

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## River Murray water resources update

31 December 2010

River Murray water resource and storage conditions continue to improve as water from recent heavy rainfall events and good inflows from a number of locations continue to move through the River Murray System.

The forecast River Murray System inflow during December 2010 is 2,670 GL, significantly above the long-term December average of about 420 GL.

River Murray system inflow from 1 June 2010 to the end of December 2010 is expected to be around 11,220 GL, also above the long-term average of 7,620 GL for the same period.

This means that, for the first time since 2000-01, South Australia has received six consecutive months of above-average inflow.

As previously announced, South Australia will receive its full entitlement flow of 1,850 GL in 2010-11. Improvements above that have been directed towards reserves for next year. Improved inflow in the Murray system and increasing volumes in storage will continue to build reserves to give South Australia, along with the other states, a good start to 2011-12.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has provided a preliminary assessment of the potential water availability in 2011-12, which indicates that there is a high probability that South Australia will again receive its full 1,850 GL Entitlement Flow for 2011-12.

South Australia's general allocations will remain at 67 per cent (422 GL) for the rest of 2010-11. This amount, together with the 228 GL of carryover water already allocated, takes the state to its 650 GL allocation cap. Access to 100 per cent of carryover has been in place since July 1.

The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is 7,318 GL (78 per cent capacity) compared to the long-term average for the end of December of approximately 6,870 GL (74 per cent). The current storage volume includes a large volume of water for 2011-12 reserves and environmental water entitlements.

Flow to South Australia is expected to remain within the range of 55,000 ML/day to 62,000 ML/day over the next week, depending upon river operations, water use and weather conditions upstream of South Australia. The forecast peak flow of 90,000 ML/day is now likely to occur towards the end of January or early February 2011.

The higher flow is providing numerous ecological benefits for the River Murray, Lower Lakes and portions of the floodplains.

Weekly River Murray Flow Advice updates are being provided each Friday afternoon while high flow conditions persist. All interested parties are encouraged to visit the website [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au) (use the link on the home page).

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Water level information is also available from SA Water on (08) 8595 2299.

A Flood Watch has been issued for the River Murray to alert of possible future flooding and to raise awareness and prepare the community in advance.

To ensure you stay safe and enjoy the river please practice the following:

- Don't drive, ride or walk through floodwaters, flood affected causeways or roads.
- Be aware that significant debris is being carried downstream and may pose a hazard to water-based activities.
- Landholders, especially those with shacks or other structures in low-lying areas, should consider securing their property from likely rising water levels.
- The hazards associated with riverbank collapse still exist in many areas so be aware of the signs - such as cracked riverbanks and leaning trees - and keep away from fenced or sign-posted affected areas.
- Regularly monitor river levels in your local area, and take care not to become isolated by rising water.
- Always wear a personal floatation device when on the river.
- Do not jump or dive into the river when you do not know what is below the surface.
- Camp on higher ground away from the river bank.
- Supervise children at all times and do not allow them to play in or near floodwater or fast-flowing river water.
- If in doubt, stay out.
- Listen and take action on any instructions from the emergency services- the SES, SA Police and the CFS.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)



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