



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 03 JULY 2013

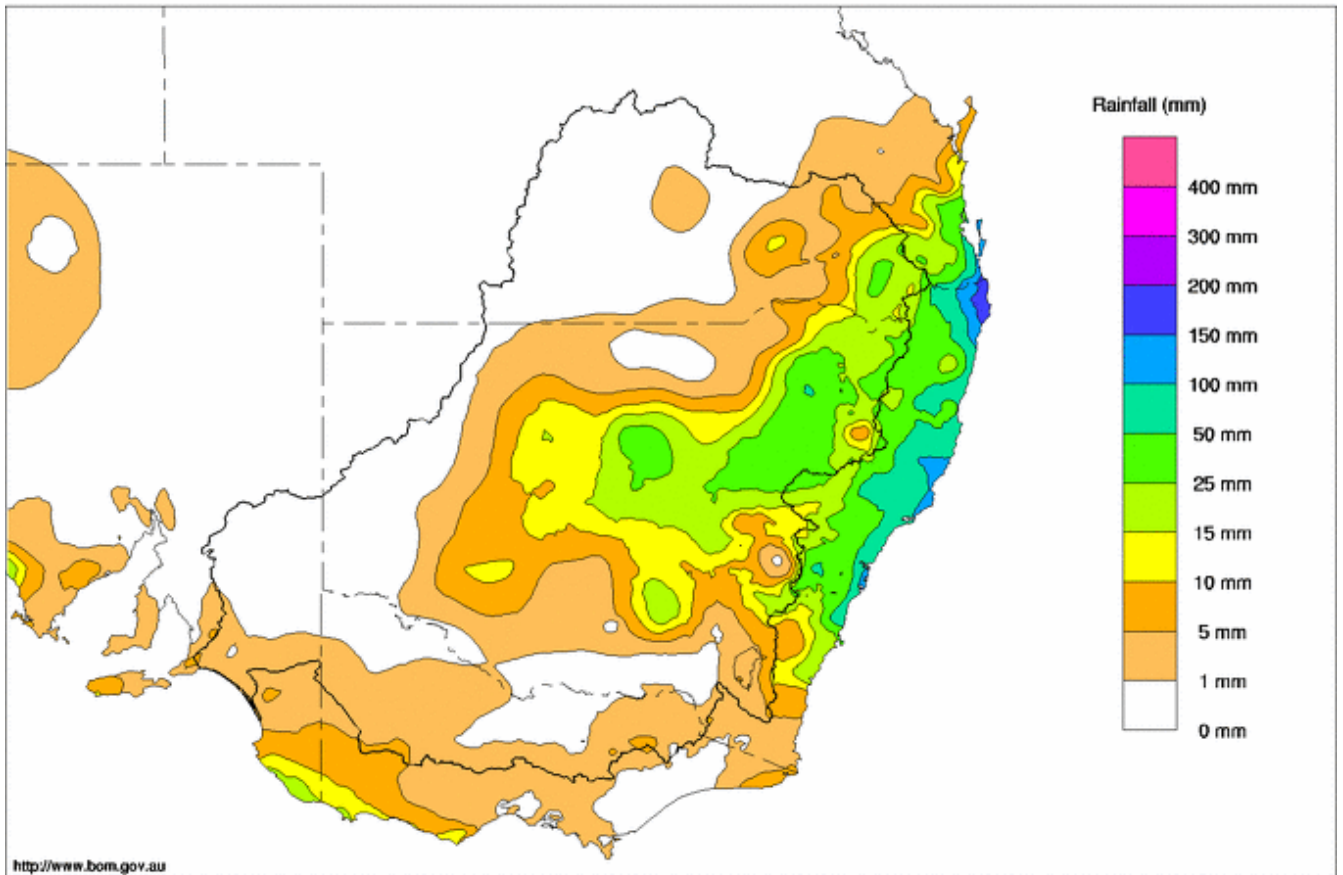
Trim Ref: D13/23143

## Rainfall and Inflows

Rain this week fell mainly over central and north-eastern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin and was associated with a trough that was situated off the south-east Queensland coast for several days. Some lighter rain was also recorded in the south (Map 1).

