



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2015

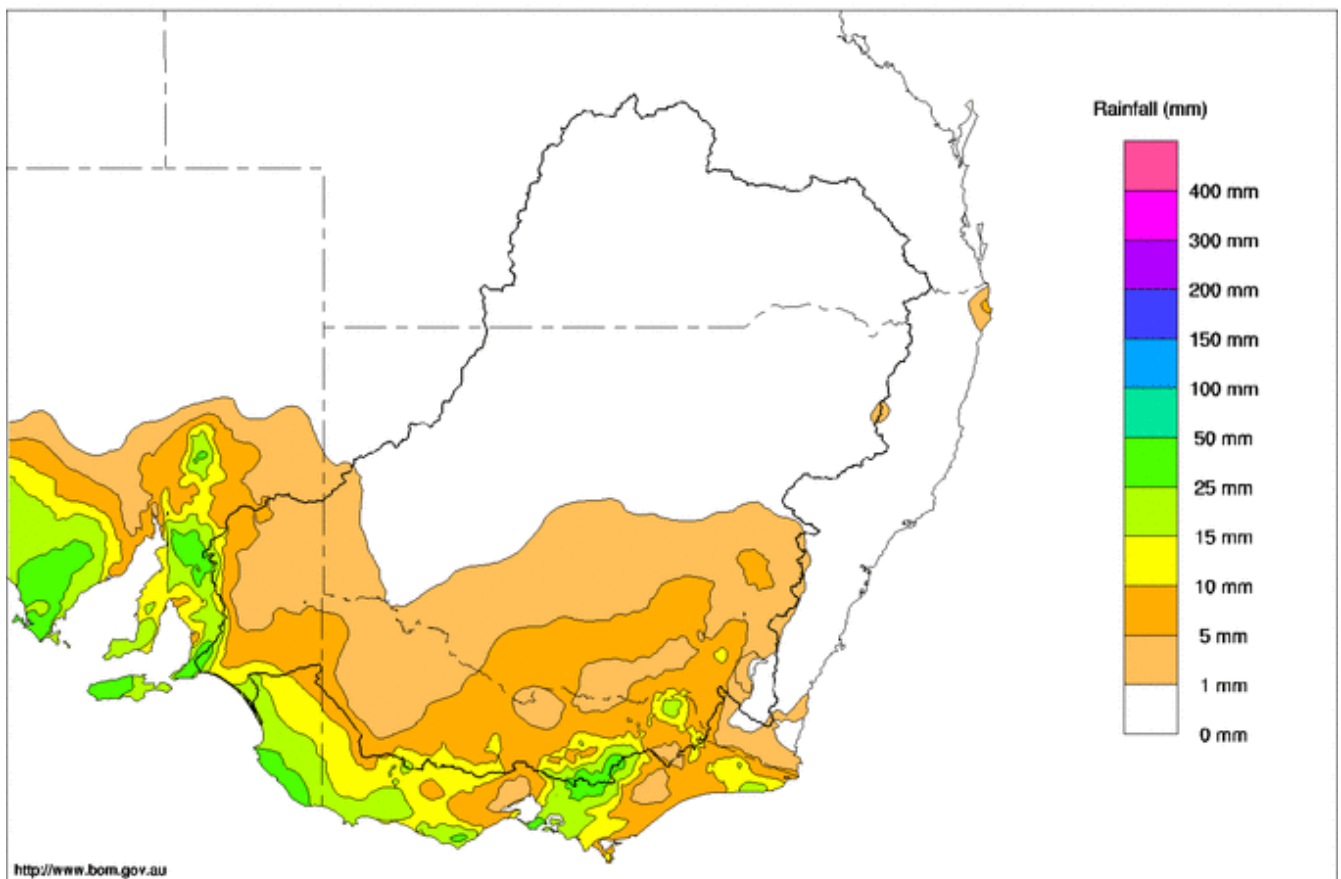
Trim Ref: D15/64888

Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall continued across the southern Murray-Darling Basin this week, although not in sufficient amounts to generate significant runoff. There was no rain in the northern basin (Map 1).

