

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 am 25 November 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice issued by the Department for Water on 18 November 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday, 2 December 2011.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow to South Australia is currently around 9,000 megalitres per day (ML/day) and should remain at this level for the coming week. This consists of 6,000 ML/day of Entitlement Flow and 3,000 ML/day of Additional Dilution Flow. Additional Dilution Flow is currently expected to continue into January 2012.

In early December 2011 it is anticipated that the current environmental releases from the Goulburn and Campaspe systems will begin to flow into South Australia and are likely to continue through until January 2012. The delivery of this environmental water will not result in high flow rates at the South Australian border with the increased flow rate not expected to exceed 15,000 ML/day. This is a forecast only and the flow is subject to weather conditions upstream.

The flow over Lock 1 is currently around 6,900 ML/day and should remain between 5,500 - 6,500 ML/day over the next two weeks. Following this, it is likely that the flow will again increase as the environmental water begins to move past Lock 1.

Over the coming six months, additional environmental water may also be delivered to South Australia from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The majority of the current, and any future, environmental water received will flow through South Australia to the Lower Lakes and Coorong. This will assist in the maintenance of barrage releases over summer, improve and maintain salinity levels in the Lower Lakes and Coorong and maintain connectivity between Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Since 2001-02, South Australia's Entitlement Flow over summer and autumn has been supplied primarily from the River Murray System. In comparison, this year will likely see the majority of the Entitlement Flow supplied from water transferred from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria via the Lower Darling River. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has indicated delivery from Menindee Lakes is likely to commence on 30 November 2011. As a result, there is the potential for turbidity levels to increase over summer and some River Murray water users may need to implement appropriate treatment measures.

SALINITY OUTLOOK

As water levels continue to return to the normal pool height, some locations along the River Murray may experience higher salinity. Salinity increases will be particularly noticeable in areas adjacent to the main channel. The continuation of Additional Dilution Flow will help mitigate some of the impact of localised salinity increases. The Department for Water is increasing salinity monitoring and will undertake detailed modelling of the salt loads.

Irrigators are reminded to check the salinity levels regularly at their pump sites and also to access the Department for Water's River Murray Water Data website to obtain real-time salinity data from locations where monitoring sites are established. The data may be accessed via the following link:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au/Telemetry/Default.aspx?App=RMW>.



Government of South Australia
Department for Water

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BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.73m AHD and the water level in Lake Albert is slightly lower at approximately 0.68m AHD. Barrage gates are currently being operated to provide a release in the order of 4,000 ML/day. This may result in a small reduction in water level over the coming few weeks, but levels should remain in the order of 0.6m to 0.75m AHD. 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 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 assists the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Government of South Australia in determining 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 23 November 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.84
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.42
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.51
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.23
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.26
Renmark	567.4	-	16.30
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.30
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.30
Berri	525.9	-	13.27
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23
Loxton	489.9	-	10.18
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.85
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.84
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.37
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.23
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.13
Cadell	332.6	-	N/A*
Morgan	321.7	-	3.31
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.22
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.84
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.78
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.70

*N/A – reading not available.

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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