

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #42/2012

Issued 10:00 am 26 October 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 19 October 2012. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 2 November 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 19 000 ML/day and is likely to remain at around this rate over the coming week, depending on upstream operations. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has issued an instruction, in accordance with the requirements of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, to gradually fill Lake Victoria to 100 percent over the next week. Lake Victoria storage is currently 98 percent full.

South Australia is receiving unregulated flow, which is likely to cease in the coming weeks. Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day will continue to be received into December 2012 and possibly beyond. 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 environmental water is delivered from the Menindee system. The benefits of the environmental water delivery will greatly outweigh the disbenefits of reduced ADF.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 20 000 ML/day and is likely to reduce to around 18 000 ML/day over the coming week, depending on upstream operations and diversions.

The rate of recession below Lock 4 is still relatively rapid. Boat owners are advised to check their moorings regularly and irrigators should also be prepared to adjust irrigation pumping infrastructure if necessary as water levels may drop quickly over a short period of time, particularly on the downstream side of Locks 4 to 1.

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

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.



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CONSTRUCTION WORKS

The exclusion zone around the Lake Albert side of the Narrung Ferry will be lifted when monitoring is complete. A Notice to Mariners will be issued.

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

On 5 November 2012, major maintenance works will commence 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 24 October 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	30.91	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.50	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.64	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.31	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.27	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.34	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.33	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.37	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.22	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.76	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.82	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.10	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.40	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	5.91	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.96	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.34	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.41	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.78	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.73	2.06	1.26

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

The South Australian Government has launched a campaign to fight for the health of the Murray River. The Fight for the Murray campaign aims to secure more water for the river under the proposed 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 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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