

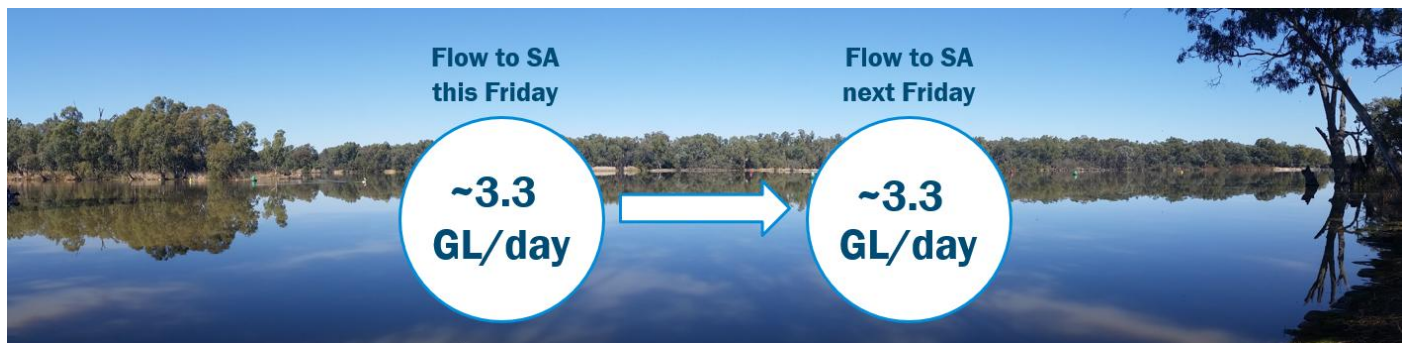
SA River Murray Flow Report



Report #18/2026
Issued 4:00pm 1 May 2026

This supersedes all previous Flow Reports issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

Flow outlook



The flow at the South Australian border this Friday is approximately 3.3 GL/day and is forecast to remain steady through to next Friday.

The flow at the South Australian border includes May Entitlement Flow (3 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. As this is the first sustained period of primarily entitlement flow since the 2022/23 River Murray Flood (i.e. limited environmental water delivery and no additional dilution and loss flows), river users are advised that changes to river levels may be noticeable at some locations.

The flow over Lock 1 this Friday is approximately 3 GL/day and is expected to decrease to approximately 2.5 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.

2026-27 Projected opening allocations

The projected minimum allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators (Class 3 High Security) for the 2026-27 water year is **62%**.

As the projected minimum allocation is greater than 50%, the carryover of unused allocations from the 2025-26 water year **will not** be available in the 2026-27 water year.

An updated projected minimum allocation announcement is scheduled for 15 May 2026. The volume of water available for allocation will be gazetted and allocations issued for use from 1 July 2026.

For more information visit [Department for Environment and Water - Current allocations](#) or see the [latest allocation statement](#).

Water levels

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

Upstream flows, rainfall and storages

Rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin in the week up to 29 April 2026 was sparse, with some isolated falls of 1-5mm on the Murray catchment side of the Great Dividing Range of NSW and QLD. In South Australia, rainfall was light across the Lower Murray region, with 1-5 mm recorded around the Lower Lakes and Coorong. Further rainfall information for the Basin can be found at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/>

As of 29 April 2026, Dartmouth Dam storage has increased slightly to 2,502 GL, remaining at approximately 65% of capacity, and Hume Dam storage has reduced to 661 GL, approximately 22% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes has remained steady and is at 579 GL, approximately 33% of capacity. As of 29 April 2026, Lake Victoria storage is 284 GL, sitting at 42% capacity, which has reduced by 12 GL over the past week. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 65% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australian border averaged approximately 5.8 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

Government agencies continue to work together to conduct fortnightly water testing in the Coorong to monitor for *Karenia*.

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](#).

Visitors to coastal areas 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.

For current conditions and health advice please visit the [SA Government algal bloom website](#) or the [SA Health water quality alerts 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 numerous red alerts for around Menindee Lakes and a new red alert for the Darling River at Pooncarie. Red alerts are present for Yanga Lake near Balranald and Lake Brewster in the Lachlan River catchment. Numerous BGA amber alerts apply to the River Murray between Lake Hume and the SA border. 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 Newlyn Reservoir, Lake Eildon, Lake Eppalock, 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.

