

Caring for the River Murray and the Lower Lakes whilst enjoying the many recreational activities on and around this natural resource, helps to ensure that we and future generations can enjoy our wonderful asset for many years.

Further Reading and Contacts

Australian Trail Horse Riders Association
<http://home.vic.net.au/~athra/2004code.htm>

Canoe Australia
 Tel: (02) 9552 4500 www.canoe.org.au
 Australian Canoeing Safety Guidelines

Canoe South Australia Inc.
 Tel: (08) 8240 3294 www.canoesa.asn.au

Confederation of Bushwalkers (NSW) Inc.
www.bushwalking.org.au/code.html
 Bushwalkers' Code: Minimal Impact Bushwalking

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
 Tel: (08) 8463 7991 www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au
 River Murray Act 2004

Department of Sustainability and Environment
 Tel: 136 186 www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/

SA Environment Protection Authority
 Tel: (08) 8204 2000 www.epa.sa.gov.au

Houseboat Hirers Association Inc.
 Code of Conduct for Houseboat Users www.hha.asn.au

Local Government Association www.lga.sa.gov.au

Local Action Planning Committees
www.rivermurray.sa.gov.au/work/lapgrou.html

MurrayCare www.murraycare.com.au

Murray Darling Association Inc. www.mda.asn.au

National Parks and Wildlife SA (DEH)
 Tel: (08) 8204 1910 www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/

Natural Heritage Trust www.nht.gov.au

Office for Recreation and Sport
 Tel: (08) 8416 6677 www.recsport.sa.gov.au

Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania
www.parks.tas.gov.au/recreation/bikes/mt_bike.pdf
 Mountain Biking Respect: Minimal Impact

Planning SA Tel: (08) 8303 0600 www.planning.sa.gov.au

Primary Industries and Resources SA, Fisheries & Aquaculture
 Tel: (08) 8226 2311 www.pir.sa.gov.au
 Recreational Fishing Guide

River Murray Catchment Water Management Board
 Tel: (08) 8582 4477 www.rivermurray.sa.gov.au

Royal Automobile Association (RAA) of South Australia
 Regional road maps Tel: (08) 8202 4600 www.raa.net

Save the Murray www.savethemurray.com

South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc.
 Tel: (08) 8359 0627 www.saafwdc.asn.au

South Australian Tourism Commission
 Tel: 1300 655 276 www.southaustralia.com

Transport SA Tel: 131 084
 Harbours and Navigation Act 1993 and Regulations, and
 Boating Safety Handbook www.transport.sa.gov.au

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Sustainable Recreation Steering Committee

River Murray Catchment Water Management Board, SA Tourism Commission, Planning SA, Office for Recreation & Sport, Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, National Parks and Wildlife SA, Local Action Planning Committees, Murray Darling Association Inc., Environment Protection Authority, Natural Heritage Trust, Alexandrina Council, Berri-Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Loxton-Waikerie, District Council of Renmark-Paranga, Mid-Murray Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Murray and Mallee Local Government Association, Mannum Aboriginal Community Inc., Indigenous Nations Steering Committee.

For further information contact your:

Sustainable Recreation Project Officer

River Murray Catchment Water Management Board
 in association with the Murray Darling Association Inc.
 PO Box 3165 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000
 Phone: (08) 8226 0580 Fax: (08) 8226 0584

Email: sustainablerec@mda.asn.au
 Website: www.rivermurray.sa.gov.au

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Codes of Conduct for Recreational Activities



*on the
 River Murray & Lower Lakes
 of South Australia*

Codes of Conduct for Recreational Activities

Bushwalking

To minimise your impacts on the environment, please follow the tips provided in the Bushwalkers Code and Minimal Impact Bushwalking. In this way you can not only enjoy the natural surroundings without causing environmental degradation, but also help to ensure that the environment remains in good condition for you and others to enjoy in future. You can help by doing the following:

- Keeping on tracks and not cutting corners or creating new tracks.
- Avoiding sensitive vegetation.
- Where there is a toilet, please use it. In areas without toilets, bury your faecal waste, at least 100 metres away from campsites and watercourses. Dig a hole 15 cm (6 inches) deep. Bury all faecal waste and paper, mixing it with the soil to help decomposition and discourage animals.
- If you've carried it in, carry it out. Don't burn or bury rubbish, and if you come across other people's rubbish, please take it with you too.
- Take only photographs and leave only footprints.

Picnicking

To protect the delicate Murray River environment, we need to 'tread lightly' and minimise our impacts on the natural environment. When picnicking:

- Take your rubbish with you. Food scraps can be harmful to native animals. Some wastes do not decompose quickly.
- Don't burn or bury rubbish. Burying food waste disturbs the soil and native or feral animals may dig it up later.
- If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, do the environment a favour, and take the rubbish out with you too.
- Leave picnic areas tidy. Try to go at off peak times. In that way you can not only minimise your impacts, and your picnic is more enjoyable.

Camping

Camp in designated areas or existing campsites where possible, in natural clearings or on sandy or hard surfaces at least 20 metres from the edge of the watercourse.

Be aware of other users of the River and avoid disturbing them. Try to avoid disturbing native vegetation through tramping.

