

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #35/2012

Issued 10:00 am 7 September 2012

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 31 August 2012. The next flow report will be provided on Friday 14 September 2012.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is currently 45 000 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate for the next couple of weeks, unless conditions change upstream. The flow to South Australia is being managed to remain at, or below, 45 000 ML/day to minimise any risks to the environmental regulator construction works at Chowilla.

South Australia is receiving unregulated flow, which is expected to continue into October 2012. Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day will continue to be received into late November 2012 and possibly beyond. However, delivery of environmental water from Menindee Lakes may shorten this period if it commences in the next two months. 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 flow over Lock 1 is approximately 39 000 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 0.62 m AHD and the level in Lake Albert is approximately 0.79 m AHD. Due to high winds, the water level at various locations around the Lower Lakes may vary considerably.

Due to storm surges and high tides, there is a risk of seawater incursion to the Goolwa Channel and Lake Alexandrina, which may increase salinity. To assist in managing the risk, the Goolwa and Mundoo Barrages have been closed. Any increase in salinity is likely to be short-lived due to the large volume of fresh River Murray water flowing into Lake Alexandrina.

When the weather conditions improve, the barrages will be operated to maximise releases over the coming weeks. This will help to lower the water level in Lake Alexandrina towards a target of approximately 0.55 m AHD. It is proposed to hold this lower water level for a short period before refilling the lakes to a target of 0.80 to 0.85 m AHD. DEWNR and SA Water will monitor any potential localised impacts on water users. Operations to lower and raise water levels aim to flush Lake Albert to reduce salinity levels. This exercise has been enabled because of the ongoing period of unregulated flow, which is providing sufficient water to refill the lakes after lowering.

During periods of lower water levels, people are advised to check infrastructure or property, 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 Office.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS

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

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

SA Water and DEWNR 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 5 September 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	30.85	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.53	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	25.36	27.6	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	23.74	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.24	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.44	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.30	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	14.07	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.82	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.38	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	11.97	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	10.33	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.84	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	8.24	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	7.00	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.30	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	-	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	4.50	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.29	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	1.61	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.69	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.77	2.06	1.26

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



FURTHER INFORMATION

The South Australian Government has launched a campaign to fight for the health of the Murray River. The Fight for the Murray campaign aims to secure more water for the river under the proposed 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 for a healthy river at www.fightforthemurray.com.au

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

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/programs/tlm/>

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.

