



## Goolwa Channel Water Level Management Project Project Update

**Issued: 24 September 2009**

The Goolwa Channel Water Level Management Project will protect the Goolwa Channel, Finniss River and Currency Creek from acidification caused by falling water levels in Lake Alexandrina.

If nothing was done, these waterways would continue to be severely affected through drying out, rising salinity and acidification. Several important species of plants and animals would be severely impacted, limiting their chances of re-establishing in the area when conditions improve.

### Pumping update

The three large capacity pumps on the Goolwa Channel regulator, near Clayton, have been operating since Sunday 13 September.

As of 23 September 2009, 5.97 GL of water has been pumped into the new Goolwa pool.

In total, 27.5 GL water will be pumped from Lake Alexandrina into the Goolwa Channel to help manage acid sulfate soils by keeping them wet. **Figure 1** shows the pump infrastructure on the Goolwa Channel regulator.

**Figure 1: Pumps operating on the main Goolwa Channel regulator, near Clayton (left – uptake on Lake Alexandrina side, right – discharge on Goolwa side).**





## Pump noise

Extensive efforts have been undertaken to minimise the potential noise associated with the pumping program. Acoustic engineers have been engaged to identify measures to minimise the pump noise. Insulated casings and new exhausts will also reduce pump noise.

Both day and night time pump noise levels must not exceed the permissible EPA limits, in accordance with the *Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007*. These limits are:

- 7am – 10pm: Not to exceed 56 decibels
- 10pm – 7am: Not to exceed 49 decibels

## Currency Creek regulator

The Currency Creek regulator was completed on 8 September 2009. Water levels in Currency Creek continue to rise, and water will soon spill over the regulator's spillway (the spillway is set at 0m AHD).

## Finniss River regulator

Construction of the Finniss River regulator is yet to commence. Water quality in that tributary is being closely monitored to inform when construction should begin.

## Water levels

The water level in the Goolwa Channel has risen by almost a metre since the main Goolwa Channel regulator closed in mid-August. At 24 September 2009, the water level in the Goolwa Channel is about 0.01m AHD.

Recent local rainfall has also helped raise water levels in the Goolwa Channel, Finniss River and Currency Creek.

Water levels are available online at visiting <http://data.rivermurray.sa.gov.au> and checking the readings for 'Beacon 60 – West Clayton' and 'DS Hindmarsh Bridge'. The water level at 'Beacon 60 – West Clayton' since early April is outlined in

**Figure 2.**

The approximate area of Currency Creek, Finniss River and Goolwa Channel currently covered by water is shown in **Figure 3.**



Figure 2: Water levels at Beacon 60 – West Clayton (1 April to 23 September 2009)

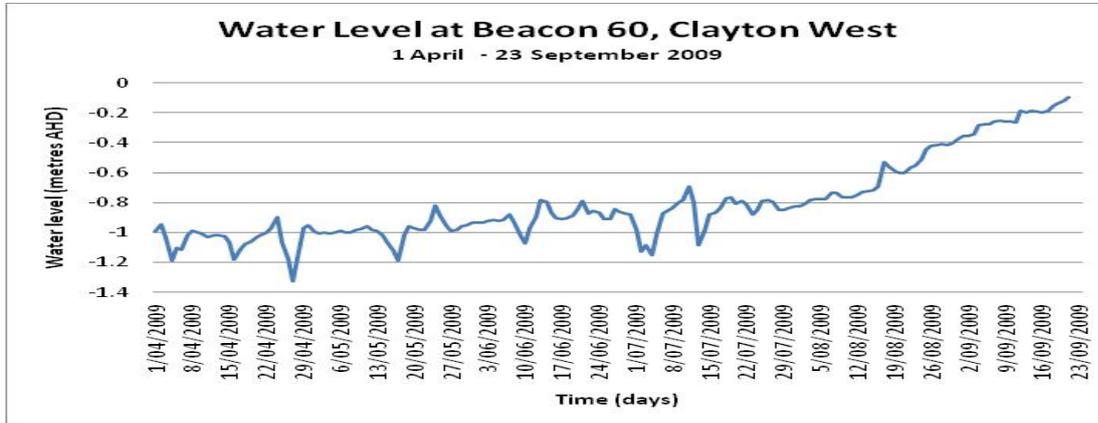
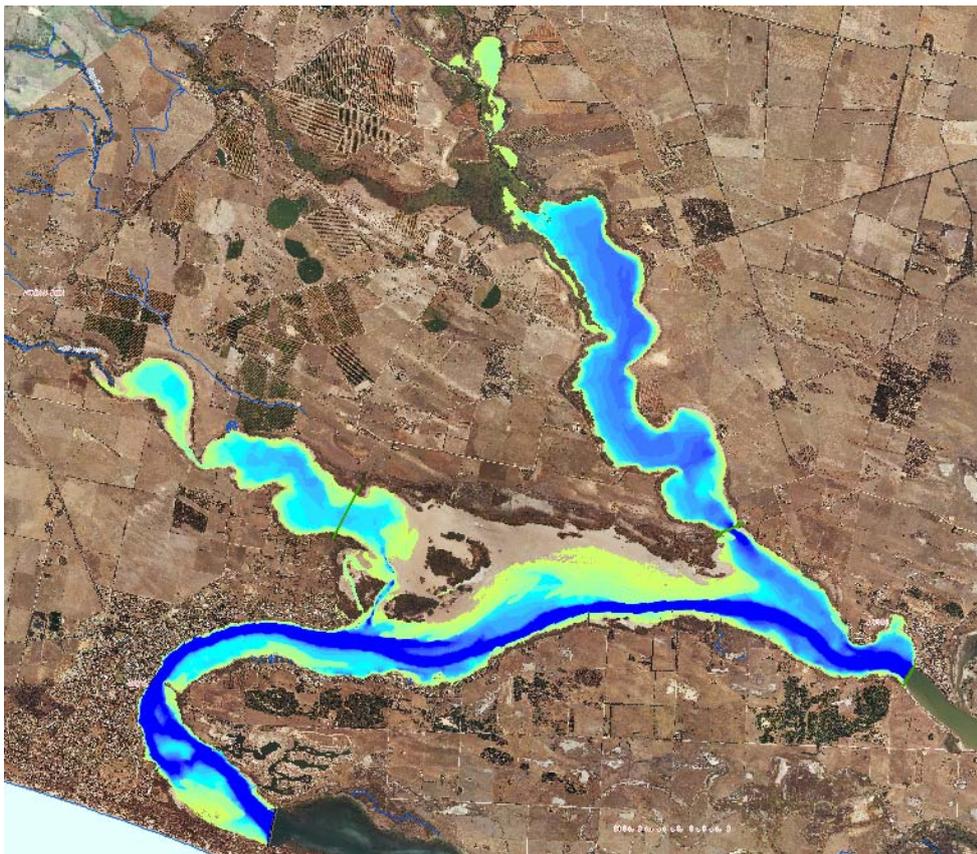


Figure 3: Goolwa Channel and tributaries inundated to a level of 0m AHD.



### Further information

For further information about the project contact DWLBC on (08) 8204 8605 or visit <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/gccl.html>