Highest totals were reported from the eastern Darling Downs and across the NSW north-west slopes including 54 mm at The Head, 48 mm at Gwabegar, 45 mm at Gunnedah, 36 mm at Coonabarabran and 31 mm at Toowoomba.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 3rd July 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2013, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 03/07/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 3 July 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

There was only light rain across the upper Murray catchments and tributary flows receded. For example, on the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 1,300 to 900 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded from 1,400 to 950 ML/day.

## June 2013 Summary

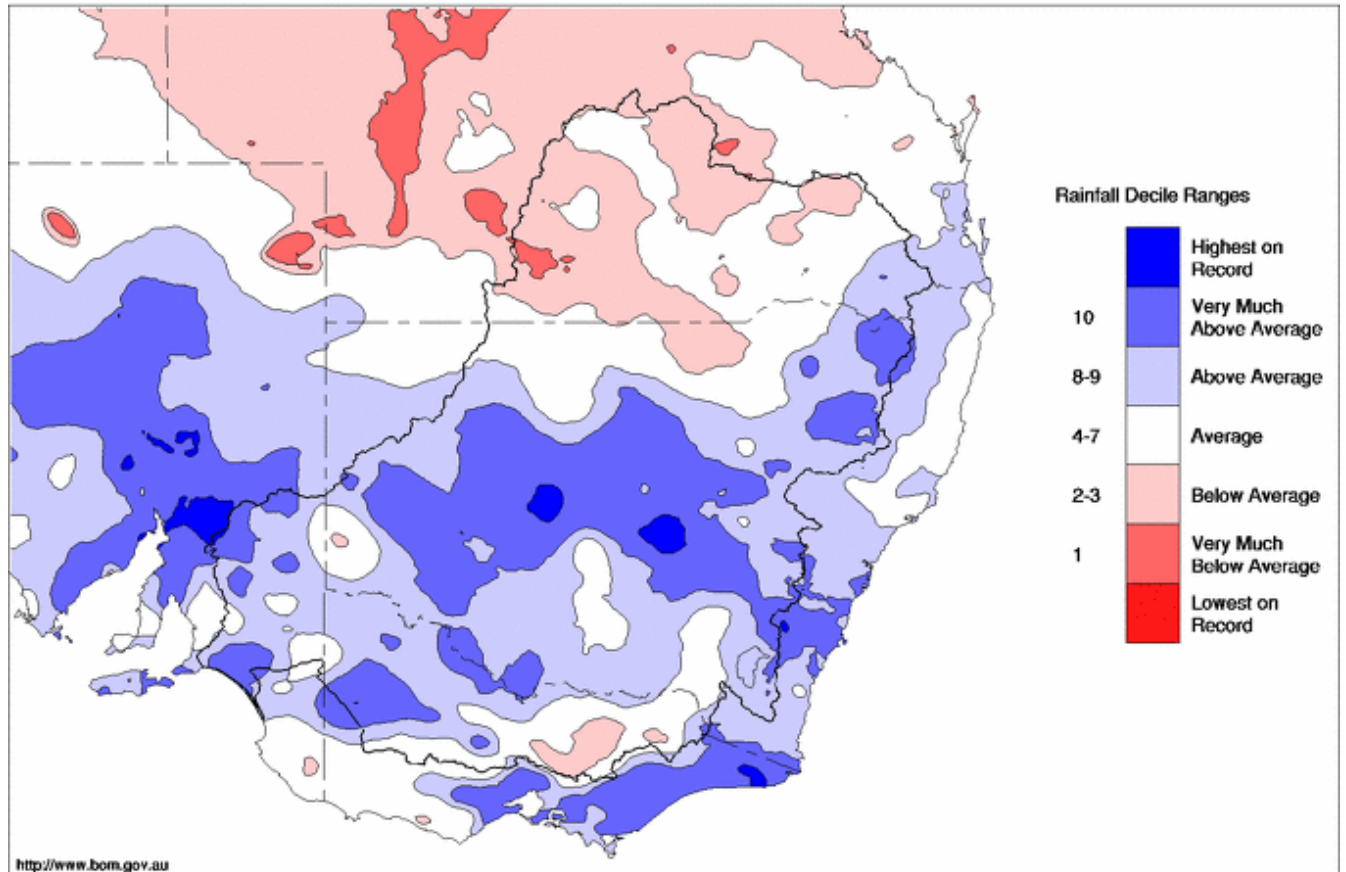
Rainfall for June 2013 was well above average for the Basin as a whole, with the Bureau of Meteorology reporting the month as the 19th wettest in 114 years of records with a total of 55.4 mm (65% above the mean). Regionally however, there was considerable variation with much of the northern Basin recording below average rain; while areas in central NSW recorded very much above