Highest rainfall totals were recorded in Victoria, including 35 mm at Mt Buffalo, 34 mm at Hunters Hill and 16 mm at Daylesford. In South Australia, there was 27 mm rain at Mt Barker and 16 mm at Meningie.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 12th August 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



<http://www.boms.gov.au>

© Commonwealth of Australia 2015, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 12/08/2015

Map 1 – Murray-Darling Basin rainfall week ending 12 August 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries receded this week. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie reduced from 1,540 ML/day to 1,030 ML/day, whilst the River Murray at Biggara decreased from 2,740 ML/day to 1,630 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta fell from 8,000 ML/day to 5,400 ML/day.



River Operations

- Channels filling in readiness for the irrigation season
- 80 GL released from barrages to benefit Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth

MDBA total storage rose by 71 GL this week, with the active storage now 4,254 GL (50% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 25 GL to 2,740 GL (71% capacity) as high releases continue. During the week, the release has been steady at 7,000 ML/day. With dry conditions forecast, the flow at Colemans will be increased to 7,500 ML/day on Friday 14 August. The flow at Tallandoon is expected to remain less than 8,500 ML/day in the coming week. These higher releases are transferring water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir, to assist with meeting downstream demands in the coming months.

Inflows into **Hume** Reservoir over the past week averaged over 19,000 ML/day, increasing the storage by 102 GL to 1,264 GL (42% capacity). The release has increased during the week and is currently 7,000 ML/day. The release is expected to stay in the range of 7,000-9,000 ML/day during the coming week. Inflows from the Kiewa River downstream of Hume have receded during the week to 2,300 ML/day at Bandiana. The River Murray at Doctors Point is currently flowing at 9,500 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 11,000 ML/day in the next few days.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the major irrigation offtakes are continuing to divert water to fill their channels ahead of the coming irrigation season. Mulwala Canal is currently diverting 800 ML/day whilst Yarrawonga Main Channel is taking 200 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has reduced to 15,000 ML/day and further small reductions in flow are expected in the next week. Most regulators in the Barmah-Millewa Forest are now open.

In the **Edward-Wakool** system, flows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are 1,540 ML/day and 730 ML/day, respectively. The flow at Toonalook is currently 1,980 ML/day and this flow is expected to rise in the coming week with flows exiting the Millewa Forest. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the pool level is about 4.5 m local gauge height, and the release during the week has averaged 1,070 ML/day.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has increased to 1,070 ML/day. Over the next few days, this flow is expected to recede to about 950 ML/day.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversion at National Channel is currently 1,530 ML/day, which includes about 400 ML/day for Gunbower Creek. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry is now 7,500 ML/day and expected to reach around 9,000 ML/day in a week's time.

On the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald peaked at 2,760 ML/day during the week and is now receding. However, higher flows are possible in late August due to rainfall which fell in the upper catchment early in the month.

At **Euston** Weir, the flow has increased to 9,600 ML/day and is expected to reach around 10,000 ML/day in the coming days. The pool level at Euston remains above FSL, with the current level at 47.84 m AHD (24 cm above FSL), as part of the current weir pool variability program that aims to achieve a more natural wetting and drying cycle for the riverine environment. The pool level is expected to be raised a further 25 cm to 50 cm above FSL in early September.

At **Mildura** Weir, the pool level is close to the Full Supply Level of 34.4 m AHD and the flow downstream is 8,100 ML/day. The flow is expected to reach 10,000 ML/day in the coming week.

Storage in the **Menindee Lakes** is currently 98 GL (6% capacity). The flow into the Lower Darling River at Weir 32 remains at 200 ML/day and water from this release is not expected to pass Burtundy.



