



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2013

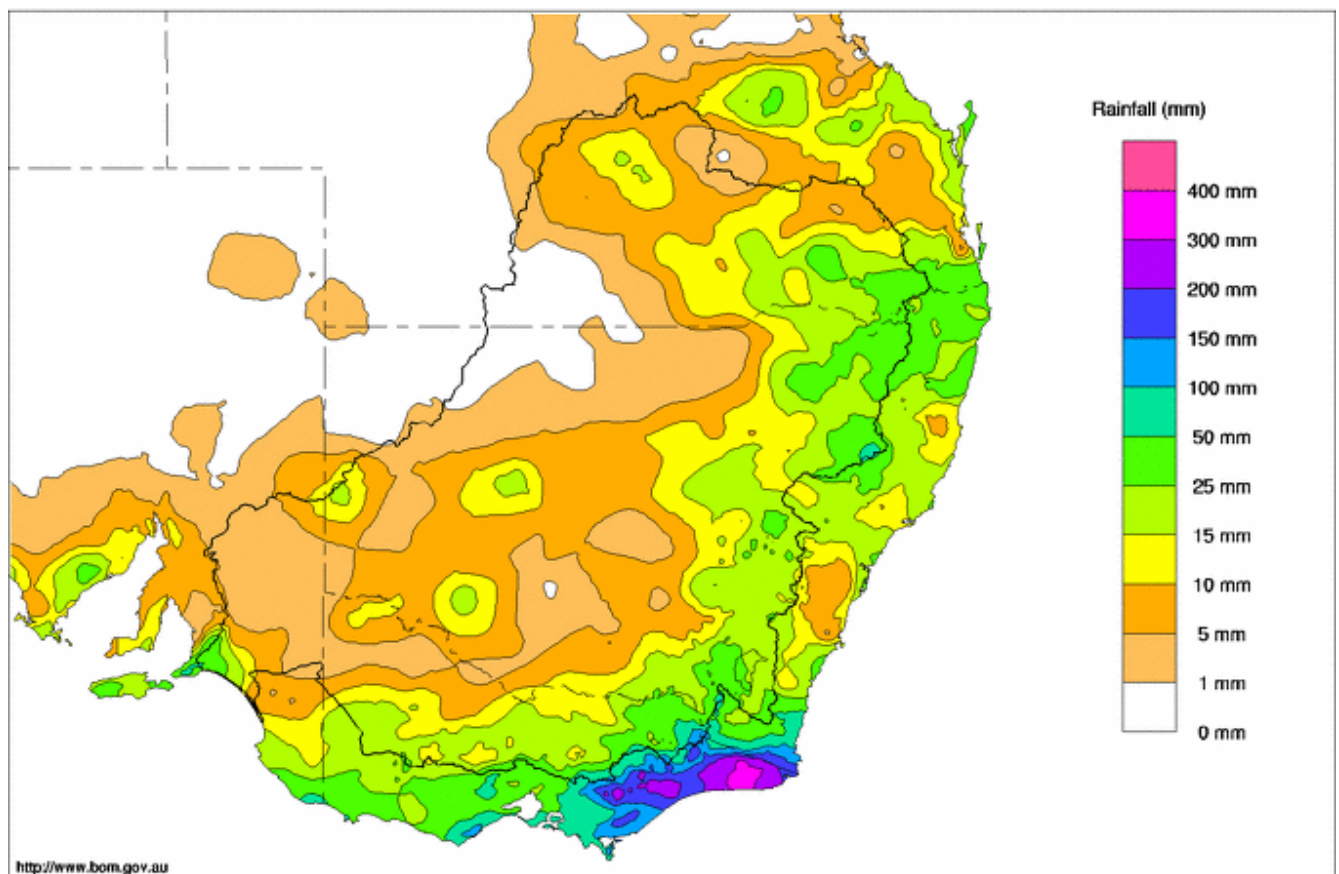
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Weather systems remained quite stationary this week as a very large low pressure system lingered in the Tasman Sea. The system directed southerly winds over eastern Australia and delivered persistent heavy rain across Gippsland, with lighter precipitation crossing into the far south-eastern corner of the Murray-Darling Basin. Rain over other parts of the Basin fell early in the week before clearing and was heaviest along the eastern ranges (Map 1).

