



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2014

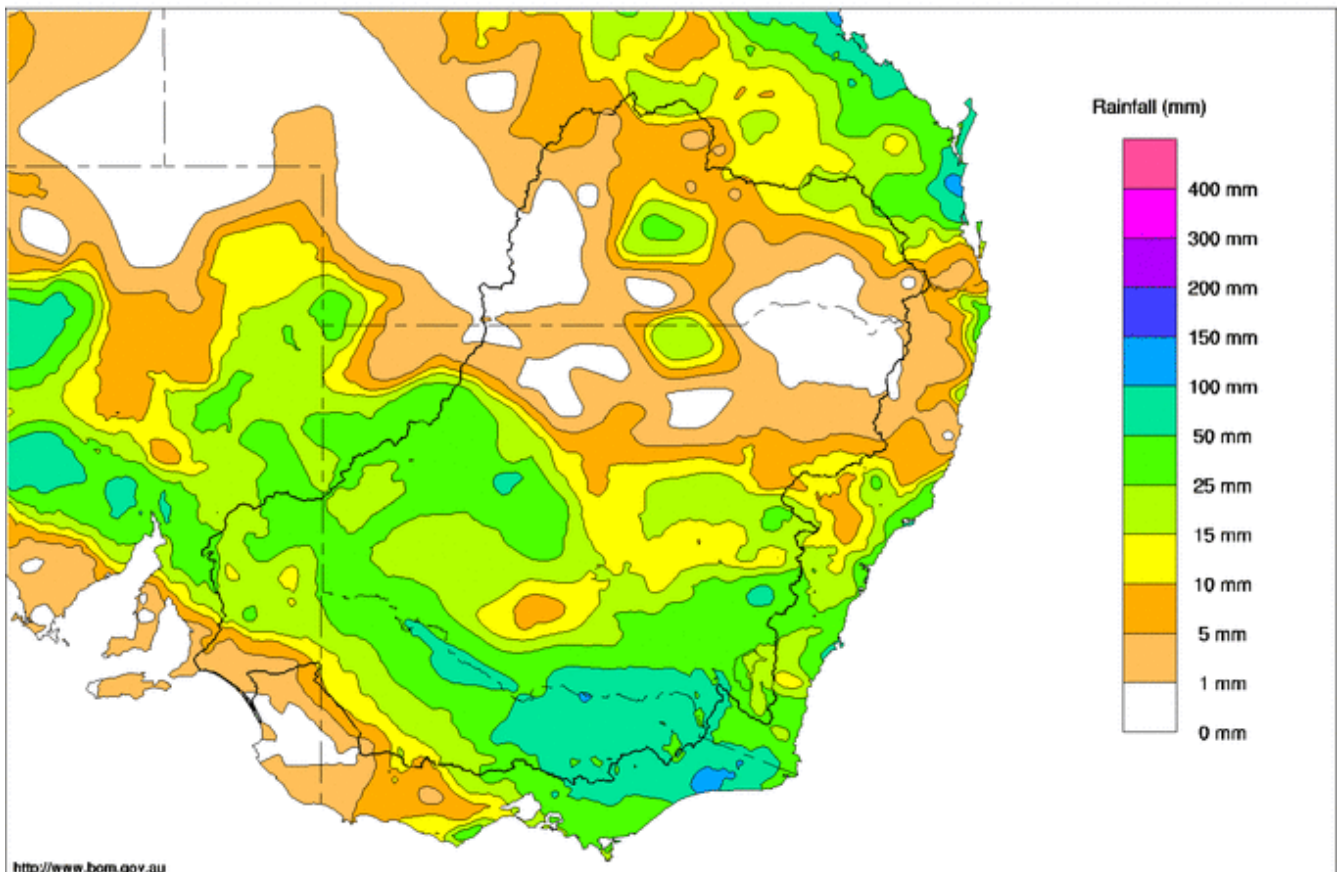
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Rainfall and Inflows

A low pressure system over South Australia and a broad surface trough near the western border of New South Wales (NSW) brought moderate to heavy rainfall throughout much of the southern Murray-Darling Basin this week (Map 1). Many of the highest rainfall totals were recorded along the River Murray itself, with the bulk of rain falling over a 48 hour period from Wednesday to Friday.

