

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Report #27/2013

Issued 10:00 am 5 July 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 28 June 2013. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 12 July 2013.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 3 500 ML/day (normal July Entitlement Flow) and will remain around this rate during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. DEWNR is currently negotiating additional environmental water for 2013-14 from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) and Murray-Darling Basin Authority through The Living Murray Program.

When details about the timing and volume of environmental water are provided by the CEWO, the information will be included in the River Murray Flow Report.

Lake Victoria storage is at 80 per cent capacity and rising.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 3 000 ML/day and is likely to decrease to around 2 700 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 0.60 m AHD and approximately 0.67 m AHD in Lake Albert. During the coming week barrage operations will target a water level between 0.60 m AHD and 0.65 m AHD in both Lakes. All barrage fishways are in operation and are being supplemented with attractant flows in adjacent bays. Barrage releases are being prioritised through the Goolwa and Tauwitcherie barrages to maintain an open and functioning Murray Mouth and encourage diadromous fish migration. SA Water will continue to operate the barrages to minimise any negative salinity 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, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

NAVIGATION ISSUES

Under current flow, seasonal conditions and tidal activity, sand is being deposited inside the Murray Mouth and may present navigation hazards. Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when operating in the vicinity of the Murray Mouth.

As the River Murray is under regulated flow conditions, pool water levels are near normal. All river users should be aware of the risk of submerged navigation hazards such as sandbars, particularly downstream of Locks 7 and 8.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

WATER IS GOOD

Morgan River Vessel Waste Disposal Station

The Morgan River Vessel Waste Disposal Station upgrade is now complete and the station is fully operational.

Currency Creek

The Currency Creek Regulator is being removed by Maritime Constructions Pty Ltd. A dredge commenced operations on 24 April 2013, with removal of the regulator estimated to take 4 months to complete. Maritime Constructions Pty Ltd will be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the work is completed.

Mildura Weir Pool Lowering (upstream of South Australia)

On 27 May 2013, the Mildura Weir pool was drawn down for essential maintenance work on the weir's underwater concrete base. The work is expected to take up to eleven weeks to complete. Boat access through the weir will not be possible during this period.

The lower river level at this location could lead to an increase in saline groundwater entering the river. Any salinity spikes in downstream flows will be diverted through Lake Victoria to be diluted before flowing into South Australia.

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 on the upgrade of the weir on Pipeclay Creek at Chowilla to improve the management of flows into the Chowilla anabranch and to enable fish passage. Public access around the weir will be 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 as at 3 July 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	30.80	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.57	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.82	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	19.24	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.31	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.30	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.21	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.20	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.22	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	9.95	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.80	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.78	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.21	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.25	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.11	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	3.33	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.33	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.24	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.53	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.57	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.56	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/

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

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:

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

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:

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

www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

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

