

RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT

Public I2 A2

Report #34/2013

Issued 10:00 am 30 August 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 23 August 2013. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 6 September 2013.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border has temporarily increased to approximately 19 000 ML/day and will reduce to around 15 000 ML/day during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. The increase was necessary to provide additional airspace in Lake Victoria to manage future inflows and minimise any negative impacts on current construction activities along the River Murray. The flow comprises the August Entitlement Flow of 4 000 ML/day plus unregulated flow. Due to recent rainfall events, catchments remain saturated with high inflows occurring across the upper Murray catchments. There is a Minor Flood Warning in place for the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers in Victoria. Due to these conditions, South Australia is likely to receive unregulated flow until, at least, October 2013. It is likely that further increases in the flow to South Australia may occur over the next month and this may result in flows of up to 25 000 ML/day.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 15 500 ML/day and will increase to around 18 000 ML/day before reducing to around 14 500 ML/day during the coming week, depending on weather conditions and extractions.

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 0.74 m AHD and approximately 0.81 m AHD in Lake Albert. During the coming week, barrage operations will target a water level between 0.70 m AHD and 0.75 m AHD in both Lakes. Barrage releases are being prioritised through the Goolwa and Tauwichee barrages to maintain an open and functioning Murray Mouth and to promote native fish migration. 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 any negative salinity impacts from reverse flow events during these 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/Systems/RTWD/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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

NAVIGATION ISSUES

Sandbars in the vicinity of the Murray Mouth may cause navigation hazards. Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when operating in the area. Sandbars are also present along sections of the River Murray in South Australia and all watercraft should be aware of, and regularly check, the river depth. The high flows during 2011-12 and 2012-13 have resulted in the deposition of sediments at some locations creating new sandbars.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Currency Creek

Subject to confirmation by the Commonwealth Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), water-based works to remove the Currency Creek Regulator are now completed. However, the contractor has a few items of plant and equipment remaining on site at this point. A stockpile of rock materials that were removed from the regulator also remain on site and will be removed when weather conditions improve enough to enable access. The buoyed boating exclusion zone will be removed in the near future, with no further impediment to normal boating access.

Chowilla

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. Works are also underway to upgrade the weirs on Pipeclay Creek and Slaney Creek to improve the management of flows into the Chowilla anabranch and to enable fish passage. Public access around the weirs was restricted during this construction program.

RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATORS - update your email address for improved service

If you would like quicker, easier and more efficient communication with DEWNR regarding water licensing matters, please phone (08) 8595 2053 or send details of your email or updated email address to DEWNRWatertrade@sa.gov.au

Benefits include:

- ☒ Irrigation reports sent direct to you
- ☒ Report returns can be submitted online
- ☒ Less paper in your in-tray
- ☒ Correspondence is quicker than traditional mail

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

Below is a table of River Murray water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.

River Murray Water Levels as at 28 August 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	30.85	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.50	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.05	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.10	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.30	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.37	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.36	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.29	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.21	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.21	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.45	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.74	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.63	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.32	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.11	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	3.59	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.47	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.25	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.85	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.79	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 Government of South Australia recently enhanced the WaterConnect website, which is South Australia's comprehensive water information portal. It provides free access to a wide range of water information and data for South Australian industry and communities, including:

- River Murray Flow Reports and high flow advice
- Water Trade Reporting
- South Australia's water licensing and permitting registers
- Scientific reports on the State's water resources
- Near real time access to State-wide ground and surface water data systems, river flows, levels, water quality, salinity and rainfall
- Historical information on ground and surface water monitoring sites, including site information, parameters measured, graphs and downloadable data
- Flood and other hazard information, including riverbank collapse
- Water quality information and aquatic ecosystem reports

The new WaterConnect site can be accessed at: <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:

<http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/RTWD/SitePages/Home.aspx>

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has published a series of inundation maps for the River Murray. They are available at: <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/RMIM/Pages/default.aspx>

Information on the discharge of acid drainage water into the Lower River Murray can be accessed online at:

http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/water_quality/acid_sulfate_soils_ass/lower_river_murray_reclaimed_irrigation_area_lmria

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

www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at:

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/about-basin/environmental-sites>

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

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>

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