

The River Murray is a vital water source for South Australia. Constructed from the 1940s onwards, five major pipelines distribute River Murray water right across the State. Water was desperately needed post World War II to supplement drinking water supplies, fuel an expanding population and a boom in South Australian industry.

THE RIVER MURRAY - A WATER SOURCE SA WATER - CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



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An ancient river, the Murray has a history spanning more than 60 million years. Aboriginal Australians have occupied the river valley for at least 40,000 years and the river plays a major role in the Dreaming - especially for the Ngarrindjeri people.

The River Murray in its natural state was vastly different to the river we know today. It had one of the highest river 'pulses' in the world (pulses are the difference between flood and drought levels in rivers in their natural state.) European settlers relied heavily on the river for transport, trade and agriculture in the late nineteenth century.

The unpredictable nature of the river levels made it very difficult to rely on the river for these needs, and there were few alternatives.

In times of low river flow, salt water infiltrated upstream and salt water fish could be caught as far up the river as Mannum.

In 1915, the River Murray Commission was established. Its decisions resulted in the regulation of the river flow through the construction of a series of locks, weirs and barrages at the Murray mouth.

The Engineering and Water Supply Department (now SA Water) was charged with the responsibility for these massive construction projects.

BUILDING THE STATE

South Australia depends on the River Murray to supplement its water supply. Water is distributed from different points

along the Murray via five major pipelines. Two pipelines supply metropolitan Adelaide and three supply regional parts of South Australia. These are:

- Morgan to Whyalla
- Mannum to Adelaide
- Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga
- Swan Reach to Stockwell
- Tailem Bend to Keith.

The use of the River Murray as a source of water for Adelaide was considered for many years. Until the construction of barrages prevented salt water reaching Mannum, this was no more than an idea. These large scale construction projects continue to deliver water from the Murray River to large areas of South Australia.



MORGAN - WHYALLA PIPELINE FACTS

Length - 356kms
Delivers - 206 megalitres per day
Built - 1940 - 1944

MANNUM ADELAIDE PIPELINE FACTS

Length - 60 km
Delivers - 380 megalitres per day
Built - 1949 - 1955



MURRAY BRIDGE - ONKAPARINGA PIPELINE FACTS

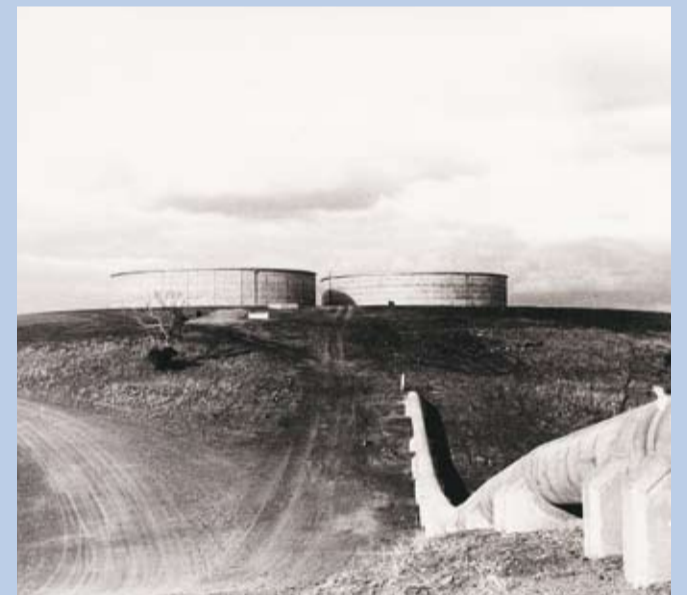
Length - 48.6 km (23 km of the pipeline is below ground)
Delivers - 514 megalitres per day
Built - 1968 - 1973

TAILEM BEND - KEITH PIPELINE FACTS

Length - 137 km
Delivers - 31 megalitres per day
Built - 1964 - 1969

SWAN REACH - STOCKWELL PIPELINE FACTS

Length - 54 km (Swan Reach to Paskeville 183km)
Delivers - 80 megalitres per day
Built - 1967 - 1969



Above - Swanreach - Stockwell Pipeline. No.3 tanks from the North. July 1970.

Above middle - Murray Bridge - Onkaparinga Pipeline. No.1 Pumping Station at Murray Bridge, construction. April 1971.

Above left - Mannum - Adelaide pipeline. Delivering 58inch pipes between Palmer and Mannum. February 1950.