

RIVER MURRAY HIGH FLOW ADVICE

THIS IS NOT A FLOOD WARNING.

Issued by the Department for Water on Friday 18 May 2012 at 10am.

This River Murray High Flow Advice supersedes the River Murray High Flow Advice issued on 11 May 2012 at 10am.

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 47,000 ML/day and is likely to reduce to 40,000 ML/day in the coming week. It should be noted that flow changes may occur in the future due to possible revisions to inflow forecasts at upstream locations, further rain events and changing upstream operations.

Flows downstream of the border will gradually decrease as the peak moves down the river. The flow over Lock 1 is currently 54,000 ML/day and is expected to decrease to about 52,000 ML/day during the coming week.

In conjunction with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and SA Water, the Department for Water monitors flows closely, and if significant changes are predicted, further advice will be provided.

Inundation maps are available for the Cadell to Mannum reach of the River Murray, depicting a flow of 60,000 ML/day. The maps can be found at www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au

It is important to note that these maps only provide a guide for possible inundation at a 60,000 ML/day flow rate. Local property owners in the Cadell to Morgan area should consider taking precautionary measures to protect property and infrastructure. This includes moving belongings above the floodplain level and securing all loose objects.

Inundation maps for flows of 90,000 ML/day, as experienced in February 2011, are also available on the WaterConnect website for comparison purposes.

The hazards of high flow in the main River Murray channel are associated with the operation of water craft and swimming in the main channel. Submerged objects, debris and the force of the current can present a risk to public safety.

People operating water craft, swimming, canoeing or taking part in other activities on the main channel are advised to be aware of the risk of high flows, and take precautions to protect life and property.

Backwaters, lakes and other parts of the river away from the main channel are likely to be less affected by high flows and present lower risks to life and property.



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Precautions are recommended when around flood or high flowing waters. These include:

- Not driving, walking or riding through floodwaters, water-affected causeways or roads.
- Be aware that significant debris may be carried downstream and may pose a hazard to water based activities.
- When operating a boat on the floodplain or near inundated riverbanks, be aware of submerged obstacles such as trees or fence lines.
- The hazards associated with riverbank collapse still exist in many areas so be aware of the signs such as cracked riverbanks and leaning trees – and keep away from fenced or signed posted affected areas.
- Regularly monitor river levels in your local areas and take care not to become isolated from floodwaters.
- Always wear a personal floatation device when on the river.
- Do not jump or dive into the river when you do not know what is below the surface.
- Camp on higher ground away from the riverbank.
- Supervise children at all times and do not allow them to play in or near floodwater or fast-flowing river water.
- If in doubt, stay out.
- Listen and take action on any instructions from the emergency services – the SES, SA Police and the CFS. Tune to ABC local radio for community safety information.

For flood-related assistance, call the SES on 132 500.

For life-threatening emergencies, call 000.

Enquiries regarding areas potentially affected by inundation resulting from these flows, and how to respond to them, are to be directed to the SA State Emergency Service (SES).

FURTHER INFORMATION

River Murray Flow and Level Information

Classifications of flow levels for the River Murray are described at:

<http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/news-info/publications/river-murray-high-flow-advice>

Department for Water River Murray Weekly Flow Reports can be accessed at:

<http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au>

Up-to-date River Murray level and flow information can be accessed at the DFW, SA Water and Murray Darling Basin Authority websites:

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm



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Information is also available from an SA Water hotline on 08 8595 2299

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

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

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

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

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

Flooding and Public Safety Information

SES information on public safety and response during flood events can be accessed at:

<http://www.ses.sa.gov.au>

UPDATES

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



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