



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2014

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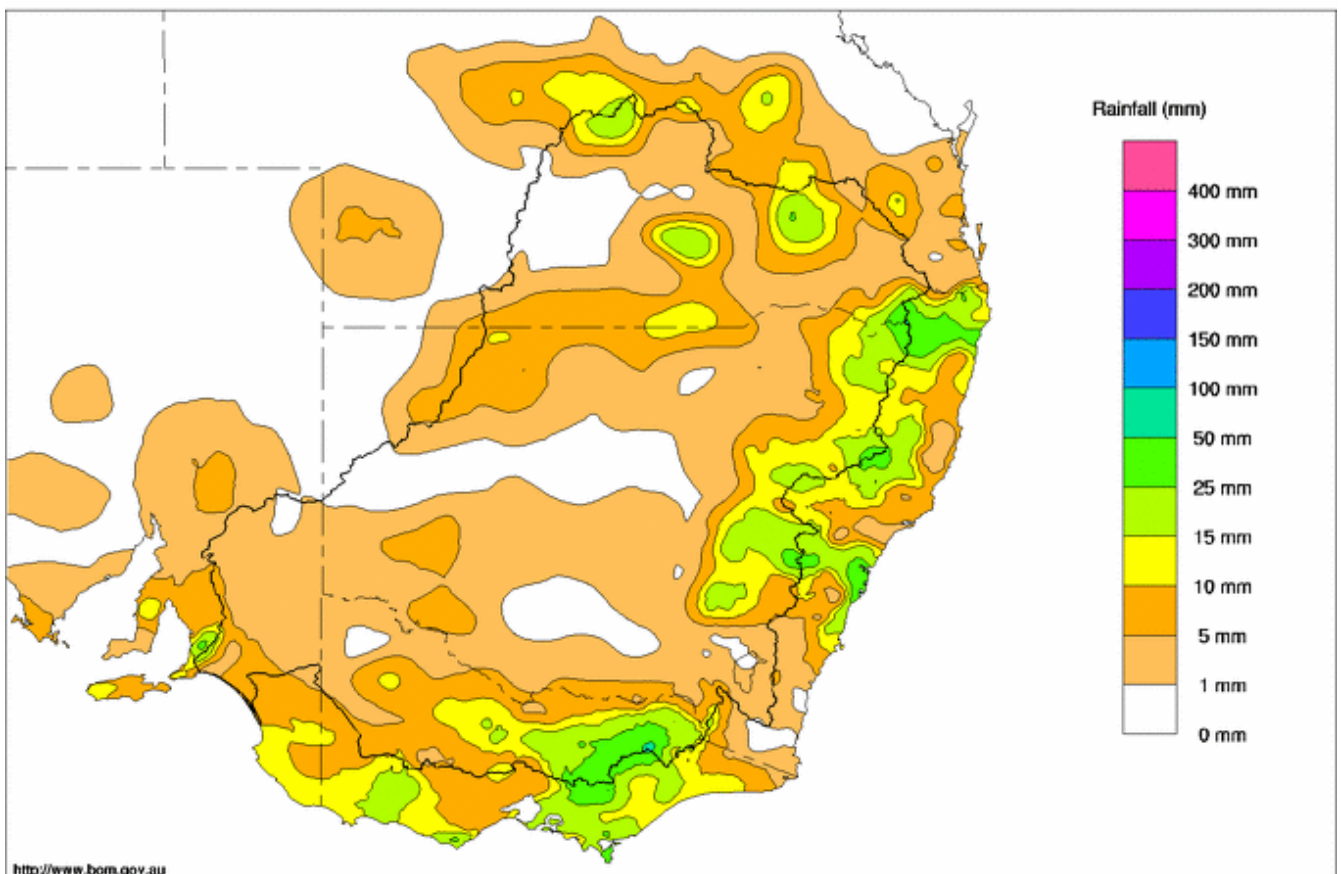
Rainfall and Inflows

The highest rainfall totals this week were recorded over the Victorian ranges and along the eastern slopes and ranges of NSW and southern Queensland. The rain was associated with a trough that generated scattered thunderstorms; and a cold front that brought cooler weather to the south-east over the weekend. Across the central and western Murray-Darling Basin, rainfall was patchy and mostly light (Map 1).

