

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 26 August 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water on 19 August 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 2 September 2011.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow to South Australia remains around 40,000 megalitres per day (ML/day). High flow across the South Australian border of between 30,000 and 40,000 ML/day is expected for the next two weeks, depending on flow conditions and operations upstream.

The flow at Lock 1 is around 36,000 ML/day. It is anticipated that flow at Lock 1 will remain around 30,000-37,000 ML/day for the next few weeks, depending on the flow to South Australia. Unregulated flow is currently expected to last into October 2011, with the possibility of further unregulated flow from future rainfall events upstream and potential environmental watering events.

All catchments remain wet and volumes in storage are higher compared to the same time last year. As a result, even with average rainfall, good stream flow responses are expected to occur from key locations including the upper Murray and north-eastern Victoria. A number of main operational storages such as Hume Reservoir and Lake Eildon are close to full supply level and, if the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts significant rainfall over their catchment areas, it may be necessary to undertake pre-releases for flood mitigation purposes.

Over the coming months it is likely that a multi-site environmental watering event will be implemented, which will require bulk water releases from upstream storages. The objective of this multi-site watering is to build upon the benefits provided from the high flow event and associated inundation during 2010-11. During the event there will be unregulated flow to South Australia. Updates on the projected flow rates will be provided when this trial is undertaken.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.60m AHD. The water level in Lake Albert remains slightly higher. Ongoing barrage operations will continue to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove accumulated salt from the Lower Lakes. Water levels are expected to remain within a range of 0.55m to 0.8m AHD.

In order to lower and raise water levels in both lakes, some of the barrage gates/bays will be opened and closed to maintain the desired water level target. Water levels and barrage operations are continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is important to note that water levels in the Lower Lakes may vary considerably with wind speed and direction. This, when combined with the high water level or high tides, could result in seawater backflow events and/or some inundation of low-lying areas around the edges of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel. Barrage operations are being monitored by SA Water to minimise the impacts of any forecast backflow events.



The Department for Water is also responsible for monitoring salinity in the Lower Lakes and maintains a network of salinity recording devices at a number of locations. Data collected from this monitoring network informs the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Government of South Australia for barrage operations, conducting scientific analysis and formulating policy positions.

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and the Department for Water have developed a River Murray Water Level chart (attached) to provide water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department for Water 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 for Water, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

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

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



River Murray Water Levels as at 24 August 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.76
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.47
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.86
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	23.57
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.26
Renmark	567.4	-	16.48
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.35
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.96
Berri	525.9	-	13.69
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.38
Loxton	489.9	-	11.68
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.06
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.85
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.99
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.98
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.26
Cadell	332.6	-	
Morgan	321.7	-	4.18
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.22
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.30
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.64
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.53

Note that water levels do not take into account local wind conditions.

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 for Water

<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 for Water notifies otherwise.

