



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2013

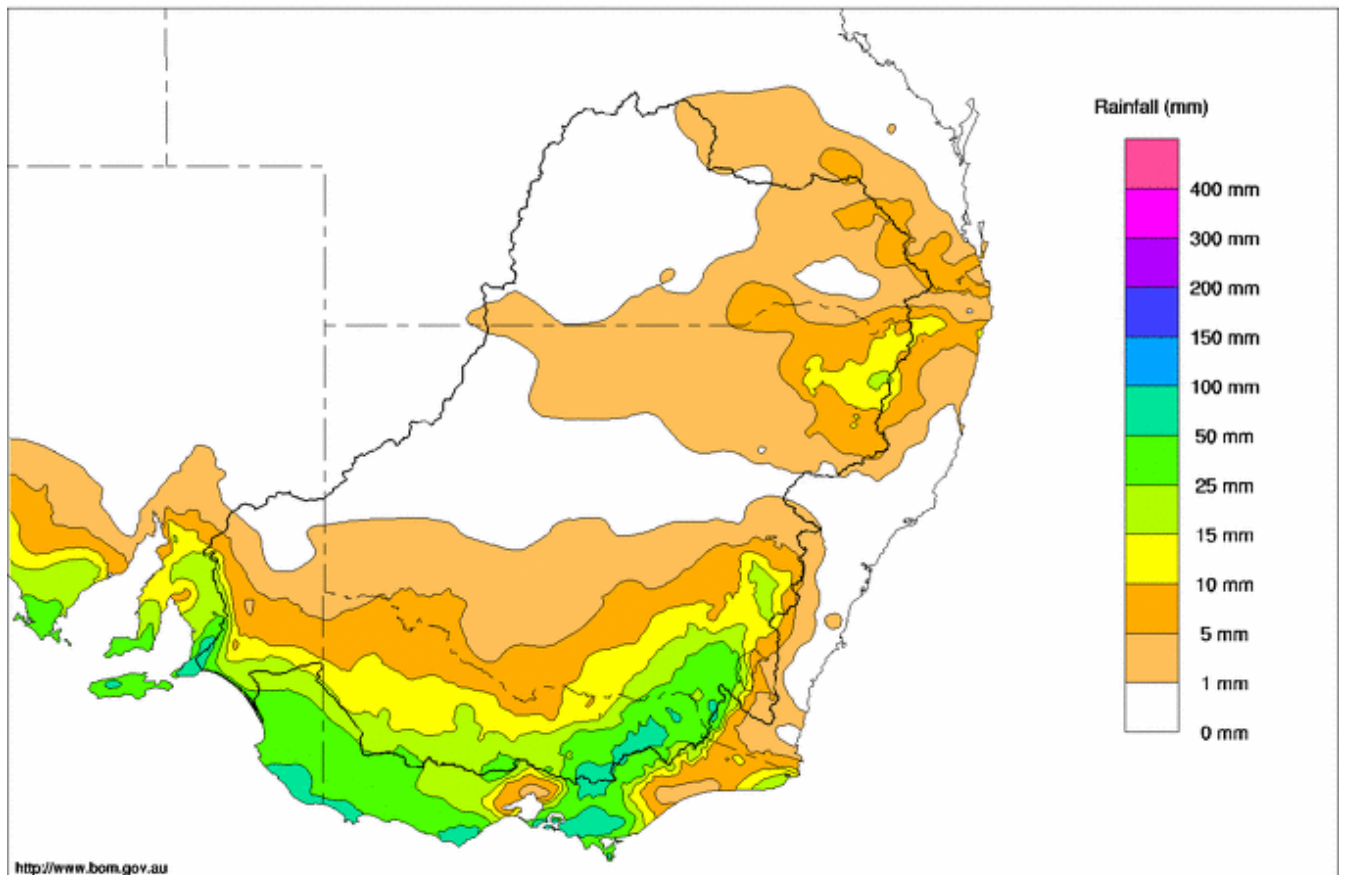
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Rainfall and Inflows

Another series of cold fronts crossed the southern Murray-Darling Basin this week, while a deep low pressure system passed to the south of the region and generated strong winds over the weekend. These systems brought rainfall over parts of South Australia, Victoria and southern NSW with the highest totals along the southern divide and over the south-eastern ranges, with further snow in the Alps. There was some light rain over northern parts of the Basin, although very little or no rain across western and north-western areas (Map 1).