Significant rainfall totals at townships along the Murray included 79 mm at Albury, NSW; 99 mm at Yarrowonga and 95 mm at Cobram, Victoria; and 31 mm at Blanchetown, South Australia. Other notable totals in the Basin included 114 mm at Violet Town in Victoria, 80 mm at Perisher in the NSW Snowy Mountains, and 85 mm at Bigga in the NSW central tablelands.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th April 2014
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 16/04/2014

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 16 April 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flow responses in the upper tributaries were modest following the rain, yet many sites recorded their highest flows of the year so far. These peaks were generally short lived, however the soil profile in the catchments will now be wetter so that any subsequent rainfall in coming weeks should yield increased flows.



On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara rose above 1,500 ML/day before returning to 550 ML/day, whilst further downstream the flow at Jingellic peaked at 8,000 ML/day with a current flow of 2,600 ML/day. At Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow increased to 800 ML/day and has now receded to 350 ML/day. On the Ovens River at Wangaratta, the flow peaked over the weekend above 1,500 ML/day and has now reduced to 700 ML/day.

River Operations

The widespread, soaking rain across the southern Basin this week resulted in a major drop in demands throughout the River Murray system. As a result, the amount of water being released from Dartmouth Dam, Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir is currently being reduced towards minimum flow rates in order to maximise water conservation. Communities and holiday makers in the reaches immediately below these storages are advised that river levels will therefore be low this Easter holidays (see attached media release on pg. 7).

MDBA active storage increased by 45 GL this week and is currently 4,766 GL or 57% capacity. This is the first increase in MDBA active storage since September 2013. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 5 GL to 3,426 GL (89% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, was drawn down during the week from 4,000 ML/day to 500 ML/day due to AGL Hydro ceasing an entitlement release for hydro-electric power generation. From Thursday 17 April, the release will be reduced to minimum flow of 200 ML/day where it is likely to remain until mid-May unless there is a call on entitlement water for electricity generation (see attached flow advice on pg. 8).

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 46 GL this week with total storage now at 1,126 GL (37% capacity). The release has been steadily reduced during the week from 6,000 ML/day down to 750 ML/day. Minimum releases of 600 ML/day are likely over the next few days, before rising again later in the week to around 3,000 ML/day as demand eases back on and tributary inputs from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers reduce.

At Yarrawonga Weir, diversions at the major irrigation offtakes dropped to almost zero following the rain and are expected to remain low over the coming week. With the end of the irrigation season typically around mid-May, it is possible that some irrigators may not require any further water entitlements for their crops and pastures again this season. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.88 m AHD and is expected to stay at, or slightly above this level over the Easter long weekend.

The downstream release from Yarrawonga Weir was temporarily increased to 9,500 ML/day during the week to manage inflows, however releases have now been reduced to 4,000 ML/day and are being further reduced in coming days. The minimum flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir is 1,800 ML/day and releases are expected to be at or close to this flow over the Easter weekend and into the following week (see attached media release on pg.7).

On the Edward River system, total flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes increased slightly this week from 1,700 ML/day up to 1,900 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the downstream flow peaked at 1,200 ML/day during the week and is currently 900 ML/day. Flows downstream of Stevens Weir are expected to rise back to around 1,200 ML/day in coming days before slowly receding towards the end of next week.

On the Goulburn River, flows at McCoys Bridge rose throughout the week from 1,600 ML/day up to the current peak flow of 2,000 ML/day. This flow will begin steadily reducing over the coming week to around 1,000 ML/day.



On the Murray at Torrumbarry Weir, diversions at National Channel are currently steady at 1,000 ML/day. The downstream flow at Torrumbarry is currently about 7,800 ML/day and continuing to rise as a high flow passes down the system from the recent rainfall and drop in irrigation demand. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry is expected to peak slightly above 8,000 ML/day over the coming two days before beginning to quickly fall later in the week to around 2,400 ML/day. On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 350 ML/day.

