
RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE- UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 8 April 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice issued by the Department for Water (DFW) on 1 April 2011. **This is NOT a Flood Warning.** A further update will be provided on Friday 15 April 2011.

SUMMARY: The River Murray flow peak has now moved through to the Lower Lakes. Water levels in the Lower Lakes have been high over the last few weeks but are now falling slowly. Water levels will again be manipulated over the coming months through barrage operations but will remain within a range of 0.6m AHD to 0.8m AHD.

FLOW OUTLOOK - APRIL 2011

South Australia continues to receive high River Murray flow at the border of around 70,000 ML/day. Based on known flow in transit and current river operations, River Murray flow is now expected to steadily fall to around 30,000 ML/day by the end of 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.

The flow at Lock 1 (Blanchetown) is currently 70,500 ML/day.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.72m AHD. Water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Goolwa Channel have been high over the last few weeks due to additional water from the recent high flow event and constraints on releasing more water through the barrages and Murray Mouth.

Over the coming months it is again intended to use barrage operations to lower and raise water levels to further freshen Lake Albert and remove salt from the Lower Lakes. It is anticipated that water levels will remain within a range of 0.6m AHD to 0.8m AHD.

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.

It is important to note that water levels in the Lower Lakes may also 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 monitor water levels and if necessary move stock to higher ground, and secure and protect any infrastructure that could be inundated.

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 6 April 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level	1993 Flood Level
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	31.53	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	28.23	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	26.34	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	24.59	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.89	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	17.07	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.81	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	15.42	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	14.93	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	14.55	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	13.24	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	11.35	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	10.75	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	10.07	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	8.86	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	8.08	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	6.72	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	6.07	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	4.28	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	2.93	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	1.19	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.88	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.

