



River Murray Operations  
Water Group

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Dear Sir/Madam,

## **NOTICE OF 2017 SPRING WEIR POOL WATER LEVEL RAISING UPSTREAM OF LOCKS 2 AND 5 ON THE RIVER MURRAY**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the intention to raise water levels upstream of Locks 2 and 5 during winter/spring 2017. Following small scale weir pool lowering during July, the intent is to raise water levels by up to 50 centimetres (cm) at Lock 2 and 45 cm at Lock 5 above the normal pool level (NPL).

The water level raising is planned to commence in mid-August and finish by end-October. Exact dates will be provided through local media, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) website and the DEWNR Weekly Flow Report.

The water level will be raised in increments. At each increment, the Department will monitor the flow of water across floodplains and wetlands. There will also be constant review of water availability and of local benefits during the event. The water level will be held at peak height for approximately 4 weeks between early September and early October and then returned to normal pool level by the end of October.

There is also the potential for Lock 6 to be raised in conjunction with a Chowilla regulator operation, if appropriate river conditions arise between August and mid-September 2017. The operation will only commence if flows to South Australia are forecast to exceed 20 000 ML/d with a good outlook for flows to continue to rise to 35 000 ML/d or more. Such an event will require unregulated flow conditions which can be supplemented by environmental water. While this is looking increasingly unlikely, if these flows are achieved, a maximum operational height of up to 19.87mAHD at the regulator will be targeted, thereby raising water levels in Chowilla Creek and its associated anabranch up to 3.57 metres above normal level. Further information about the potential operation of the Chowilla Environmental Regulator and Lock 6 weir pool raising can be found at: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/chowilla-floodplain](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/chowilla-floodplain).

It is expected that this weir pool manipulation event will improve the ecological response from last year's events and continue to create additional habitat for native species in the River Murray; improve the health of the vegetation near the channel and connected floodplains and wetlands; and increase the numbers of frogs, birds and fish in the system.

Included with this letter is a frequently asked questions page.

Further information on the weir pool manipulation project can be found at:  
[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/weirpools](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/weirpools)

To learn more watch the weir pool manipulation animation at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKcZ2SjzepM&feature=youtu.be>

For further information on weir pool manipulation visit the DEWNR website and for updates download the weekly River Murray Flow Report.

Updates regarding SA weir pool manipulation and Chowilla operations are also provided in the weekly SA River Murray Flow Report at <https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/River-Murray/SitePages/2016/20Flow/20Reports.aspx>

If you would like to be added to the distribution list to be emailed the weekly SA River Murray Flow Report directly please email [sarah.meins@sa.gov.au](mailto:sarah.meins@sa.gov.au).

River Murray weir pool levels upstream at Locks 7, 8, 9 and 15 will also continue to vary over the coming year. Information about water levels at these upstream Locks can be found at: <http://livedata.mdba.gov.au/> or <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-information/weekly-reports>.

Please contact [samdbenquiries@sa.gov.au](mailto:samdbenquiries@sa.gov.au) if you would like further information or have any questions about the event.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Beal  
**DIRECTOR, RIVER MURRAY OPERATIONS**