

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #15/2012

Issued 10:00 am 13 April 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department for Water on 4 April 2012. A further flow report and water resources update will be provided on Friday 20 April 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

During the past week, the flow at the South Australian border has remained slightly below 60,000 ML/day. The flow is likely to stay at this rate for the next week before reducing to approximately 55,000 ML/day. The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that the peak river height at Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River is lower than expected, and is likely to peak around 20 April 2012. The Murrumbidgee River peak will arrive at the River Murray after the River Murray peak has passed the South Australian border and will not contribute to a higher peak flow to South Australia. The Murrumbidgee River inflow combined with the existing flow in the River Murray is likely to result in a flow of between 50,000 and 55,000 ML/day until early May 2012.

The Department for Water will closely monitor flow in conjunction with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and SA Water, and where possible, peak flow will be managed to minimise adverse impacts downstream, such as inundation of shack areas between Cadell and Mannum.

It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on information available at this time. Forecasts may change as more accurate gauging information becomes available, or due to further rainfall events or changing upstream operations. Flow forecasts are dependent on predictions made by the Bureau of Meteorology, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and water management agencies in upstream jurisdictions. Forecasts will be revised as new information becomes available.

The flow over Lock 1 is expected to remain between 45,000 and 50,000 ML/day over the next week.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.76m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.73m AHD.

Barrage releases will continue, although high Coorong water levels, high tides, high swells and wind will limit the ability to discharge water at certain times during the coming weeks. Where possible, releases will continue mainly through hydraulically operated barrage gates, which allow releases to cease quickly, minimising the risk and impacts of reverse flows. Operations at the manually operated Goolwa barrage will be adapted where possible to mitigate the effects of high tides. Mundoo barrage will also be operated to minimise reverse flows where possible. Releases at Boundary Creek will continue during periods of reverse flows in order to maintain a salinity gradient and estuarine conditions. Tauwichee and Ewe Island barrages may also be subject to short-term reverse flows.



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WATER IS GOOD

Residents and landholders in the Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and Mundoo areas may observe increased salinity in the area's waterways due to 'reverse head' conditions. With large volumes of fresh River Murray water flowing into the area, any salinity spikes are likely to be short-term.

Water levels and barrage operations are closely monitored by the various agencies of the South Australian Government, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

RIVER MURRAY 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.

River Murray Water Levels as at 11 April 2012

Location	River Km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level (m AHD)	1993 Flood Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.97	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.45	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.64	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	24.26	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.38	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.51	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.25	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.58	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	14.20	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.78	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	12.38	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.45	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.79	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.73	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.58	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.74	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.76	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.27	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.88	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.96	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.80	2.06	1.26

Note that the above water levels may be affected by local wind conditions.



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

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.

