

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE AND WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 16 September 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water on 9 September 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 23 September 2011.

WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

The River Murray system inflow during August 2011 was around 1,700 gigalitres (GL), compared to the long-term average of 1,540 GL for the same period. Inflow to the Upper River Murray and associated tributaries has started to decline. River Murray system inflow during September is expected to be around 800 GL due to reduced rainfall. Around 500 GL has been received to date in September.

The above average inflow to the River Murray system has resulted in a total flow to South Australia of around 2,305 GL from 1 July 2011 to 14 September 2011.

Unregulated flow to South Australia is expected to continue into October 2011. The possibility of further unregulated flow will depend on future rainfall events upstream and potential environmental watering events.

South Australia will receive additional Dilution Flow of 3 GL/day until at least the end of November 2011. Further extensions may occur if the storage volume triggers are maintained in Menindee Lakes, Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs.

Storage Levels

Murray-Darling Basin Authority storage levels as at 14 September 2011 and around the same time last year

Storage	Full Supply Volume GL	14/9/2011 GL	15/9/2010 GL	Long-term Average (end September) GL
Dartmouth	3,856	2,753 (71%)	1,709 (44%)	
Hume	3,003	2,974 (99%)	2,254 (74%)	
Lake Victoria	677	500 (74%)	540 (80%)	
Menindee Lakes (FSL)	1,731	1,935 (112%)	1,692 (98%)	
TOTAL	9,267 (100%)	8,162 (88%)	6,195 (66%)	7,460 (80%)



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Department for Water

WATER IS GOOD

Although South Australia is fully allocated in 2011/12 other jurisdictions are still making allocation announcements, which are summarised below.

State Water Allocation Summary

State Entitlement Type	15/9/2011*	15/9/2010
South Australia High Security	100%	63%
NSW Murray High Security	97%	97%
NSW Murray General Security	18%	36%
Murrumbidgee High Security	95%	95%
Murrumbidgee General Security	59%	45%
Lower Darling High Security	100%	100%
Lower Darling General Security	100%	100%
VIC Murray High Reliability Water Share	69%	94%
VIC Goulburn High Reliability Water Share	95%	67%

*Carryover may be in addition to the current announced percentages in some systems

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow to South Australia is around 27,000 megalitres per day (ML/day). Operations at Lake Victoria may result in an increased flow to South Australia of between 32,000 and 37,000 ML/day. This forecast is subject to rainfall, diversions and other changed operations upstream.

The flow over Lock 1 is currently 28,000 ML/day and will remain at this level over the coming week.

Over the coming months a multi-site environmental watering event may be implemented, which will require bulk water releases from upstream storages. The objective of this multi-site watering is to build upon the benefits from the high flow event and associated inundation during late 2010 and early 2011. During the watering event there will be unregulated flow to South Australia. Updates on the projected flow rates will be provided when the trial is undertaken.

All catchments remain wet and volumes in storage are higher than the same time last year. As a result, even with average rainfall, good stream flow responses are expected to occur from key locations including the upper Murray and north-eastern Victoria. A number of main operational storages such as Hume Reservoir and Lake Eildon are close to full supply level and, if the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts significant rainfall over their catchment areas, it may be necessary to undertake pre-releases for flood mitigation purposes.



BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.70m AHD. The water level in Lake Albert remains slightly higher at 0.74m AHD. Closing of some barrage gates has taken place to gradually increase the water level in both lakes. This will facilitate the freshening of Lake Albert. Barrage gates are being operated to increase the water level by an average of 10 mm/day with the aim of reaching a target water level of 0.85m AHD by the end of September 2011.

Water levels and barrage operations are 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 vary considerably with wind speed and direction. This, when combined with the high water level or high tides, could result in seawater backflow events and/or some inundation of low-lying areas around the edges of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel. Barrage operations are being monitored by SA Water to minimise the impacts of any forecast backflow events.

The Department for Water is also responsible for monitoring salinity in the Lower Lakes and maintains a network of salinity recording devices at a number of locations. Data collected from this monitoring network informs the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Government of South Australia for barrage operations, conducting scientific analysis and formulating policy positions.

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 14 September 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.78
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.51
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.35
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.89
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.30
Renmark	567.4	-	16.36
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.31
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.61
Berri	525.9	-	13.47
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.27
Loxton	489.9	-	11.11
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.78
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.39
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.56
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.03
Cadell	332.6	-	-
Morgan	321.7	-	3.80
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.09
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.19
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.76
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.67

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.



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