At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume decreased by 6 GL to 444 GL (66% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 7,500 ML/day, with flows expected to remain above 6,000 ML/day for the remainder of the month.



Photo 1 — Water flowing through the Ewe Island barrage on 6 August (Photo courtesy Garry Fyfe, SA Water)

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.73 m AHD. Releases from the barrages were increased over 4–5 days last week (see Photo 1). More information is provided in the [media release](#) from South Australia's Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, which was also included in last week's Weekly Report. Approximately 80 GL of water was released, with the aim of reducing salinity in the Lower Lakes and Coorong and improving the condition of the Murray Mouth. Updates on the observed outcomes from the release will be provided in coming Weekly Reports.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 12 Aug 2015

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	467.19	2 740	71%	71	2 669	-25
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.11	1 264	42%	23	1 241	+102
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.96	444	66%	100	344	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		98	6%	(- -) #	0	+0
Total		9 269		4 546	49%	- -	4 254	+71
Total Active MDBA Storage							50% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	618	60%	3	615	+22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	696	43%	24	672	+30
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 002	60%	100	1 902	+43

* 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 11 Aug 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 132	+25	Snowy-Murray	+10	136
Snowy-Murray Component	1 060	-5	Tooma-Tumut	+14	74
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-4	62
			Murray 1 Release	+14	200

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.6	18	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.3	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.5	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	5
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	1
Licensed Pumps	0.4	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	6
TOTAL	6.7	21	TOTAL	1.5	13

* 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)

* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *
Flow this week	50.3
Flow so far this month	86.2
Flow last month	231.8

(7 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2015
Swan Hill	90	80	80
Euston	120	110	110
Red Cliffs	130	120	140
Merbein	130	140	160
Burtundy (Darling)	900	900	900
Lock 9	200	220	200
Lake Victoria	220	210	190
Berri	240	260	260
Waikerie	360	350	340
Morgan	350	320	310
Mannum	330	330	330
Murray Bridge	360	360	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	690	710	710
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	530	620	600
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 020	2 020	2 030
Goolwa Barrages	1 030	930	1 090



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 12 Aug 2015

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	-	-	-	2 120	F	3 240	3 620
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 140	F	8 550	8 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.10	219.99	7 820	S	7 950	7 690
Heywoods	5.5	2.46	156.09	7 060	R	4 880	7 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.56	151.03	9 680	R	8 180	10 440
Albury	4.3	1.57	149.01	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	2.20	128.22	9 030	R	8 280	12 740
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.26	117.30	14 980	S	15 410	13 510
Tocumwal	6.4	2.88	106.72	15 130	F	15 690	11 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.44	80.99	7 470	R	6 810	5 540
Swan Hill	4.5	1.26	64.18	6 370	F	5 950	4 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.91	52.03	7 530	R	7 080	6 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.82	43.66	9 640	F	8 240	8 480
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 090	F	7 990	6 880
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	27.88	9 400	R	9 060	6 820
Rufus Junction	-	3.62	20.55	7 270	R	6 710	6 890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.79	-	6 680	F	7 070	6 320
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	2.11	155.34	2 300	F	3 210	2 960
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.61	147.29	5 400	F	6 630	7 090
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.56	92.98	1 070	F	1 010	850
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.21	80.98	980	F	1 070	630
Edward at Liewah	-	1.68	57.06	1 020	F	1 250	1 540
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.22	54.71	140	F	170	190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.96	58.92	2 660	F	2 460	1 660
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.28	-	260	F	670	470
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.13	-	500	S	610	490
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.81	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	13 840	16 460
------------------------	--------	--------

(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.22	+1.30
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.24	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.04	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.88
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.48	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.25	+0.50	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.47	+0.32	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.11	+0.04

