

# RIVER MURRAY

# FLOW ADVICE

## Elevated water levels in the River Murray below Lock 1

Issued: 2pm, 21 September 2010

This flow advice is information about future flows and associated risks. This is NOT a Flood Warning.

### BACKGROUND

Recent high riverine flows that caused recent flooding in Victoria are moving down the River Murray into South Australia. Flows at the South Australia-Victoria Border ('SA-Vic Border') have been rising steadily since the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2010.

Current projections from the Department for Water indicate that flows at the SA-Vic Border will peak at around 25,000 to 35,000 ML/day in early October, and slowly recede during the rest of October. This forecast may change as uncertainties about transmission losses from upstream states become clearer.

### FLOOD RISK

The projected peak flow rate is within the normal historical flow range for the River Murray in South Australia at this time of year.

Pool levels between the SA-Vic Border and Lock 1 are not projected to change significantly in response to these flows, except at the upstream end of each lock pool. There is negligible risk of widespread inundation.

Below Lock 1, the Lower Lakes are expected to fill to their capacity by the end of September.

River level in the River Murray between Lock 1 and the Lower Lakes may rise to about 0.5m above historically normal pool levels during October 2010.

Areas at levels of less than 0.5m above historically normal pool level could be at risk of inundation.

People should monitor the latest weather forecasts and obey any signage along the River Murray or instructions from the emergency services.

For flood related assistance, call the State Emergency Service on 132 500.

For life-threatening emergencies, call 000.



Government of South Australia

Department for Water

WATER IS GOOD

## LEVEE BANKS

Areas along the River Murray between Lock 1 and Lower Lakes that are protected by levee banks are advised that due to prolonged drought conditions, some levee banks may have deteriorated and could be at risk of failure.

These increased flows may impact on levee banks downstream of Lock 1. Property owners behind levee banks are advised to monitor levee bank condition and call the Riverbank Collapse Hotline (**1800 751 970**) to report any changes.

## RIVERBANK COLLAPSE

The projected flows will raise water levels downstream of Lock 1, including areas known to be at risk of Riverbank Collapse. There is an increased risk of Riverbank Collapse occurring at some locations where soils show signs of cracking.

People living, working or playing along the River Murray below Lock 1 should continue to look out for the signs of potential Riverbank Collapse. These signs include cracking in the river bank, leaning trees or bubbles in the River.

To report the signs of Riverbank Collapse or to obtain further information call the free 24 hour Riverbank Collapse Hotline (**1800 751 970**). For life-threatening emergencies, call 000.

Further information including a register of all reported incidents is available at the Riverbank Collapse section of <http://www.sa.gov.au>.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Up to date River Murray flow information can be accessed at the DFW and MDBA websites:

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

Details of river height and rainfall information in the Victorian River Murray are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood>

## UPDATES

This Advice remains current until the Department for Water notifies otherwise.