The week's most significant rainfall totals were recorded over the far south-eastern catchments with the heaviest rain close to the crest of the Great Divide including 78 mm at Woods Point, 50 mm at Mt Hotham, 48 mm at Harris Lane and 46 mm at Omeo. Notable totals elsewhere in the Basin included 47 mm at Mt William, 42 mm at Mt Barker, 41 mm at Burrinjuck Dam, 41 mm at Warwick and 40 mm at Kilmore Gap, Tenterfield and Glen Innes Airport.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th June 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 19/06/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 19 June 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



There were moderate rises in stream flows along the upper Murray system tributaries with persistent rain at the top of the catchments helping to maintain flows throughout the week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 900 to 1,600 ML/day with a current flow of 1,200 ML/day. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 800 to 1,700 ML/day before receding to 1,400 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point reached a peak of 2,900 ML/day and is now flowing at 2,100 ML/day.

## River Operations

The MDBA active storage volume is currently 6,470 GL (75% capacity). This is an increase of 128 GL since last week.

Dartmouth Reservoir gained 10 GL during the week and is currently at 3,630 GL (94% capacity). There have been higher flows past Colemans in the last few days as AGL Hydro have released entitlement water for electricity generation. On Thursday morning, 20 June, the flow at Colemans was 3,100 ML/day. The flow at Colemans will be gradually reduced to about 350 ML/day, when the entitlement release ceases.

High inflows have lifted Hume Reservoir's storage volume by 90 GL to 1,771 GL (59% capacity). A large proportion of this inflow was contributed by the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The release from Hume Reservoir remains at the minimum of 600 ML/day, while the flow in the River Murray at Doctors Point, downstream of the Kiewa River, is currently 2,400 ML/day.

The recent wetter weather across the southern Basin along with rising headwater storages serve as a reminder of the increased chance of spills and flooding over the coming months. Floodplain land holders downstream of Hume Dam are being encouraged to download a new information brochure about how the dam is managed during wet periods and how to access important storage and flood information. The brochure is available from the MDBA website at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/dams-weirs/hume-dam/flood-management-at-hume-dam>. For more information see the attached media release.

Lake Mulwala's pool level has remained above 124.7 m AHD during the last week due to high inflows. However, with receding inflows and releases expected to remain at about 6,000 ML/day through Yarrowonga Weir, the lake level is expected to fall below 124.6 m in the coming week. If conditions remain dry, the lake level will decrease further down to 124.0 m by early July. For more information on this planned partial lowering of Lake Mulwala, please refer to the media release issued on 1 May 2013, which is available on the MDBA website ([www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)).

The level of the Murray at Picnic Point in the Barmah-Millewa Forest is currently 1.66 m (local gauge height) and steady. The combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes is about 1,300 ML/day. The flow in the Edward River at Deniliquin is 1,500 ML/day and receding, while further downstream at Moulamein, the flow is expected to rise to about 1,700 ML/day in the coming week due to higher inflows from Billabong Creek.

Goulburn River inflows to the Murray are currently 770 ML/day, as measured at McCoys Bridge. Downstream on the Murray at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is 5,600 ML/day and gently receding. At Boundary Bend, the flow, boosted by return flows from the Edward-Wakool system, is about 7,600 ML/day.



At Euston Weir, the pool level has been gradually reduced to 47.2 m AHD, which is 0.4 m below Full Supply Level. This lowering of the weir pool is assisting maintenance work on the navigable pass. Further lowering of the weir pool down to 46.8 m is planned for the coming week. More information is available in the media release issued on 12 June (see [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)).

At Mildura, where the weir has been removed since early June, essential maintenance of the weir's concrete base is continuing. The River Murray is free-flowing at more than 8,000 ML/day and the salinity is currently about 260 EC units. Salinity forecasts for the Sunraysia area are available on the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/river-salinity>).

The volume in Menindee Lakes has remained steady during the week at 1,256 GL (73% capacity) and the flow at Weir 32 has been steady at about 230 ML/day. On the lower Darling River at Burtundy, the flow has receded to 600 ML/day. The flow in the Murray at Wentworth is about 8,700 ML/day and expected to remain relatively steady in the coming week.

