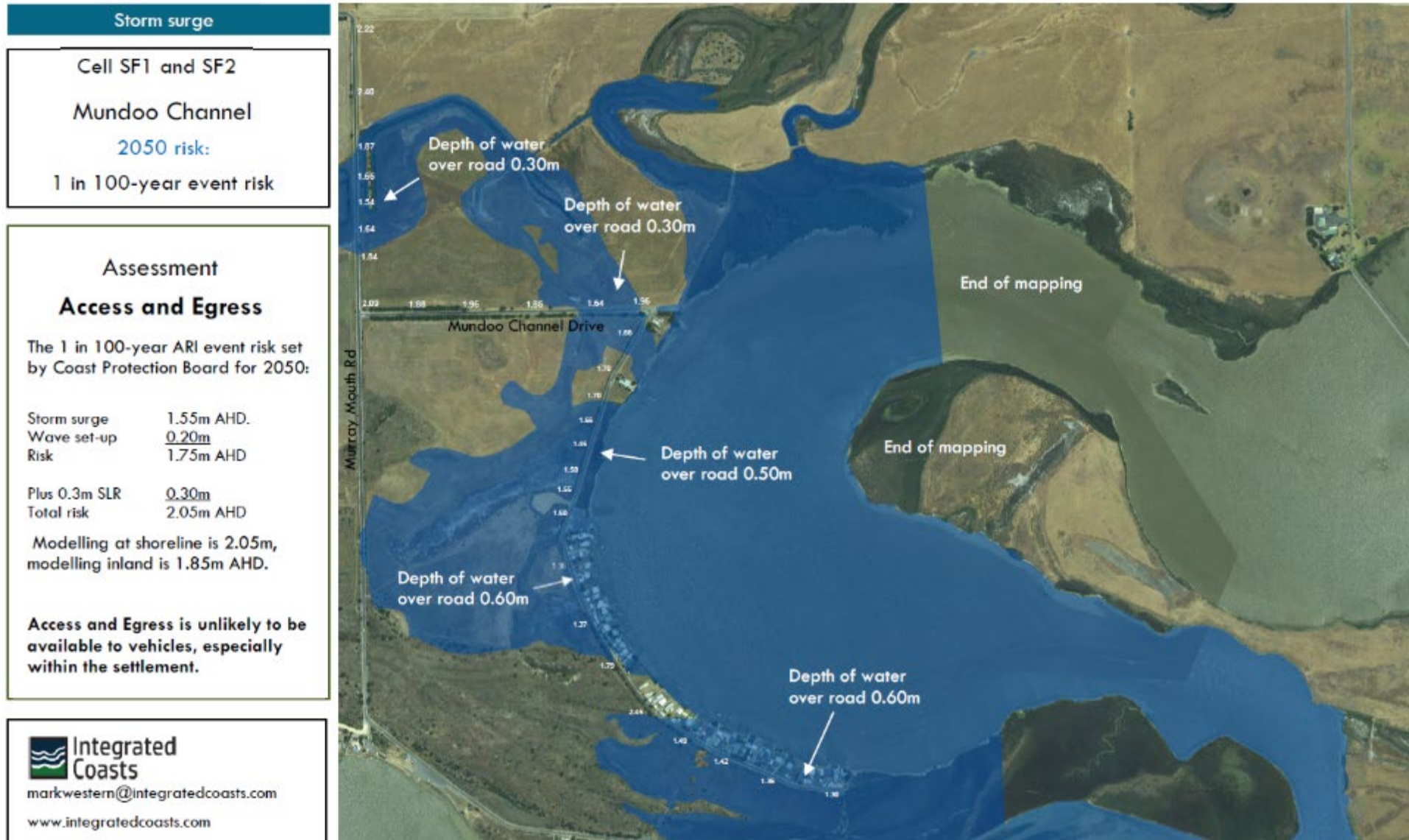
- High tides
- Storm events
- Topography – most of community is less than 2m AHD
- Barrage regulation – in some situations during high tides and storm events, water pushes into barrages which is pushed back to the channel
- Width of Murray Mouth
- Sea level rise



Current exposure – storm surge event

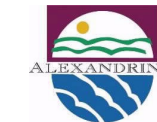


Future (2050) exposure – 1 in 100yr storm event



Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan

for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel Communities



Stay safe when it floods



Goolwa Channel and Mundoo Channel communities' coastal location and low elevation mean they are at risk of flooding. Flooding is more likely when an elevated high tide (or king tide) and storm surge occur at the same time. Flooding may lead to roads being closed and electricity supply being disconnected.

