RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #21/2012
Issued 10:00 am 1 June 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department for Water on 25 May 2012. A further flow report will be provided on Friday 8 June 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

Conditions remained dry during May 2012, with lower than average monthly rainfall observed across almost the full extent of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 39, 000 ML/day and is expected to reduce to around 35, 000 ML/day over the coming week. The flow is reducing due to lower inflows from major River Murray tributaries upstream of South Australia. Subject to further rainfall upstream, by mid to late June 2012 the flow to South Australia is expected to be less than 10,000 ML/day. As flow reduces, the river will effectively "flatten out" between the locks. Water users need to be aware of the relatively rapid recession and should modify pump and other infrastructure accordingly.

South Australia is continuing to receive unregulated flow, however, it is likely that normal Entitlement Flow conditions will recommence early in the 2012-13 water year. Additional Dilution Flow of 3,000 ML/day is expected to be received until around October 2012.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 49, 000 ML/day and is likely to reduce to approximately 44, 000 ML/day by the end of the coming week.

Releases from Menindee Lakes, in New South Wales, are slowly reducing and the storage remains surcharged at around 1,900 GL.

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 operations upstream. 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 0.79m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.82m AHD.

Barrage operations are continuing to maximise the opportunities to release water from the Lower Lakes, taking into account high swells, tides and winds. Although reverse head conditions are experienced at times, there are negligible impacts on Lake Alexandrina salinity. Releases are monitored carefully and managed to minimise seawater ingress during reverse head conditions, and also to release enough water to prevent high lake levels.

Occasionally, 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 still flowing into Lake Alexandrina, any salinity spikes will be short-lived.

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

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT CHOWILLA

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator will be ongoing for the next 18 months. Boat operators need to be aware that there is no boat passage at Chowilla Creek adjacent to the construction site.

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 30 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	30.84	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.69	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.02	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	23.59	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.23	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.46	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.30	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.08	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.81	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.41	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	12.01	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.85	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.57	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.46	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.66	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.83	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.38	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	2.05	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	1.01	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.85	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.