



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2015

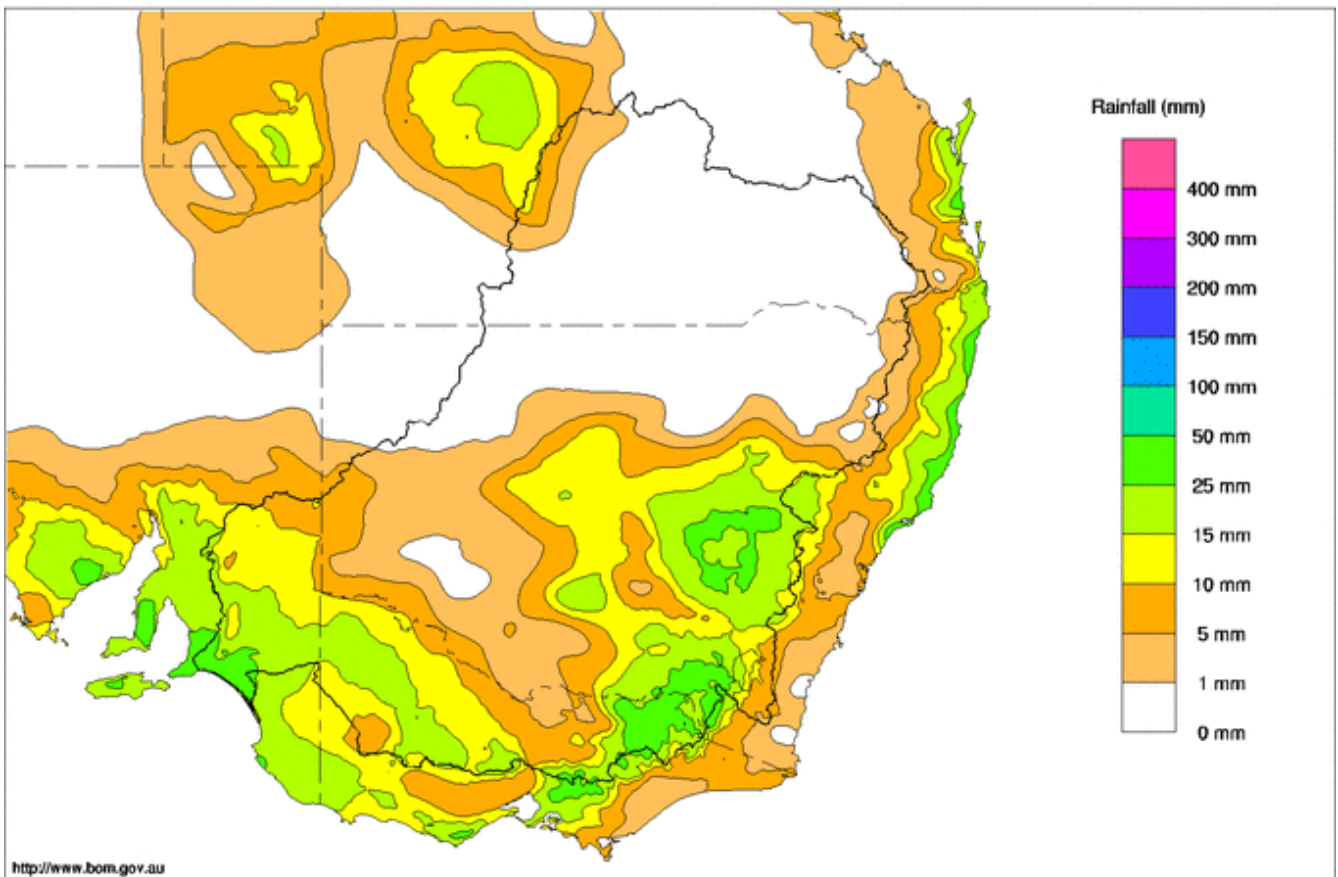
Trim Ref: D15/35234

Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were dry and mild over the Murray-Darling Basin this week until a low pressure system crossed the region bringing rain and storms during the last few days. The wettest locations were in South Australia, across the south-east ranges and through the NSW Central Tablelands. The northern Basin stayed mostly dry (Map 1).