A Euston Weir, the flow is 6,500 ML/day and will be increasing over the coming week to above 9,000 ML/day as the peak progresses down from Torrumbarry Weir.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume increased by 7 GL over the last week due to inflows from the Darling River and is now at 390 GL (23% capacity). Release from the lakes remains steady at around 300 ML/day at Weir 32. On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir rose slightly this week from 6,700 ML/day to 7,000 ML/day. Flows are expected to remain close to, or above this level over the coming fortnight.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume has decreased by 2 GL to 408 GL (60% capacity) and the flow to South Australia is currently 7,200 ML/day, with a target of 6,500 ML/day for the next few days.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.63 m AHD. Releases through the Barrages have been increased during the week, with the current outflow estimated at around 3,000 ML/day.

Finally, many residents of the Basin and beyond were saddened by the news that Henry Jones passed away this week (see attached media release on pg. 9). Henry was a powerful influence on the way Australians view the River Murray, in particular the Lower Lakes and Coorong region of South Australia. Last year Henry was awarded the River Murray Medal in recognition of his personal dedication over the years.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 16 Apr 2014

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	479.20	3 426	89%	71	3 355	-5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	179.94	1 126	37%	23	1 103	+46
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.62	408	60%	100	308	-2
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		390	23%	(- -) #	0	+7
Total		9 269		5 350	58%	- -	4 766	+45
Total Active MDBA Storage							57% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	548	53%	3	545	+32
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	798	49%	24	774	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 298	69%	100	2 198	+4

* 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 15 Apr 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 565	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	653
Snowy-Murray Component	747	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+4	248
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversions	-4	405
			Murray 1 Release	+3	954

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)	2.0	1068	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	308
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.9	45	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.9	505
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	25	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	107
Licensed Pumps	2.9	231	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	8.7	169
Lower Darling	0.2	197	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	268
TOTAL	7.1	1566	TOTAL	11.2	1357

* 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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	55.9	(8 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	100.3	
Flow last month	222.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	170	120	90
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	140	140	120
Merbein	150	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	500	490	500
Lock 9	170	170	180
Lake Victoria	230	230	250
Berri	310	290	270
Waikerie	310	330	330
Morgan	340	370	320
Mannum	460	440	350
Murray Bridge	460	450	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	780	790	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	660	600	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 680	2 610	2 670
Goolwa Barrages	920	950	1 290



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 16 Apr 2014

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	-	-	-	650	F	1 790	1 880
Jingellic	4.0	1.41	207.93	2 610	F	4 120	3 290
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.52	218.41	740	F	2 340	2 210
Heywoods	5.5	1.35	154.98	730	F	2 900	7 630
Doctors Point	5.5	1.53	150.00	1 500	F	4 030	8 590
Albury	4.3	0.71	148.15	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.18	127.20	4 030	F	6 630	9 010
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.81	115.85	4 050	F	7 530	6 440
Tocumwal	6.4	1.86	105.70	6 940	F	7 820	6 670
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.61	81.16	7 820	R	6 730	4 770
Swan Hill	4.5	1.48	64.40	7 470	R	6 090	5 450
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.02	52.14	7 870	R	6 860	6 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	6 560	R	6 560	5 330
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.92	27.68	6 970	S	7 000	3 790
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 770	F	7 560	4 290
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.77	-	8 060	R	7 050	3 520
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.17	154.40	740	R	650	360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.04	145.72	720	F	970	510
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.06	93.48	1 970	R	1 770	2 190
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.15	80.92	910	F	1 040	680
Edward at Liewah	-	1.61	56.99	960	R	860	660
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.53	55.02	680	R	600	350
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.70	56.66	350	R	290	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.33	-	370	F	790	670
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 080	F	2 140	240
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	300	F	260	190

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 950	4 060
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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	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.27
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.28
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.17	+0.29
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.13	+1.00
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.28	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.17	+0.55
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.00	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.20	+0.46
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.22	+0.19	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.17	+0.02

