



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013

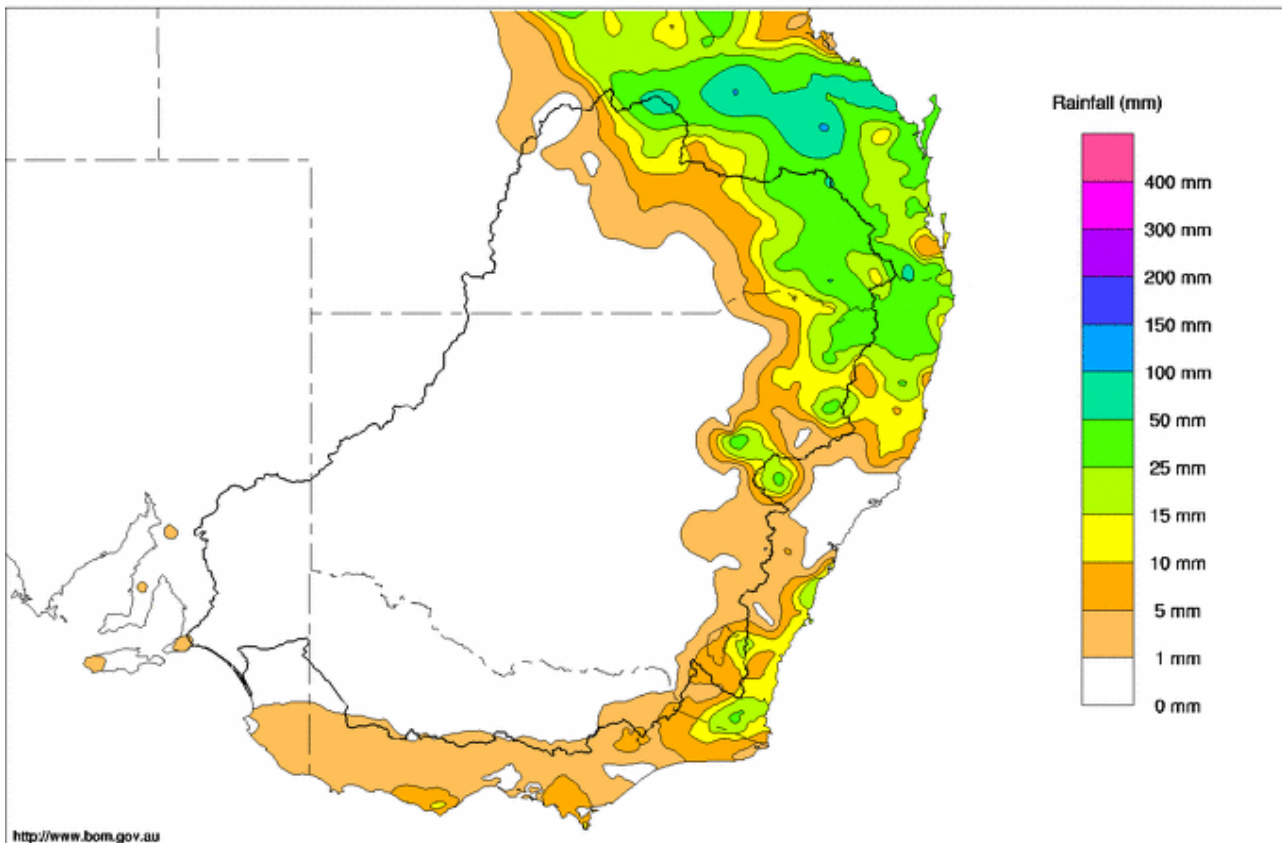
Trim Ref: D13/45145

## Rainfall and Inflows

The weather across the Murray-Darling Basin warmed up this week with hot and summery conditions across most districts and temperatures climbing into the high 30s by week's end. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting several days of very hot temperatures for the period leading up to Christmas.

Rainfall during the past week was mostly restricted to eastern and north-eastern parts of the Basin and resulted from scattered thunderstorms in recent days along the eastern slopes and ranges. Highest totals were recorded in Queensland, with more than 50 mm reported from the Carnarvon Ranges at the top of the Warrego catchment and totals between 25 and 50 mm through much of the Balonne, Condamine and Border Rivers catchments. There was similar, although patchier rain across parts of north-eastern NSW, with totals mostly less than 10 mm in the south-east (Map 1).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th December 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 18/12/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 18 December 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flows in the upper Murray System tributaries continued receding this week with flows at many gauges returning to the levels observed prior to the rain event of two weeks ago. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge receded from 720 to 450 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic has held relatively steady between 5,000 and 6,000 ML/day due primarily to releases from Snowy Hydro. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 1,500 ML/day to around 900 ML/day.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 135 GL this week and is currently 6,759 GL, or 79% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage decreased by 30 GL to 3,728 GL (97% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, has been about 5,000 ML/day for most of the week but was reduced on 18 December to 4,000 ML/day. These “harmony” releases from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir provide additional flood mitigation capacity at Dartmouth Reservoir for next year’s winter and spring without impinging upon the security of supply to downstream water users. The release is expected to remain at about 4,000 ML/day until early in the New Year.