The highest rain totals in Victoria fell over the Alpine areas and included 61 mm at Mt Hotham, 51 mm at Mt Buller, 46 mm at Mt Buffalo and 43 mm at Archerton. Notable totals in NSW included 48 mm at Tenterfield, 39 mm at Wellington, 36 mm at Nundle and 36 mm at Bathurst Airport; while just over the Queensland border 53 mm was recorded at Applethorpe and 37 mm at Stanthorpe.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th March 2014

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 19 March 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

There was modest rain in some of the upper Murray catchments but it had little impact on stream flows. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 100 to 220 ML/day; and on the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from about 350 to 500 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from around 250 to 350 ML/day. Flows at most gauges have now returned to base flow levels.



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 96 GL this week and is currently 4 921 GL or 58% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 10 GL to 3,470 GL (90% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, has remained steady at a flow of 1,500 ML/day. This flow is expected to reduce to around 1,000 ML/day over the coming weekend before increasing to around 4,500 ML/day late in the coming week (see attached flow advice for more information).

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume fell by 85 GL to 1,181 GL (39% capacity). The release was reduced earlier in the week in response to forecast rainfall as well as reduced releases downstream of Yarrowonga Weir but has risen again to around 15,500 ML/day due to increasing demands at the major irrigation offtakes.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the total diversion at the major irrigation offtakes increased again this week with around 48 GL diverted. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.70 m AHD. The downstream release averaged around 7,900 ML/day compared with around 9,000 ML/day last week. The release will be reduced to around 7,300 ML/day in the coming week and is likely to be reduced further in April. This lower flow enables more water to be saved in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs for future use. MDBA will call on water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Valley inter-valley transfer accounts to meet any increase in downstream demands in the coming weeks.

On the Edward River system diversions to the Wakool Main Canal averaged 930 ML/day. The flow at Moulamein decreased during the week from 1,350 ML/day to 930 ML/day and the flow in the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing has receded further to 510 ML/day.

Flow in the Goulburn River at Shepparton started to rise late this week due to delivery of an environmental pulse. Further downstream at McCoys Bridge, the flow is expected to start rising in the coming days and reach around 4,000 ML/day over the coming week, before gradually reducing back to around 900 ML/day in the second week of April. At National Channel, the diversion increased this week to 3,400 ML/day and is forecast to remain steady over the coming week. The flow in the Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has decreased to 3,700 ML/day and is expected to fall to around 3,400 ML/day in the coming week, before increasing again in response to the higher inflows from the Goulburn River.

The flow in the Murrumbidgee at Balranald is currently 400 ML/day and is expected to fall to the normal minimum of 180 ML/day by early next week. The flow downstream of Euston Weir has receded to 6,000 ML/day and is forecast to reduce further over the next two weeks.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 21 GL over the last week to 400 GL (23% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 is targeting 350 ML/day, while the flow downstream at Burtundy averaged 290 ML/day.

The flow at Wentworth Weir on the Murray has fallen this week from 8,900 ML/day to around 6,500 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume fell by 1 GL to 464 GL (69% capacity). Flow to South Australia is currently averaging around 7,000 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate next week.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level has remained steady at 0.61 m AHD. The estimated release through the barrages is currently around 400 ML/day, through the fishways, one gate partially open at Boundary Creek and one gate open at Tauwitchere.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Mar 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	479.92	3 470	90%	71	3 399	-10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180.41	1 181	39%	23	1 158	-85
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.15	464	69%	100	364	-1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		400	23%	(- -) #	0	-21
Total		9 269		5 515	59%	--	4 921	-118
Total Active MDBA Storage							58% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	462	45%	3	459	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	828	51%	24	804	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 410	72%	100	2 310	-44

* 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 Mar 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 499	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	651
Snowy-Murray Component	695	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+0	235
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	0	415
			Murray 1 Release	+1	940

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)	35.0	1005	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.9	284
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.0	36	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.8	442
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	104
Licensed Pumps	8.0	205	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	155
Lower Darling	2.2	196	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.3	259
TOTAL	47.7	1466	TOTAL	39.2	1244