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

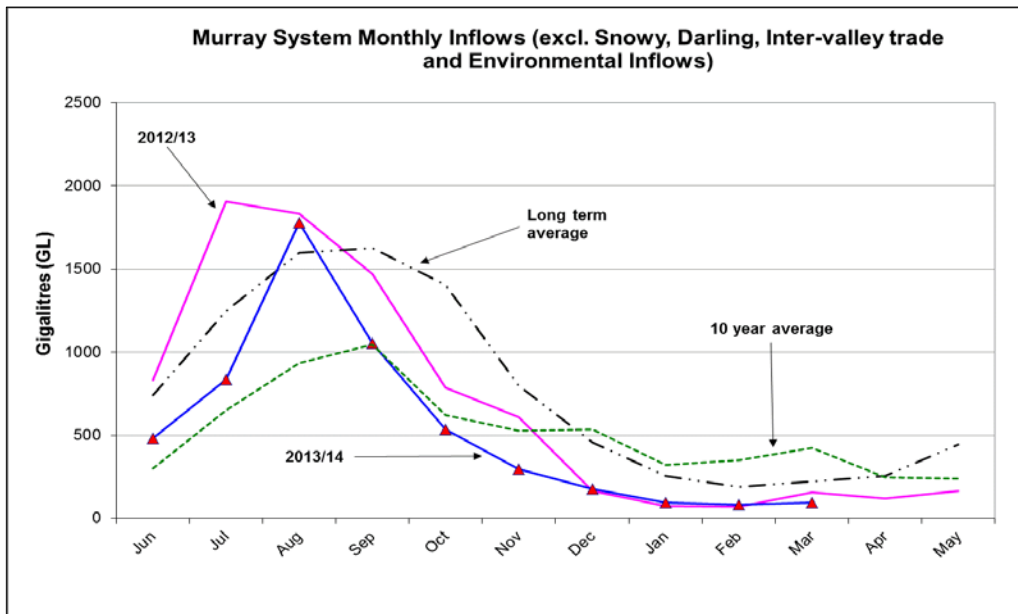
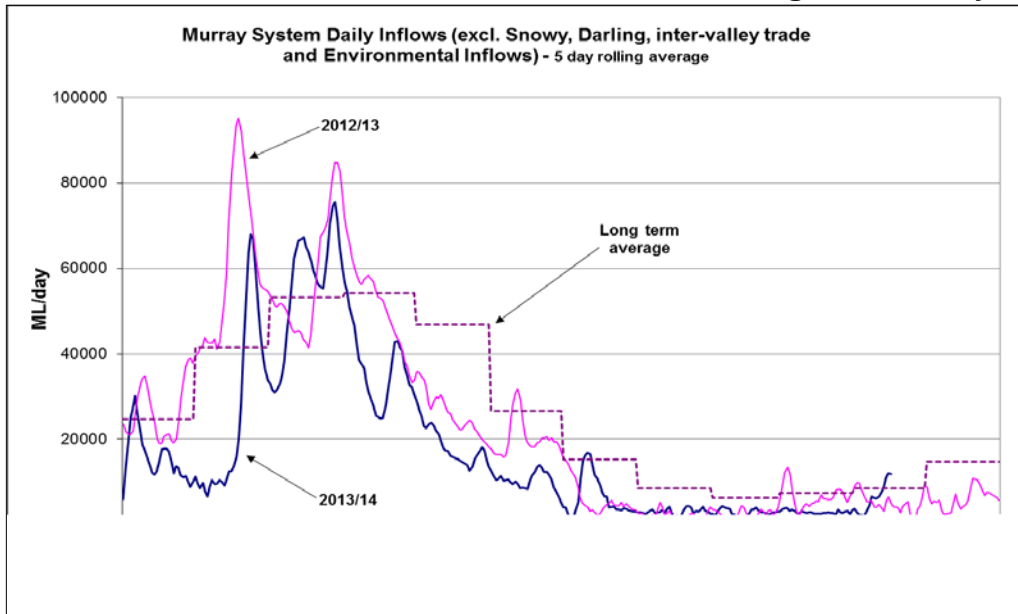
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.62	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 16 Apr 2014



State Allocations (as at 16 Apr 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	63%

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.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

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

MEDIA RELEASE



16 April 2014

Murray flows low this Easter

Communities and holiday makers along the River Murray between Albury and Echuca are advised to be aware of local river conditions during the Easter period.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said river flows were lower than usual for this time of year, and are expected to drop further in the coming days.

