

RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY FLOW REPORT

Flow to South Australia

Report #9/2013

Issued 10:00 am 1 March 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 22 February 2013. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 8 March 2013.

FLOW OUTLOOK

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 7 700 ML/day and is likely to remain around this rate during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. It comprises the March Entitlement Flow (nominal trade-adjusted flow of 6 000 ML/day) and environmental water provided by The Living Murray Program and Commonwealth Environmental Water. The total volume of environmental water delivered to South Australia in February was approximately 50 000 ML.

The volume of water held in Menindee Lakes is below the Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) trigger of 1 300 GL and as a result, delivery of ADF to South Australia has ceased. It is unlikely that inflows into Menindee Lakes, from rainfall in the eastern states during the last week of January, will be sufficient for ADF to recommence in the foreseeable future.

Lake Victoria storage is at 46 per cent capacity.

As river flows have returned to regulated flow conditions and near-normal pool levels, all water users should be aware of the risk of submerged navigation hazards such as sandbars, particularly downstream of Locks 7 and 8.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 6 000 ML/day and is likely to reduce to around 5 000 ML/day during the coming week, depending on weather conditions and irrigation demand.

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 rainfall events or changed 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. They 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 0.61 m AHD and approximately 0.58 m AHD in Lake Albert. During the coming week, barrage operations will be targeting a water level between 0.60 m AHD and 0.65 m AHD in both Lakes. All barrage fishways are in operation and are being supplemented with attractant flows in adjacent bays. SA Water will continue to operate the barrages to minimise negative impacts from reverse flow events during high tide or swell conditions.

To see live salinity data at various locations on the River Murray and in the Lower Lakes please refer to the following website: <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

Water levels and barrage operations are monitored closely by various agencies of the South Australian Government, MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator and associated structures is ongoing. For public safety reasons, the Chowilla Creek remains closed to navigation at the construction site.



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
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WATER IS GOOD

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

Below is a table of River Murray water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.

River Murray Water Levels as at 27 February 2013

| 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 | 27.49 | 30.03 | 29.44 |
| Lock 8 Wangumma | 725.7 | 24.60 | 24.72 | 27.60 | 27.19 |
| Lock 7 Rufus River | 696.6 | 22.10 | 22.20 | 25.70 | 25.24 |
| Lock 6 Murtho | 619.8 | 19.25 | 19.26 | 21.03 | 20.50 |
| Renmark | 567.4 | - | - | 18.54 | 18.04 |
| Lock 5 | 562.4 | 16.30 | 16.31 | 18.07 | 17.50 |
| Lyrup | 537.8 | - | - | 16.85 | 16.26 |
| Berri | 525.9 | - | 13.27 | 15.81 | 15.74 |
| Lock 4 | 516.2 | 13.20 | 13.27 | 15.65 | 15.08 |
| Loxton | 489.9 | - | - | 15.05 | 14.12 |
| Cobdogla | 446.9 | - | - | 13.44 | 12.38 |
| Lock 3 | 431.4 | 9.80 | 9.79 | 13.16 | 12.02 |
| Overland Corner | 425.9 | - | 6.37 | 12.73 | 11.58 |
| Waikerie | 383.6 | - | 6.32 | 11.26 | 10.24 |
| Lock 2 | 362.1 | 6.10 | 6.14 | 10.28 | 9.30 |
| Cadell | 332.6 | - | - | 9.17 | 8.08 |
| Morgan | 321.7 | - | 3.34 | 8.85 | 7.65 |
| Lock 1 Blanchetown | 274.2 | 3.20 | 3.25 | 6.81 | 5.38 |
| Swan Reach | 245.0 | 0.75 | 0.65 | 6.06 | 4.51 |
| Mannum PS | 149.8 | 0.75 | 0.71 | 3.15 | 1.90 |
| Murray Bridge | 115.3 | 0.75 | 0.69 | 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/RMIM/

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.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

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/rivers-reservoirs-aquifers/river-murray/acid-drainage-water/

Information provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office can be accessed at:

www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at:

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

Information is also available from the SA Water Hotline on **08 8595 2299**

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>