Various low to mid-level recreational BGA alerts remain current 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 expected to be low as upstream watering actions have largely ceased. 2 GL of direct trade from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder will be delivered in May. A further 8 GL of The Living Murray environmental water has been provided to SA via a direct trade and is likely to arrive in May, subject to deliverability. The water being delivered is helping to manage levels in the Lower Lakes and provide continuous flow to the Coorong. Water for the environment also continues to be delivered as part of SA’s Entitlement flow as well as small volumes of return flows from the [Great Darling Anabranch watering action](#). Small volumes of additional return flows may result from Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder releases from Hume over May and June, depending on upstream conditions.

Planning for delivery of water for the environment throughout 2026-27 is in progress.

Murray Mouth

Dredging is continuing directly in the Murray Mouth at the junction of the Tauwitche 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 29 April 2026, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.63 m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.65 m AHD, noting that lake levels can fluctuate considerably depending on wind conditions.

Lake Alexandrina is managed, as far as practicable, to target a daily average lake level between 0.6 m AHD and 0.7 m AHD throughout May.

Barrage gate operations are adjusted to release water when tidal conditions permit and are dependent on upstream flows, lake levels and variable weather conditions. Forecast conditions for next week will likely result in responsive gate changes and temporary gate closures to reduce the risk of saltwater ingress to Lake Alexandrina and the Goolwa Channel.

In recent weeks, increased volumes of water for the environment have arrived in the Lower Lakes, allowing barrage bays at Tauwitchere, Ewe Island and Goolwa to open to release freshwater to the Coorong. Coorong salinity levels have reduced in response to these flows, supporting refuge habitat for the Coorong's invertebrates, waterbirds and fish.

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 (RVWDS)

Contractors will perform system upgrades at the following RVWDS on the dates listed below. **Please note that the previously advised schedule has been substantially revised due to operational requirements.**

Updated dates are provided below:

- Morgan RVWDS: 11-13 May. The station will be closed on 11 May.
- Blanchetown RVWDS: 14-16 May. The station will be closed on 14 May.
- Goolwa RVWDS: 10-12 June.
- Murray Bridge RVWDS: 13-15 June

The stations will remain operational; however, minor delays may occur.

Note: The Lock 3 RVWDS does not accept toilet waste (blackwater) or wastewater (greywater), however, general boat hard waste (domestic and galley waste) can still be deposited at the Lock 3 facility. The nearest alternative waste facility is the Waikerie RVWDS.

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

You can report any RVWDS issues on 1800 799 065.

If you have any questions, please contact the DEW WIO Engagement Team at 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

Intermediate remediation works on the Kilsby, Westbrook, Glen Lossie and Yiddinga levees are anticipated to commence in May.

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.

Government levees in the LMRIA remain temporarily closed to the public. Where intermediate remediation works are required, they will remain closed until works are complete and public safety risk assessments, tree

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assessments (and any arborist works required), fencing repairs and reinstallation of signage is undertaken to ensure safe access before reopening to the public.

Reopening of the levees will be staged as the assessments and associated works are completed. It is expected levees will progressively start to reopen from mid-2026.

For more information, including locations and access updates, please visit the [LMRIA levees page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the DEW Levee Team at DEW.lmrialevees@sa.gov.au

More information

- [Algal bloom information](#)

Other flow updates and information

- [Current SA daily water levels](#)
- [SA Water daily flow report](#)
- [SA Water daily salinity report](#)
- [SA Water daily river graphs](#)
- [Murray-Darling Basin Authority weekly report](#)

- [Real Time Water Data \(DEW\)](#)
- [Live river system data \(MDBA\)](#)
- [SA Health water quality alerts](#)

Mapping

- [River Murray inundation mapping](#)
- [2014 River Murray floodplain flood mapping](#)
- [Flood awareness mapping](#)
- [Algal bloom information](#)

Bureau of Meteorology forecasts

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

Further information

- [Murray-Darling Basin Authority news](#)
- [Water for the environment actions by region](#)
- [NSW algal alerts](#)
- [Government of SA - State Disaster Recovery](#)
- [SA Marine safety](#)
- [Weir pool manipulation](#)
- [2022-23 River Murray Flood event](#)

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