

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #44/2012

Issued 10:00 am 9 November 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 2 November 2012. The next flow report and water resources update will be provided on Friday, 16 November 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 17 500 ML/day and is likely to reduce to around 14 000 ML/day during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. In accordance with the requirements of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has issued an instruction to gradually fill Lake Victoria to 100 percent. Lake Victoria storage is currently at 99 percent capacity.

South Australia ceased receiving unregulated flow on 28 October 2012. Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day will continue to be received until the end of December 2012. However, delivery of environmental water from Menindee Lakes to the South Australian border may shorten this period. This is because there is a storage volume cut-off trigger for ADF that might be met sooner if large volumes of environmental water are delivered from the Menindee system. The environmental water delivery is of net benefit to South Australia.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 17 500 ML/day and is likely to reduce to around 16 000 ML/day during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and diversions.

The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a Flood Watch for North East Victoria (Upper Murray, Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens and King catchments). Streamflow rises have been observed as a result of rainfall to date, with additional rainfall expected to cause further rises. Information on the impact of this rainfall on River Murray system inflows will be available next week. It is not expected to create a high flow event in South Australia at this stage.

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 changed 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 0.77 m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.79 m AHD. During the coming week, barrage operations will continue to target a water level of 0.80 m AHD in the Lower Lakes. 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 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>



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WATER  GOOD

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

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator will be ongoing until the end of 2013. For public safety reasons, the Chowilla Creek remains closed to navigation at the construction site.

On 5 November 2012, major maintenance works commenced at Lock 9 (Cullulleraine) upstream of South Australia. This maintenance is vital to the longevity of the structure and will take approximately six weeks. During this period Lock 9 will be closed to navigation for all river traffic.



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 7 November 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	30.82	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.47	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.62	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.24	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.26	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.36	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.34	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.48	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.35	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.31	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.72	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.96	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.83	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.98	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.53	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.25	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.56	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.23	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.98	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.79	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.77	2.06	1.26

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

The South Australian Government is running a campaign to fight for the health of the River Murray. If you have an interest in the River Murray you are encouraged to join the fight for a healthy river at:

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

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

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

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

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.



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