SA River Murray Flow Report

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Report #06/2026

Issued 12:00pm 6 February 2026

This supersedes the previous Flow Report issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 30 January 2026. The next Flow Report will be provided on Friday 13 February 2026.

Flow outlook

The flow at the South Australian border this Friday is approximately 8.0 GL/day and is forecast to remain at approximately 8.0 GL/day to next Friday.

The current flow at the South Australian border includes February Entitlement Flow (7 GL/day), which is adjusted for deferred entitlement volume that is stored and accumulated for critical human water needs and private carryover during dry periods.

The flow over Lock 1 this Friday is approximately 4.5 GL/day and is expected to remain at approximately 4.5 GL/day to 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

In the 7 days up to 3 February 2026, rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin was patchy, with large areas of the Basin receiving no rainfall. Highest rainfall totals were again recorded in the north of the Basin, with 1-15mm being recorded in Queensland and an isolated patch of up to 25mm in south-eastern Queensland. New South Wales recorded rainfall totals of 1-10mm mainly in the east, with an isolated patch of rain up to 15mm in the north-east.

Victoria and South Australia received very little rainfall, with isolated patches of up to 5mm recorded in both states. Further rainfall information for the Basin can be found at http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/

As of 4 February 2026, Dartmouth Dam storage has reduced to 2,710 GL, approximately 70% of capacity, and Hume Dam storage has decreased to 838 GL, or 28% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes continues to decrease and is at 778 GL, or approximately 45% of capacity. As of 3 February 2026, releases from Menindee Lakes are approximately 2.4 GL/day at Weir 32 and are gradually decreasing.

Lake Victoria storage has decreased to 411 GL, approximately 61% capacity, which is a reduction of approximately 45 GL over the past 6 days. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 78% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australia border averaged approximately 8.6 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

Water quality upstream of SA

Please be advised that with additional flows coming from the Darling River there will be an increase in turbidity of the water in the main channel of the River Murray. Horticulturalists may consider this as part of filtration and backflush programs for irrigation systems.

Algal blooms within SA

Coorong

Water testing in the Coorong continues to be undertaken on a fortnightly basis. The sampling is helping with understanding how the *Karenia* algal bloom situation is progressing and informs any potential future management options. Government agencies are working together to continue to monitor the situation.

For algal bloom water testing results and further information visit Algal Bloom Water Sampling Dashboard.

For Coorong North Lagoon water quality and environmental conditions visit Coorong North Lagoon Conditions Dashboard.

The Coorong region remains open. Visitors are advised to check signage and avoid contact with discoloured water, foamy water, or water where marine life is dead or in poor health. When the algae are broken up by wave action, algal particles can cause short-term skin or eye irritation and respiratory symptoms, including a cough or shortness of breath. If you notice symptoms, move away from the beach or water. Most symptoms will resolve within hours of leaving the area.

From time to time, depending on weather conditions, strong winds and wave action may cause people living near affected beaches to experience eye, skin or respiratory symptoms while at home. If this happens, stay indoors with windows closed until conditions change or symptoms resolve. Some people may find using an air purifier to be helpful.

Health advice for people with asthma

Some algal species can release biotoxins (specifically brevetoxins) into the air through wave action. Exposure to aerosols containing algal particles or brevetoxin may trigger symptoms in people with asthma.

People with asthma are advised to:

- carry their reliever medication with them while on beaches, especially when there is thick, visible foam or discoloured water
- take their preventive medication as prescribed
- check their asthma management plan is up-to-date.

People with known asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, or other form of chronic lung disease may be more vulnerable to the respiratory effects of biotoxins and should avoid areas where there is discoloured or foamy water, particularly if there is an onshore breeze.

International evidence indicates there are no long-term health consequences of exposure at the beach to either algal particles or biotoxins.

If symptoms persist, seek medical advice from your doctor.

For further information visit the SA Health – Water quality alerts page.

For the latest information please visit the SA Government algal bloom page.

Algal blooms upstream of SA

WaterNSW issues blue-green algae (BGA) alerts as Red, Amber or Green. A red alert indicates a toxic algal bloom, making the water dangerous for humans and animals; an amber alert indicates BGA may be multiplying in numbers and water should be considered unsuitable for human or animal consumption but remains suitable for recreational use; and a green alert indicates the presence of BGA but not at levels to pose a threat to recreational, stock or domestic use.

