



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2015

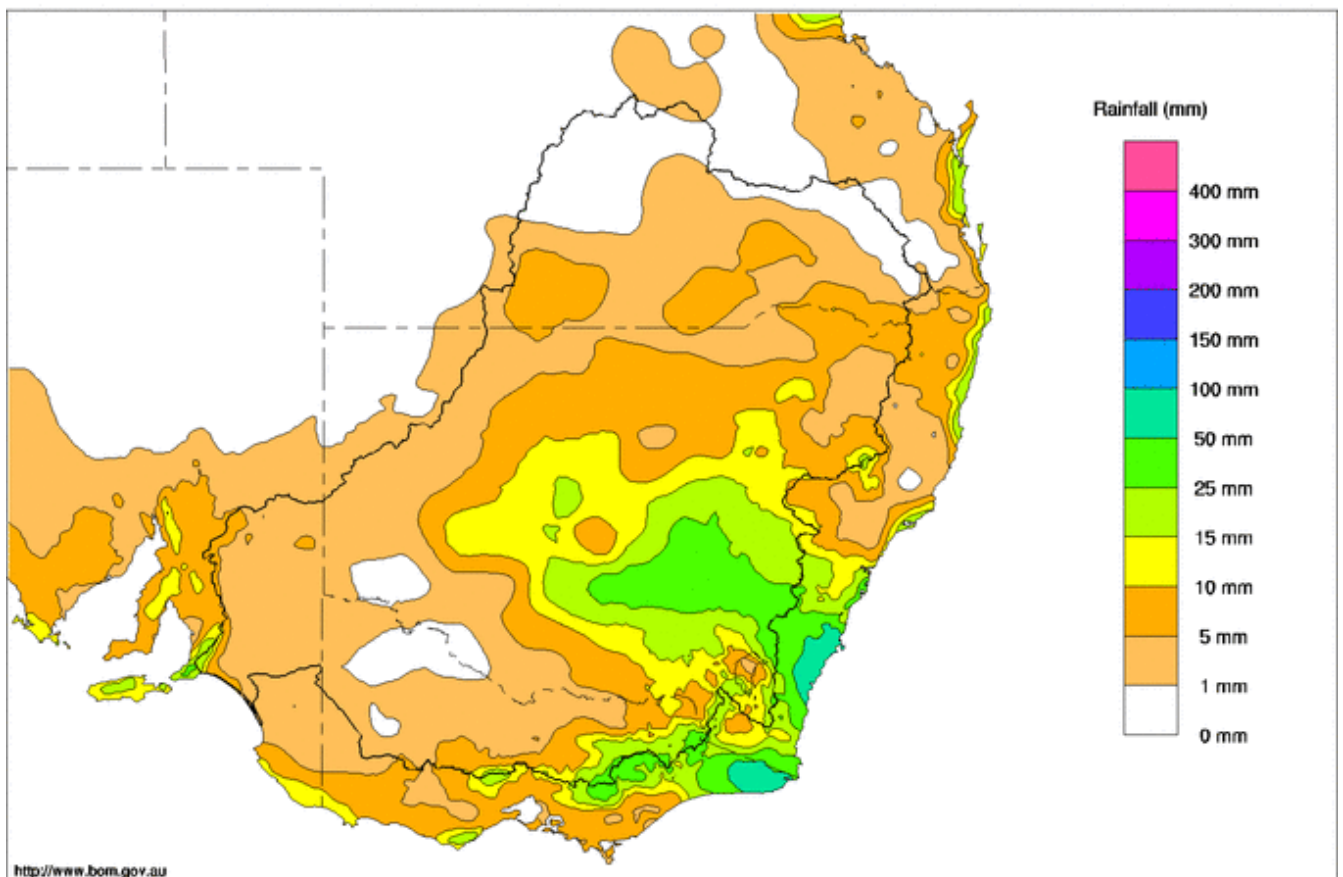
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Rainfall and Inflows

There were further showers, highland snow and widespread cold conditions during the early part of last week. Fine weather returned during the middle of the week before a new band of rain arrived towards week's end. Rainfall was only light across most of the Murray-Darling Basin, although totals between 10 mm and 50 mm fell over a fairly large portion of central and south-eastern NSW and along the Victorian ranges (Map 1).

