

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE- UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 1 April 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 25 March 2011. **This is NOT a Flood Warning.** A further update will be provided on Friday 8 April 2011.

SUMMARY: The River Murray flow peak has now moved through to the Lower Lakes. Water levels in the Lower Lakes are expected to remain at around 0.80m AHD over the next one to two weeks.

FLOW OUTLOOK - APRIL 2011

South Australia continues to receive high River Murray flow at the border of around 74,000 ML/day. Based on known flow in transit and current river operations, River Murray flow is now expected to fall to around 45,000 to 50,000 ML/day by mid April 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 76,000 ML/day.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.82m AHD. Water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Goolwa Channel will remain at this level over the next week or two due to additional water from the recent high flow event and the current constraints on releasing more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth.

This is because more water is entering the lakes than is flowing out through the mouth. The majority of barrage gates – 402 out of 593 – are open, but there is very little difference in water levels between the lakes and the Coorong.

In addition, although the Murray Mouth has opened significantly since barrage releases began last September, (it is now almost four times larger than in September), the outflow of water is being affected by tides. Recent tides have been high, compounded by strong southerly winds.

These conditions are restricting the volume of water able to be released through the barrages. Opening the rest of the gates will not make a difference because the Murray Mouth is restricting water flowing out of the system.

It is important to note that water levels in the lower lakes may vary considerably with wind speed and direction and this, when combined with the high water level, could result in some inundation of low-lying areas around the edge of Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert or the Goolwa Channel.



Government of South Australia
Department for Water

WATER IS GOOD

People with land close to the shore of the lakes or channel that can be inundated at water levels higher than 0.75m AHD should move stock to higher ground, and secure and protect any infrastructure that could be inundated.

Once water is able to be released through the barrages, the intention is to continue using barrage operations over the coming months to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove salt from the lower lakes.

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**.

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

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



River Murray Water Levels as at 30 March 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level	1993 Flood Level
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	31.73	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	28.37	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	26.45	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	24.68	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.94	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	17.14	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	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	13.20	14.58	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	13.27	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	11.38	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	10.77	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	10.10	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	8.89	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	8.10	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	6.72	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	6.09	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	4.31	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	2.99	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	1.27	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.96	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**

UPDATES

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

