

# SA River Murray Flow Report



**Report #15/2025**

**Issued 12:00pm 11 April 2025**

**This supersedes the previous Flow Report issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 4 April 2025. The next Flow Report will be provided on Friday 18 April 2025.**

## Flow outlook



The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 6.5 GL/day and is expected to reduce to approximately 6 GL/day by next Friday.

The current flow at the South Australian border includes the full April Entitlement Flow (4.5 GL/day), along with water for the environment, interstate trade adjustments and adjustment for deferred entitlement flows, which are stored and accumulated for critical human water needs during dry periods.

The flow over Lock 1 this Friday is expected to be approximately 5 GL/day and is expected to reduce to 4.5 GL/day by next Friday.

It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on the information available at the time of preparation. Advice may change as new gauging information becomes available or due to rainfall events or changed operations upstream.

## Water levels

Current water levels are updated daily and can be found on [WaterConnect](#).

## Upstream Flows, Rainfall and Storages

The past week's rainfall in the Murray-Darling Basin was highest in the northern basin, particularly in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales (25-50mm). In contrast, the southern basin, including central NSW, and a majority of Victoria and South Australia, received minimal rainfall (0-10mm). Further rainfall information can be found at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/>

Despite the rainfall in the upper Murray, much of the rain was absorbed by very dry catchments.

As of 10 April 2025, Dartmouth Dam storage has reduced to 3,059 GL, or 79% of capacity, while Hume Dam storage reduced to 751 GL, or 25% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes has decreased to 535 GL, or 31% of capacity. Releases from Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 via the Darling River are currently targeting 1.2 GL/day and releases from Lake Cawndilla to the River Murray via the Great Darling Anabranch are around 650 ML/day.

Lake Victoria storage is currently at 223 GL, or 33% capacity. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 15% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australian border averaged around 7.7 GL/day over the past week.

This forecast remains subject to change, depending on river operations and catchment rainfall. More information on upstream conditions and forecasts can be found in the [Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Weekly Flow Report](#).

## Water quality

### Algal activity within SA

Ongoing water quality sampling in the Lower Lakes continues to be undertaken and the concentration of blue-green algae *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* in Lake Alexandrina remains below threshold values. The current concentration does not pose a health hazard. Some level of blue-green algae on large open water sources like the River Murray or Lower Lakes is normal for this time of year when weather conditions are favourable for growth. Water quality sampling will continue to be undertaken on a regular basis and notifications will be made to the community, as needed. Should concentrations increase and become potentially harmful to humans and animals, SA Health will issue a Water Quality Alert.

Water quality alerts in South Australia can be found on the [SA Health website – Water Quality Alerts page](#).

As a precautionary measure, landholders that access water from the Lakes for stock watering purposes, are encouraged to manage farm water storages accordingly, noting the current high demand for water carting due to the very dry conditions throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges.

### Algal blooms upstream of SA

WaterNSW has issued red alerts for blue-green algae (BGA) at Lake Menindee. In the Murray River, amber and green BGA alerts are in effect from Lake Hume to the South Australian border.

Victoria's Goulburn-Murray Water has issued BGA warnings for Lake Eppalock, Cairn Curran Reservoir, Newlyn Reservoir, Tullaroop Reservoir, Laanecoorie Reservoir, Hepburns Lagoon and at Lakes Boga and Charm.

A red alert from WaterNSW indicates a toxic algal bloom, making the water dangerous for humans and animals. An amber alert signifies that the water is unsuitable for drinking and may be unsafe for stock watering. Water users should exercise caution and avoid areas where signs of blue-green algae are visible.

Details of the current NSW alert locations can be found on the [WaterNSW website – Algae Alerts page](#).

## Water for the environment delivery

Approximately 60 GL of water for the environment is expected to be delivered to the Lower Lakes during April following approximately 60 GL in March. The majority of the water arriving in April is direct trade from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and from a small autumn pulse in the Goulburn River. This water will help to ensure that all 11 fishways can continue to pass small volumes of freshwater to the Coorong. This allows movement and migration for our native fish. In addition to allowing fishways to remain open, the environmental water will also contribute to maintaining water levels in the Lower Lakes over this period. Water for the environment also continues to be delivered as part of SA's Entitlement flow.

Water for the environment is also currently being pumped or gravity fed to a number of sites managed by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

Planning for the delivery of water for the environment throughout 2025-26 is currently in progress. As part of this process, planning for the potential operation of the 3 major floodplain regulators (Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko) and the associated locks and weirs is also underway. Operation at each site is under consideration noting this will depend on suitable flows occurring in late winter and spring.

## Murray Mouth

Dredging is continuing in the Murray Mouth.

Barrage releases, combined with dredging throughout most of the year, help to maintain flow connectivity of the River Murray Channel to the Murray Mouth and assist in exporting salt from the river system.

Exclusion Zones established around the dredging operations are in place to ensure public safety. Refer to [Notice to Mariners No 61 of 2023](#).

## Barrage operations and water levels in the Lower Lakes

As of the 10 April 2025, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.57m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.59m AHD, noting that lake levels can fluctuate considerably depending on wind conditions.

The Lower Lakes are managed, as far as practicable, to target a daily average lake level between 0.55m AHD and 0.65m AHD throughout April.