At Hume Reservoir, the volume in storage fell by 45 GL to 2,307 GL (77% capacity). The storage has reduced by around 660 GL since the volume peaked in late September 2013. The target flow at Doctors Point has increased this week from 12,400 ML/day to 18,600 ML/day in response to increasing downstream diversions. With demand for water expected to continue rising due to forecast hot and dry conditions, higher releases are likely for the next couple of weeks.

At Yarrowonga Weir, total diversions at the irrigation offtakes increased from 2,550 to 6,770 ML/day during the week. The release from Yarrowonga Weir this week has averaged 10,500 ML/day with these high flows helping to maintain water levels in bird-breeding wetlands in the Millewa Forest. The release is expected to be gradually reduced towards 10,000 ML/day by early January.

The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.77 m AHD. While river operations aim to maintain the pool level above 124.7 m AHD throughout the summer holiday period, the lake level may fall below this target for short periods. For more information on river operations and recreation, please see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/operations-and-recreation>.

On the Edward River system, the flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes is about 1,700 ML/day and 700 ML/day, respectively. Diversions to the Wakool River were around the normal seasonal minimum of 100 ML/day while environmental water has been used to maintain higher flows of about 500 ML/day in Yallakool Creek. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is forecast to remain at about 1,200 ML/day during the next fortnight, although it may dip below this value if there is an unexpected spike in demand.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow has reduced from a peak of 7,400 ML/day during the week to 6,200 ML/day. The flow is forecast to reduce to less than 1,000 ML/day soon after Christmas. Higher flows, to deliver water traded from the Goulburn to the Murray, can be expected at McCoys from mid-January to March to help meet downstream entitlements.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion to National Channel increased during the week from 2,000 to 2,500 ML/day and the release from the weir peaked at 15,500 ML/day on 13–14 December. By early January, the release is expected to recede to less than 5,000 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged 1,100 ML/day and is expected to recede towards 700 ML/day during the next week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow is rising and expected to peak at about 16,000 ML/day during the weekend. The flow is then expected to recede to less than 7,000 ML/day by early January.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes fell to 807 GL (47% capacity) with the release (measured at Weir 32) reaching 3,400 ML/day (Figure 1). Beginning on 20 December, the release will be gradually reduced with only a very small decline in flow expected over the Christmas-New Year period. See the attached flow advice for more details. At Burtundy, the river is forecast to reach a peak of around 2.0 m during the last week of December.

At Locks 8 and 9, the pools are currently at Full Supply Level. However, over the summer period, these pools will be drawn down as part of an on-going weir pool variability trial. See the attached flow advice for more details.





**Figure 1 – Increased releases from the Menindee Lakes have taken the flow at Weir 32 above 3,000 ML/day. The upper part of the fish ladder can be seen in the foreground.**

**Photo: Barry Philp, NSW State Water, 16 December 2013.**

At Lake Victoria, the volume reduced by 7 GL to 591 GL (87% capacity) and is expected to slowly rise in the coming 2–3 weeks. The flow to South Australia is currently rising after reaching a low of 9,300 ML/day during the week. The flow is forecast to peak at about 14,000 ML/day over Christmas before reducing to the normal entitlement flow of about 7,000 ML/day in early-mid January.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandria is 0.73 m AHD. Flow into the Coorong through the Barrages averaged about 2,000 ML/day during the week. Releases are being managed to gradually raise the level in the Lower Lakes towards 0.80 m AHD by early January.

**The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.**



**Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued during the week ending 25 December 2013. The next report will cover the two week period ending 1 January 2014.**

**Flow and salinity forecasts will be updated and available on the MDBA website on Tuesday 24 December and Tuesday 31 December (see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts>).**

**A fairy performs a rain dance near Moree.  
Photo courtesy Janelle Montgomery.**

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

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**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 Dec 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	484.03	3 728	97%	71	3 657	-30
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.26	2 307	77%	23	2 284	-45
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.28	591	87%	100	491	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		807	47%	(480 #)	327	-52
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 433</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 759</b>	<b>-135</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							79% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	623	61%	3	620	-37
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 398	86%	24	1 374	-55
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 953	89%	100	2 853	-34

\* 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 17 Dec 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 668	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+27	577
Snowy-Murray Component	775	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	224
Target Storage	1 510		Net Diversion	25	353
			Murray 1 Release	+30	848