The highest weekly rain totals were recorded over the central western NSW slopes and tablelands and included 47 mm at Eugowra, 46 mm at Tuena, 40 mm at Forbes, 39 mm at Cowra, 37 mm at Parkes and 35 mm at Crookwell. In Victoria, the highest totals fell as snow over the Alps and included 34 mm at Mt Hotham and 32 mm at Mt Buffalo.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 22nd July 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Issued: 22/07/2015

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall week ending 22nd July 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flows along the upper Murray tributaries generally receded this week following the higher flows recorded late in the previous week. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from 1,200 to 800 ML/day. On the upper Murray at Biggara, the flow receded from 1,700 to 1,000 ML/day. Flow along the Ovens River at Rocky Point also decreased from 2,900 to 1,900 ML/day.



River Operations

- Mildura Weir pool re-raising delayed;
- Lake Mulwala level continues rising;
- Menindee Lakes short release to replenish flows in the lower Darling.

MDBA total storage increased by 48 GL this week. The active storage is now 4,130 GL (49% capacity).

The storage volume in **Dartmouth** Reservoir decreased by 11 GL to 2,779 GL (72% capacity) and the release was reduced from 3,500 to 2,600 ML/day late in the week. Higher release rates are expected to begin later in the coming week to provide further bulk transfers of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoirs to balance overall system requirements.

Hume Reservoir storage increased by 53 GL this week and is now 1,092 GL (36% capacity). Inflows persisted above 10,000 ML/day for most of the week. The release from Hume is currently 4,000 ML/day, however higher releases are expected during the coming week, with flows up to 18,000 ML/day possible at Doctors Point (downstream of the Kiewa River junction) in a few days' time. These releases will be made to meet downstream requirements including for environmental purposes and to assist the current re-filling of Lake Mulwala. See the attached media release for more details.

The level in **Lake Mulwala** continued increasing this week as the current draw down moves steadily towards completion. The level is currently 122.68 m AHD or 2.02 m below the normal operating level (124.7 m AHD). The lake will continue rising this week and is expected to be close to 123.5 m AHD in about one week's time. It is anticipated that lake levels will be targeting around 124.7 m AHD by early August, ready for the irrigation season. The flow downstream of **Yarrawonga Weir** is currently 5,200 ML/day with similar flows expected over the coming days. However, flow increases have now been planned to begin later in the coming week. These increases will take flow rates to around 12,000 ML/day and will be made using environmental water released from Hume Reservoir. The resultant flow pulse will provide environmental benefits through the Barmah-Millewa Forest and to other sites along the length of the river all the way to the Murray Mouth in South Australia.

On the **Edward-Wakool** system, the combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes increased to about 1,650 ML/day. The release downstream of Stevens Weir also increased slightly in the last couple of days and is now at 1,400 ML/day. The pool level at Stevens Weir has been drawn down during recent weeks as is usual during the winter period. However, NSW has now started to re-fill the pool in preparation for the up-coming irrigation season. The pool increased from 1.49 to 2.13 m on the local gauge this week, and is expected to rise towards Full Supply Level (FSL) (5.2 m) during the next few weeks. Downstream on the Edward River at Liewah, the flow peaked during the week at 1,550 ML/day and is now receding slightly.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow remained fairly steady during the first half of the week at about 650 ML/day. The current flow is 750 ML/day and similar flow rates are expected during the coming week.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, about 450 ML/day of environmental water continues to be diverted into National Channel to maintain winter base flows through Gunbower Creek. Higher diversions are expected later in the coming week to begin channel filling ahead of the up-coming irrigation season. Flows downstream of Torrumbarry Weir have increased slightly with the current flow around 5,800 ML/day.

On the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald averaged 1,100 ML/day with the current flow at 1,200 ML/day.

At **Euston** Weir, operations are continuing to target a pool level around 20 cm above FSL with the current level at 47.78 m AHD (18 cm above FSL). The flow downstream receded to 8,100 ML/day with similar flows expected during the coming days.



