



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2014

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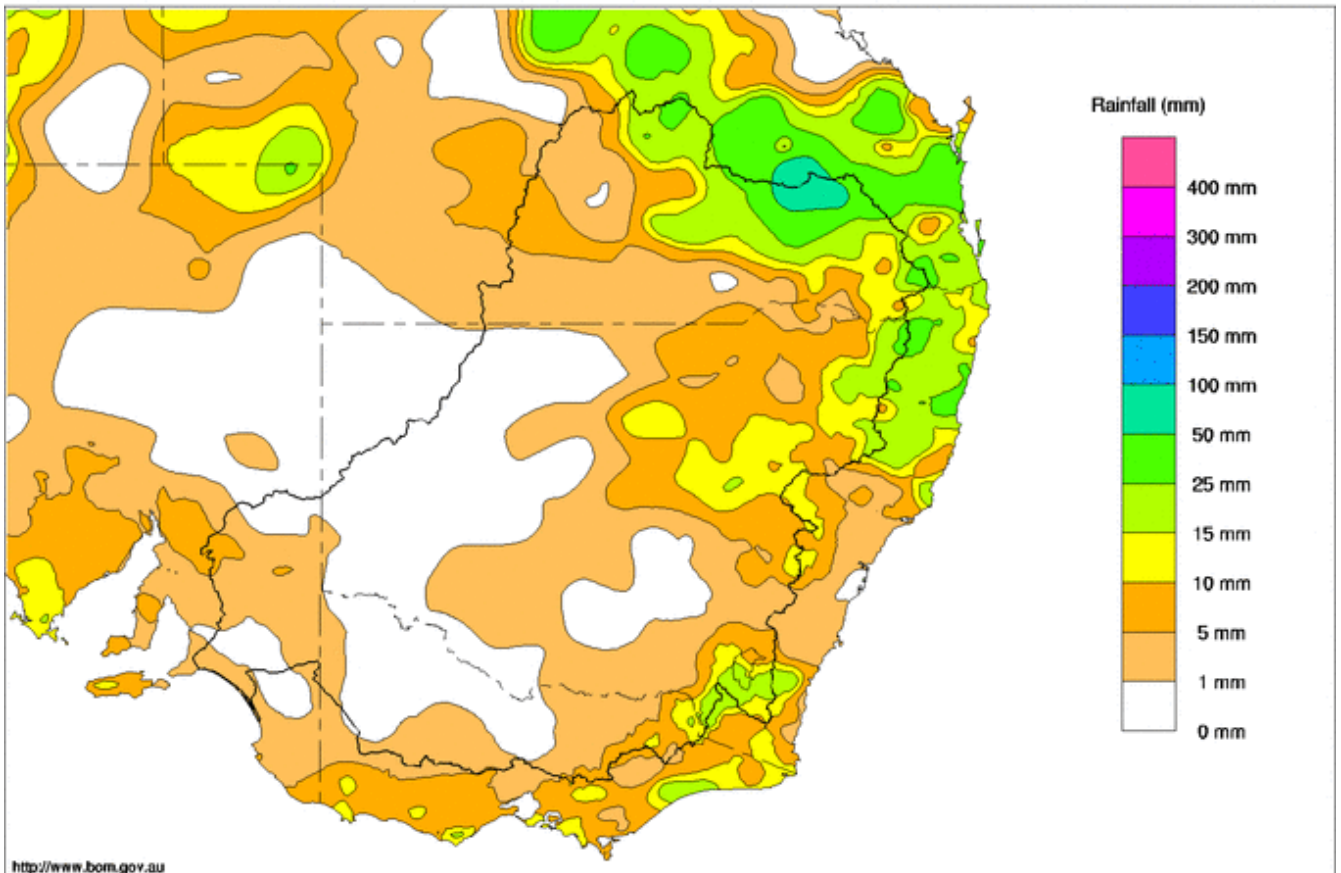
## Rainfall and Inflows

A slow-moving trough over inland Queensland brought moderate to heavy falls of rain over southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. A low pressure system brought light falls of rain to large parts of eastern New South Wales (see Map 1).

