

Forecasting 7-day streamflow for river operations

Water levels in our rivers and reservoirs rise and fall, depending on the amount of rainfall and how much of that reaches our waterways. River operators keep a close eye on these fluctuations to ensure that irrigation and environmental water needs are met throughout the year. A key part of their job is assessing the amount of water likely to flow down rivers and into reservoirs in the coming days, weeks and months. The Bureau of Meteorology's 7-day streamflow forecasts help them make those assessments.

Each day, the Bureau issues 7-day streamflow forecasts for more than 100 locations across the nation. These forecasts are generated by combining real-time observations of rainfall and streamflow with rainfall forecasts and hydrologic models. They provide valuable guidance to river operators who make choices about flow diversions and reservoir releases. The forecasts also benefit irrigators, water traders and people using the rivers for recreation.



The 7-day streamflow forecasts are used to help manage water at Lake Hume.

*Having these forecasts is fantastic!
It allows us to more accurately estimate what these natural inflows will be. This means we can meet our Lake Mulwala objectives with greater precision by making the right releases upstream. We can also plan for releases in conjunction with natural flows to improve environmental outcomes downstream.*



Andrew Bishop
River Operator
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