The highest weekly rain totals in South Australia included 34 mm at Tailem Bend and 29 mm at Goolwa. In Victoria there was 50 mm at Mt Hotham, 45 mm at Harris Lane and 37 mm at Bright. NSW totals included 43 mm at Batlow, 38 mm at Wellington, 37 mm at Mudgee and 32 mm at both Cowra and Bigga.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th May 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



© Commonwealth of Australia 2015, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 20/05/2015

Map 1 - Murray Darling Basin rainfall week ending 20th May 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Renewed streamflow rises late in the week have provided a further boost to River Murray System inflows. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 800 to 2,200 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 500 to 1,500 ML/day. At Rocky Point, the flow in the Ovens River receded during the first half of the week from around 2,000 to 1,000 ML/day before increasing again to about 1,500 ML/day following the rain.



River Operations

- Bulk transfers of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir
- Lake Mulwala to fall around 3.5 m by early June
- Mildura weir pool drawdown commenced - Lock 11 to remain closed for up to 4 months

River operations this week have continued to focus on preparing for a possible dry season ahead, following the [Bureau of Meteorology's announcement](#) last week that El Niño is expected to influence the climate during the second half of 2015. Bulk transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir are continuing while the Hume release is close to the minimum required flow. Bulk transfers at this time of year reduce the likelihood of transfers at much higher flows over the coming summer.

MDBA total storage has increased by 60 GL, with the active storage currently 3,647 GL or 43% capacity.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 11 GL to 2,901 GL (75% capacity) as water was transferred from Dartmouth to Hume. The flow at Colemans reached 5,500 ML/day over the weekend and is now being gradually reduced. The flow at Colemans is expected to be around 1,000 ML/day for a few days, beginning Tuesday 26 May, before rising again the following weekend.



Photo 1 – The regulating pondage downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir was lowered during the week, prior to the current high flows, for maintenance works (Photo courtesy: Peter Liepkalns, Goulburn-Murray Water)

Hume Reservoir's storage volume increased by 54 GL this week to 661 GL (22% capacity). The current release from Hume is the minimum of 600 ML/day; however, this release may increase slightly over the coming week to ensure that the flow in the Murray at Doctors Point, downstream of the confluence with the Kiewa River, remains above its minimum target of 1,200 ML/day.

At **Yarrowonga** Weir, the pool level has continued to be reduced and is currently 123.54 m AHD, which is 1.16 m below the normal operating level. The pool level will continue to fall until a target of around 121.2 m AHD is reached in early June. During the past week, the downstream release has been close to 10,000 ML/day. With rain forecast next week, higher flows downstream of Yarrowonga Weir are possible in late May. Media releases from [MDBA](#) on 13 May and [Goulburn-Murray Water](#) on 20 May have more information.

Flow into the **Edward** River system has been steady at about 2,000 ML/day for the last few days, due to the high flows downstream of Yarrowonga. Stevens Weir pool is being gradually lowered by Water NSW and the level is currently 3.9 m on the local gauge. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 2,000 ML/day.



Photo 2 – At Bundalong, at the upper end of Lake Mulwala on the Ovens River arm, the lowering of the lake is exposing the water weed *Egeria* (Photo courtesy: Kerry Andison and Paul Carlile, MDBA)

On the **Goulburn River**, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been steady at around 1,000 ML/day. This flow is expected to remain steady until mid-June, after which higher flows are possible. More information will be provided in future Weekly Reports.

At **Torrumbarry Weir** the flow is now 8,300 ML/day, and is likely to remain steady over the next few days. At Swan Hill, the flow is expected to rise over the coming few days, up to around 8,000 ML/day.

At **Euston Weir**, the flow is also increasing and is forecast to exceed 10,000 ML/day in late May. The weir pool level is planned to be raised as flows rise, and the pool should be back at its full supply level of 47.6 m AHD by early June.

The drawdown of the weir pool at **Mildura** commenced on Wednesday 20 May. The lock was also closed on this date and is expected to remain closed for up to 4 months. More information is available from [MDBA](#) (see attached) and from [Goulburn-Murray Water](#). The flow downstream of the weir pool is expected to reach 10,000 ML/day by late May, while the water level upstream of the weir is expected to be about 3.6 m lower than full supply level, depending on flow in the River Murray.

There was a small gain of 4 GL in the volume stored in the **Menindee Lakes**, which was mainly due to a small pulse of inflows which originated from upstream of Bourke in early April. The Menindee Lakes currently store 67 GL (4% capacity) and there is no release from Weir 32.

The flow at **Wentworth** will rise in the coming week, and is expected to exceed 10,000 ML/day by late May. These higher flows are expected to persist until at least mid-June.

