



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2015

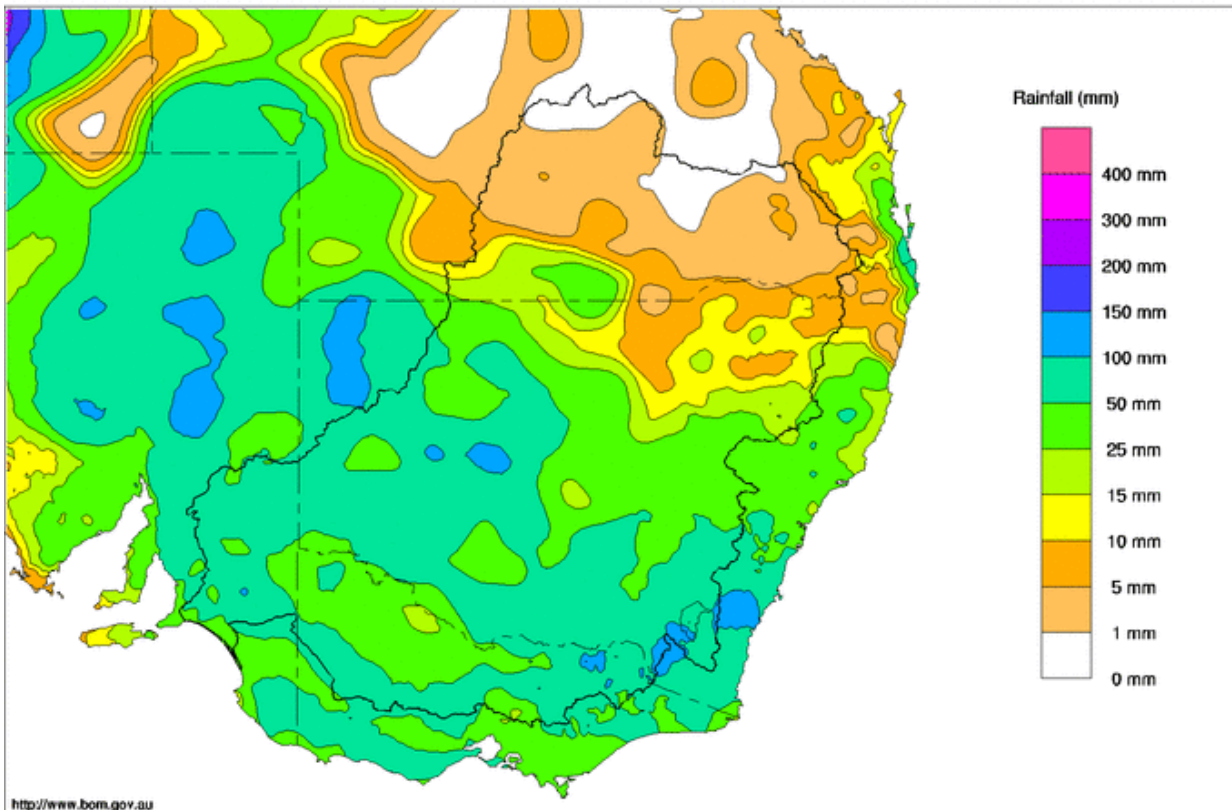
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was widespread across the Murray-Darling Basin during the past week with only northern areas missing out on any notable totals (Map 1). The rain fell over a number of days in association with significant tropical moisture that tracked into south-eastern Australia with a complex trough system that linked to the monsoon-affected north-west of the continent.

