

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #31/2012

Issued 10:00 am 10 August 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 3 August 2012. The next flow report and water resources update will be provided on Friday 17 August 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 39 000 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate over the coming week. The flow is expected to remain below 40 000 ML/day through August; however, this will depend on releases from Menindee Lakes and ongoing inflows from the Murrumbidgee River.

South Australia continues to receive unregulated flow, which is expected to continue into September 2012. It is expected that South Australia will also continue to receive Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day to mid-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 ADF that might be met sooner if environmental water is delivered from the Menindee system. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will discuss this issue with South Australia prior to any change.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 36 000 ML/day and is likely to remain around this rate over 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 0.73 m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.82 m AHD.

Barrage operations over the next few weeks will aim to reduce the water level gradually in both lakes towards a target of approximately 0.55 m AHD, depending on tides and any additional local rainfall. DEWNR and SA Water will monitor any potential localised impacts on water users. Barrage operations will maintain the lower water level while the lake levels equalise, before raising the lakes to pool level (0.75 m AHD). The cycle of lowering and raising water levels is part of a long-term operation aimed at flushing Lake Albert to reduce salinity levels. This exercise has been enabled due to the ongoing period of unregulated flow.

During the coming weeks, residents and landholders around the Lower Lakes may observe a reduction in water level. This decrease may be around 250 mm but might be greater due to wind seiche. Because of the lowering of the lakes, people are advised to check infrastructure or property that may be affected, such as irrigation offtakes and boat moorings. Parts of the Lower Lakes that are navigable at higher water levels may not be accessible by boat in the coming weeks.

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



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

WATER IS GOOD

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 8 August 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	27.34	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.62	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	23.48	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.12	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.28	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.14	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.84	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.59	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	11.73	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.16	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.71	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.02	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.94	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.11	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.31	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.12	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.53	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.82	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.76	2.06	1.26

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

If you have an interest in the River Murray and a better Basin Plan, you are encouraged to join the fight by accessing the following website: www.fightforthemurray.com.au | www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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

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.

