

RIVER MURRAY HIGH FLOW ADVICE

THIS IS NOT A FLOOD WARNING

Issued by the Department for Water on 23 March 2012 at 10:00am

Due to the recent high rainfall event and subsequent high inflow to the River Murray system in New South Wales and Victoria, the Department for Water predicts that flow in the River Murray is increasing and is likely to reach and remain in the range of 40,000 ML/day to 60,000 ML/day at the South Australian border over the coming four weeks. The implications of the high inflows in New South Wales and Victoria are becoming clearer for South Australia, and inflow estimations are being revised continually due to large potential losses expected as a result of water flowing across expansive floodplains and through major irrigation areas upstream.

Further rises may occur above 60,000 ML/day due to possible revisions to inflow forecasts at upstream locations.

There is no immediate risk of flooding to South Australia.

A flow in the range of 40,000 to 60,000 ML/day will increase the river height. Overbank flow commences from approximately 40,000 ML/day; however, inundation at this flow rate is expected to be minimal.

The hazards of high flow in the main River Murray channel are associated with the operation of water craft and swimming in the main channel. Submerged objects, debris and the force of the current can present a risk to public safety.

People operating water craft, swimming, canoeing or taking part in other activities on the main channel are advised to be aware of the risk of high flows, and take precautions to protect life and property.

Backwaters, lakes and other parts of the river away from the main channel are likely to be less affected by the effects of high flows and present lower risks to life and property.

Enquiries regarding areas potentially affected by inundation resulting from these flows, and how to respond to them, are to be directed to the SA State Emergency Service (SES).

In the interests of community safety, the following precautions are recommended:

- Do not drive, ride or walk through floodwaters, flood-affected causeways or roads.
- Be aware that significant debris is being carried downstream and may pose a hazard to water-based activities.



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- When operating a boat on the floodplain or near inundated river banks, be aware of submerged obstacles such as trees and fence lines.
- Landholders, especially those with shacks or other structures in low-lying areas, should consider securing their property from likely rising water levels.
- The hazards associated with riverbank collapse still exist in many areas so be aware of the signs, such as cracked riverbanks and leaning trees, and keep away from fenced or sign-posted affected areas.
- Regularly monitor river levels in your local area, and take care not to become isolated by rising water.
- Always wear a personal floatation device when on the river.
- Do not jump or dive into the river when you do not know what is below the surface.
- Camp on higher ground away from the river bank.
- Supervise children at all times and do not allow them to play in or near floodwater or fast-flowing river water.
- If in doubt, stay out.
- Listen and take action on any instructions from the emergency services - the SES, SA Police and the CFS. Tune to ABC local radio for community safety information.
- For flood-related assistance, call the SES on 132 500.
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

River Murray Flow and Level Information

Department for Water River Murray Weekly Flow Reports can be accessed at:

<http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au>

Up-to-date River Murray level and flow information can be accessed at the DFW, SA Water and Murray Darling Basin Authority websites:

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

Information is also available from an SA Water hotline on 08 8595 2299

<http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au>

<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data>

Details of river height and rainfall information in the upstream Victorian and New South Wales River Murray are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood> ; and

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood>



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Flooding and Public Safety Information

SES information on public safety and response during flood events can be accessed at:
<http://www.ses.sa.gov.au>

UPDATES

This High Flow Advice remains current until the Department for Water notifies otherwise.



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