



Government
of South Australia

Department of Water,
Land and Biodiversity
Conservation

MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 9
JANUARY
2008

River Murray levels in South Australia

Increased irrigation and losses from evaporation during recent very hot weather have caused water levels to drop in some River Murray weir pools in South Australia.

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Acting Chief Executive, Peter O'Neill, said that the reach between Lock 2 and Lock 3 had been most severely affected with the weir pool falling up to 10 cm from normal pool level.

"While this fall is well within normal operating limits, the reduced level may cause some irrigators concern, particularly if wind conditions further reduce the level in certain areas," Mr O'Neill said.

"The recent impact of increased irrigation and evaporation on weir pool levels was greater than expected, and flow into South Australia has been increased from 3 800 ML/day to 4 500 ML/day to recover the pool levels," he said.

"In addition, the flows at each of the weirs have been adjusted in a bid to raise the Lock 2 weir pool as a priority. It is anticipated that all weir pool levels from Lock 1 upstream will return to normal pool level by the end of this week."

"Because of the lag between when flows to the state are adjusted and the impact of these changes on downstream weir pools, there will be times when weir pool levels fluctuate within reasonably small limits."

"The river within South Australia is currently being managed very carefully to conserve water and to ensure there is sufficient water available to maintain weir pool levels throughout the summer."

Under continuing drought conditions, river levels below lock one are expected to continue to fall over the coming months. Lower Lake levels are currently at about -0.1m AHD, or 10cm below sea level.

For further information about weir pool levels or the River Murray visit www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au or contact the Drought Link hotline on 180 20 20.

ENDS