Highest totals were recorded in Queensland, with 25–50 mm over much of the Condamine River catchment, including 60 mm reported at Miles and 49 mm at Warwick. In northern New South Wales, Guyra recorded 32 mm and Tenterfield had 29 mm, while in the Snowy Mountains, 34 mm was recorded at Thredbo.

Some stream flows along the upper Murray system tributaries jumped a little in response to the recent rain with the flow at Biggara exceeding 1,000 ML/day this morning. At Hinnomunjie Bridge on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow has increased to around 470 ML/day. However, the flow at Wangaratta on the Ovens River generally receded and is now around 300 ML/day.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 23rd December 2014  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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

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Map 1. Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 23 December 2014 (map for 24 December not available at the time of publication) (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



## River Operations

MDBA total storage decreased by 143 GL this week, with the active storage currently 5,396 GL (64% capacity).

Dartmouth Reservoir's storage volume decreased by 44 GL during the week to 3,262 GL (85% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans gauge, has been steady at 7,000 ML/day. On Wednesday, 31 December 2014, the flow at Colemans will be reduced to 5,000 ML/day, dropping to a low of 1,500 ML/day by Friday, 9 January 2015. The flow will then be gradually increased, commencing Sunday 11 January. More information is available in the [flow advice](#) of 18 December on MDBA's website.

At Hume Reservoir, the volume in storage fell by 68 GL to 1,798 GL (60% capacity). The volume in storage has reduced by around 550 GL since peaking in late September. The target flow at Doctors Point this week has varied between 17,700 ML/day and 19,700 ML/day in response to anticipated rainfall and changing downstream diversions. With demand for water expected to rise after Christmas, higher releases can be expected for the next week at least.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the total diversion at the irrigation offtakes increased from 6,700 to 8,400 ML/day during the week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir this week has varied between 9,500 and 10,100 ML/day. The release is expected to remain within the range 9,000–10,100 ML/day for at least the next two weeks.

The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.75 m AHD. River operations aim to maintain the pool level above 124.7 m AHD throughout the summer holiday period to facilitate recreational activities such as water-skiing (see Photo 1). However, should irrigation use exceed the volumes ordered, the lake level may fall below this target for short periods. For more information on [river operations and recreation](#), please see the MDBA website.



Photo 1. Joel, Brayden and Dylan have some fun after a training session on Saturday morning (Photo courtesy Pete O'Neill)

On the Edward River system, the flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes is about 1,500 ML/day and 350 ML/day, respectively. Environmental water has been used to maintain a higher flow of about 450–500 ML/day in Yallakool Creek for the past few months, and this flow is expected to continue for at least the next week or so before being gradually reduced. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is forecast to remain at around





2,000 ML/day during the next fortnight, although it may dip below this value if there is an unexpected spike in demand.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow has been steady at around 950 ML/day and is expected to continue close to this rate for the remainder of December. In early January, the flow in the Goulburn River is expected to increase up to approximately 3,000 ML/day at McCoys Bridge by 10 January 2015. These above-minimum flows in the Goulburn River are delivering Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) water to the Murray system.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion to National Channel increased during the week from 2,200 to 2,600 ML/day. The release from the weir is currently 5,950 ML/day and this release is expected to continue decreasing towards 5,000 ML/day by early January.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged 1,500 ML/day during the past week but, with high demand upstream, this flow is expected to recede towards 850 ML/day during late December. This flow at Balranald includes the end-of-system target for December of 254 ML/day plus IVT water.

Total storage in the Menindee Lakes fell to 189 GL (11% capacity) with the release (measured at Weir 32) averaging 150 ML/day for the week. At Burtundy, a visible flow is being maintained in the river. The weir pool at Wentworth—at the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers—is being maintained at around 10 cm above Full Supply Level (FSL) to assist water users on the lower Darling arm of the weir pool.

