

SA River Murray Flow Report



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Report #28/2026
Issued 10:00am 10 July 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 4.2 GL/day and is forecast to increase to approximately 8.0 GL/day next Friday.

The flow at the South Australian border includes July Entitlement Flow (3.5 GL/day) and environmental return flow from upstream watering events. Additional water is forecast to arrive at the SA border mid next week due to the commencement of an unregulated flow event as a result of significant tributary inflows below storages in Victoria and NSW.

The flow over Lock 1 this Friday is approximately 4.0 GL/day and is forecast to increase to approximately 4.5 GL/day 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 water monitoring information becomes available or due to rainfall events or changes to upstream operations.

2026-27 Opening allocations

As announced on 1 July 2026, the opening Class 3 (High Security) allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2026-27 water year is **92%**

Private carryover **is not** available in 2026-27 as the trigger of 'less than 50% opening allocation' has not been met.

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. The Bureau of Meteorology's winter 2026 outlook indicates an increased chance of unusually low rainfall across parts of south-east Australia (including the Murray-Darling Basin).

As the opening allocation is **less than 100%**, further allocation announcements will be made on the 1st and 15th of each month (or the next business day) in accordance with the River Murray Water Allocation Plan until allocations reach 100 per cent.

You can subscribe to the [SA River Murray Water Allocation announcement](#) mailing list here.

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

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

Quarter 4 - meter readings due by 31 July 2026

If you hold a water resource works approval that includes a condition for you to provide quarterly meter readings to the Department for Environment and Water, please be reminded that meter readings for the Quarter 4 accounting period for 2025-26 (which ended on 30 June 2026), must be submitted to the Department by 31 July 2026.

The Department's preferred approach is to encourage voluntary compliance. However, failure to comply with the conditions of a water management authorisation will result in an expiation notice being issued.

The Department encourages you to sign up to mywater to submit your meter reads online.

Mywater is the Department's online portal that makes it easier to manage your water management instruments and submit meter readings securely.

To submit your meter reading online, you'll need a mywater account or login into your account.

[Sign up to or login to mywater here](#).

Once you've signed up, you can:

- submit your meter readings online
- check your water balance at any time
- receive confirmation when your meter reading is submitted
- monitor your usage and manage water transfers in one place

You can also watch short videos that show you how to:

- create your mywater account here [How to create a mywater account](#); and
- submit a meter reading here [How to submit a meter read on mywater](#).

If you are unable to sign up to mywater, please contact the Department for Environment and Water to submit your meter reads by phoning (08) 8372 7561 (Option 3) Riverland and Murraylands Water Licensing.

Upstream flows, rainfall and storages

Rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin in the week up to 8 July 2026 was wide-spread and variable across the catchment. On 2 July, most of the northern Basin received totals of at least 10 mm, while the eastern Victorian catchments continued to see high totals into July 3. The Kiewa and Ovens catchments received at least 50 mm of rainfall during the week, with patches receiving up to 150 – 200 mm.

The rainfall has seen a number of tributaries in NSW and Victoria generate significant flow into the River Murray. This has resulted in the provision of localised flood warnings for multiple catchments in those areas and is likely to result in some additional water passing to South Australia. River responses are ongoing and dependent on rainfall. Further information regarding the flood warnings can be found at: <https://www.bom.gov.au/weather-and-climate/warnings-and-alerts>

An unregulated flow advice has been received, commencing 8 July from Wentworth to the South Australian border, with an extension likely. Flows will increase at the South Australian border from mid next week and are forecast to be approximately 8 GL/day by next Friday.

The duration and peak of the unregulated flow event will depend on return flows from upstream floodplains and forests, as well as rainfall, with further advice to be provided in the next flow report. Under the Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse, unregulated flow is classified as 'Planned Environmental Water'. This is water that is preserved for environmental outcomes and cannot be used for any other purpose.