Weekly rain totals in excess of 50 mm were widespread through central and southern areas with accumulations in excess of 100 mm in the south-east, central west and the South Australian Murray Valley. The highest totals were recorded in Victoria and included 156 mm at Moorngag, 141 mm at Charnwood, 126 mm at Mt Buffalo, 125 mm at Rocky Valley, 108 mm at Yackandandah and 97 mm at Daylesford. Totals in NSW included 128 mm at Batlow, 117 mm at Tocumwal, 104 mm at Captains Flat, 97 mm at Burtundy, 94 mm at Burrinjuck Dam and 72 mm at Moulamein. Totals in South Australia included 112 mm at Perponda, 105 mm at Claypans, 90 mm at Karoonda, 86 mm at Nildottie and 73 mm at Blanchetown.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 14th January 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Map 1- Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 January 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology). Issued: 14/01/2015

Stream flow responses in the upper Murray tributaries were variable though generally fairly modest. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from around 500 to 1,200 ML/day (the highest flow since early December); while some of the small tributaries entering the Murray between Biggara and Hume Reservoir reached their highest flow rates since September 2014. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased to around 1,000 ML/day.



River Operations

- Widespread rain has reduced irrigation demand and increased river flows downstream of Yarrowonga Weir

Widespread, soaking rain across the southern Murray-Darling Basin this week resulted in large reductions in demand throughout the River Murray system. Consequently, the release from Yarrowonga Weir was temporarily increased to 12,300 ML/day to manage this extra water in the River Murray, while releases from Hume Dam have been reduced to conserve water.

MDBA total storage decreased by 43 GL this week, and the active storage volume is 5,064 GL (60% capacity). The long-term average active storage for this time of year is approximately 6,000 GL.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage was steady at 3,185 GL (83% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans gauge, is currently 1,500 ML/day and is now planned to be increased to 4,800 ML/day from 15 January. The release from Dartmouth is planned to be reduced to 3,000 ML/day for the period 23–26 January—[more information](#) is available on the MDBA website.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 36 GL this week with the total storage now at 1,600 GL (53% capacity). The release has been reduced during the week from 17,700 to 9,400 ML/day. The release is expected to increase in the coming week towards 15,000–18,000 ML/day at Doctors Point.

Diversions at the major irrigation offtakes from **Lake Mulwala** dropped from 7,700 to 3,000 ML/day and are expected to remain low during the coming week. The water level in Lake Mulwala has remained in the range 124.77–124.89 m AHD during the week. The downstream release from **Yarrowonga Weir** was temporarily increased to 12,300 ML/day prior to the weekend, but has now been reduced to 9,500 ML/day. The release is expected to be increased back to 10,100 ML/day in the coming week.

The water level at **Picnic Point**, on the River Murray near Gulpa Creek, briefly spiked up to 2.79 m local gauge height on Monday 12 January. This rapid rise in water level was due to local rainfall exacerbating the higher release from Yarrowonga Weir. The water level has remained below 2.68 m since regulators in the Barmah-Millewa Forest were opened on 12 January.

On the **Edward** River system, the total flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes has remained steady at around 1,900 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the downstream flow peaked at close to 2,600 ML/day during the week but is currently 1,800 ML/day. A number of environmental watering events in the Edward River system are ongoing or have recently concluded, including watering at Cockran Creek which ended in early January (see Photo 1).

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has risen to 3,000 ML/day, as planned, to deliver environmental and Inter Valley Trade (IVT) water. This flow is expected to recede to approximately 1,000 ML/day by late January, then remain steady during the first week of February.

Above **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel were reduced to 1,000 ML/day prior to the weekend and are expected to increase in around 7–10 days. With less water diverted through National Channel, and higher inflows from the Goulburn River, the release from Torrumbarry Weir increased from 5,700 to 9,770 ML/day during the week. The flow at Torrumbarry is expected to recede towards 8,500 ML/day in the coming week.

The flow in the **Murrumbidgee** River at Balranald is currently 1,650 ML/day and higher flows are expected in the next week or so due to reduced irrigation demand. The flow at Balranald is expected to be reduced during early February towards 180 ML/day, which is the usual end-of-system target for the month.

At **Euston** Weir, the flow is currently 9,100 ML/day and is expected to exceed 10,000 ML/day in the next 3–5 days as the flow peak progresses down from Torrumbarry Weir.



Photo 1 - Aerial view of Cockran Creek in early December, showing the watered area in the foreground (Source: Emma Wilson, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage)

The rainfall resulted in a gain of 4 GL at the **Menindee** Lakes and the storage volume is now 174 GL (10% capacity). At Weir 32, the flow has averaged 180 ML/day during the week. Local rain on the lower Darling boosted the flow at Burtundy, which is now 70 ML/day.