At Locks 8 and 9, the pools are currently close to FSL. From early January, the pool level at Lock 8 will be lowered to 25 cm below FSL and Lock 9 will be lowered to 10 cm below FSL. These changes are part of an on-going weir pool variability trial—more information on weir pool level changes at [Lock 8](#) and [Lock 9](#) can be found on MDBA's website.

At Lake Victoria, the volume reduced by 18 GL to 530 GL (78% capacity) and this decline in volume is forecast to continue over coming months if conditions remain dry. The flow to South Australia is currently targeting 7,500 ML/day and this flow rate is expected to be steady for at least the next few weeks.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.65 m AHD. Flow into the Coorong through the Barrages was reduced earlier this week from 2,000 to 1,000 ML/day. Releases are being managed to slow the rate of decline in the water level of the Lower Lakes, while also maintaining barrage outflows. For the latest information on dredging at the Murray mouth, please see the [SA Natural Resources](#) website.

**The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.**

There will be no Weekly Report issued during the week ending Wednesday, 31 December 2014. The next report will cover the two week period ending Wednesday, 7 January 2015.

[Flow and salinity forecasts](#) will be updated and available on the MDBA website on Wednesday, 24 December 2014 and Wednesday, 7 January 2015.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Dec 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	476.47	3 262	85%	71	3 191	-44
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.08	1 798	60%	23	1 775	-68
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.75	530	78%	100	430	-18
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		189	11%	(- -) #	0	-13
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>5 779</b>	<b>62%</b>	- -	<b>5 396</b>	<b>-143</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							64% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	705	69%	3	702	-54
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	544	33%	24	520	-42
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 608	78%	100	2 508	-24

\* 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 23 Dec 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 283	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	205
Snowy-Murray Component	1 105	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+7	190
Target Storage	1 510		Net Diversion	-7	15
			Murray 1 Release	+10	449

**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)	34.1	440	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.6	151
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.6	24	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.3	358
Western Murray Irrigation	1.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.6	56
Licensed Pumps	8.0	134	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	32
Lower Darling	2.5	33	Licensed pumps - LMW	6	114
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>711</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 the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *
Flow this week	55.6
Flow so far this month	202.4
Flow last month	299.0

(7 900 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	40	70	90
Euston	-	-	110
Red Cliffs	120	120	130
Merbein	120	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	850	840	790
Lock 9	140	130	140
Lake Victoria	220	210	210
Berri	210	210	220
Waikerie	260	270	290
Morgan	270	270	280
Mannum	380	390	330
Murray Bridge	350	350	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	840	810	740
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	630	620	570
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 400	2 380	2 390
Goolwa Barrages	1 100	1 070	1 130



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Dec 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	-	-	-	2 130	F	1 820	1 660
Jingellic	4.0	1.53	208.05	3 300	R	2 950	3 820
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.02	219.91	7 310	F	7 300	7 160
Heywoods	5.5	3.39	157.02	18 850	R	18 230	16 970
Doctors Point	5.5	3.37	151.84	19 320	R	18 400	17 380
Albury	4.3	2.43	149.87	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.54	129.56	17 810	S	18 150	14 980
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.66	116.70	10 100	S	9 910	10 120
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	9 480	R	9 430	9 600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.09	80.64	5 950	F	6 290	7 160
Swan Hill	4.5	1.23	64.15	6 280	S	6 430	7 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.14	52.26	8 510	F	9 010	9 750
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.69	43.53	8 780	F	9 310	9 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	7 360	S	7 460	9 130
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	6 890	R	7 210	7 260
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	5 490	F	4 540	5 900
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	320	F	370	580
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.85	145.53	300	R	320	660
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.46	92.88	900	F	930	960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.94	81.71	1 910	S	2 060	2 590
Edward at Liewah	-	2.88	58.26	2 410	F	2 460	2 500
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.53	55.02	660	S	650	700
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.83	57.79	1 440	F	1 530	1 520
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	440	R	120	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.77	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	30	R	30	40