At **Mildura Weir** the planned re-raising of the Mildura Weir pool has been delayed for up to one week to replace a suspected damaged trestle. The issue became apparent during the weir re-instatement process. Further details are provided in the attached media release. The flow downstream of Mildura Weir has fluctuated during recent days due to the weir re-instatement process, with further fluctuations expected over the coming days as the weir pool is re-lowered.

Storage in the **Menindee Lakes** continues to creep up. There was an increase of 4 GL this week, taking the volume to 95 GL (5% capacity). Releases from the Menindee Lakes were ceased in late April due to low storage levels and minimal inflows. However, cooler conditions and a persistent small flow along the Darling River over recent weeks has steadily increased Menindee Lakes' storage. There is now sufficient water available to provide a short replenishing release into the lower Darling River that will temporarily restore water access to some downstream landholders. See the attached NSW DPI media release for more details.

Storage at **Lake Victoria** remained fairly steady this week with an increase of just 1 GL to 453 GL (67 % capacity). The flow into **South Australia** was reduced following the previous week's peak and averaged 7,500 ML/day. A portion of this flow includes the continued delivery of environmental water originating from the Goulburn River several weeks' ago. A further reduction of flows into South Australia to around 6,000 ML/day is expected during the coming week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the five day average level of Lake Alexandrina increased by 5 cm to 0.77 m AHD (2 cm above FSL) following a period of limited releases due to wind and tidal conditions. However, more favourable conditions have allowed releases into the Coorong to re-commence. There are currently 3 gates open at Goolwa barrage and 18 gates at Tauwitchere and a total barrage flow estimated at around 6,000 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 22 Jul 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	467.92	2 779	72%	71	2 708	-11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	179.64	1 092	36%	23	1 069	+53
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.05	453	67%	100	353	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		95	5%	(- -) #	0	+4
Total		9 269		4 419	48%	--	4 130	+48
Total Active MDBA Storage							49% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	533	52%	3	530	+27
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	599	37%	24	575	+41
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 889	57%	100	1 789	+17

* 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 21 Jul 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 087	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+17	113
Snowy-Murray Component	1 051	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+6	44
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	11	69
			Murray 1 Release	+22	162

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.3	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	0
Licensed Pumps	0.4	1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	3
TOTAL	0.2	0	TOTAL	0.9	3

* 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	108.5 *
Flow this week	52.8
Flow so far this month	175.8
Flow last month	114.4

(7 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	70	70	80
Euston	-	-	100
Red Cliffs	150	150	130
Merbein	150	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	900	900	840
Lock 9	170	170	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	200
Berri	280	250	230
Waikerie	320	310	290
Morgan	320	310	280
Mannum	360	340	320
Murray Bridge	340	330	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	760	750	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	590	590	640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 120	2 120	2 390
Goolwa Barrages	1 260	1 940	1 640



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 22 Jul 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	-	-	-	1 680	F	3 820	2 750
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	4 290	F	6 600	4 910
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.16	219.05	2 800	F	3 520	3 790
Heywoods	5.5	2.04	155.67	4 000	S	4 370	4 470
Doctors Point	5.5	2.12	150.59	5 170	F	5 720	5 570
Albury	4.3	1.20	148.64	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.54	127.56	5 340	S	6 390	5 010
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.01	116.05	5 210	S	6 440	5 270
Tocumwal	6.4	1.64	105.48	5 890	F	6 600	5 280
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.95	80.50	5 770	R	5 070	5 090
Swan Hill	4.5	1.04	63.96	4 920	R	4 960	6 180
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.75	51.87	6 890	F	7 140	8 410
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.60	43.44	8 100	F	8 580	10 570
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 480	F	7 880	10 370
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	6 830	F	8 770	10 650
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 220	F	7 190	8 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.75	-	7 050	F	8 480	8 710
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.58	154.81	1 390	F	1 620	1 260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.81	146.49	2 740	S	3 310	1 870
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	92.78	740	R	680	800
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.57	81.34	1 390	F	1 240	1 240
Edward at Liewah	-	2.15	57.53	1 490	F	1 530	1 170
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.30	54.79	230	F	270	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.60	57.56	1 190	F	1 080	1 490
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.30	-	280	F	340	470
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.17	-	640	R	580	620
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.93	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	7 000	7 110
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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	-2.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+1.16
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.18	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.89	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.82
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+0.31	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.00	+0.15	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.08	+0.00