**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)	29.4	501	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.8	153
Wakool Sys Allowance	-1.1	7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.2	227
Western Murray Irrigation	1.3	11	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.2	52
Licensed Pumps	4.2	100	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	11
Lower Darling	5.1	135	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>557</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)**

\* 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	70.6
Flow so far this month	210.5
Flow last month	388.8

(10 100 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	60	70	90
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	90	100	110
Merbein	110	110	120
Burtundy (Darling)	580	590	510
Lock 9	170	160	140
Lake Victoria	210	220	270
Berri	210	220	260
Waikerie	320	310	320
Morgan	240	240	300
Mannum	240	240	350
Murray Bridge	240	240	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	660	660	640
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	520	500	550
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 730	2 680	2 590
Goolwa Barrages	780	790	1 510



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 Dec 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	-	-	-	5 440	F	4 800	5 320
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	5 920	R	5 530	6 550
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.65	219.54	5 170	S	5 280	5 260
Heywoods	5.5	3.30	156.93	18 440	S	16 070	10 420
Doctors Point	5.5	3.31	151.78	18 580	F	16 880	11 270
Albury	4.3	2.35	149.79	-	-	-	-
Corowa	-	3.57	129.59	18 030	R	15 030	12 840
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	10 600	R	10 500	13 320
Tocumwal	6.4	2.38	106.22	10 280	R	10 510	13 350
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.25	82.80	14 190	F	15 170	12 930
Swan Hill	4.5	2.53	65.45	14 170	F	13 870	10 820
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.75	53.87	15 880	R	14 720	12 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.59	44.43	14 920	R	13 390	13 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.27	28.03	12 290	R	11 290	14 480
Rufus Junction	-	3.90	20.83	9 120	S	9 540	12 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.89	-	7 290	F	8 570	10 250
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.94	154.17	460	R	520	970
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.12	145.80	920	S	1 150	1 810
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.08	95.50	6 230	F	6 970	6 030
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.39	81.16	1 180	F	1 270	1 880
Edward at Liewah	-	2.25	57.63	1 620	R	1 480	1 320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.82	55.31	1 630	S	1 400	1 200
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.56	57.52	1 130	R	890	710
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	200	F	100	90
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	50	F	70	140
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.43	-	2 040	R	1 470	370

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 870	6 720
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.62
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+0.30
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.99
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.63	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.36
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.14	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.04	+0.42
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.28	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.14

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

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

**Fishways at Barrages**

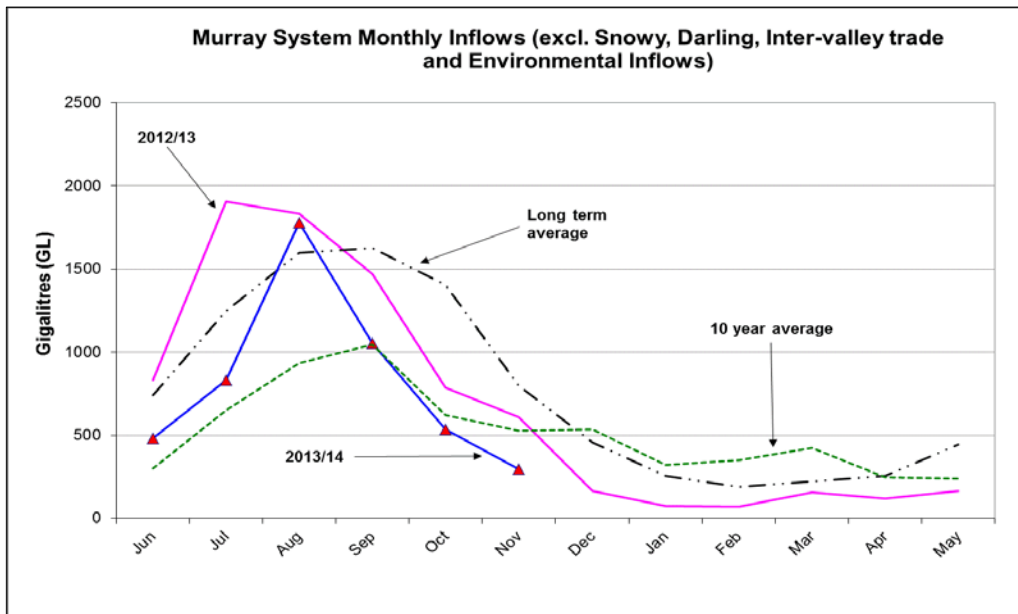
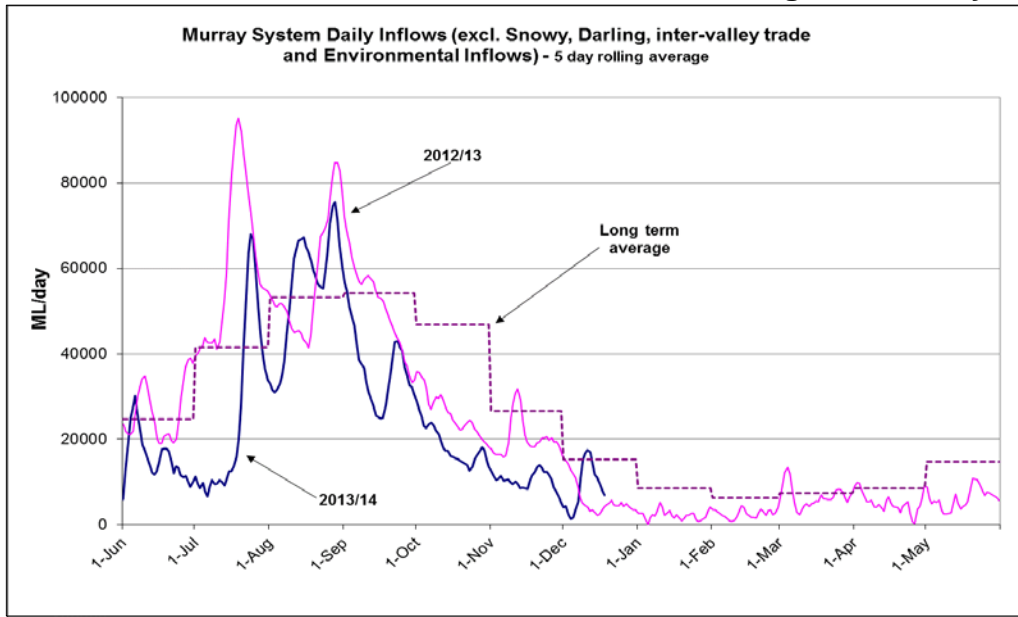
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	4	Open	Open