During adverse weather conditions and high tides, SA Water will operate the barrages to minimise the risk of seawater entering Lake Alexandrina, therefore minimising any negative salinity impacts from reverse flow events. Barrage operations will continue to be undertaken dependent on upstream flows, lake levels and variable weather conditions.

Gate openings at the barrages can now be viewed on [Water Data SA – Barrage dashboard](#).

Total daily flow releases from the barrages can also be found on [Water Data SA – Flows dashboard](#).

## River Murray Vessel Waste Disposal Stations

The Lock 3 River Vessel Waste Disposal Station has been out of commission since January 2020 due to a significant infrastructure failure. The nearest alternative waste facility is located at Waikerie. Normal boat hard waste (domestic or galley waste) can still be deposited at the Lock 3 facility at the present time.

Please be advised that the lighting on the land-based section of the Mannum RVWDS is currently insufficient during evening hours. For safety reasons, it is recommended that waste disposal activities be carried out during daylight hours until lighting is restored. Light repairs are being scheduled, and further updates will be provided as further information becomes available.

You can report any River Vessel Waste Disposal Station issues on 1800 799 065.

If you have any questions, please contact the DEW WIO Engagement Team on [DEW.WIOCommunications@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.WIOCommunications@sa.gov.au)

## Salinity

Salinity levels throughout the River Murray in South Australia are within their typical range. Nonetheless, it is possible that some irrigators may record higher salinity readings at isolated locations. These higher readings are more likely to be observed at the bottom of the water column.

Irrigators are encouraged to monitor the [daily salinity levels](#) provided by SA Water as part of their business operations.

## Intermediate remediation of the LMRIA levees project

The Intermediate Remediation of the LMRIA Levees project is jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian governments, through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This project will return the flood damaged sections of government and private levees to their pre-flood height.

Intermediate remediation works update:

- On-ground remediation works have been completed at Pompoota, Long Flat, Wall Flat and Mypolonga.
- Works are continuing to progress at Mobilong and Burdett, with both levees anticipated to be completed during April.
- On-ground works commenced at Neeta on 24 March, with a start date for works at Cowirra expected to be advised in the coming weeks.
- The scoping and procurement for works on private levees and the preparation of associated land access agreements with landholders are progressing.
- The results of on-ground geotechnical investigations are being analysed with reports expected to be provided to the department shortly.

### Government levees in the LMRIA are temporarily closed to the public.

Where intermediate remediation works are required for government levees, they will remain temporarily closed until the works are progressively completed and safe access is determined, which is likely to be mid-2025. Any government levee not requiring intermediate remediation work will remain temporarily closed pending the outcome of a full condition assessment and a safety risk assessment to ensure they are safe for public access.

The government levee banks are Cowirra, Neeta, Wall Flat, Pompoota, Mypolonga, Mobilong, Burdett, Long Flat, Monteith and Jervois.

### Recreational activities

Recreational activities are not permitted on the levees while they are closed, including:

- walking and running
- cycling
- fishing
- driving vehicles
- mooring houseboats and other vessels.

Designated council houseboat mooring sites can be obtained from the relevant local council website.

Access to private levees is at the landholder's discretion, however, access is not permitted where remediation works are being undertaken.

The safety of the public is of paramount importance and DEW will keep the community informed of the project's progress, including when levees may be accessible to the public, through its website and newsletter.

For more information, please visit [Department for Environment and Water – Levees](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa van der Linde, Communications and Engagement Officer on 0437 313 087 or [Lisa.vanderlinde@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.vanderlinde@sa.gov.au)

## Environmental news – Murray Hardyhead recovery in the Lower Lakes

Populations of the threatened Murray Hardyhead appear to be making a recovery in the Lower Lakes after several years of low abundance. The number of Murray Hardyhead detected during monitoring has remained low since November 2021 with no fish recorded in November 2023 and only single individuals recorded in both March 2023 and March 2024 sampling, respectively. However, monitoring conducted in November 2024 found several adult Murray Hardyhead in breeding condition at Shadows Lagoon, providing evidence that the species is reproducing successfully in the Hindmarsh Island region.

Monitoring was conducted by The University of Adelaide and the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, and is funded by The Living Murray, a joint initiative of the NSW, VIC, SA and Commonwealth Governments, coordinated by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority.



*Picture 1. Murray Hardyhead at Shadows Lagoon, Lower Lakes. Picture 2. Monitoring conducted by The University of Adelaide and Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation. Photo credit: Dr Scotte Wedderburn, The University of Adelaide.*

## Further information

- [2022-23 River Murray Flood event](#)
- [Government of South Australia - State Disaster Recovery](#)
- [SA Water quality alerts - SA Health](#)
- [Real-time SA water data](#)
- [Current SA daily water levels](#)
- [Daily flow and water level information at key SA Water sites on the River Murray](#)
- [SA daily salinity information](#)
- [SA Marine safety](#)
- [Real time information - whole of River Murray system](#)
- [Whole River Murray System weekly reports](#)
- [Flows in the River Murray System including water for the environment](#)
- [Water for the environment actions in the Murray-Darling basin catchments](#)
- [NSW algal alerts](#)

## Bureau of Meteorology

- [SA rainfall and river conditions](#)
- [Victorian rainfall and river conditions](#)
- [NSW rainfall and river conditions](#)
- [Climate outlooks](#)
- [Climate drivers](#)

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