average rain including some areas of 'highest on record' rain. Most of the southern Basin was also relatively wet with the notable exception being the Victorian ranges where rain was average to slightly below average (Map 2).

Temperatures for June were above average once again for the Basin. There were relatively warm nights, while daytime maximums were only slightly above average.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2013
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



http://www.bom.gov.au © Commonwealth of Australia 2013, Australian Bureau of Meteorology ID code: AWAP Issued: 03/07/2013

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for June 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Murray system inflows for June 2013 (excluding Snowy and Darling inflows) totalled around 480 GL. There was only a very small amount of additional inflow from environmental releases during June and the majority of the inflows were generated early in the month when the key south-eastern catchments received the bulk of their rain. The monthly total is below the long-term average for June (740 GL) and well below the inflows recorded during June 2012 (830 GL). However, the total is well above the June average for the last 10 years of around 300 GL (see the graph on page 6).

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 96 GL this week to 6,678 GL (78% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 6 GL and is currently 3,643 GL (94% capacity). Release from Dartmouth Reservoir, measured at Colemans, has been maintained at 330 ML/day throughout in the week.

At Hume Reservoir, average inflows decreased this week as upstream flows receded. Hume Reservoir's storage volume increased by 63 GL to 1,912 GL (64% capacity) and the release has remained at the normal minimum of 600 ML/day. Release from Hume Dam continues to be passed in a



variable manner through the power station outlets (whilst still targeting the average daily minimum flow) to assist works at the base of the spillway. Downstream of the Kiewa River junction, the flow at Doctors Point has eased to around 1,400 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release has been held at rates higher than inflow in recent weeks to maintain a salinity dilution flow downstream at Mildura Weir whilst the weir is removed for essential maintenance work. As a result, the level in Lake Mulwala has continued falling this week and is currently at 124.30 m AHD or 60 cm below FSL. Salinity levels at Mildura have been managed at relatively low levels and with the Mildura Weir works now nearing completion, the Yarrawonga release is now beginning to be decreased again. The current release is 4,500 ML/day but is expected to decrease towards 1,800 ML/day over the coming week. This reduction should result in the Lake Mulwala level stabilising before rising again at a rate dependant on future tributary inflows. A pool level of 124.7 m AHD is being targeted for the end of July.

The combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes has decreased to around 1,100 ML/day this week and is expected to fall further as the release from Yarrawonga Weir is decreased. The flow in the Edward River at Deniliquin has fallen slightly to around 1,250 ML/day.

Goulburn River inflows to the Murray are currently fairly steady at around 600 ML/day; while downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently 4,600 ML/day after beginning the week at 5,300 ML/day. The flow is expected to recede a little more over the coming week.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has increased to almost 1,300 ML/day as extra water is released upstream at Redbank Weir during a maintenance draw down. The Balranald flow is expected to start receding during the coming week.

At Euston Weir, the pool level is now almost 80 cm below FSL as work on the navigable pass continues. The work is expected to continue for a few weeks to come. The release from Euston Weir has averaged about 7,700 ML/day this week with some variation in the daily flow resulting from the maintenance work activity.

