

# RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE

## Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 3 June 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 27 May 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 10 June 2011.

### FLOW OUTLOOK

River Murray flow at Wentworth is currently around 24,000 megalitres per day (ML/day). Flow at the South Australian border has increased slightly in recent days to around 22,000 ML/day. Unregulated flow to South Australia is likely to continue through June and potentially through to early July. By mid July the flow is likely to have reduced to around 6,500 ML/day (Entitlement plus Additional Dilution Flow). Over the coming months the flow should remain within channel, with water progressively draining off the floodplain and adjacent areas.

Flow at Lock 1 is 23,000 ML/day and will continue to gradually reduce over the coming weeks.

As the flow to South Australia continues to reduce, debris such as trees and logs could be floating on the surface or shallowly submerged. All water users should remain aware of such risks.

This outlook is subject to the occurrence of further rainfall and changed river operations upstream of South Australia.

### BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.55m AHD. Water levels in Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Goolwa Channel have reduced from the higher levels over the past few months, which were due to high inflows and constraints on releasing more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth. Some areas near the barrages have experienced elevated salinity due to sea water backflow events during late May 2011. This situation is now improving as water is being discharged back into the Coorong.

Flow through the barrages is starting to be reduced and over the coming weeks there will be a progressive reduction to allow water levels in the lakes to be actively managed to improve salinities, particularly in Lake Albert. In addition, the reduction will also conserve water for the continued operation of the barrage fishways during 2011-12.

Over the coming months, the use of barrage operations to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove salt from the Lower Lakes will continue. It is anticipated that water levels will remain within a range of 0.55m to 0.8m AHD.

In order to decrease and increase water levels in both lakes, it is necessary for some of the barrage gates/bays to be opened and closed to maintain the desired water level target. Both water levels and barrage operations are being continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is important to note that water levels in the Lower Lakes may also vary considerably with wind speed and direction. This, when combined with the high water level, could result in some inundation of low-lying areas around the edges of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel.

### RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and the Department for Water have developed a River Murray Water Level chart (attached) to provide water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department for Water has published a series of inundation maps for the River Murray. They are available at [www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au)

Up-to-date River Murray flow and water level information can be accessed at the Department for Water, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

[www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm)

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

Details of river height and rainfall information in the River Murray within Victoria and New South Wales are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood>

Information on the discharge of acid drainage water into the Lower River Murray can be accessed online at [www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au)



## River Murray Water Levels as at 2 June 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.79
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.50
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.74
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.49
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.43
Renmark	567.4	-	16.42
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.38
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.54
Berri	525.9	-	13.41
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.32
Loxton	489.9	-	10.90
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.11
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.95
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.23
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.55
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.23
Cadell	332.6	-	-
Morgan	321.7	-	3.72
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.24
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.86
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.55
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.48

Note that water levels do not take into account local wind conditions.

Regularly updated daily water level information can be found at the following websites:

### SA Water

[www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm)

### Department for Water

<http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

Information is also available from the SA Water Hotline on **08 8595 2299**

### UPDATES

This advice remains current until the Department for Water notifies otherwise.