The storage level in Lake Victoria is 25.36 m AHD, giving a volume of 487 GL (72% capacity). The storage increased by 28 GL during the week, and storage level rises are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

The flow into South Australia for the remainder of June is targeting about 4,250 ML/day. The flow at Lock 1 is currently about 3,100 ML/day and the five day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.65 m AHD. Currently, 27 gates are open across the five barrages.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



### Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Jun 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	482.49	3 630	94%	71	3 559	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	184.89	1 771	59%	23	1 748	+90
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.36	487	72%	100	387	+28
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 256	73%	(480 #)	776	-0
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 144</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 470</b>	<b>+128</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							75% ^	

#### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	405	39%	3	402	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 070	66%	24	1 046	+19
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 327	70%	100	2 227	+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 18 Jun 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 650	-15	Snowy-Murray	+36	225
Snowy-Murray Component	675	-202	Tooma-Tumut	+14	48
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	22	177
			Murray 1 Release	+44	260

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-0.2	1510	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	392
Wakool Sys Allowance	-1.8	75	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	703
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	29	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	125
Licensed Pumps	0.5	270	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	82
Lower Darling	0.0	103	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	305
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1607</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 traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	90.0 *	
Flow this week	25.8	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	70.6	
Flow last month	164.0	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	200	160	110
Euston	190	170	130
Red Cliffs	250	250	150
Merbein	260	280	160
Burtundy (Darling)	540	540	470
Lock 9	240	220	260
Lake Victoria	350	340	280
Berri	480	480	330
Waikerie	520	530	350
Morgan	520	510	360
Mannum	480	470	360
Murray Bridge	510	510	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	570	550	460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	550	550	390
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 970	2 950	3 460
Goolwa Barrages	650	1 250	1 620



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 19 Jun 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	-	-	-	9 350	F	8 190	5 710
Jingellic	4.0	2.52	209.04	12 090	R	11 420	9 130
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.94	218.83	1 950	R	1 100	780
Heywoods	5.5	1.29	154.92	600	S	600	620
Doctors Point	5.5	1.72	150.19	2 370	S	2 740	2 370
Albury	4.3	0.83	148.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	-	0.94	126.96	3 000	F	3 280	3 360
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.10	116.14	5 930	F	5 990	6 070
Tocumwal	6.4	1.71	105.55	6 000	S	6 040	5 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.98	80.53	5 560	F	5 590	4 970
Swan Hill	4.5	1.18	64.10	5 410	S	5 210	4 990
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.92	52.04	6 740	R	6 580	6 300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.66	43.50	7 700	F	7 870	6 960
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.16	27.92	8 670	F	8 440	8 220
Rufus Junction	-	2.87	19.80	3 140	R	3 100	3 060
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.60	-	3 070	F	3 310	2 620
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.89	155.12	1 870	R	2 130	1 910
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.76	146.44	2 580	F	2 850	2 870
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.40	92.82	770	R	730	750
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.61	81.38	1 440	S	1 430	1 180
Edward at Liewah	-	2.20	57.58	1 540	R	1 470	1 230
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.40	54.89	390	F	510	690
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.20	57.16	800	R	670	690
Barwon at Mungindi	-	-	-	-	F	-	230
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	590	S	620	660
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.91	-	610	F	710	1 050

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 100	9 160
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.02	+0.56
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.40	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.00	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	-	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.35
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.52	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.19	+0.20	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.16
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.24	-0.03	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.15

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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**Barrages**

