

RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT

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Report #35/2013

Issued 10:00 am 6 September 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 30 August 2013. The next flow report, including the Water Resources Update, will be provided on Friday, 13 September 2013.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 15 000 ML/day and will increase to around 25 000 ML/day during the coming weeks, depending on upstream operations, extractions, and rainfall events. The flow comprises the September Entitlement Flow of 4 500 ML/day plus unregulated flow. Due to recent rainfall events, catchments remain saturated with high inflows occurring across the upper River Murray and northeast Victorian catchments. There is a Minor Flood Warning in place for the Kiewa River in Victoria. Due to these conditions, South Australia is likely to receive unregulated flow until, at least, October 2013.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 14 500 ML/day and will increase to around 22 000 ML/day during the coming weeks, 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 0.78 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 Tauwitchere 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. The boating exclusion zone has been removed. The site has a few items of plant and equipment remaining, and a stockpile of rock material that was removed from the regulator. These will be removed when weather conditions improve to enable access.



River Murray Flow Report

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 is restricted during this construction program.

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 on 4 September 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	30.79	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.52	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.06	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.12	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.29	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	-	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.32	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	-	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.12	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.11	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.43	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.72	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.62	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.31	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.09	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	3.58	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.41	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.20	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.82	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.69	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 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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