



## MEDIA RELEASE

15 October, 2008

### Paringa's Lock 5 to re-open

Murray River users will be able to pass through Lock 5 at Paringa in South Australia again when it re-opens today (Wednesday, 15 October) after three months of vital maintenance works.

SA Water has undertaken the work on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC).

MDBC Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the lock was closed in July as part of a six-year maintenance program on all of the locks along the river.

Lock 10 at Wentworth which closed in May this year for similar refurbishment will re-open to boat navigation the week beginning 27 October.

"We chose this time of year for both locks as it is the quietest period for tourist craft, the main users of the river," Dr Craik said.

Works carried out on Lock 5 included:

- constructing temporary dams on the upstream and downstream ends of the lock chamber;
- emptying the lock chamber of water;
- inspecting and repainting the lock chamber gates;
- replacing the 12 large valves which control the flow of water into and out of the lock chamber; and
- inspection of the chamber floor and undertaking any repairs on components which would normally be submerged.

Dr Craik said this was the first time the lock chambers at Lock 5 had been emptied since 1965 when the wooden gates were replaced with steel.

"The empty locks allowed SA Water to do a comprehensive inspection of the underwater components," Dr Craik said.

"The works have not had any impact on the water levels in the adjacent weir pools."

SA Water will advise local councils, visitor centres, boating associations, boat hire companies and registered owners of houseboats in the area likely to be affected by the reopening.

"With these major works done, the lock will be in top operating condition for decades to come," Dr Craik said.

The next lock scheduled for maintenance is Lock 1 at Blanchetown and it is anticipated work will begin at the end of January 2009. The public will be notified prior to the closure of the lock.

**Media contact: MDBC, Sam Leone, Phone: 0407 006 332**

Trim ref: 08/10869