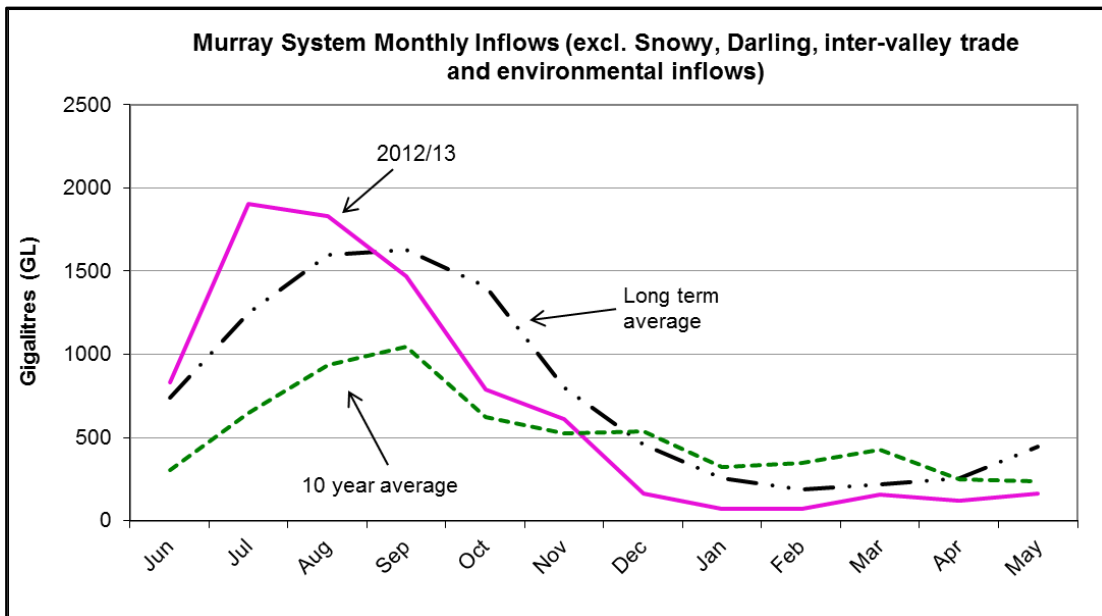
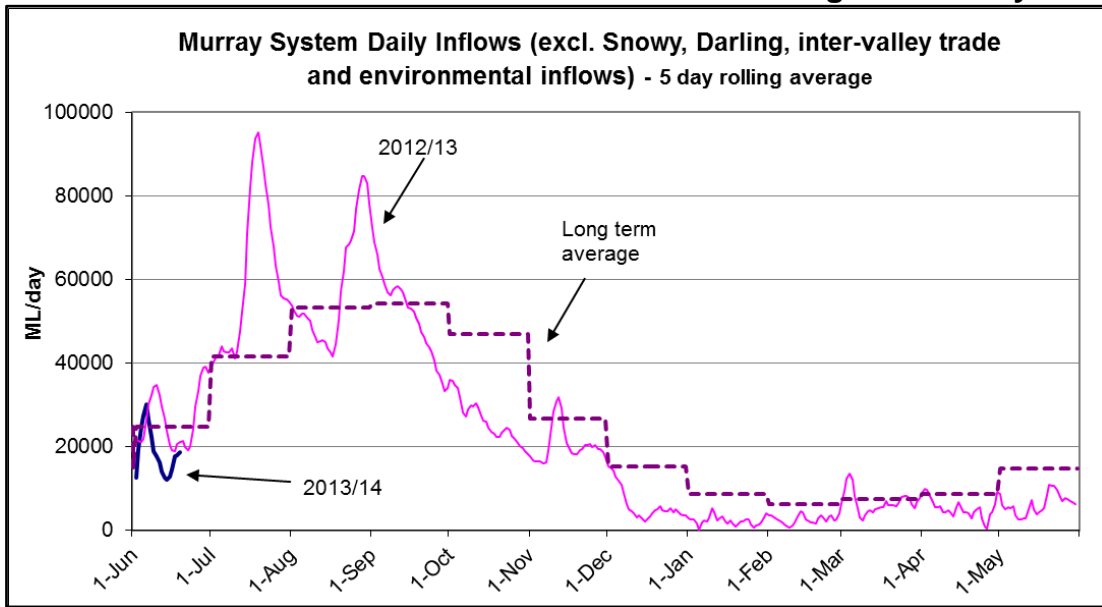
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.62	8	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	17	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 19 Jun 2013



**State Allocations (as at 19 Jun 2013)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**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/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>  
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>

# MEDIA RELEASE



14 June 2013

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## Information for Hume floodplain communities

Floodplain landholders downstream of Hume Dam are being encouraged to download a new information brochure about how the dam is managed during wet periods and how to access important storage and flood information.

MDBA executive director David Dreverman said the MDBA had worked with the Bureau of Meteorology and NSW State Water to compile the information in preparation for the upcoming wet season to ensure communities were well informed.

“While Hume Dam provides considerable flood protection to downstream communities, particularly when storage is low, large floods will still occur from time to time,” Mr Dreverman said.

“If the dam is full or near full, there is nowhere to store floodwaters, so they are passed downstream.

“So, communities in floodplain areas should never be complacent, and this is why each year we speak with floodplain landholders downstream of the dam to make sure they understand how we manage the dam as it fills and that they know how to access information and get updates on potential flooding or high release events.

“The new information brochure explains how Hume Dam is operated under different seasonal scenarios, how flood waters are stored, how the dam’s airspace is managed, and the roles and responsibilities of government agencies during flood operations.

“Most importantly, it educates people about where they can access the latest information and how to become best prepared in advance of the wet season.”

Mr Dreverman said floodplain landholders downstream of Hume Dam were encouraged to download the brochure from the MDBA website, as well as sign on to the NSW State Water early warning network, an automated notification system that provides alerts about high releases or floods.

The brochure can be found at [www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/dams-weirs/hume-dam/flood-management-at-hume-dam](http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/dams-weirs/hume-dam/flood-management-at-hume-dam)

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