* 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	186.0 *
Flow this week	48.7
Flow so far this month	143.3
Flow last month	201.7

(7 000 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	120	100	90
Euston	110	110	100
Red Cliffs	130	120	110
Merbein	140	130	120
Burtundy (Darling)	460	450	500
Lock 9	150	150	180
Lake Victoria	230	230	250
Berri	310	340	270
Waikerie	400	400	320
Morgan	410	420	310
Mannum	400	390	340
Murray Bridge	350	340	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	750	740	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	630	620	550
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 620	2 680	2 630
Goolwa Barrages	1 630	1 300	1 310



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 Mar 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	-	-	-	430	F	430	430
Jingellic	4.0	1.12	207.64	570	F	540	550
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.84	218.73	1 630	F	1 630	1 560
Heywoods	5.5	3.29	156.92	15 470	R	13 920	15 270
Doctors Point	5.5	3.12	151.59	16 240	R	14 560	15 740
Albury	4.3	2.15	149.59	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.06	129.08	14 470	R	14 400	15 100
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.41	116.45	8 170	R	7 930	9 030
Tocumwal	6.4	2.02	105.86	7 930	F	8 000	8 790
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.41	79.96	3 660	F	4 110	4 930
Swan Hill	4.5	0.91	63.83	3 810	F	4 250	5 380
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.49	51.61	5 560	F	6 150	7 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.33	43.17	6 090	F	6 450	9 020
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	6 460	F	7 280	8 890
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 770	R	6 470	7 650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.70	-	5 560	F	6 120	5 380
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.79	154.02	290	R	340	200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.89	145.57	370	R	260	200
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.51	92.93	990	R	950	910
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	580	F	620	940
Edward at Liewah	-	1.80	57.18	1 130	F	1 260	1 440
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.46	54.95	510	F	580	660
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.86	56.82	500	F	730	1 180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	80	F	60	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	290	F	360	130
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	240	F	290	310

Natural Inflow to Hume	570	900
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.01	+1.24
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+0.77
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.20	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+0.42
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	-0.52	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.24	+0.33
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.50	+0.13	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.16	-0.05

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.61
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Barrages