The highest precipitation totals reported from Victoria included 135 mm at Rocky Valley, 99 mm at Woods Point, 91 mm at Mt Buffalo, 87 mm at Dohertys, 75 mm at Harrietville and 66 mm at Jamieson. In western Victoria there was 70 mm at Mt William; while in South Australia, totals above 50 mm were common over the Mt Lofty Ranges, with 57 mm reported at Mt Barker. In NSW, the Snowy Mountains were once again the focus of precipitation, with totals close to 100 mm reported from the alpine areas. Further north along Brindabella Ranges, there was 35 mm at Mt Ginini.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 21st August 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 21 August 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).
Issued: 21/08/2013



Relatively high flows have persisted in the upper Murray tributaries throughout the week. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge peaked at 5,300 ML/day and is now at 3,200 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 4,000 ML/day and has now receded to 3,200 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the rain has helped maintain flows, with an average flow at Rocky Point of 13,300 ML/day and a peak of 14,400 ML/day. Downstream at Wangaratta, the flow eased to around 15,000 ML/day mid-week but has now increased to 17,600 ML/day and may rise higher in coming days.

River Operations

The current MDBA active storage is 7,670 GL (89% capacity), which is an increase of 39 GL since last week.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the water level continues to rise with the reservoir currently storing 3,785 GL (98% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans gauge, has varied around an average of about 7,000 ML/day, with the release being frequently adjusted to ensure a flow at Tallandoon of just under 10,000 ML/day. The flow at Tallandoon is expected to remain close to 10,000 ML/day in the coming week.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 35 GL to 2,740 GL (91% capacity). High releases from the storage during last weekend, combined with continuing high inflows from the Kiewa River, pushed the flow at Doctors Point to a peak of 32,500 ML/day on 18 August. The release from Hume Reservoir is currently 17,900 ML/day (on 22 August) and reductions in the release are expected to continue while rainfall forecasts remain relatively dry. Releases in coming weeks will be variable depending on forecasts and observed rainfalls across the upper Murray. The potential for floods downstream remains high and close attention should be paid to any flood watches and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has increased from 27,000 ML/day last week to a current flow of 44,000 ML/day (on 22 August). The release may decrease slightly in the coming week before rising again, as inflows from the Ovens River are forecast to rise. The level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.76 m AHD and expected to remain relatively steady.

The flow into the Edward River system through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes has increased during the week to 2,900 ML/day. At Toonalook, the flow is currently 6,900 ML/day and expected to rise towards 9,000 ML/day during the week. At Stevens Weir, the flow is currently 5,900 ML/day and rising, while the weir pool level has been steady at 4.58 m (local gauge height). Downstream, flows at Moulamein, Leiwah and Stoney Crossing are all expected to increase during the week.

At Barmah, the flow exceeded 10,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to continue rising for at least the next week. The flow in the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge is 2,400 ML/day and receding. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has receded to 13,000 ML/day. However, this flow is expected to rise quickly and reach at least 18,000 ML/day by next week.

At Euston Weir, the pool level is currently 47.23 m AHD and the flow is nearly 16,000 ML/day. This flow is expected to remain relatively steady for the next few days, depending on weir pool manipulations, before increasing further in late August. Flows downstream in the River Murray at Mildura and Wentworth are expected to increase during the coming week, reaching about 16,000–18,000 ML/day by the end of August.



River users are advised that variations in the weir pool levels at Locks 8 and 9 are planned in the coming months, as detailed in the attached flow advice. The pool level at Lock 8 is currently 29 cm above full supply level (FSL) while the pool at Lock 9 is 15 cm above FSL.

The Menindee Lakes' storage decreased by 6 GL to 1,238 GL (72% capacity) and the release has been steady at about 200 ML/day, measured at Weir 32. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has been steadily receding and is currently 140 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased by 11 GL during the week, resulting in a level of 26.2 m AHD (581 GL, 86% capacity). The flow to South Australia remained unregulated at 15,000 ML/day and filling of Lake Victoria can now be delayed until later in spring.

