

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #18/2012

Issued 10:00 am 4 May 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department for Water on 27 April 2012. A further flow report will be provided on Friday 11 May 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 55,000 ML/day. During the coming week the flow is likely to remain around this rate.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 54,000 ML/day and is likely to peak below 55,000 during the coming week.

It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on the information available at the time of preparation. They may change as new 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.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.75m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.74m AHD.

Barrage operations over the past week have maximised opportunities to release water from the Lower Lakes, taking into account high swells, tides and winds. There will be limited opportunities in the coming week for barrage releases due to high tides. The barrages will remain open but will be carefully monitored and managed to minimise seawater ingress during reverse head conditions.

Residents and landholders located near the barrages 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-lived.

Note that the boat locks at Tauwitchere and Goolwa will continue to operate as normal.

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.

BLACKWATER AT JUNCTION OF RIVER MURRAY AND MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER

At the junction of the River Murray and Murrumbidgee River the dissolved oxygen level is relatively low. This low-oxygen blackwater is being monitored and managed with environmental water releases to increase dissolved oxygen. At this stage, it is not anticipated that this event will pose a threat to South Australia.

Blackwater is a natural part of the ecology of lowland river systems during high flows, where accumulated organic matter decays in wetlands or waterways. As the organic matter decays, oxygen in the water is



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consumed, which results in low dissolved oxygen and the water turning black. The low level of dissolved oxygen may cause stress to aquatic animals and fish deaths.

Updates will be provided in future flow reports.

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 2 May 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	31.02	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.61	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.81	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	24.14	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.34	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	-	14.65	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	14.29	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.86	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	12.54	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.67	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.98	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	9.04	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.86	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	7.04	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	5.09	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.50	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	2.09	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	1.00	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.83	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

Information provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder can be accessed at <http://www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html>

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.