In South Australia, rainfall across the Murraylands and Riverland generally ranged from 5 to 10mm, with some areas receiving up to 10 to 15 mm. The Lower Lakes and Coorong area received 15 to 25 mm. Further rainfall information for the Basin can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/>

As of 8 July 2026, Dartmouth Dam storage has increased to 2,662 GL, which is approximately 69% of capacity, and Hume Dam storage has increased to 1,297 GL, approximately 43% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes has remained relatively steady at 549 GL, approximately 32% of capacity. Lake Victoria has increased to 533 GL, which is 79% capacity. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 44% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australian border averaged approximately 3.9 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

Although flow at Weir 32 has increased due to environmental water releases from the Menindee Lakes to support native fish in the Darling/Baaka system, overall flow from the Darling River to South Australia remains relatively low. As a result, reduced volumes of turbid Darling River water is entering the River Murray. Most of South Australia's flow is likely to be delivered from Hume via Yarrowonga Weir in the coming month.

Algal blooms within SA

Coorong

Monitoring for *Karenia* continues across the South Australian coast and at the Coorong. For algal bloom water testing results and further information visit [Algal Bloom Water Sampling Dashboard](#).

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 Ellerslie. A Red alert remains present for Yanga Lake near Balranald. Numerous BGA amber alerts are present from Hume Dam through to 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 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 return flow from the Lower Darling/Baaka and from the Goulburn will be delivered to the SA border over the coming two weeks.

A combined total of around 500 ML/day is expected to reach the SA border throughout mid-July. 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.

As outlined above, an unregulated flow event will increase flows at the South Australian border from mid next week and are forecast to be approximately 8 GL/day by next Friday.

Planning for delivery of water for the environment throughout 2026-27 is in progress. Potential mid to high level operation of the floodplain regulators at Katarapko along with a 30 cm raising of Lock 4 is planned to commence in late July or early August.

The operation of the Pike floodplain regulators is being planned to commence in late September with Lock 5 proposed to be raised once the current works are completed in October. Weir pool raising is also proposed at Lock 2 and Lock 1.

These environmental watering operations are aimed at supporting further recovery of floodplain vegetation health and providing important habitat for frogs, fish, waterbirds and a range of other biota. Proposed operations remain subject to water availability and relevant approvals.

Murray Mouth

Dredging is continuing to take place in the Tauwitche 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 8 July 2026, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.75 m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.78 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 July.

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 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.

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](#).

Coorong, Lower Lakes, and Murray Mouth Community Advisory Panel (CLLMM CAP) Vacancies

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for two new members to join the long running CLLMM CAP.

If you are passionate about water management in the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region, we can't wait to hear from you!

[To find out more about the CLLMM CAP and how to lodge your EOI, click here!](#)

EOI closes 5.00pm Monday, 13 July.

River Murray vessel waste disposal stations (RVWDS)

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 Toora and Neeta are complete, with on ground works at Cowirra anticipated to be completed shortly.
- Contracts for the remaining private levees have been awarded, with construction works commencing at Westbrook and Yiddinga.
- Works are scheduled to commence at Wellington in mid-July.

Government levees in the LMRIA remain temporarily closed to the public.

Where intermediate remediation works are required, levees will remain closed until works are complete to ensure safe access.

Public safety risk assessments, including tree condition assessments, have now been completed across all levees. Fencing repairs are ongoing, with signage to be reinstated prior to reopening.

Arborist works are scheduled at Burdett and Long Flat levees from 13–17 July, subject to suitable weather conditions. Levees will reopen in stages as associated works are completed, with progressive reopening anticipated in the coming months.

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.

Further information

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algal bloom information 	Bureau of Meteorology forecasts
Other flow updates and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA rainfall and river conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current SA daily water levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian rainfall and river conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Water daily flow report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW rainfall and river conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Water daily salinity report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate outlooks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Water daily river graphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate drivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray-Darling Basin Authority weekly report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-range forecast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Time Water Data (DEW) 	Further information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live river system data (MDBA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray-Darling Basin Authority news
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Health water quality alerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water for the environment actions by region
Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW algal alerts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Murray inundation mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of SA - State Disaster Recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014 River Murray floodplain flood mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Marine safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood awareness mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weir pool manipulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algal bloom information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022-23 River Murray Flood event

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