Emergency contact details

For all life-threatening emergencies call **000**
For emergency assistance from the SES call **132 5000**

Other useful contacts

Alexandrina Council: **8555 7000**
SA Power Networks (faults & emergencies): **13 13 66**
SA Water: **1300 729 283**
Goolwa Police Station: **8555 2018**
Health advice from HealthDirect: **1800 022 222**



Preparing BEFORE

- Know your property's flood risk
- Check your house and property are 'flood ready'
- Keep an eye and ear on the weather
- Prepare a Household Emergency Management Plan and evacuation kit
- Communicate with your neighbours.



Staying safe DURING

- Decide if you will stay or go
- Secure your property and valuables
- Avoid driving and walking through flood waters
- DO NOT touch electrical equipment if it is wet
- Communicate with your neighbours.



Recovering AFTER

- Take care when returning home
- Inspect your home, property, septic, power and water supplies
- Be careful of snakes, spiders and other vermin
- Check on your neighbours.



Government of South Australia
Coast Protection Board

The Community Coastal Flood Emergency Plan was prepared by URPS for the Goolwa and Mundoo Channel Communities. The development of this plan was jointly funded by the Coast Protection Board and Alexandrina Council.

Image: Coast Protection Board

Key features of project



Bring community along

- 3 workshops to build knowledge and seek input
- Consult on draft plan
- Inform final plan

Project Reference Group

- Representation (residents, council staff, Elected Members, SES)
- Input on approach
- Word of mouth

Technical information

- Simple to understand technical information
- Expert input (coastal engineer, SES)

Tailored

- Tailored to the unique characteristics of the community

Clear scope

- Is a plan to support community preparedness
- Risk is current. First step is to ensure people are ready now.

Workshop 1

- Co-presented with coastal engineer.
- Build awareness of risk current and future
- Understand characteristics of the community and environment
- Share history of flood experiences
- Introduce to what emergency management plan will contain and how it will help them



Photo: B Wright

What we heard at Workshop 1

Key features of the community and settlements

- peaceful and close to nature
- few permanent residents and older demographic
- some houses raised but many are not and some houses are “run down”
- low lying
- isolated
- poor mobile reception and power interruptions
- one road in

What we heard at Workshop 1

Experiences with flooding

- Lack of access when road was flooded
- Mundoo (1980's) encircled house
- Goolwa Channel Road totally submerged in 70's
- Jetty covered with water in storm surge
- Mundoo Channel sheds inundated
- Quick exiting of surge waters



Photo: B Wright

What we heard at Workshop 1

Spectrum of feelings about past flooding

'No big deal'
drove down
road – turn
around go back

Interested

Let down by
authorities with
no
communication

Violated

Felt excited, it
fertilised wetlands.
We embraced it

Anxious

We were not
here! Felt
helpless

Wet

Intrigued

Workshop 2

- Co-presented with SES
- The role of the SES
- The conditions that lead to flooding
- The risks that could happen if it floods – explored with participants
- What we can do as individuals and a community before, during and after floods
- Heard concerns about lack of formal warnings, less mobile residents

Workshop 3

- Presented the draft Community Coastal Flood Emergency Management Plan
- Opportunity for questions and feedback
- Talking about Household Emergency Management Planning
- Created a list of items outside the scope of the plan that Council can continue to advocate for: flood warnings, built adaptation options, sand bagging station, community flood group.

Community participation and feedback

- 60 community members participated in the in-person engagement
- Pre-project survey
 - 10 of 31 respondents had experienced flood
 - 19 had a plan for what they would do but only 1 had this written down
- Post-project survey
 - attendees had increased understanding of flood risk
 - majority respondents would prepare or respond differently, including checking their sheds, checking insurance, sourcing a stand-alone power source and monitoring local conditions

Community feedback and learnings

- What was most interesting or useful?
 - understanding role of council and the SES
 - discussions with fellow residents
 - having a list of things to think about
 - making sure other people are safe
- Community really appreciated project and opportunity to be involved

Questions?



Photo: B Wright