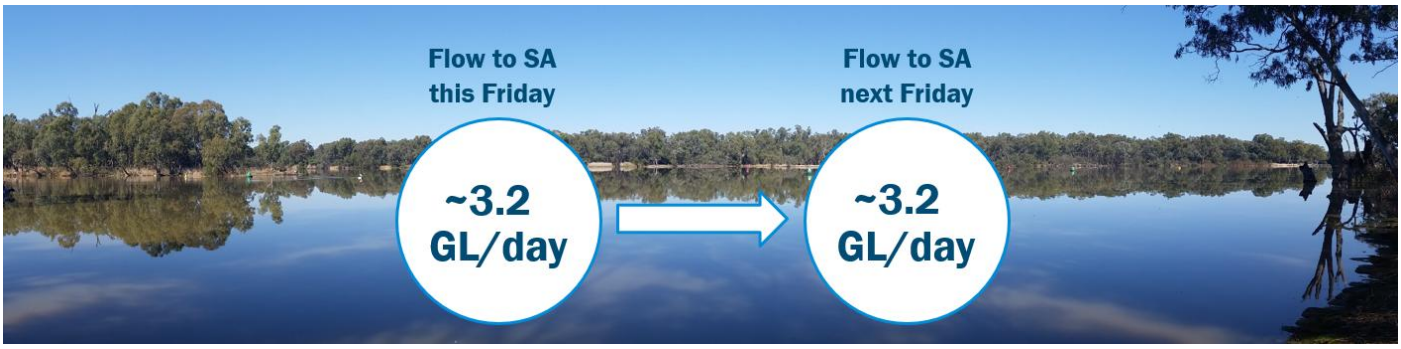
SA River Murray Flow Report

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Report #24/2026
Issued 12:00pm 12 June 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 3.2 GL/day and is forecast to remain steady through to next Friday.

The flow at the South Australian border includes June 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 where River Murray flow has consisted primarily of Entitlement Flow since the 2022/23 River Murray Flood (i.e. limited environmental water delivery and no additional dilution 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 forecast to remain steady through 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.

2026-27 Updated projected opening allocations

There has been no change to the projected minimum allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators (Class 3 High Security) for the 2026-27 water year, which remains at 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.

Allocation improvements are most likely to occur between July to November 2026, following the main rainfall and inflow season and when water resource availability generally improves. However, there are no guarantees of improved water availability – with the three-month Bureau of Meteorology outlook indicating that rainfall is likely to be below average for parts of the Murray-Darling Basin - https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/median/seasonal/0

The actual opening allocation for the 2026-27 water year will be provided on Monday**, 15 June 2026**.

No further updates to water availability projections will be provided prior to this date. From 1 July 2026, updated water allocation information will be provided every two weeks if water allocations are **less than 100%**.

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 10 June 2026 was widespread and variable. NSW and Victoria received the most significant rainfall, with totals in the upper Murray headwaters ranging from 50-100mm. Parts of central QLD in the Darling River catchment received rainfall in the range of 1-20mm. In South Australia, most of the Riverland received rainfall in the vicinity of 5-10mm, with similar totals recorded in the Lower Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong regions. More rainfall is forecast across the entire basin over the coming 8 days.

Further rainfall information for the Basin can be found at: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/

As of 10 June 2026, Dartmouth Dam storage has increased to 2,543 GL, which is approximately 66% of capacity, and Hume Dam storage has increased to 814 GL, approximately 27% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes has gradually decreased and is at 563 GL, approximately 33% of capacity. Lake Victoria has increased to 420 GL after receiving operational transfers through May, which is 62% capacity. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 27% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australian border averaged approximately 3.1 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

Flow from the Darling River to South Australia has been reduced as changes are implemented to prioritise conservation of resources within Menindee Lakes, resulting in a reduction in turbid water entering the River Murray. Most of South Australia's flow is likely to be delivered from Hume via Yarrawonga Weir in the coming month.

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.

Water testing results show the vast majority of South Australia's coastline continues to record zero or low levels of Karenia species since February 2026. *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 for the Darling River at multiple locations downstream to Burtundy. A Red alert remains present for Yanga Lake near Balranald. Numerous BGA green alerts apply to the River Murray between Lake Hume and the SA border, with amber alerts present for Cobram, upstream of Euston weir and Fort Courage. 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, and Hepburns Lagoon. 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 there are no large upstream watering actions in progress.

A small volume of environmental return flow may occur from Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder releases from Hume during June, depending on upstream conditions. Additional environmental return flow from Broken Creek in Victoria will also continue to make its way to the SA border over the coming week, with those flows contributing approximately 100 ML/day to the flow into SA.

A combined total of up to 500 ML/day is expected to reach the SA border during June. This water is assisting in maintaining continuous flow to the Coorong.

Water for the environment also continues to be delivered as part of SA's Entitlement flow.

Planning for delivery of water for the environment throughout 2026-27 is in progress. Potential operation of floodplain regulators at Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko is currently being planned for late winter and spring but remains subject to water availability and approvals.

Murray Mouth

Dredging is continuing to take place in the Tauwitchere Channel adjacent to Younghusband Peninsula.

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 10 June 2026, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.66 m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.70 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 0.65 m AHD and 0.75 m AHD throughout June.

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 closures are forecast from the weekend and into next week with an associated weather front and high tides. Gate closures are undertaken to mitigate the impact of saltwater ingress into Lake Alexandrina and the Goolwa Channel. Gates are operated around high tides to discharge water when the conditions permit.

Total gate openings and barrage discharge have been reduced to correspond with the reduction in flow to Lake Alexandrina.

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 there have been recent changes to the RVWDS system upgrade schedule:

- Murray Bridge RVWDS: 10-12 June
- Goolwa RVWDS: 19-21 June (subject to weather)

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.

Higher salinity may be observed in the Goolwa Channel and the direct upstream vicinity of the Barrages as a result of reverse head conditions. Water users are recommended to monitor salinity at their extraction points in these locations.

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:

- Construction works at Cowirra, Toora and Neeta are now complete pending survey results.
- Construction works are progressing at Westbrook.
- Contracts for the remaining private levees have been awarded, with works scheduled to commence at Kilsby, Glen Lossie and Yiddinga in June to early July.

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 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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