Natural Inflow to Hume	2 070	4 930
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.26
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.13	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.24
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.37	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.10	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.16	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.05

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

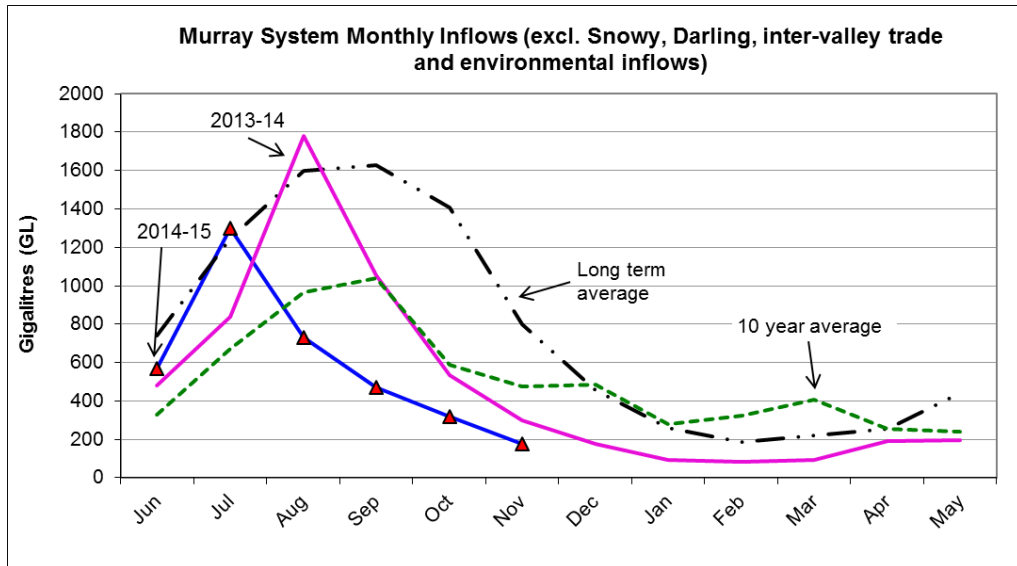
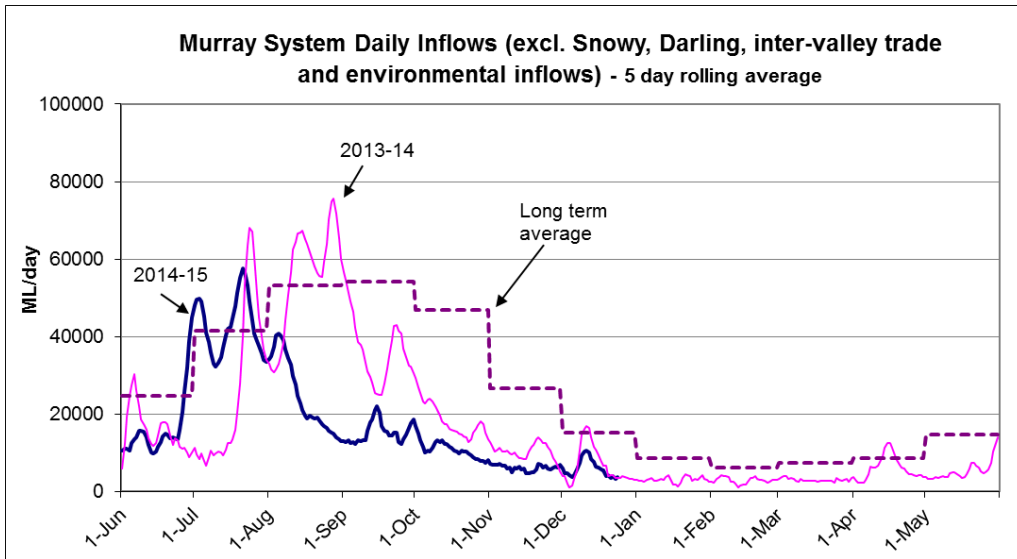
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	1.5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.66	3	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 24 Dec 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	49%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	40%

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