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MEDIA RELEASE

Maintenance work for Lock 8 deferred

SA Water is working through a program to carry out major maintenance of the River Murray Lock Chambers at Lock and Weirs No. 1 to 9. This involves closing the Lock Chamber, pumping the water out and carrying out maintenance work including grit blasting and repainting the Lock gates and water level control valves.

This has already been completed at Locks 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

SA Water River Murray Operations Manager Brenton Erdmann said that work was due to start at Lock 8 at Wangumma a few weeks ago however this has been delayed due to rising river flows.

“The commencement of this work can only be undertaken after meeting certain criteria. One of these conditions is to ensure that the water level outside of the Lock Chamber doesn’t get above a certain height once the Lock Chamber is empty.

“At Lock 8, it has been assessed that the level of risk to the Lock Chamber is higher than acceptable once the lower pool level of the weir reaches 23.30 metres, which happens at a flow of about 20,000 megalitres per day,” Mr Erdmann says.

“As the flow at Lock 8 is currently in excess of this level and there is no indication that it will drop below this in the near future, the dewatering of Lock 8 will not be going ahead as planned.

Instead we have rescheduled this maintenance to start after the 2012 January long weekend,” Mr Erdmann says.

This means that the boating public will be able to continue to use the Lock Chamber at Lock 8 until further notice.

For further information please call the SA Water River Murray Operations Berri office on (08) 8595 2222.

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