WaterNSW has issued red alerts for Lake Menindee. The Edward Wakool system also has multiple amber and green alerts in place. Numerous BGA amber and green alerts apply to the River Murray between Lake Hume and the SA border, and additional alerts are current across the Menindee Lakes and the lower Darling. Further details of the current NSW alert locations can be found on the WaterNSW website – Algae Alerts page.

Victoria's Goulburn-Murray Water has issued recreational BGA warnings for Tullaroop Reservoir, Hepburns Lagoon and Gum Lagoon in the Torrumbarry Irrigation Area. Details of the current VIC alert locations can be found on the Blue-Green Algae Warnings - Goulburn Murray Water page.

Lower Murray Water (LMW) is also advising various low to mid-level recreational BGA alerts on the River Murray from Boundary Bend through to Lock 9. Details of LMW alert locations can be found on the Blue-green algae monitoring - Lower Murray Water page.

Water for the environment delivery

The delivery of water for the environment to the South Australian border is continuing at approximately 1 GL/day. This is primarily direct trade to SA from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The water being delivered is helping to manage Lower Lakes levels and provide a small volume of continuous flow to the Coorong. Water for the environment also continues to be delivered as part of SA's Entitlement flow.

Planning for further delivery of water for the environment throughout 2025-26 is continuing and further delivery is expected at approximately 1 GL/day throughout February.

Murray Mouth

Dredging is continuing directly in the Murray Mouth at the junction of the Tauwitchere and Goolwa Channels.

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 4 February 2026, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.63m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.65m 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 0.65m AHD and 0.75m AHD throughout February.

Barrage gate operations are adjusted to release water when tidal conditions permit and are 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 (RVWDS) 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.

For a full list and map of the stations visit: http://environment.sa.gov.au/waste-disposal-stations

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

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.

Salinity throughout the Goolwa Channel from the Goolwa Barrage to Clayton Bay remains elevated as a result of salt water ingress from recent storm surge events.

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 severely 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, Mypolonga, Burdett, Mobilong and Placid.
- Construction works at Cowirra and Toora are continuing to progress. The substantive on-ground works at Neeta have been completed with final project close-out activities underway.

- The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is working with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), as the state infrastructure agency, on the procurement of contractors to undertake works on the remaining private levees that were severely damaged during the 2022-23 River Murray flood. The request for tender issued by DIT has closed and submissions have been assessed with approval processes currently underway.

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. All government levees remain temporarily closed pending the outcome of the safety risk assessments to ensure safe access can be determined before progressively reopening to the public. These assessments and associated works including but not limited to, safety sign installation, safety fence installation and tree safety assessments are underway and likely to be completed mid-2026.

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

Community infrastructure investigations

To further enhance environmental outcomes and improve community resilience to River Murray high flows, the South Australia Constraints Measures project is seeking community input to help develop future project proposals that balance environmental, social and economic outcomes, while reflecting the needs and priorities of communities and businesses.

We are asking the community to:

- Identify local opportunities that would benefit from infrastructure upgrades or impediment removal.
- Provide feedback on what information and tools would be useful in self-managing the effects of high flows on their land or business.
- Highlight locations they know to be impacted by high flows up to 80 GL/day.

How to get involved

Phase One of the consultation is now live on YourSAy, where you can:

- Find out more by reading the consultation guide
- Complete the online survey to provide feedback on potential SA Constraints Measures project works
- Use the interactive map to drop a pin and comment (with optional photo) to identify either of the following:
    - in-scope opportunities within your local area for infrastructure upgrades or impediment removal
    - locations impacted by high flows up to 80 GL/per day.

This stage of the consultation (Phase 1) is open until **5pm Friday 20 February 2026.**

Visit YourSAy at https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/sa-constraints

More information

For more information and to subscribe for updates, please visit environment.sa.gov.au/constraints or email SAConstraints@sa.gov.au

For media enquiries, please contact DLDEWMedia@sa.gov.au or visit DEW's media information page.

Further information

- Algal bloom 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
- Weir pool manipulation

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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