At Mildura Weir, essential maintenance of the weir's concrete base has continued to progress well and plans are now being made to begin re-instating the structure in around a week's time – slightly ahead of the original estimated schedule. At this stage, work to put back the trestles is expected to begin on 11 July with the full process of weir re-instatement taking around 10-12 days to complete. Further details on this work will be provided over the coming week. Salinity forecasts for the Sunraysia area are available on the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/river-salinity>).

Menindee Lakes total storage decreased by just 1 GL this week with the current volume at 1,252 GL (72% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, remains around the minimum and is currently 230 ML/day. Downstream at Burtundy, the lower Darling River continues to slowly recede and is now flowing at 450 ML/day.

Storage at Lake Victoria increased by 29 GL to 545 GL this week (81% capacity) and is expected to continue rising during the coming week. The flow into South Australia has been reduced to the July base entitlement flow of 3,500 ML/day and the flow at Lock 1 is currently around 3,000 ML/day.

The five-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at 0.60 m AHD. Strong winds and swells forecast for the coming days may force the closure of barrage gates at Goolwa to help reduce reverse flows of seawater into the Lower Lakes.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 03 Jul 2013**

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	482.69	3 643	94%	71	3 572	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.83	1 912	64%	23	1 889	+63
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.88	545	81%	100	445	+29
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 252	72%	(480 #)	772	-1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 352</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 678</b>	<b>+96</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							78% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	430	42%	3	427	+21
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 160	71%	24	1 136	+32
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 341	70%	100	2 241	+3

\* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 02 Jul 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 541	-61	Snowy-Murray	+35	299
Snowy-Murray Component	617	-28	Tooma-Tumut	+3	56
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	33	243
			Murray 1 Release	+38	343

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2013	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2013
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.2	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	0
Licensed Pumps	0.3	0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

\*\* All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data\*\*

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	108.5	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.4	
Flow so far this month	10.7	
Flow last month	117.0	

**Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)**

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	120	110
Euston	140	150	130
Red Cliffs	260	260	150
Merbein	280	280	170
Burtundy (Darling)	540	550	460
Lock 9	230	220	260
Lake Victoria	340	340	280
Berri	590	550	340
Waikerie	570	540	360
Morgan	540	530	360
Mannum	530	520	370
Murray Bridge	510	510	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	580	590	470
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	570	570	400
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 050	3 070	3 450
Goolwa Barrages	760	790	1 580



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 03 Jul 2013**

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge Height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	7 940	F	5 790	7 100
Jingellic	4.0	2.31	208.83	10 120	R	8 630	9 790
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.45	218.34	590	S	600	1 400
Heywoods	5.5	0.93	154.56	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 370	S	1 420	1 870
Albury	4.3	0.62	148.06	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.62	126.64	1 770	F	1 870	2 550
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.89	115.93	4 530	R	4 880	5 850
Tocumwal	6.4	1.51	105.35	4 910	F	5 200	5 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.70	80.24	4 610	F	5 010	5 420
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	4 980	S	5 060	5 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.89	52.01	6 600	F	6 670	6 770
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.76	43.60	8 330	R	7 700	7 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	27.88	8 200	F	8 470	8 750
Rufus Junction	-	2.82	19.75	2 910	F	3 330	3 710
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.55	-	3 060	F	3 600	3 500
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.24	154.47	830	R	890	1 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.25	145.93	1 240	R	1 380	2 060
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.30	92.72	610	F	620	710
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.49	81.27	1 300	S	1 380	1 430
Edward at Liewah	-	2.40	57.78	1 790	F	1 850	1 640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.32	54.81	250	S	260	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.73	57.69	1 270	F	1 010	600
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.43	-	600	F	780	430
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	590	S	590	540
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.86	-	450	S	470	530

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 790	7 100
---	-------	-------

**Weirs and Locks** Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.60	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.00	+0.51
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.77	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	-	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.37
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.48	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+0.18	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.22	-0.01	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.20