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.77
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Barrages

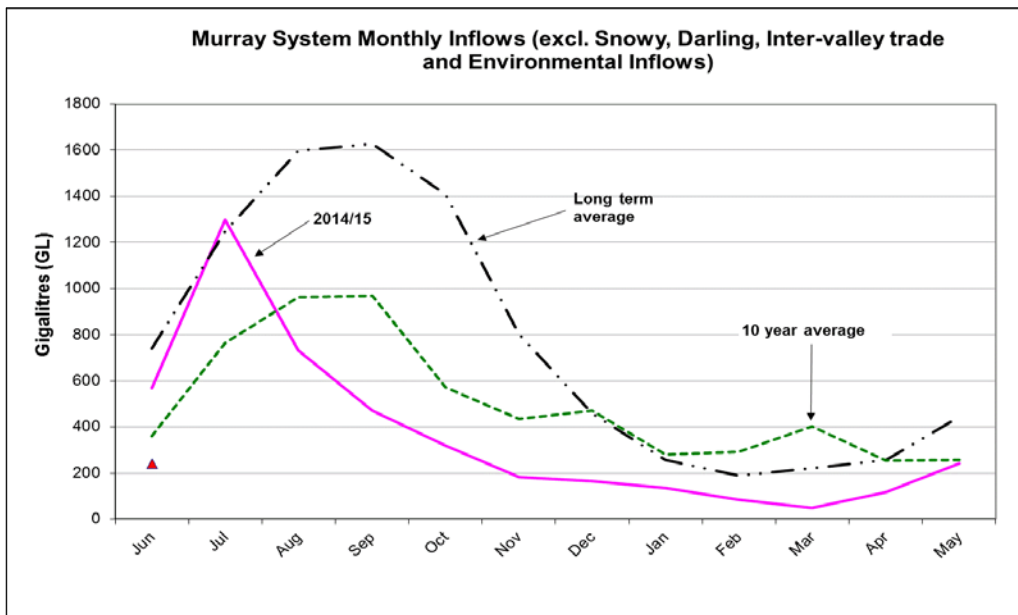
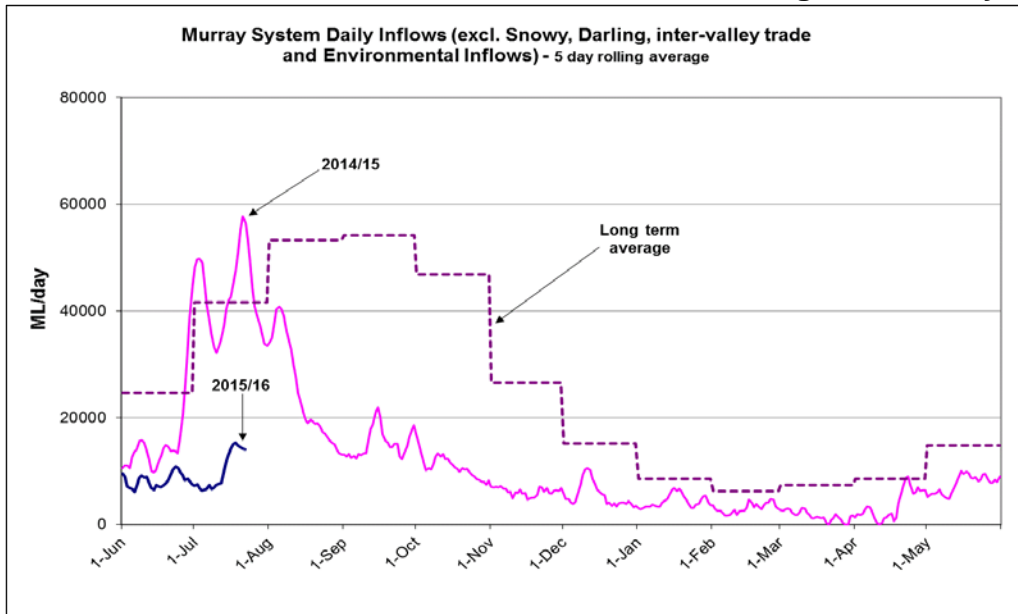
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.71	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	18	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 22 Jul 2015



State Allocations (as at 22 Jul 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	80%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	37%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	12%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	45%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	20%
General security	0%

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.nvrm.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

22 July 2015

Mildura Weir pool raising delayed

River users are advised the raising of the Mildura Weir pool has been delayed for up to one week to replace a suspected damaged trestle.

