

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 17 June 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 10 June 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 24 June 2011.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will provide its next water resources update on 24 June 2011. As such, the next DFW Water Resource Assessment update will be provided at this time.

FLOW OUTLOOK

River Murray flow at Wentworth is currently around 26,000 megalitres per day (ML/day). Flow at the South Australian border is around 19,000 ML/day and unregulated flow will continue throughout June and into early July.

By mid July the flow to South Australia is likely to have reduced to around 6,500 ML/day (Entitlement Flow plus Additional Dilution Flow). In South Australia the flow remains within channel, however large areas of the floodplain are still inundated. Water from these areas should progressively drain off over the coming months.

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

As the flow 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 future rainfall and river operations upstream of South Australia.

Catchments upstream of South Australia remain wet and primed for runoff during winter and spring. Recent rainfall events of less than 20mm have produced good runoff.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

Flow through the barrages has been gradually reduced and the water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.60m AHD. Water levels in Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and the Goolwa Channel have reduced from the higher levels experienced over the past few months, which were due to high inflows and constraints on releasing more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth.

A number of seawater backflow events have occurred over May and June, which has caused elevated salinity levels immediately upstream of each of the barrages. This situation has generally only lasted for a few days after each event, dissipating as water is again released to the Coorong.

Over the coming months, the use of barrage operations to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove accumulated 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 or high tides, could result in sea water backflow events and/or 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.

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

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.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



River Murray Water Levels as at 15 June 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.85
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.46
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.65
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.28
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.30
Renmark	567.4	-	16.35
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.32
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.46
Berri	525.9	-	13.34
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23
Loxton	489.9	-	10.89
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.95
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.90
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.22
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.17
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.16
Cadell	332.6	-	-
Morgan	321.7	-	3.71
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.22
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.94
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.62
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.56

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

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.