The water level in the Lower Lakes is 0.79 m AHD which is slightly higher than the current target range of 0.7–0.75 m. The higher lake level resulted from the temporary closure of barrage gates at Goolwa, Mundoo and Tauwitchere, due to high tides and swells exacerbated by south-westerly winds.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 21 Aug 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	484.92	3 785	98%	71	3 714	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.64	2 740	91%	23	2 717	+35
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.20	581	86%	100	481	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 238	72%	(480 #)	758	-6
Total		9 269		8 344	90%	--	7 670	+39
Total Active MDBA Storage							89% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	507	49%	3	504	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 397	86%	24	1 373	+36
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 765	83%	100	2 665	+100

* 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 20 Aug 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1536	+50	Snowy-Murray	+2	473
Snowy-Murray Component	562	+14	Tooma-Tumut	+16	115
Target Storage	1190		Net Diversions	-14	358
			Murray 1 Release	+17	587

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)	7.0	33	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.2	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.8	34
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.6	2
Licensed Pumps	0.5	3	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	1
Lower Darling	2.5	8	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	8
TOTAL	10.1	44	TOTAL	6.8	46

* 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 commencement of unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	105.6	(15 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	228.8	
Flow last month	142.3	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	80	70	130
Euston	130	170	160
Red Cliffs	220	180	170
Merbein	210	180	170
Burtundy (Darling)	420	410	450
Lock 9	120	130	140
Lake Victoria	350	340	340
Berri	330	350	410
Waikerie	460	490	550
Morgan	460	510	560
Mannum	620	620	580
Murray Bridge	640	620	590
Milang (Lake Alex.)	620	620	600
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	680	630
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 620	2 630	2 610
Goolwa Barrages	5 950	7 390	3 670



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 21 Aug 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	-	-	-	3 450	F	4 000	6 400
Jingellic	4.0	2.75	209.27	14 070	F	15 660	17 070
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.41	220.30	9 900	R	9 310	7 880
Heywoods	5.5	3.36	156.99	20 200	F	23 880	4 440
Doctors Point	5.5	3.79	152.26	24 410	F	28 080	9 680
Albury	4.3	2.93	150.37	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	4.78	130.80	28 760	R	22 540	7 030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.61	119.65	40 960	R	35 730	22 890
Tocumwal	6.4	4.94	108.78	37 050	R	31 870	18 890
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.96	82.51	13 030	F	14 040	10 330
Swan Hill	4.5	2.41	65.33	13 270	F	12 080	8 480
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.86	53.98	15 750	R	13 170	9 360
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.78	44.62	15 950	R	14 460	11 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.47	28.23	15 380	R	14 810	10 880
Rufus Junction	-	4.65	21.58	14 670	S	14 430	8 850
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.22	-	13 370	R	12 480	7 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.86	156.09	5 020	F	5 000	5 080
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.73	149.41	17 600	R	16 100	22 500
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.29	93.71	2 440	F	4 200	5 450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.76	83.53	5 850	F	4 150	2 940
Edward at Liewah	-	3.14	58.52	2 780	F	2 440	1 870
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.81	55.30	1 590	R	1 280	460
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.87	57.83	1 420	R	1 530	3 230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.34	-	370	F	420	520
Darling at Bourke	-	4.25	-	1 080	F	1 030	940
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	140	R	210	340

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	29 340	31 390
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+2.35
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.73
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.37	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.64
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.06	+0.56	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.83	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.74
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.15	+0.44	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.05	+0.82
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.29	+0.48	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.47

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.79
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Barrages

