

## Office of the Hon Joe Szakacs MP



Government  
of South Australia

23MES0009  
FOI Ref No: 17232403

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC  
Member of the Legislative Council  
Parliament House, North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

By email: [centofanti.office@sa.gov.au](mailto:centofanti.office@sa.gov.au)

Dear Ms Centofanti

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the FOI Act) on 11 January 2023 for access to:

*"all correspondence to and from the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services regarding the River Murray and restrictions between 1 July 2022 to 10 January 2023".*

A search of this agency's records has identified two (2) documents within the scope of your application. The documents are identified in the attached schedule.

In accordance with section 20(4) of the FOI Act, I have determined to grant you partial access to both documents.

Information concerning the personal affairs of a person have been redacted in accordance with clause 6(1) of the FOI Act.

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to apply for an internal review in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act. To make an internal review application, please either write a letter or send the attached form entitled *Application for Review of Determination* to the Principal Officer of this agency, the Hon Joe Szakacs MP, within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at [www.dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars](http://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars).

Should you require any further information please contact me on telephone (08) 8303 0670.

Yours sincerely

Jenna Phillips-Wilkinson  
**Accredited FOI Officer**  
Office of the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

10 / 2 / 2023

Encl. Document Schedule and *Application for Review of Determination* form

**SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION NUMBER 23MES0009**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>	<b>Date of Document</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Exemption Clause</b>
1	Email	21 December 2022	Partial Release	CI 6(1)
2	Email	5 January 2023	Partial Release	CI 6(1)

**North, Rebecca (DCS)**

**From:** [REDACTED] cl6(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 December 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** MinisterSzakacs  
**Subject:** Closure of River Murray to everything and everybody  
**Categories:** BEC

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Yes Minister

I am extremely disappointed with your recent closure of the River Murray to all water craft. I feel that it is ill judged and takes away the personal freedoms of those of us living on the river and any visitors. Like during COVID you want to wrap us all in cotton wool and take away personal responsibility.

This decision is worse than those made by the Marshall government during COVID and makes me feel like we are living in a repressed government state.

We are desperate for visitors to come to the region and see the floods in action, but why would you, as access to many vantage points is now restricted by levee banks (many of which are unnecessary eg Lake Bonney) and now you are not able to enjoy the river or more importantly even the backwaters. Why come here you may as well visit western Victoria or South West NSW.

I am a resident of Berri and enjoy kayaking on the River and the backwaters. Over the past month we have kayaked from Customs House on the Border to Berri through locks 5 and 6 before they were closed to human powered craft. We have kayaked around Lyrup, Martins Bend, Katerapko Creek and Berri Basin. Whilst the river is fast flowing we have never felt unsafe and in fact many of the backwaters are benign and you have the benefit of seeing the benefits of high river flows on the environment. In April we kayaked down the Goulburn River in Victoria and the upper reaches of this river were far more dangerous than the Murray at peak flow.

Why close the river when you do not close coastal boating in rough sea conditions, do not close the lower lakes of the Murray River in high wind conditions or the flood effects, do not shut roads in extreme weather or do not halt contact sports with high concussion rates. During the current and recent floods in the Murray upstream of the SA Border, Murrumbidgee the Lachlan or Darling no such edict has been made by the other state governments so why ours?

Please reverse this decision and stop being another "Nanny" Minister.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] cl6(1)  
 [REDACTED] cl6(1)  
 BERRI SA 5343  
 Phone: [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] cl6(1)

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] cl6(1)  
 [REDACTED] cl6(1)  
 BERRI SA 5343  
 Phone: [REDACTED]

cl6(1)



## North, Rebecca (DCS)

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From: [REDACTED] cl6(1)  
 Sent: Thursday, 5 January 2023 8:48 AM  
 To: MinisterSzakacs  
 Subject: URGENT REPLY TODAY

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
 Flag Status: Completed

Hi

This decision to stop people that live and breathe the River from doing what they have always done is over the top. WE ARE NOT STUPID PEOPLE. You live in the City you don't know anything about the river. Neither does your so called experts. I had 2 75 year old men almost in tears talking to me yesterday because they couldn't take their boat out the catch a few yabbles.

The river is starting to drop. So many people are going to miss out on what they have wanted to see and experience for over 50 years. WE ARE NOT STUPID PEOPLE

### THE RIVER IS SAFE

Why is it as soon as the river rises everyone is an expert but an expert in the wrong way. The Murray River flooding is great. The benefits far outweigh the disruption. The disruption affects plenty of people but then on top of that the government sticks its nose in and causes more disruption.

I have waited all my life for a big flood like this. My grandfather told me stories of 56 flood and how everyone worked together to protect properties. I live, work and travel my land daily. I know how good this water is and how exciting it is to see the water in areas I can only dream about. I'm just as excited to see it go and the trees, salt bush and all sorts start growing. I go out as much as I can to look at this great flood, riding the jet ski on what is normally my roads. But at the same time I'm waiting to be told I'm doing the wrong thing.

### Exploring back waters

By kayak is safe. If it is not safe to kayak in backwaters with a flow of zero to 8kph then kayaks need to be banned all together in Australia.

It is more dangerous to kayak

- In the ocean with big waves and sharks not to mention getting lost and floating away for ever
- In rapid flowing creeks in the mountains like people do.
- In white water creeks

Jet Ski anywhere on the Murray is safe. A jet ski skims the surface of the water so if you can't see it you don't hit it as far as submerged objects go. A jet ski is by far the best powered vessel to explore shallow water on. Doesn't matter if the river is in flood or not jet skis have exactly the same risks on the river. The ocean has far more risks than the river.

### Swimming

Swimming is no more dangerous in the river in floods or at pool level. The only difference is where the edge of the water is. Most places you can't get to the edge of the river so you swim in nice peaceful back waters. Just like the mainstream you walk into the water carefully as you don't know what's under the surface. Floating logs and debris you can see. If you can't, then they are under the water no different to normal flows. If you think you need to ban people swimming in the River Murray then you also need to ban swimming everywhere. Oceans have big waves, rips, sharks and dangerous fish species that can kill. The river has none of this.

Water quality. The water in the Murray is safe to swim in just like it's safe for everyone to shower and wash in.

### Fishing

What the hell is wrong with fishing in the river.

River fishing no matter what is safer than sea fishing and rock fishing.

### Boats on the river

Prop boats yes they could hit submerged logs just like they can hit reefs. Jet boats totally fine  
 Levee banks and infrastructure

Very simple. No powered vessel can go near or past a levee bank, building or infrastructure on the plane or pushing a bow wave. This starts from within vision of the levee bank or levee bank warning sign  
The rivers edge is also the boundary. Private property and shack owners can mark their boundary with buoys so their property can stay private property. This gives the police powers to book people for trespassing.

Thanks

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[www.dirtwarssurvivor.com](http://www.dirtwarssurvivor.com)

[www.tackerattack.com](http://www.tackerattack.com)

[www.riverlandjetski.com](http://www.riverlandjetski.com)

[www.rallydrivesa.com](http://www.rallydrivesa.com)

cl6(1)