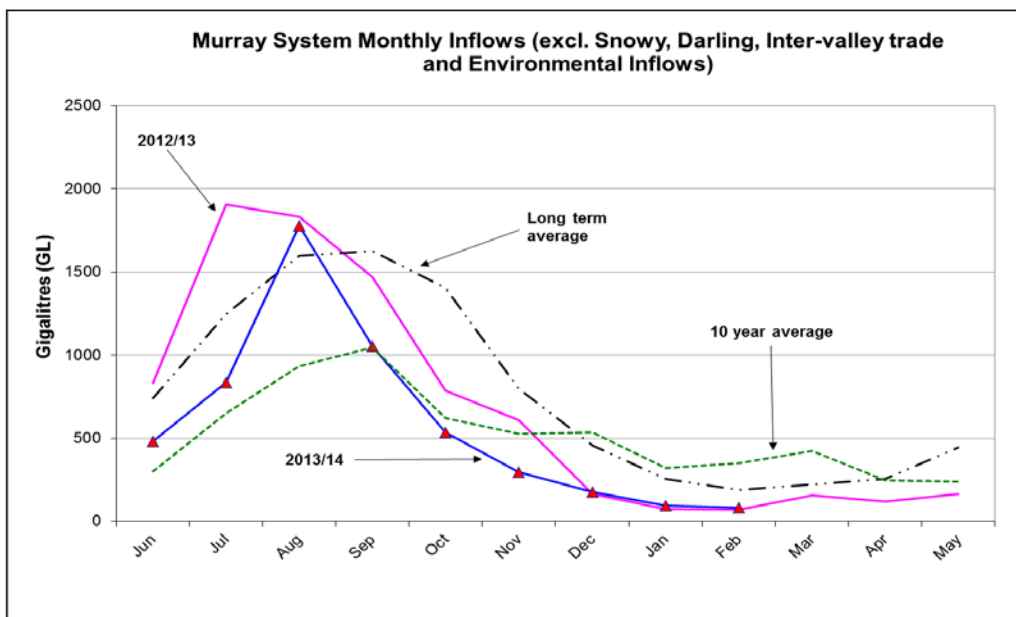
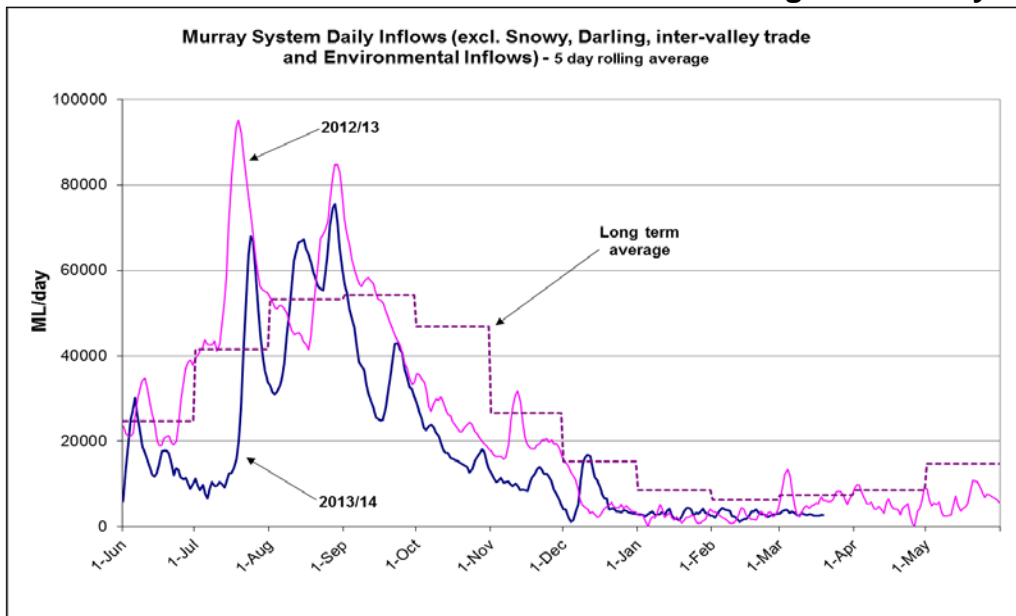
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	1	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 19 Mar 2014



State Allocations (as at 19 Mar 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	59%

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>

Mitta Mitta River Flow advice



17 March 2014

Flows from Dartmouth Reservoir to vary from March to mid-April

Landholders and river users should take into account the variable water releases from Dartmouth Reservoir into the Mitta Mitta River expected for the remainder of March to mid-April, and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

On Friday, 21 March 2014, the flow will be decreased from 1,500 megalitres per day (ML/day) at Colemans gauge (gauge height 1.56m) to a flow of 1,000ML/day (gauge height 1.39m). This flow is expected to continue over the weekend. The flow at Tallandoon during this period is expected to be less than 1,200ML/day (1.7 m gauge height).

An increase in flow to 4,500ML/day (Colemans gauge height 2.14m) is planned to commence on the morning of Monday, 24 March, and continue for a few days before being gradually reduced to a flow of about 800ML/day by Wednesday, 9 April.

The flow at Tallandoon is currently about 1,600ML/day (gauge height 1.82 m). Current forecasts indicate that the higher releases from Dartmouth Reservoir during late March will result in a peak flow at Tallandoon of about 4,500ML/day (gauge height 2.52 m), assuming little or no rain during this period.

Dartmouth Reservoir is currently storing 3,472GL (90 per cent capacity). These releases from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir will free up additional airspace in Dartmouth Reservoir, thereby increasing its flood mitigation capacity for the coming winter and spring without affecting the security of supply to downstream water users.

Variations in the release rate are aimed at improving the Mitta Mitta River's water quality and facilitate recreational use downstream of the Dartmouth Reservoir.

A further flow advice will be issued if these forecasts change significantly. Another flow advice will be issued at the end of March about conditions expected over the Easter period.

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

The Weekly Report is available at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report

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.

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