

RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT

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Report #01/2015

Issued 10:00 am 9 January 2015

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 19 December 2014. The next flow report, including the Water Resources Update, will be provided on Friday, 16 January 2015.

In this report, for ease of representation, large volumes of water are expressed in gigalitres (GL), while smaller volumes are expressed in megalitres (ML). One GL is equal to 1 000 ML.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 7.5 GL/day and will remain around this rate during the coming week, depending on upstream river and storage operations, extractions, and rainfall events. The flow comprises the normal January Entitlement Flow of 7 GL/day plus environmental water from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). The environmental water is being delivered to provide in-channel, Lower Lakes and Coorong environmental benefits and assist in discharging salt through the Murray Mouth. South Australia is working with the CEWH to seek further opportunities to deliver environmental water during summer.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 4.0 GL/day and will remain around this rate 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.

MANAGEMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DEFERRED WATER

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advised that on 1 January 2015, South Australia had 42.8 GL of water deferred and stored in Dartmouth (29.5 GL for critical human water needs and 13.3 GL for private carryover use in future dry years). Volumes stored are adjusted for net evaporation losses until delivered to South Australia.

DEWNR is investigating opportunities to defer additional Entitlement Flow during 2014-15 given the latest dry climate outlook provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

MURRAY MOUTH

Dredging operations are due to begin at the Murray Mouth today in order to maintain connectivity between the river and the Southern Ocean.

Exclusion Zones have been established around the dredging operations to ensure public safety. For more information refer to the Notice to Mariners at:

http://webapps.transportsa.com.au/news/templates/dtei_template2010.aspx?articleid=2865&zoneid=15

There is also a partial park closure in place for the northern tip of the Coorong National Park. For more information refer to the following:

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Safety/Park_closures/141219-coorong-national-park

Signage has been installed at appropriate locations and flyers have been distributed advising of Exclusion Zones.



Any boats navigating through the Murray Mouth region should proceed with caution due to sandbars being present at shallow depth. Boats equipped with 'echo sounders' are strongly encouraged to regularly check depths.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.60 m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.58 m AHD. When conditions are favourable, barrage releases will be prioritised through Tauwichee and Goolwa (approximately 70:30 ratio), adjacent to the fishways. SA Water will continue to operate the barrages to minimise any negative salinity impacts from reverse flow events. All fishways are operating.

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.

WEIR POOL OPERATIONS

The Lock 1 and Lock 2 weir pool raising event is complete. Lock 1 is 0.10 m below normal pool level to enable investigations to be undertaken at the weir.

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, downstream of Lock 7 and 8 and in South Australia. All watercraft users should be aware of the risk of submerged navigation hazards, and should regularly check river depth.

LOVEDAY BASIN MANAGEMENT

Commencing on 23 December 2014, the regulator at Loveday Basin was opened to allow water to enter the Basin to manage an odour issue, which may occur seasonally as the Basin dries out. The Basin has been slowly filling. As a result of the drying and wetting phase, a number of dead carp have been observed in the vicinity of the regulator. Carp deaths are a natural consequence of active wetland management.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Lock 7 – advanced notice

Remedial works at Lock 7 are expected to commence after the Australia Day long weekend in January 2015 and take around 12 weeks to complete. The works are necessary to maintain the structural integrity of the Lock chamber. During this period Lock 7 will be closed to navigation.

Pike Floodplain

Construction works are underway at Bank B and C on the Pike Floodplain to reinstate fish passage and hydraulic connectivity between the River Murray and Mundic Creek. Works are expected to be ongoing until July 2015. There are no restrictions to navigation on the River Murray. Mundic Creek Road will be closed while works are underway.

Yatco Lagoon

Work is underway to relocate pump offtakes from Yatco Lagoon and install new pump offtakes on the River Murray. The construction work is expected to be completed by early 2015.

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 7 January 2015

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	30.86	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.42	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.60	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.11	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.25	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	-	13.22	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	-	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.84	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.22	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.25	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.13	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	3.23	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.16	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.12	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.63	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.63	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.55	2.06	1.26

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

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The WaterConnect website is South Australia's comprehensive water information portal and 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>

<http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/WaterProofingAdelaide/TheRiverMurray/RMOU/Dailyflow.htm>

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/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 management of acid drainage water in 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>

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

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

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