The storage in **Lake Victoria** has increased by 12 GL to 279 GL (41% capacity). The storage level is expected to continue rising for at least the next 3–4 weeks and may exceed 400 GL (24.5 m AHD) by mid-June. The flow to South Australia averaged 4,600 ML/day during the last week, and is expected to reduce to 3,900 ML/day in the coming week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the water level has increased to 0.61 m AHD as rough weather and high tides earlier in the week had limited releases through the barrages. Barrages releases are currently targeting around 2,000 ML/day when operationally possible.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 20 May 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	470.16	2 901	75%	71	2 830	-11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	175.40	661	22%	23	638	+54
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.34	279	41%	100	179	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		67	4%	(- -) #	0	+4
Total		9 269		3 908	42%	--	3 647	+60
Total Active MDBA Storage							43% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	424	41%	3	421	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	427	26%	24	403	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 898	57%	100	1 798	+12

* 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 19 May 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 158	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+5	7
Snowy-Murray Component	1 035	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+6	13
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	-1	-7
			Murray 1 Release	+19	25

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)	-8.5	843	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.1	301
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.5	84	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.4	621
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	104
Licensed Pumps	1.7	278	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	73
Lower Darling	0.1	61	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.7	289
TOTAL	-5.1	1289	TOTAL	7.1	1388

* 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	93.0 *	
Flow this week	32.4	(4 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	94.5	
Flow last month	183.0	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	50	50	80
Euston	-	-	100
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	100	100	120
Burtundy (Darling)	920	920	820
Lock 9	100	100	130
Lake Victoria	120	170	210
Berri	240	240	220
Waikerie	330	340	290
Morgan	300	310	280
Mannum	310	310	320
Murray Bridge	320	320	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	710	700	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	560	710	630
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 190	2 260	2 430
Goolwa Barrages	9 160	4 950	1 480



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 20 May 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	-	-	-	1 690	F	3 210	1 700
Jingellic	4.0	1.55	208.07	3 260	F	4 610	2 460
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.75	219.64	5 720	R	3 700	1 150
Heywoods	5.5	1.42	155.05	600	S	620	4 480
Doctors Point	5.5	1.67	150.14	2 150	R	2 330	5 600
Albury	4.3	0.82	148.26	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	0.89	126.91	2 500	F	3 110	7 170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.62	116.66	9 940	F	9 910	7 710
Tocumwal	6.4	2.22	106.06	9 820	R	9 370	7 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.67	81.22	8 290	R	7 420	5 320
Swan Hill	4.5	1.40	64.32	7 440	R	6 470	4 930
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.08	52.20	8 250	R	7 240	7 400
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.49	43.33	7 410	R	7 020	8 090
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 810	F	7 100	8 760
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	7 280	R	7 480	9 170
Rufus Junction	-	3.02	19.95	3 740	F	3 790	3 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.62	-	4 010	F	3 680	3 690
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.66	154.89	1 470	R	1 650	1 150
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.25	145.93	1 240	R	1 360	1 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.57	92.99	1 090	S	1 010	990
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	2.00	81.77	2 000	F	2 240	1 060
Edward at Liewah	-	1.75	57.13	1 080	R	1 170	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	430	S	470	580
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.69	56.65	360	F	400	320
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.58	-	1 030	F	1 430	720
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.12	-	450	S	470	850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.10	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	5 180	6 890
------------------------	-------	-------

(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	-1.36	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.70
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.15	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.16	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.26	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.00	-0.25	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.27	+0.15	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.05	-0.13