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

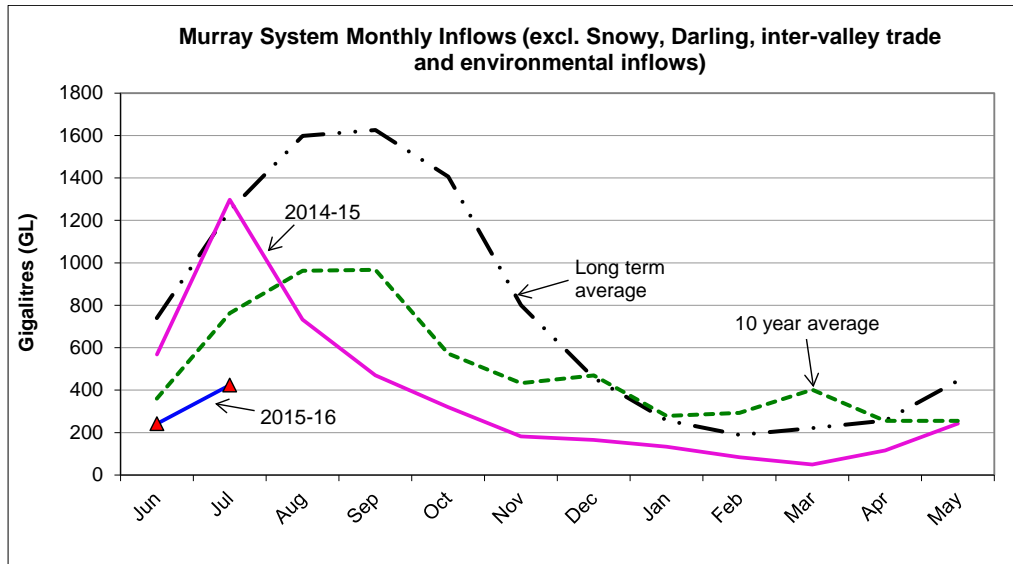
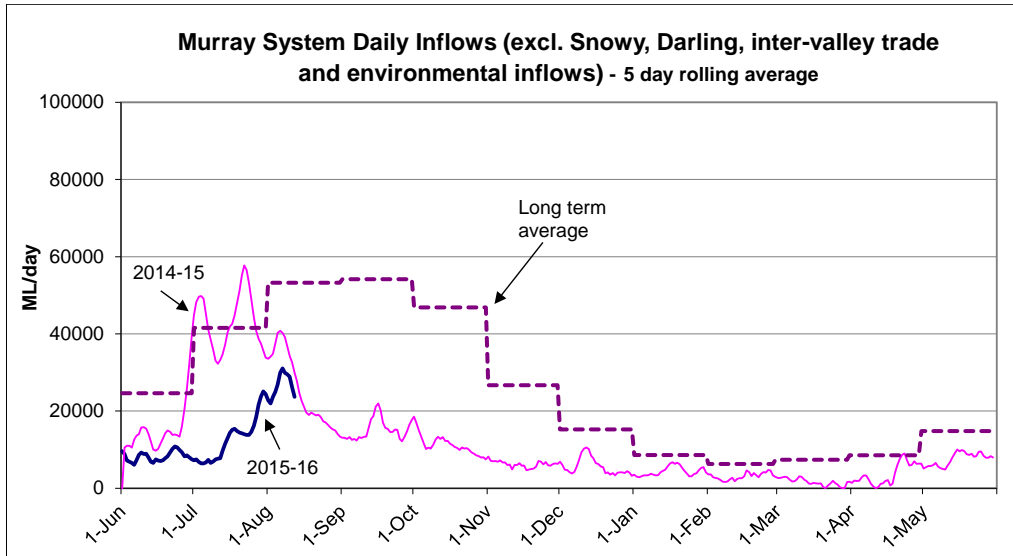
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.73
------------------------------------------------------------	------

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.67	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	2	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 12 Aug 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	80%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	42%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	17%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	20%
General security	0%

South Australia - Murray Valley

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

- NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>
- VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>
- SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>