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





Week ending Wednesday 18 Dec 2013



State Allocations (as at 18 Dec 2013)

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	52%

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>

# Lower Darling River flow advice



17 December 2013

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## Menindee Lakes releases continuing as planned

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, are being encouraged to take note of increased flow rates that are continuing in the lower Darling River, and to make necessary adjustments to their activities.

The flow rates have been increased to transfer water from the Menindee Lakes to the River Murray to meet demands for water over the coming months.

The release (measured at Weir 32) is currently about 3,400 ML/day and will be held steady at around this rate for the next week. This release rate corresponds to a river height of around 2.3 metres at Weir 32, while at the Burtundy gauge, the river is forecast to reach a peak of around 2.0 metres during the last week of December.

Beginning December 20, the release will be gradually reduced with only a very small decline in flow expected over the Christmas-New Year period. A flow of around 2,500 ML/day (2.1 metres at Weir 32) is expected by mid-January 2014.

Menindee Lakes are operated in conjunction with Lake Victoria to increase overall water security for NSW, Victoria and South Australia whilst also considering the security of water supply in the lower Darling and for Broken Hill should there be a return to extreme dry conditions.

It is anticipated that releases above seasonal minimum rates will persist throughout summer and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) will provide further details on flow rates later in January 2014.

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements and assumes no significant rainfall or inflows. A further flow advice will be issued if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

This information follows notification provided in the flow advice issued on 26 November,

Forecast flows and Menindee storage volumes are available on the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts).

ENDS

For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141.

Follow the MDBA on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/MD\\_Basin\\_Auth](http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth)

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

# Flow advice



19 December 2013

## Weir pool level changes at Lock 8 and Lock 9

River Murray water users and landholders are reminded to take into account changing water levels at Lock 8 and Lock 9 weir pools over the next five to six months.

The changes are part of a trial that began in August in co-operation with NSW Office of Water and the Mallee Catchment Management Authority.

Water users and landholders are advised to check the planned pool variations, and take relevant action as required.

Over summer and autumn, the weir pools will be lower than full supply level. Lock 8 is expected to be drawn down to about 50cm below full supply level. Lock 9 is expected to be drawn down to around 10 cm below full supply level. This is a variation to the original program for Lock 9 and is in response to a trial drawdown that took place in November.

The weir pools will be gradually raised back to full supply level by winter 2014.

The table below outlines the overall plan on a month-by-month basis. These are indicative water levels only, and actual river operations may result in slight variations to these figures.

If there are any significant changes to the plan, MDBA will issue a revised flow advice, which will also be made available on the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

**Adjustment relative to Full Supply Level (m)**

Month	Lock 8	Lock 9
December	+0	+0
January	-0.25	-0.1
February	-0.5	-0.1
March	-0.5	-0.1
April	-0.25	+0
May	+0	+0
June	+0	+0

ENDS

River users wanting more information on river heights can contact MDBA on **02 6279 0100** or receive updates at [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report) or [www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm)

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