

RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT AND WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

Flow to South Australia

Report #27/2012

Issued 10:00 am 13 July 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 6 July 2012. The next flow report will be provided on Friday 20 July 2012.

In this report, for ease of representation, large volumes of water are expressed in Gigalitres (GL), while smaller volumes are expressed in Megalitres (ML). One GL is equal to 1000 ML.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

During June 2012 the River Murray system inflow was approximately 840 GL. This inflow was above the long-term average of approximately 678 GL.

The above-average inflow has provided a significant increase in overall water availability. As a result, South Australia is expected to continue to receive Additional Dilution Flow into November 2012 and unregulated flow into August 2012.

The extended duration of higher flow, combined with environmental water from Commonwealth Environmental Water, has allowed for continued discharge over the barrages and some inundation of low-lying floodplain and wetlands.

Major storages are relatively full for this time of the year.

STORAGE VOLUMES

Murray-Darling Basin Authority storage volumes at 11 July 2012 and 11 July 2011

Storage	Full Supply Volume (GL)	11/7/2012 (GL)	11/7/2011 (GL)	Long-term average (end of July)
Dartmouth	3 856	3 379 (88%)	2 538 (66%)	
Hume	3 003	2 909 (97%)	2 878 (96%)	
Lake Victoria	677	481 (71%)	532 (79%)	
Menindee Lakes	1 731*	1 925 (111%)	1 955 (113 %)	
TOTAL	9 267 (100%)	8 694 (94%)	7 903 (85%)	6 659 (72%)

*Menindee Lakes can be surcharged to 2015 GL



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RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The latest Bureau of Meteorology rainfall outlook for mid-winter to early spring indicates that a drier than normal season is expected across much of the southern Murray-Darling Basin. The outlook is a result of warmer than normal waters in the eastern Indian Ocean with some influence from neutral conditions in the central Pacific Ocean.

WATER ALLOCATION OUTLOOK FOR 2012–13

Water access entitlement holders have 100 per cent water allocation in 2012–13. As South Australia continued to receive unregulated flow to the end of June 2012, the state was prevented from deferring and storing Entitlement Flow for carryover (for use in 2012–13) under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. However, as irrigators have 100 per cent water allocation, they can access enough water to meet their normal production requirements without the need to use carryover.

FLOW OUTLOOK

As a result of good rainfall in New South Wales and Victoria, combined with wet catchments and Lake Victoria operations, the flow at the South Australian border has increased to approximately 29 000 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 33 000 ML/day over the coming weeks.

South Australia continues to receive unregulated flow, which is expected to continue into August 2012. It is expected that South Australia will continue to receive Additional Dilution Flow of 3000 ML/day into early November 2012; however, delivery of environmental water from Menindee Lakes may shorten this period. This is because there is a storage volume cut-off trigger for Additional Dilution Flow that might be met sooner if environmental water is delivered from the Menindee system.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 23 500 ML/day and is likely to increase to around 26 000 ML/day in the coming week, depending on upstream operations.

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 0.74m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.77m AHD.

During the past week, barrage operations were undertaken to reduce outflow and raise the water level in the Lower Lakes. Lake levels will be increased to approximately 0.80m AHD in the coming week and maintained at this level for a short period. The cycle of lowering and raising water levels is part of a longer-term trial aimed at flushing salt from Lake Albert.

Goolwa and Mundoo Barrages are being operated to prevent seawater ingress from reverse head conditions, which is caused by high tides and high swells. 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 various agencies of the South Australian Government, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator will be ongoing until spring 2013. The Chowilla Creek remains closed at the construction site.

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources 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 July 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	30.81	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.48	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.63	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.75	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.24	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.32	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.29	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.49	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.39	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.90	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	-	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.75	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	7.19	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.51	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.15	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.67	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.14	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.01	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.77	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.74	2.06	1.26

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources 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 of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

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 of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

<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 of Environment, Water and Natural Resources notifies otherwise.