Do not cut trees for firewood or gather fallen timber, as these provide valuable habitat for animals and plants, and are an important part of ecosystem processes. Extinguish all fires thoroughly.

Aim to leave the area as if no one had been there. Take all litter away from the campsite and dispose of it correctly.

Horse Riding

Check with the relevant authority or landholder as to whether horse riding is permitted in the area before setting out. Plan your trip, consult maps and notify a responsible person of your trip intentions. In order to minimise the impact of horses on the environment and the associated risks with horse riding, "Thirteen Environmental Rules" have been developed by the Australian Trail Riders Association.

Mountain Biking

Minimal impact mountain biking means you can protect the environment, improve the experience of others, and take care of yourself while riding. Plan your ride and take a map with you. Advise someone of your trip intentions. Go in a small group, thus reducing environmental damage and the trip will be more enjoyable. To prevent the spread of weeds or root rot fungus, keep your bike clean. Take your rubbish out with you. To reduce erosion and damage, ride on established tracks and try to stick to the middle of the track. Cross creeks slowly at a 90 degree angle to the water flow. If in doubt about access and track availability, check with the relevant landholder.

Four Wheel Driving

Code of Ethics (SAAFWDC)

- Keep to the laws and regulations on recreation vehicles
- Others have the right to peace and solitude – avoid noisy driving
- Keep to existing vehicle corridors and tracks. On beaches and non-vegetated sand areas, drive only where permitted.
- Wetlands and vegetated dunes are easily damaged. Please avoid them.
- Respect our wildlife. Stop and look, but never disturb or chase animals.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own – and other people's – rubbish home.
- Observe all fire restrictions. Extinguish your fire before leaving. Don't let your exhaust emit sparks. Please do not cut live trees for firewood or use fallen timber, as these provide valuable habitat for animals and plants, and are an important part of ecosystem processes.
- Keep to restrictions on use of public land. Respect National Parks and other conservation areas.
- Get permission before driving on private land. Leave livestock alone and keep gates as you found them.
- Take adequate water, food, fuel and spares on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle if possible. Advise a responsible person of your trip intentions.
- If camping, please minimise impacts, and refer to tips under the "Camping" sub-heading.

Respecting Indigenous Heritage

Many places have spiritual or cultural significance for our Indigenous communities. Treat such places with consideration and respect. Obtain permission from the traditional landowners or the relevant land manager to visit sensitive areas. Leave Indigenous relics as you find them. Do not touch paintings or rock engravings.

Fishing

Fishing licences are not required for fishing in the River Murray in South Australia, however restrictions do apply to some species. Please refer to the Recreational Fishing Guide from PIRSA.

The River Murray and all its lagoons, creeks and anabranches are defined as "waters of the State" and recreational fishing within these waters is controlled by the Fisheries Act 1982 and its regulations. By complying with these rules and regulations, it can be ensured that there will be plenty of fish in the River Murray for current and future generations.

Canoeing

The River Murray Canoe Guide Environmental Code lists some ways of minimising your impact on the environment. Carry appropriate repair equipment, torch, map, compass and survival kit on wilderness trips. Please take your rubbish with you, and secure your belongings so they do not fall into the water. If camping, please refer to the tips under the "Camping" sub-heading.

Trail & Motor Bike Riding

Normal road rules apply on bush tracks. The rider must be licensed and the bike must be registered and road worthy. When riding keep to roads and tracks and avoid widening them, to prevent damage to vegetation and soil erosion, which can destroy habitats for animal and bird life. Vehicles are not to be used on walking tracks. Avoid vehicle travel when tracks are wet. Try to keep noise to a minimum to avoid disturbing wildlife.

Jet Skiing

The Coorong and Lakes are Ramsar listed wetlands and provide valuable habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. Avoid reed areas where they nest or feed and keep noise to a minimum.

Water Skiing

Water skiing is an enjoyable activity, however, to avoid injury, try not to ski where the riverbanks are steep or where there are snags. Care should be taken when skiing near sand bars. Keep an eye out for swimmers in the River at all times. Minimise boat wash when possible to avoid damage to riverbanks. Try to avoid disturbing birds by keeping away from reeds where birds could be nesting. Skiing regulations are under the Harbours and Navigation Act 1993 and the River Murray Act 2004.

Boating & House-boating

To minimise erosion or damage to riverbanks, boats should be launched from designated boat ramps and jetties. Care should be taken to avoid snags, which provide valuable habitat and breeding areas for fish and other aquatic organisms. Keep your boat wash to a minimum to avoid causing bank erosion, damaging reed growth or disturbing birds. Use existing mooring posts where available and avoid damaging trees with mooring ropes. Use environmentally friendly products (phosphate-free detergents and soaps). Take care when re-fuelling to avoid spills and report any spills immediately. Keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid disturbing others and wildlife. If camping, refer to the tips under the "Camping" sub-heading.

Swimming

Before swimming check for snags and the depth of the water. The River's depth can change dramatically in hours. Sandbars in the River can move without warning due to changing water levels. Swim upstream away from the sweeping bends of the sandbar where currents are created. Be aware of boats, snakes, currents and snags at all times. Take your rubbish with you.

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