The flow at **Wentworth**, at the Darling confluence with the Murray, has reached 9,560 ML/day and is expected to remain above 8,000 ML/day for at least the next week or so.

The weir pools at **Locks 8 and 9** are gradually being lowered below their Full Supply Levels and [more information](#) on the changing weir pool heights is available on the MDBA website.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume has decreased by 10 GL to 473 GL (70% capacity). The storage volume is expected to remain relatively steady over the next week as higher flows arrived from upstream. The flow to South Australia is currently 7,500 ML/day, and is expected to increase in the next week to deliver more environmental water aimed at sustaining higher barrage outflows.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina has increased from 0.60 m AHD last week to 0.63 m AHD. This rise in lake level was due to rainfall on the lakes and in the SA Riverland. Barrage releases have been maintained at approximately 800 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

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Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 Jan 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	475.17	3 185	83%	71	3 114	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	183.69	1 600	53%	23	1 577	-36
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.23	473	70%	100	373	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		174	10%	(- -) #	0	+4
Total		9 269		5 432	59%	--	5 064	-43
Total Active MDBA Storage							60% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	595	58%	3	592	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	526	32%	24	502	+21
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 511	75%	100	2 411	-13

* 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 13 Jan 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 275	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+2	213
Snowy-Murray Component	1 119	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+4	194
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	-1	19
			Murray 1 Release	+10	463

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	14.0	527	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1	172
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.4	34	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.8	398
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	15	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	66
Licensed Pumps	5.3	158	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.7	39
Lower Darling	2.1	43	Licensed pumps - LMW	20	160
TOTAL	25.0	777	TOTAL	30	835

* 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	217.0 *
Flow this week	52.3
Flow so far this month	105.2
Flow last month	255.1

(7 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	130	90	90
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	810	780	790
Lock 9	130	130	140
Lake Victoria	200	210	210
Berri	240	230	220
Waikerie	270	260	290
Morgan	270	270	280
Mannum	360	370	340
Murray Bridge	390	390	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	770	810	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	610	650	580
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 280	2 330	2 390
Goolwa Barrages	1 220	1 230	1 140



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Jan 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	-	-	-	710	F	1 730	1 730
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	207.97	2 770	F	3 210	2 270
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.98	218.87	2 160	R	2 050	5 750
Heywoods	5.5	2.63	156.26	9 440	S	11 330	18 680
Doctors Point	5.5	2.65	151.12	10 640	R	11 940	18 860
Albury	4.3	1.68	149.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.58	128.60	11 210	R	14 290	18 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.61	116.65	9 690	F	11 030	10 040
Tocumwal	6.4	2.47	106.31	10 840	F	10 510	9 600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.15	81.69	9 770	R	8 080	5 770
Swan Hill	4.5	1.47	64.39	7 820	R	6 580	5 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.16	52.28	8 560	R	7 860	7 130
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.74	43.58	9 140	S	7 920	6 900
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	9 560	R	7 230	5 950
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	6 890	F	6 780	6 810
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.00	-	7 150	R	5 400	4 310
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.11	154.34	660	R	570	270
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.93	145.61	430	F	340	200
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.54	93.96	2 920	F	2 640	910
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.88	81.65	1 830	F	2 290	1 780
Edward at Liewah	-	2.47	57.85	1 880	S	1 870	1 820
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.43	54.92	450	S	420	430
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.03	57.99	1 650	R	1 610	1 400
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.61	-	1 090	R	1 000	200
Darling at Bourke	-	3.75	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	70	R	40	20

Natural Inflow to Hume	4 620	1 590
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(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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+1.24
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.32
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.95
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.36	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.09	+0.35
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.04	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.27
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+0.18	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.08	+0.25

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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Barrages