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.60
--	------

**Barrages**

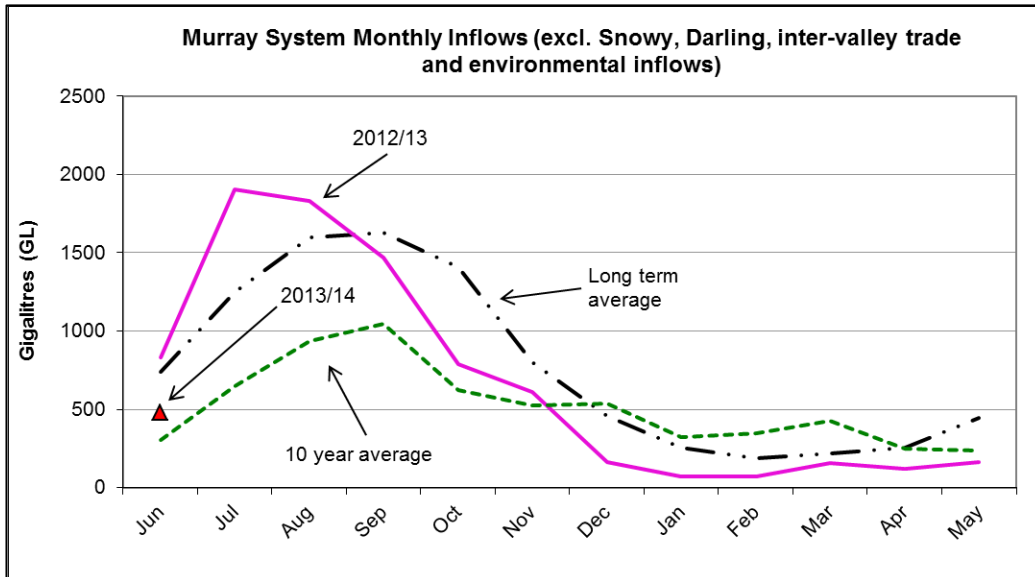
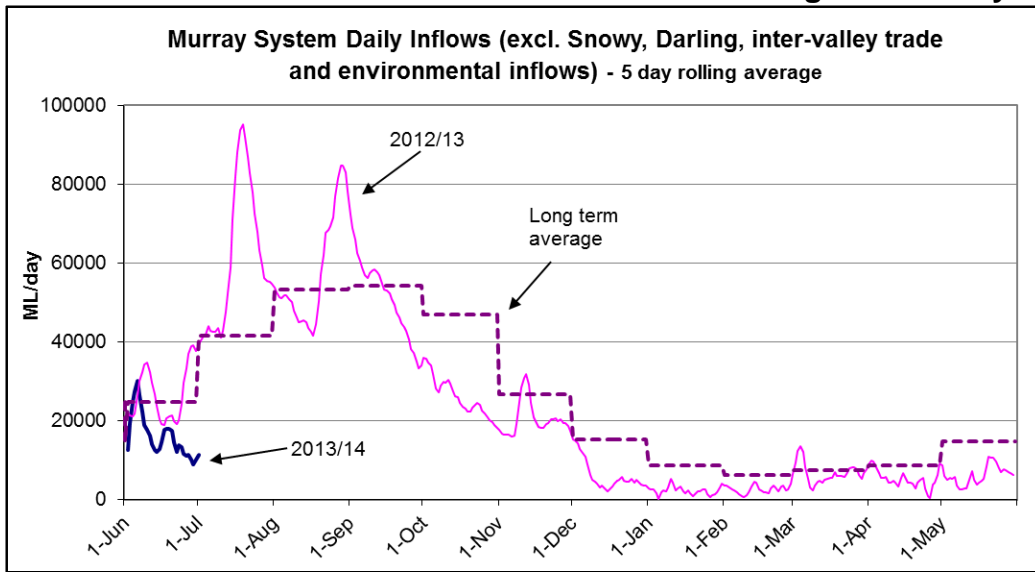
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	2	Open	Open

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



Week ending Wednesday 03 Jul 2013



State Allocations (as at 03 Jul 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	38%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	42%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	18%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	51%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
---------------	------

NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability>  
 VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>  
 SA : <http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Water%2C+energy+and+environment/Water/Water+use+for+irrigators/Water+planning>