

# RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT AND WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

## Flow to South Australia

Report #41/2012

Issued 10:00 am 19 October 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 12 October 2012. The next flow report will be provided on Friday 26 October 2012.

In this report, for ease of representation, large volumes of water are expressed in Gigalitres (GL), while smaller volumes are expressed in Megalitres (ML). One GL is equal to 1 000 ML.

### WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

During September 2012 the River Murray system inflow was approximately 1 470 GL, which is below the long-term September average of approximately 1 630 GL. Inflow to Menindee Lakes during September 2012 was approximately 155 GL, which is also lower than the long-term average of 200 GL.

The flow to South Australia in September 2012 was approximately 1 380 GL, compared to 910 GL in September 2011.

South Australia is expected to continue to receive 3 000 ML/day of Additional Dilution Flow into December 2012 and unregulated flow to the end of October 2012.

The major Murray-Darling Basin Authority-controlled storages are effectively full.

### STORAGE VOLUMES

Murray-Darling Basin Authority storage volumes at 17 October 2012 and 17 October 2011

Storage	Full Supply Volume (GL)	17/10/2012 (GL)	17/10/2011 (GL)	Long-term average (end of October)
Dartmouth	3 856	3 791 (98%)	2 830 (73%)	
Hume	3 003	2 980 (99%)	2 932 (97%)	
Lake Victoria	677	657 (97%)	576 (87%)	
Menindee Lakes	1 731*	2 001 (116%)	1 885 (107%)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 267</b>	<b>9 429 (102%)</b>	<b>8 193 (88%)</b>	<b>7 499 (81%)</b>

\*Menindee Lakes can be surcharged to 2 015 GL

### RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The latest Bureau of Meteorology weather outlook for October to December 2012 indicates that a drier than normal season is likely for large parts of southeast Australia, with a wetter than normal season likely for southwest Queensland, and warmer temperatures are more likely over most of Australia.



## **WATER ALLOCATION OUTLOOK**

Water access entitlement holders have 100 per cent water allocation in 2012-13. As South Australia continues to receive unregulated flow, under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement the state is prevented from deferring and storing Entitlement Flow for carryover use in 2013-14 at this stage. In addition, the risk of spill from the major storages remains high. This situation may change and opportunities to defer water in 2012-13 for use in 2013-14 will be reassessed as the year progresses and when conditions become more favourable to defer water.

## **FLOW OUTLOOK**

The flow at the South Australian border has receded rapidly and is currently around 25 000 ML/day. The flow is likely to continue to recede during the coming week to approximately 20 000 ML/day, depending on upstream operations and rainfall. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has issued an instruction, in accordance with the requirements of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, to gradually fill Lake Victoria to 100 per cent over the next two weeks.

Boat owners are advised to check moorings regularly and irrigators should also be prepared to adjust irrigation pumping infrastructure if necessary. The rate of recession may see water levels drop quickly over a short period of time, particularly in proximity to the downstream side of each lock.

South Australia is receiving unregulated flow, which is expected to continue this month. Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day will continue to be received into December 2012 and possibly beyond. However, delivery of environmental water from Menindee Lakes may shorten this period. This is because there is a storage volume cut-off trigger for ADF that might be met sooner if environmental water is delivered from the Menindee system.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 44 000 ML/day and is likely to remain around this rate over the coming week, depending on upstream operations and diversions.

It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on the information available at the time of preparation. They may change as new gauging information becomes available, or due to further rainfall events or changing operations upstream. Flow forecasts are dependent on predictions made by the Bureau of Meteorology, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and water management agencies in upstream jurisdictions. Forecasts will be revised as new information becomes available.

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

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.75 m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.73 m AHD. During the coming week, barrage operations will be targeting a water level in Lake Alexandrina of 0.80 m AHD or slightly higher. The higher water level will maximise the opportunity to continue barrage releases during the approaching summer months.

Any salinity increases in the Goolwa Channel or upstream of the other barrages as a result of possible high tides are likely to be short-lived due to the large volume of fresh River Murray water still flowing past Wellington into Lake Alexandrina. To see live salinity data at various locations on the River Murray and in the Lower Lakes please refer to the following website:

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

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



## CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Dredging work on the Lake Albert side of the Narrung Ferry is complete. Monitoring in the area is currently being undertaken. A notice will be issued in the coming week to advise of the removal of the exclusion zone. Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator will be ongoing until Spring 2013. For public safety reasons, the Chowilla Creek remains closed to navigation at the construction site.

## RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources have developed a River Murray Water Levels 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 17 October 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	30.94	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.56	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.72	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.80	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.28	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.39	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.28	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.02	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.72	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.53	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	12.03	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.53	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	10.07	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.44	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	-	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.53	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.76	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.48	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.88	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.98	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.84	2.06	1.26

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



## FURTHER INFORMATION

The South Australian Government has launched a campaign to fight for the health of the Murray River. The Fight for the Murray campaign aims to secure more water for the river under the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan. If you have an interest in the River Murray and a better Basin Plan, you are encouraged to join the fight for a healthy river at [www.fightforthemurray.com.au](http://www.fightforthemurray.com.au)

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources 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 of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

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

[www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data](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)

Information provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder can be accessed at <http://www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html>

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/programs/tlm/>

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)

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

### Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

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

**UPDATES-** This advice remains current until the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources notifies otherwise.

