

# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

## Flow to South Australia

Report #5/2013

Issued 10:00 am 1 February 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 25 January 2013. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 8 February 2013.

### INTERSTATE RAINFALL EVENT

During the past week a significant rainfall event has occurred across eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales, which may provide some inflow to the Menindee Lakes. There is currently flooding in the Balonne-Condamine, Macintyre, Weir and Border Rivers in Queensland and also the Gwydir, Namoi and Peel Rivers in New South Wales. At this stage, it remains unclear how much water will arrive at Menindee Lakes. This is due to a number of factors including long travel times, transmission losses, irrigation diversions, and wetland and floodplain use. The situation will become clearer over the next few weeks. There is currently around 900 000 ML airspace in Menindee Lakes. The airspace volume will continue to increase due to releases from Menindee Lakes and travel times associated with the Barwon-Darling River system. Currently the flow at selected locations along the Darling River (upstream of Menindee Lakes) is low, at around 200 ML/day.

Isolated rainfall occurred across the Upper River Murray and Snowy catchment areas but the inflow response was low because catchments have dried out during summer.

### FLOW OUTLOOK

The target flow at the South Australian border for February 2013 will be around 8 300 ML/day, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. It comprises the February Entitlement Flow (nominal trade-adjusted flow of 6 929 ML/day) and environmental water provided by The Living Murray Program and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

The volume of water held in Menindee Lakes has dropped below the Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) trigger of 1 300 GL; therefore, delivery of ADF to South Australia has ceased. At this stage it is unlikely that inflows into Menindee Lakes will be sufficient for ADF to recommence. Lake Victoria storage is at 61 per cent capacity.

As river flows have returned to regulated flow conditions and near-normal pool levels, all water users should be aware of the risk of submerged navigation hazards such as sandbars, particularly downstream of Locks 7 and 8.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 6 000 ML/day and is likely to reduce to around 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day during the coming week, depending on weather conditions and irrigation demand.

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 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. They 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 0.61 m AHD and approximately 0.64 m AHD in Lake Albert. During the coming week, barrage operations will be targeting a water level in both Lakes between 0.60 m AHD to 0.65 m AHD. All barrage fishways are in operation and are being supplemented with attractant flows in adjacent bays. SA Water will continue to operate the barrages to minimise negative impacts from reverse flow events during high tide or swell conditions.



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, MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

## **CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator and associated structures is ongoing. 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 30 January 2013

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	30.83	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.56	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.86	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.17	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.28	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	-	13.35	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.33	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.29	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.21	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.83	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.78	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.45	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.38	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.20	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.34	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.27	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.71	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.63	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.68	2.06	1.26

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



## FURTHER INFORMATION

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/RMIM/](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMIM/)

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.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx)

[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/rivers-reservoirs-aquifers/river-murray/acid-drainage-water/](http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/rivers-reservoirs-aquifers/river-murray/acid-drainage-water/)

Information provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office can be accessed at:

[www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html)

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at:

[www.mdba.gov.au/programs/tlm/](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

[www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx](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.