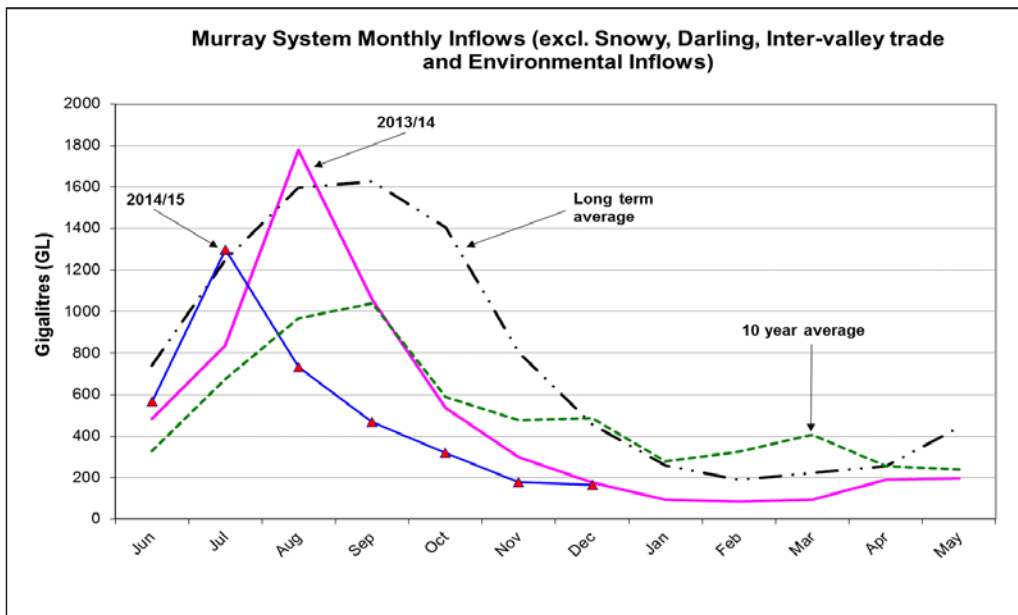
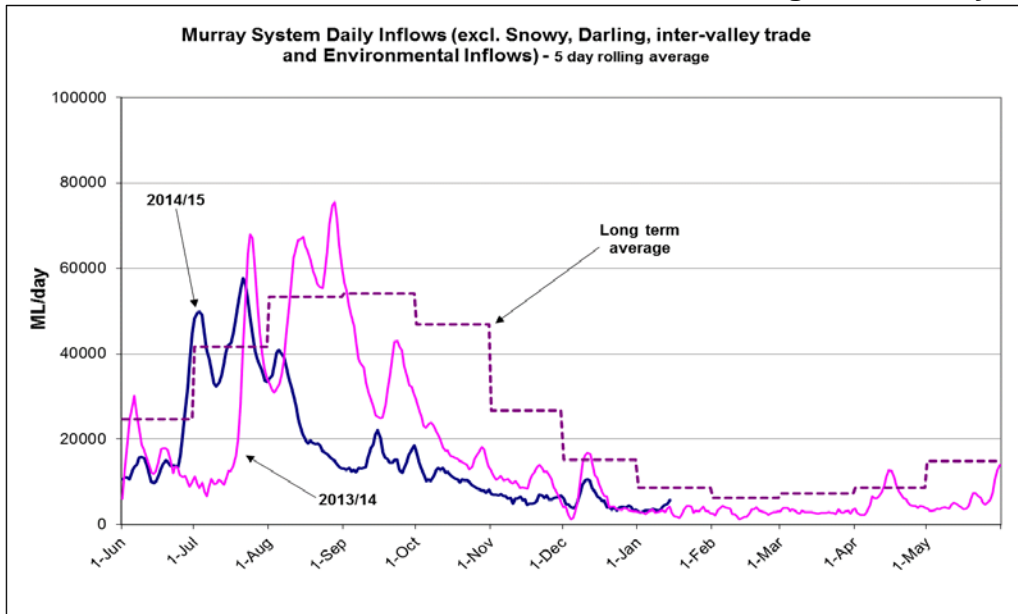
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.45	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.46	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.48	3	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 14 Jan 2015



State Allocations (as at 14 Jan 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	49%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	40%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.nvrm.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>