
RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE- UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 25 March 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 18 March 2011. **This is NOT a Flood Warning.** A further update will be provided on Friday 1 April 2011.

SUMMARY: River Murray flow at the South Australian border has peaked and is now reducing. The flow peak has now moved through to the Lower Lakes.

FLOW OUTLOOK - MARCH 2011

South Australia continues to receive high River Murray flow at the border of around 75,000 ML/day. Based on known flow in transit and current river operations, River Murray flow is now expected to fall to around 65,000 ML/day by the end of March 2011. This is subject to the occurrence of further rainfall and changed river operations upstream of South Australia. There are no further flow peaks in transit upstream of South Australia, and flow to South Australia will continue to reduce at a slow rate.

The flow at Lock 1 (Blanchetown) is currently 78,000 ML/day.

LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.70m AHD and barrage outflow is being maintained to lower the lakes to at least 0.7m AHD or lower, depending on downstream (Coorong) levels. This is being undertaken to draw high salinity water from Lake Albert.

Once the flow peak has passed, the intention is to use barrage operations over the coming months to again lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove salt from the Lower Lakes. Currently it is difficult to release large volumes of water through the barrages due to the Coorong being surcharged, and even at low tides the release rate is restricted.

In order to decrease and increase water levels in both lakes, it is necessary for some of the gates/bays to be opened and closed at the barrages to maintain the desired water level target. Both water levels and barrage operations are being continually monitored by the Department for Water, SA Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

WATER LEVELS

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



Government of South Australia
Department for Water

WATER IS GOOD

Current and Historical Water Levels

Location	River Km	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level	1993 Flood Level
Lock 10	825.0	31.80	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	28.35	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	26.53	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	24.72	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.93	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	17.15	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.86	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	15.46	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	14.97	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	14.58	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	13.26	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	11.40	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	10.80	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	10.13	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	8.97	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	8.15	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	6.79	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	6.16	8.85	7.65
Blanchetown	274.2	4.32	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	3.06	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	1.34	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	1.06	2.06	1.26

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**



RIVER SAFETY

Recreational boat users are warned that some artificial structures on the floodplain, wetlands and creeks – including fences, bridges and other structures – could still be under water due to the high flow conditions and could present a risk to their safety.

People are advised to monitor the latest weather and flow forecasts and obey any signage along the River Murray or instructions from the emergency services.

For flood-related assistance, call the State Emergency Service (SES) on **132 500**.

For life-threatening emergencies, call **000**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department for Water has published a series of inundation mapping 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 is can be accessed online at www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority publishes black water information on its website, including regularly updated bulletins and maps, at <http://mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater>

UPDATES

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