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

Barrages

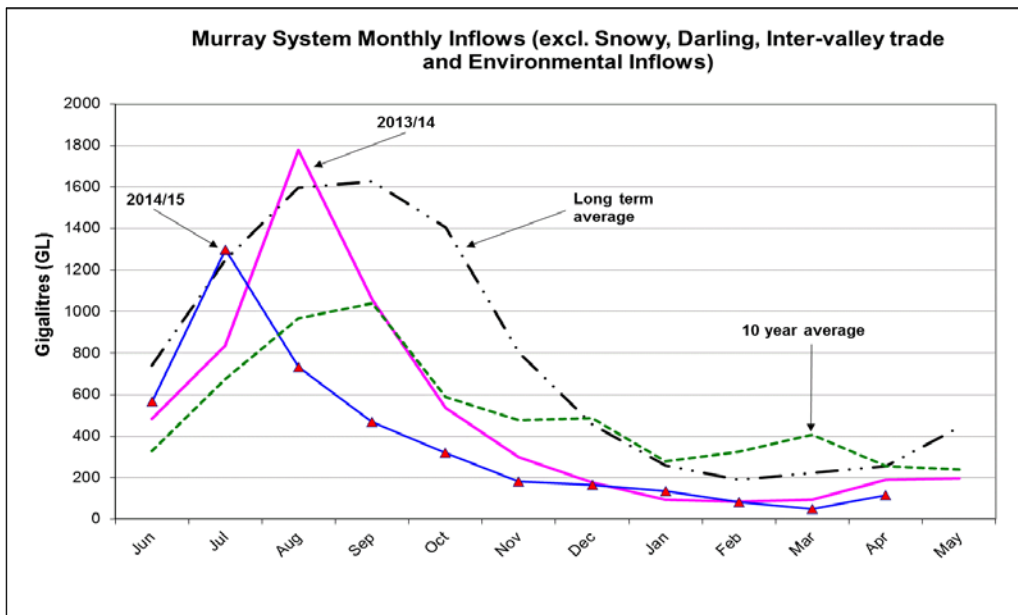
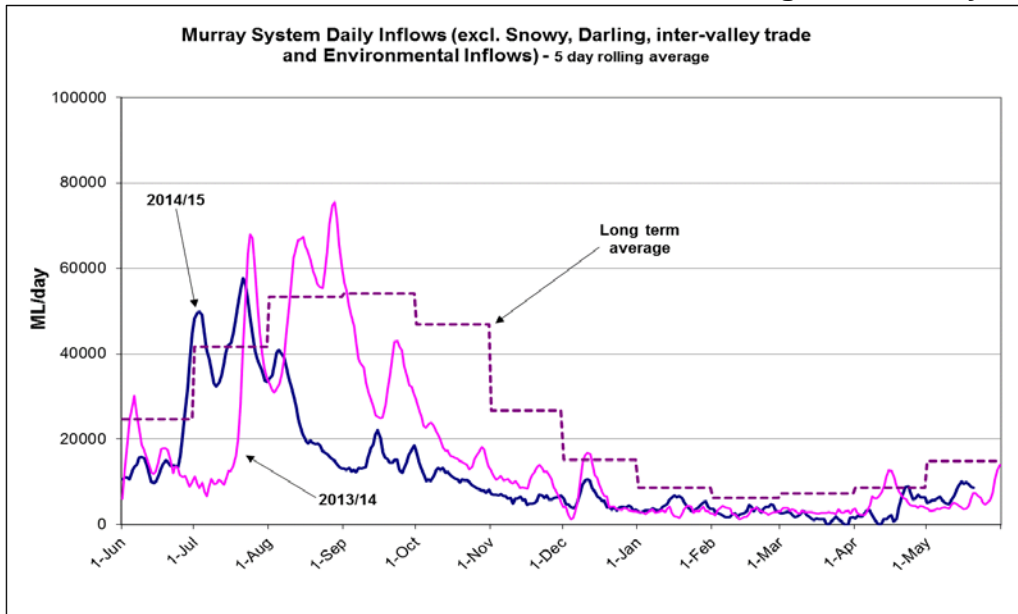
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.54	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.55	6	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 20 May 2015



State Allocations (as at 20 May 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	61%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	53%

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%
---------------	------

- NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>
- VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>
- SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

MEDIA RELEASE



19 May 2015

Works begin at Mildura Weir and Lock 11

River users in Sunraysia are reminded that Lock 11 will close and the Mildura weir pool will start to be lowered tomorrow, Wednesday 20 May, to allow for essential maintenance works.

The weir pool will be gradually lowered over a seven to nine-day period to about 3.6 metres below full supply level, depending on river flows, and is expected to return to full supply level by late July.

Lock 11 will be closed from 4.30pm tomorrow for three to four months while the lock chamber is refurbished.

These essential maintenance works have been timed to align with lower irrigation and recreational demands on the river.

Boat operators, stock owners and other river users are advised to adjust their activities in response to the changes in water levels and the lock closure.

Forecasts of river flows, possible changes in salinity levels and additional information will be on the MDBA's website at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts

ENDS

- For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn–Murray Water on 1800 013 357.
- Check out live river data: <http://livedata.mdba.gov.au>
- Follow the MDBA http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth
- Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au/>