Goulburn–Murray Water (GMW) Manager Dams Martina Cusack said staff had noticed a vibration in one of the existing trestles at the weekend.

“Given the importance of this structure to the ongoing efficient and reliable operation of the river, it’s important for us to remove the trestle to reduce the risk of any further possible damage,” Ms Cusack said.

“This means we will have to lower the weir pool and replace the trestle. The trestle will then be inspected to identify the cause of the issue. Divers will also check the river bed.”

During the past two months the weir pool has been lowered to allow GMW to carry out repairs to the tracks that support the trestles and install five mechanised trestles as part of a program to replace the old manually operated trestles.

“We had only just started raising the weir pool after this year’s program of works and expected it to be at normal supply level by the end of the month,” Ms Cusack said.

MDBA head of river management David Dreverman said all efforts were being made to quickly rectify the problem.

“We understand Mildura Weir is vital to the local economy and supports the region’s agricultural, tourism and recreational industries.

“It’s important we deal with this now rather than risk an issue during peak irrigation and tourism seasons. This work is essential to improve the long-term reliability of the structure, manage operational and safety risks and improve river operations.

“We appreciate the community’s patience during this time.”

The weir is operated, maintained and managed by GMW on behalf of the MDBA. Work is also being carried out at Lock 11 this winter.

More information is available at www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/storages/milduraweir and www.mdba.gov.au

Media Contact:

Fiona Lloyd at GM Water on (03) 5826 3521 or MDBA media team on (02) 6279 0141

Tuesday, 21 July 2015

Replenishment flows to Lower Darling

DPI Water today announced that a release of water from Lake Wetherell at Menindee Lakes will commence on Thursday 23 July.

DPI Water Director Surface Water Management, Paul Simpson, said this release will provide a much needed replenishment flow to the Lower Darling between Weir 32 and Pooncarie, that will temporarily restore some access to landholders in that area for domestic and stock use.

“Domestic and stock water has been reducing since the flows ceased at the end of April with DPI Water has been working closely with the local community on the timing and principles of replenishments,” Mr Simpson said.

“This replenishment is the result of the cooler conditions and storms that has seen inflows coming into the Lake Wetherell, which has persisted longer than expected.

“It will not compromise the water security for Broken Hill but will improve water for domestic needs for landholders on properties below Weir 32 who are out of water in a number of cases.

“Flows will commence at a low 200 megalitres per day and continue for 10 days, before being reduced.”

DPI Water will monitor conditions closely and flows will be adjusted as required.

Media contact: Bunty Driver M 0407 403234

www.water.nsw.gov.au

24 July 2015

River Murray flows boosted

River Murray communities between Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir can expect varying flows in late July and early August. River users should consider adjusting their activities, pumps and moorings accordingly.

See below for details.

Doctors Point

Releases from Hume started increasing mid this week. The flow at Doctors Point, upstream of Albury, could reach a peak of up to 18,000 megalitres a day between Monday 27 July and Friday 31 July and is then expected to drop to about 6–9,000 megalitres a day.

This short period of high release from Hume Dam will help to refill Lake Mulwala after its recent drawdown. As previously announced, Lake Mulwala is expected to reach normal operating height in early August.

In addition, the flow will also include Commonwealth environmental water which will pass through Yarrawonga Weir to benefit native fish and vegetation along the Murray.

Corowa

The flow at Corowa may reach up to 17,500 megalitres a day or 3.45 metres local gauge height between Wednesday 29 July and Tuesday 4 August.

Some rain is forecast over the next week and, in the event that good inflows to Lake Mulwala come from the Ovens River, releases from the Hume Dam may be reduced.

Keep up to date on the latest flow forecasts along the River Murray, visit the MDBA website: www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes

Live river data for sites on the River Murray system can be seen at: <http://livedata.mdba.gov.au>

Summary information for the week is available in the River Murray weekly report: www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report

END

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141

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