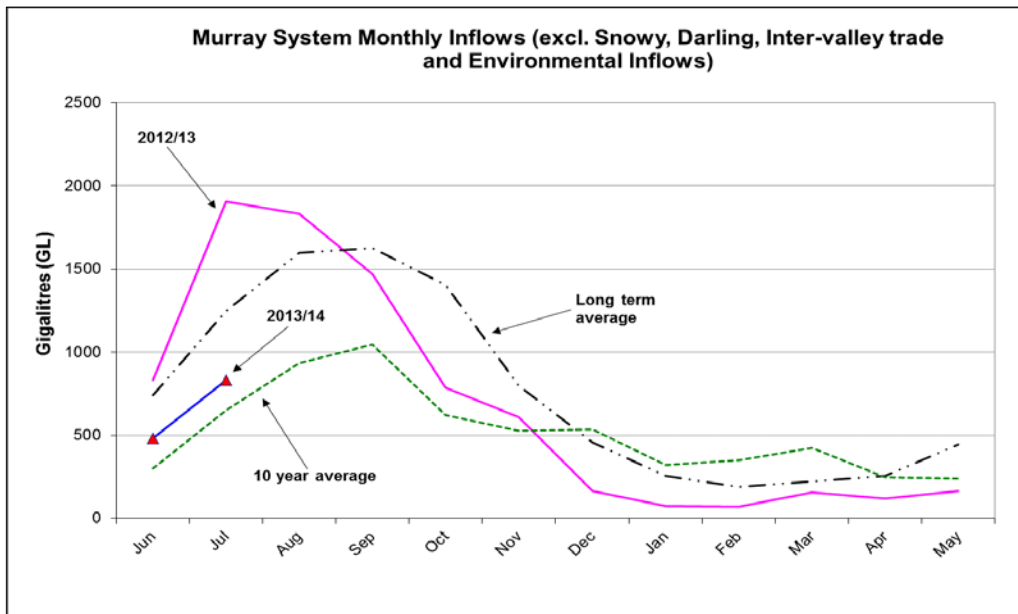
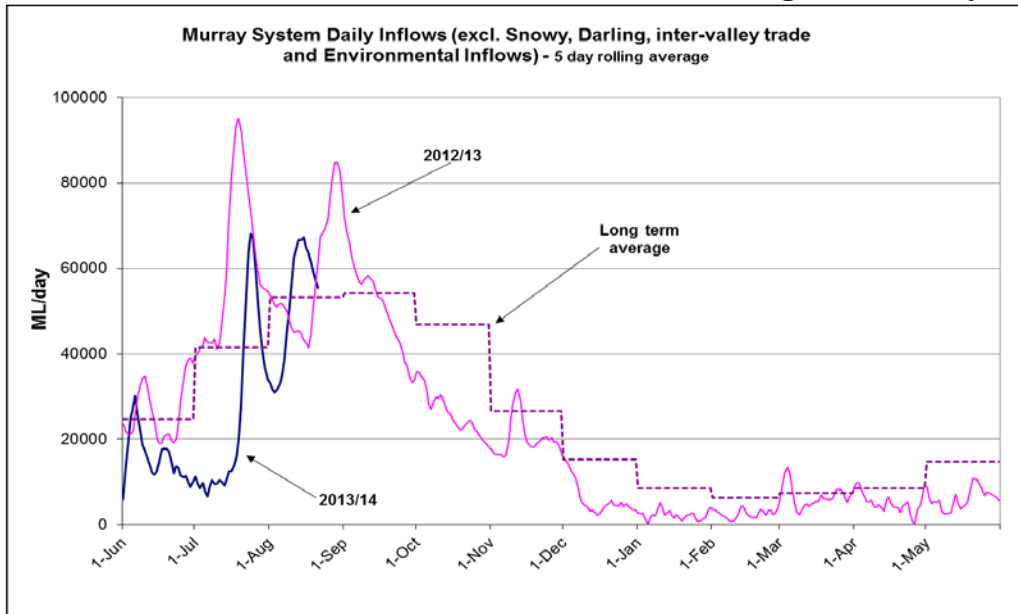
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.77	5	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	10	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.83	20	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 21 Aug 2013



State Allocations (as at 21 Aug 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	57%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	57%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	28%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	95%
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>

Flow advice



19 August 2013

Weir pool level changes at Lock 8 and Lock 9

River Murray water users at Lock 8 and Lock 9 can expect changing weir pool heights over the next 8 to 10 months as part of a NSW river operations trial.

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

The Lock 9 weir pool level is expected to increase by up to 25cm above the full supply level over spring, and the Lock 8 weir pool is expected to increase about 60cm above full supply level.

Over summer and autumn, the weir pools will be lower than full supply level.

Lock 9 is expected to be drawn down to about 40cm below full supply level and Lock 8 will be drawn down to about 50cm below full supply level.

Both 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, therefore actual river operations may differ.

The MDBA will issue a revised flow advice if there are any significant changes to the plan which will also be made available on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.

This trial is being undertaken in co-operation with the NSW Office of Water and Mallee Catchment Management Authority.

Adjustment (m)

Month	Lock 8	Lock 9
July	+0	+0
August	+0.6	+0.15
September	+0.4	+0.25
October	+0.4	+0.25
November	+0.3	+0.15
December	+0	+0
January	-0.25	-0.2
February	-0.5	-0.4
March	-0.5	-0.2
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 <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report> or the <http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm>

General media enquiries can be directed to the MDBA media team on media@mdba.gov.au or **02 6279 0141**.

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