

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #14/2012

Issued 10:00 am 4 April 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department for Water on 30 March 2012. A further flow report will be provided on Friday 13 April 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

During the past week, the flow at the South Australian border has increased to approximately 60,000 ML/day and is likely to remain in the range of 59,000 to 65,000 ML/day during the coming weeks. The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that the peak flow downstream of Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River is expected to occur around 12 April 2012. This peak is likely to arrive after the River Murray peak has passed the confluence of the Murrumbidgee River and therefore will not contribute to a higher peak flow to South Australia.

The flow at Wentworth is expected to peak at or around 65,000 ML/day on 18 April 2012. This flow is sensitive to the arrival of flow from the Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee Rivers. It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on preliminary predictions and are subject to more accurate gauging information becoming available, further rainfall events and changing upstream operations. The flow forecasts are reliant on predictions made by the Bureau of Meteorology, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and water management agencies in the upstream jurisdictions. Forecasts will be revised as new information becomes available.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has advised that the peak flow is forecast to remain below 65,000 ML/day and is projected to arrive at the South Australian border during mid to late April 2012. The Department for Water will closely monitor flows in conjunction with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and SA Water, and where possible, peak flows will be managed to minimise adverse impacts downstream, such as inundation of shacks areas between Cadell and Mannum.

The most recent high flows were recorded in February 2011, when the flow to South Australia peaked at 93,800 ML/day.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.64m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.68m AHD. Barrage releases will continue, although high tides will limit the ability to discharge water at certain times during the coming months. Where possible, releases will continue mainly through hydraulically operated barrage gates which allow releases to cease quickly, minimising the risk and impacts of reverse flows. Operations at the manually operated Goolwa barrage will be adapted where possible to mitigate the effects of high tides. The releases at Boundary Creek will continue during periods of reverse flows in order to maintain a salinity gradient and estuarine conditions.

Residents and landholders in the Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and Mundoo areas may experience increased salinity in the area's waterways due to 'reverse head' conditions. With large volumes of River Murray water



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flowing into the area, any salinity spikes are likely to be short-term. Please note that the Goolwa and Mundoo barrages will be closed during the Easter long weekend due to high tides and possible adverse weather conditions. The Goolwa lock will remain open to boat traffic throughout this period.

Water levels and barrage operations are closely monitored by the various agencies of the South Australian Government, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

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

River Murray Water Levels as at 3 April 2012

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level (m AHD)	1993 Flood Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.88	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.37	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.57	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	24.21	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.31	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.61	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.39	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.40	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	14.06	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.69	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	12.15	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.87	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.36	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.20	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.40	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.44	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.21	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.48	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.81	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.69	2.06	1.26



*N/A – reading not available.

Note that the above water may be affected by local wind conditions.

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

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.

