

RIVER MURRAY FLOW ADVICE UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Issued 10:00 9 September 2011

This supersedes the previous flow advice update issued by the Department for Water on 2 September 2011. A further flow advice will be provided on Friday 16 September 2011.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow to South Australia has reduced to around 27,000 megalitres per day (ML/day) and is likely to remain between 27,000 and 33,000 ML/day for the next week. As a result of implementation of the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy, water is now being directed into Lake Victoria, reducing the flow to South Australia. This action and increased water use upstream of South Australia means that the previously anticipated flow of up to 50,000 ML/day in the latter half of September may not eventuate. This forecast is subject to rainfall, diversions and other changed operations upstream.

The flow over Lock 1, currently 38,000 ML/day, will decrease to a flow of between 25,000 and 30,000 ML/day over the coming week.

Unregulated flow to South Australia is expected to continue into October 2011. The possibility of further unregulated flow will depend on future rainfall events upstream and potential environmental watering events.

Over the coming months a multi-site environmental watering event may be implemented, which will require bulk water releases from upstream storages. The objective of this multi-site watering is to build upon the benefits from the high flow event and associated inundation during late 2010 and early 2011. During the watering event there will be unregulated flow to South Australia. Updates on the projected flow rates will be provided when the trial is undertaken.

All catchments remain wet and volumes in storage are higher than 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.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around 0.58m AHD. The water level in Lake Albert remains slightly higher at 0.61m AHD. Closing of some barrage gates commenced this week to gradually increase the water level in both lakes. This will facilitate the freshening of Lake Albert. Barrage gates are being operated to increase the water level by an average of 10 mm/day with the aim of reaching a target water level of 0.85m AHD by the end of September 2011.

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



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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.

Releases at Goolwa and Mundoo barrages have also been reduced over the last week to minimise backflow events from high tides. These barrages are currently closed and will remain closed due to the forecast storm surge expected to occur over the coming weekend.

Releases from the other barrages will also cease due to this forecast. Releases are expected to resume next week, subject to weather conditions.

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 8 September 2011

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.85
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.34
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.09
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.75
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.14
Renmark	567.4	-	16.34
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.29
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.49
Berri	525.9	-	13.31
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.08
Loxton	489.9	-	11.10
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.80
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.82
Waikerie	383.6	-	-
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.21
Cadell	332.6	-	-
Morgan	321.7	-	4.26
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.26
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.47
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.74
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.63

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.



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