

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #29/2012

Issued 10:00 am 27 July 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 20 July 2012. The next flow report will be provided on Friday 3 August 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 36 500 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 38 000 ML/day over the coming week, depending on further rainfall and upstream operations. During recent days the volume of water in Lake Victoria has been reduced to provide airspace to accommodate any further rise in flow to South Australia, which is expected as a result of rainfall in the regions of the upper Murray.

South Australia continues to receive unregulated flow, which is expected to continue into August 2012. It is expected that South Australia will also continue to receive Additional Dilution Flow of 3000 ML/day into early November 2012; however, delivery of environmental water from Menindee Lakes may shorten this period. This is because there is a storage volume cut-off trigger for Additional Dilution Flow that might be met sooner if environmental water is delivered from the Menindee system.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 34 000 ML/day and is likely to increase slightly over the coming week to around 35 000 ML/day, depending on upstream operations.

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 0.79m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.87m AHD.

At present, barrage operations continue to target a water level in Lake Alexandrina of approximately 0.80m AHD. These operations will continue until a decision is made to lower the water level for a further period of weeks. The cycle of lowering and raising water levels is part of a longer-term trial aimed at flushing salt from Lake Albert.

Goolwa and Mundoo barrages are being operated to prevent seawater ingress from reverse head conditions, which is caused by high tides. Occasionally, residents and landholders located near the barrages might observe increased salinity in the area's waterways due to reverse head conditions. With large volumes of fresh River Murray water still flowing into Lake Alexandrina, any salinity spikes will be short-lived. Water levels and barrage operations are monitored closely by various agencies of the South Australian Government, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth Environmental Water.



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WATER & GOOD

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator will be ongoing until spring 2013. The Chowilla Creek remains closed 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 Level 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 25 July 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 | 30.80 | 33.81 | 33.32 |
| Lock 9 Kulnine | 764.8 | 27.40 | 27.42 | 30.03 | 29.44 |
| Lock 8 Wangumma | 725.7 | 24.60 | 24.33 | 27.6 | 27.19 |
| Lock 7 Rufus River | 696.6 | 22.10 | 23.30 | 25.70 | 25.24 |
| Lock 6 Murtho | 619.8 | 19.25 | 19.25 | 21.03 | 20.50 |
| Renmark | 567.4 | - | 16.39 | 18.54 | 18.04 |
| Lock 5 | 562.4 | 16.30 | 16.32 | 18.07 | 17.50 |
| Lyrup | 537.8 | - | 13.72 | 16.85 | 16.26 |
| Berri | 525.9 | - | 13.52 | 15.81 | 15.74 |
| Lock 4 | 516.2 | 13.20 | 13.19 | 15.65 | 15.08 |
| Loxton | 489.9 | - | 11.53 | 15.05 | 14.12 |
| Cobdogla | 446.9 | - | 10.12 | 13.44 | 12.38 |
| Lock 3 | 431.4 | 9.80 | 9.78 | 13.16 | 12.02 |
| Overland Corner | 425.9 | - | 7.79 | 12.73 | 11.58 |
| Waikerie | 383.6 | - | 6.78 | 11.26 | 10.24 |
| Lock 2 | 362.1 | 6.10 | 6.13 | 10.28 | 9.30 |
| Cadell | 332.6 | - | - | 9.17 | 8.08 |
| Morgan | 321.7 | - | 4.14 | 8.85 | 7.65 |
| Lock 1 Blanchetown | 274.2 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 6.81 | 5.38 |
| Swan Reach | 245.0 | 0.75 | 1.37 | 6.06 | 4.51 |
| Mannum PS | 149.8 | 0.75 | 0.81 | 3.15 | 1.90 |
| Murray Bridge | 115.3 | 0.75 | 0.78 | 2.06 | 1.26 |

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

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 by accessing the following website: www.fightforthemurray.com.au | www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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
<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

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

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

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

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

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

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