“All river users, including boat operators, stock owners and river pumpers should consider adjusting their activities as a result of the changes to water levels,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Parts of the river that are safe to enter one day might not be safe the next, as river levels drop to expose reefs and sand bars. Recreational users should take particular care with the usual precautions of checking the local river height and conditions.”

Mr Dreverman said due to the recent widespread rain, the demand for water out of the upstream storages has reduced to a trickle.

“The amount of water being sent down the river from Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir, therefore, will be at or close to minimum flows over the coming week. This will help maximise the amount of water in storages, in readiness for the dry season we are expecting later in the year,” Mr Dreverman said.

“The minimum flow is 1200 megalitres per day at Doctors Point below Hume Dam and 1800 megalitres per day downstream of Yarrawonga Weir.

“With less water released at Yarrawonga, river heights between Yarrawonga and Torrumbarry Weir are expected to decrease significantly over the next week.”

Mr Dreverman said Lake Mulwala would be managed to meet immediate irrigation demand.

“We expect levels at Lake Mulwala to remain high over the coming week, which will provide good opportunities for recreation over the Easter period.”

People along the river can find the latest river data at mdba.gov.au/river-data/live-river-data and river flow and level forecasts at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts

For more information see the MDBA River Operations and Recreation at mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/operations-and-recreation

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141
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Mitta Mitta River

Flow advice



16 April 2014

Dartmouth flows drop to minimum

Landholders and river users are advised that water flows from Dartmouth Reservoir into the Mitta Mitta River are likely to be at a minimum for the remainder of April.

For the past few months MDBA has been transferring water from Dartmouth to Hume Dam to make room for expected inflows during autumn and winter.

Widespread heavy rainfall last week, however, has greatly reduced customers' demand for water, resulting in only minor flows being released into the River Murray from Hume Dam. This has slowed the current transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir.

The Hume and Dartmouth reservoirs are managed in such a way that they store as much water as possible in readiness for dry conditions during the warmer months.

From Thursday 17 April, the release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be reduced to 200 megalitres per day (ML/day) at Colemans gauge (0.85m gauge height).

Releases are expected to remain close to the minimum flow until mid-May, unless there is a call on entitlement water for electricity generation.

Flows at Tallandoon are expected to reduce to about 300ML/day (1.25m gauge height), but flows will be higher if further rain boosts the inflows from Snowy Creek.

The MDBA routinely updates the flow forecasts on its website at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes each Wednesday.

For more information on how the MDBA's river management takes account of communities' recreational needs, see the MDBA River Operations and Recreation page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/operations-and-recreation>

Another flow advice will be issued if these forecasts change significantly.

ENDS

Media enquiries can be directed to the MDBA Media Office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

Public enquiries can be directed to engagement@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>

MEDIA RELEASE



15 April 2014

MDBA pays tribute to the life of Henry Jones

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has expressed deep sadness at the news that Henry Jones has passed away.

MDBA chairman Craig Knowles said Henry was a powerful influence on the way Australians view the River Murray, in particular the Lower Lakes and Coorong region of South Australia.

“Henry’s contribution to the wellbeing of the Murray has had an effect well beyond the reaches of his home at Clayton Bay,” Mr Knowles said.

“He was a realist and an optimist. Holding firm to a profound belief that the Murray could be a healthy working river, Henry was esteemed by his own community as well as people right across the Basin.

“Henry turned that passion and hands-on knowledge of the river environment into action, which was instrumental in shaping the Basin Plan.

“Australians will continue to benefit from his great vision and commitment for years to come.”

Henry passed on his ideas and wisdom as a long-standing member of the Native Fish Strategy Taskforce, Basin Community Committees and The Living Murray Community Reference Group.

Last year the MDBA awarded Henry Jones the River Murray Medal in recognition of this personal dedication over the years.

“On behalf of the Authority and the many staff who have known Henry over the years, I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Gloria and family,” Mr Knowles said.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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