

SA River Murray Flow Report

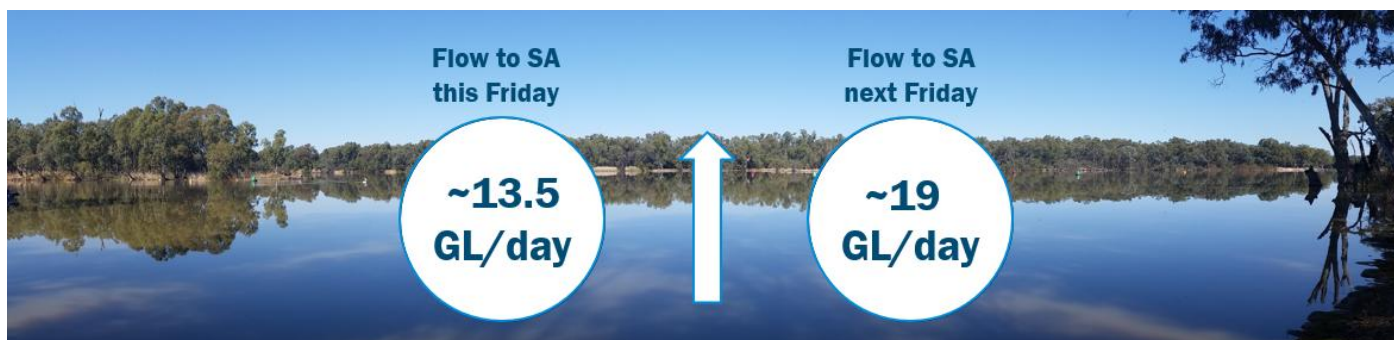


Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Report #29/2026
Issued 10:00am 17 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 13.5 GL/day and is forecast to increase to approximately 19 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. An unregulated flow event resulting from significant tributary inflows below storages in Victoria and NSW is providing additional water.

The flow over Lock 1 this Friday is approximately 10.0 GL/day and is forecast to increase to approximately 17 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 and associated environmental watering actions.

2026-27 Allocations

As announced on 15 July 2026, the Class 3 (High Security) allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2026-27 water year is now at **100%**.

Rainfall across key catchments has generated increased inflows, resulting in improvements to water resource availability. Improvements are reflected in the projected South Australia Entitlement flow for the 2026-27 water year and has supported the increase in allocations to 100%.

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

As allocations have reached 100%, no further allocation announcements will be made for the 2026-27 water year.

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 15 July 2026 was centred around the south eastern catchments of the Upper Murray, Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens and the Goulburn-Broken, with at least 25 to 50 mm of rain received across this region. The highest totals of 100 to 150 mm were received in the headwaters of the Kiewa catchment.

Rainfall over the past few weeks has seen a number of tributaries in NSW and Victoria generate significant flow into the River Murray. An unregulated flow event commenced on 8 July from Wentworth to the South Australian border. Flows at the South Australian border are currently increasing and are expected to remain above entitlement flow through to approximately mid-August.

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 ranged from 1 to 10mm. The Mount Lofty Ranges received up to 25 to 50 mm at the top of catchment, and the Lower Lakes and Coorong area received 5 to 10 mm. Further rainfall information for the Basin can be found at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/>

As of 15 July 2026, Dartmouth Dam storage has increased to 2,692 GL, which is approximately 70% of capacity, and Hume Dam storage has increased to 1,441 GL, approximately 48% of capacity. Storage in the Menindee Lakes has remained relatively steady at 549 GL, approximately 32% of capacity. Lake Victoria has increased to 575 GL, which is 85% capacity. Releases from Lake Victoria are currently contributing to approximately 7% of the flow to South Australia.

Flows at the South Australian border averaged approximately 6.2 GL/day over the week to 15 July.

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 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. The bulk of the flow entering South Australia in late July and August will be unregulated (or unmanaged) flow resulting from rainfall upstream, rather than managed environmental water deliveries. The unregulated flow event will increase flows at the South Australian border to approximately 19 GL/day by next Friday.

A small volume of return flow from the Lower Darling/Baaka will be delivered to the SA border over the coming two weeks.

A total of around 200 ML/day of water for the environment is expected to reach the SA border throughout mid-July.

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 remains in progress. A mid to high level operation of the floodplain regulators at Katarapko along with a 30 cm raising of Lock 4 is expected 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 and these may commence during the unregulated flow event.

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 Tauwitschere 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 15 July 2026, the water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.75 m AHD and Lake Albert is approximately 0.81 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. Additional water from the unregulated flow event will be released to maintain target water levels in Lake Alexandrina through July.

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) have been extended for 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, 20 July.

River Murray vessel waste disposal stations (RVWDS)

Following damage sustained during the 2022-23 River Murray flood, pontoon repair works are scheduled to occur at the following RVWDS sites over the dates listed below.

**Please note that impacted stations will be CLOSED during the repair periods.
These dates are subject to change dependant on weather conditions.**

- Renmark RVWDS: 10 Aug – 22 Aug
- Loxton RVWDS: 24 Aug – 5 Sept
- Morgan RVWDS: 7 Sept – 12 Sept

Temporary pump out stations:

During site closures, temporary pump out services will be opened upstream of each of the regular RVWDS sites.

To request a temporary pump out service, please contact Riverland Tank and Drain Cleaners on **(08) 8102 0998** to arrange attendance to the temporary pump out site.

Please provide as much advance notice of your pump out needs as possible.

The minimum notice requirement for each site is listed below.

Station	Minimum notice time	Temporary pump out site
Renmark	4+ hours	View on maps
Loxton	4+ hours	View on maps
Morgan	24+ hours	View on maps

A skip bin will be available at pump out sites for disposal of household waste.

Access and use of the skip bins will be provided to users during attendance by Riverland Tank and Drain Cleaners.

Upgrade works are scheduled to occur at Lock 3 and 6 RVWDS sites from late-August. More information about these upgrades and temporary pump out services for these sites will be provided in the coming weeks.

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 until works commence in late-August. 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.
- Construction works are underway at the Westbrook and Wellington levees.
- Contracts for the remaining private levees have been awarded.

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 mid-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

• Algal bloom information	Bureau of Meteorology forecasts
Other flow updates and information	• SA rainfall and river conditions
• Current SA daily water levels	• Victorian rainfall and river conditions
• SA Water daily flow report	• NSW rainfall and river conditions
• SA Water daily salinity report	• Climate outlooks
• SA Water daily river graphs	• Climate drivers
• Murray-Darling Basin Authority weekly report	• Long-range forecast
• Real Time Water Data (DEW)	Further information
• Live river system data (MDBA)	• Murray-Darling Basin Authority news
• SA Health water quality alerts	• Water for the environment actions by region
Mapping	• NSW algal alerts
• River Murray inundation mapping	• Government of SA - State Disaster Recovery
• 2014 River Murray floodplain flood mapping	• SA Marine safety
• Flood awareness mapping	• Weir pool manipulation
• Algal bloom information	• 2022-23 River Murray Flood event

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