



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

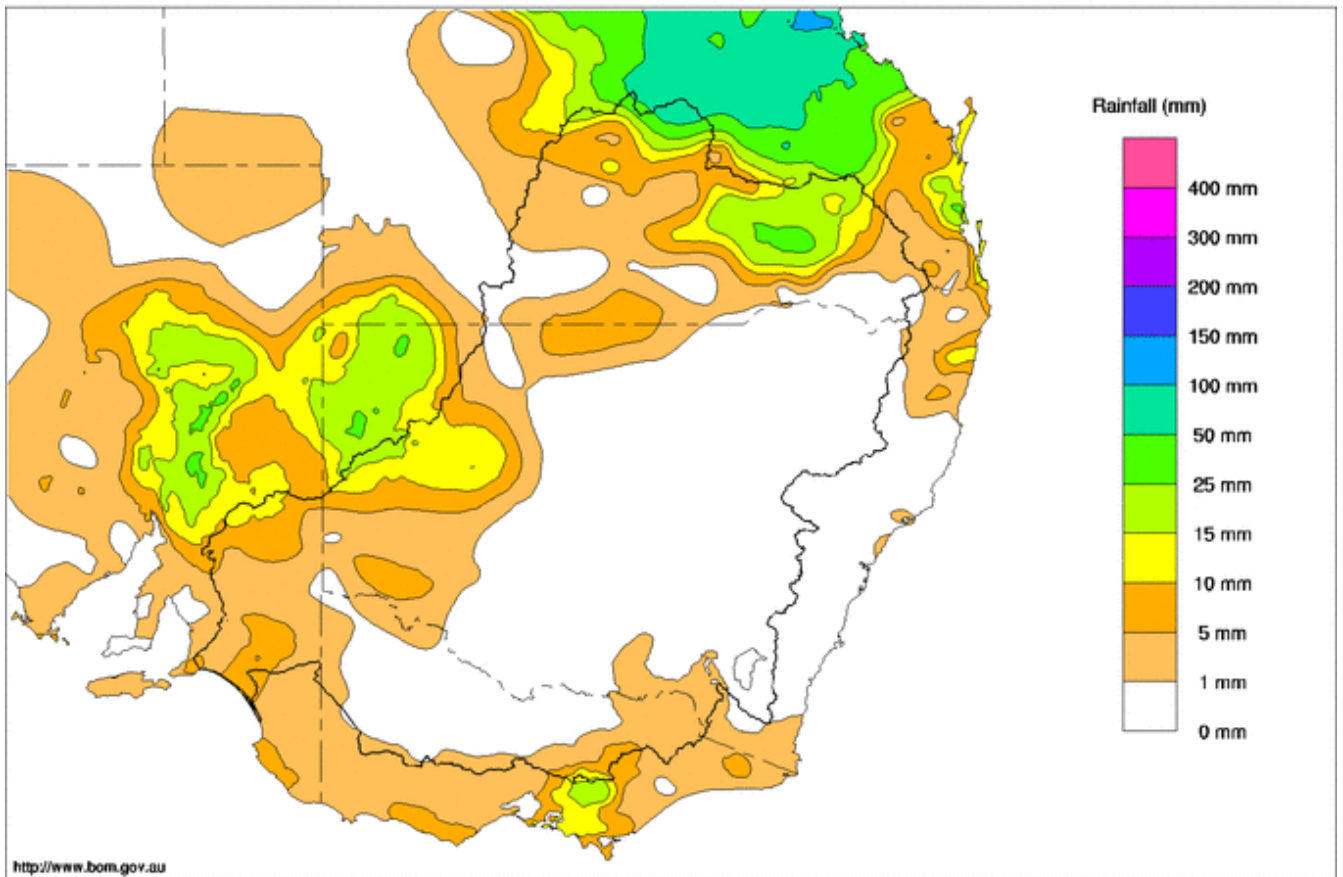
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Trim Ref: D14/36939

## Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions across the bulk of the Murray-Darling Basin remained dry this week under the influence of a slow moving high pressure system. The only significant areas of rain fell in the far northern and western parts of the Basin as a result of two trough systems, with the highest totals recorded along the Basin fringe. The second of these systems is currently moving into the central and southern Basin with further rainfall expected through NSW and northern Victoria. Some very light rain was recorded in the south-east ranges at the start of the week; however this mostly amounted to totals of less than 5 mm (Map 1).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 24th September 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 24th September 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

The highest weekly rainfall totals include 29 mm at Dalmally, Namarah and Garrabarra in the Maranoa catchment, 28 mm at Meandarra in the west Darling Downs and 22 mm at Derbyshire Downs in the Warrego catchment in Queensland; and 16 mm at Broken Hill and 14 mm at Wilcannia Airport AWS in western New South Wales.

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries receded this week. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie reduced from 1,800 ML/day to 1,200 ML/day, whilst the Murray River at Biggara decreased from 1,300 ML/day to 1,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta fell from 3,000 ML/day to 2,300 ML/day.



## River Operations

- Water transfers from Dartmouth to Hume commence;
- Release from Yarrawonga Weir returns to channel capacity as transfers from Hume to Lake Victoria continue.

MDBA total storage fell by 16 GL this week, with the active storage now 6,423 GL (76% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, higher releases are being made to transfer water to Lake Hume in order to meet downstream demands in coming months. If conditions remain dry, transfers of water from Dartmouth to Hume are likely to continue through to autumn. Releases from Dartmouth increased over the past week to 6,400 ML/day, and will target around 7,000 ML/day in the coming week. The storage volume decreased by 17 GL to 3,672 GL (95% capacity).

Inflows to **Hume** Reservoir averaged 10,700 ML/day this week, increasing the storage by 6 GL to 2,276 GL (76% capacity). Releases increased to 11,400 ML/day, before gradually decreasing to 7,000 ML/day in anticipation of reduced demand due to rainfall forecast on Wednesday 24 September.

At **Lake Mulwala**, diversions at the major irrigation offtakes reached 2,300 ML/day at Mulwala Canal and 1,500 ML/day at Yarrawonga Main Channel before easing later in the week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir increased from 6,500 ML/day to 10,000 ML/day (around channel capacity) in order to meet downstream demand, including the transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

In the **Edward-Wakool** system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes averaged around 1,400 ML/day and 350 ML/day respectively. On the Edward River, the flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged around 600 ML/day. The Wakool River at Wakool-Barham Road is steady at 440 ML/day.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 1,350 ML/day and forecast to rise to around 3,000 ML/day in the coming week. The flow is currently above the normal minimum due to the delivery of environmental water destined for South Australia. Flows in the Goulburn are being varied for the benefit of local riparian vegetation.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, National Channel was steady at 3,400 ML/day whilst the inlet to Koondrook-Perricoota Forest has reduced from 800 ML/day to 100 ML/day. Diversions into Koondrook-Perricoota Forest will cease in the coming week. The release from Torrumbarry Weir averaged 2,900 ML/day, and is forecast to rise toward 8,000 ML/day late in the coming week.

Further downstream, inflows to the Murray from the **Murrumbidgee** River at Balranald are steady at around 1,350 ML/day. At **Euston**, the pool level is being managed at around 20 cm above the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 47.6 m AHD and the downstream release averaged 7,900 ML/day.

At **Hattah Lakes**, water returning to the Murray via 'Messengers' regulator increased to around 600 ML/day. Water is also being released via 'Oateys' regulator to Chalka Creek at around 200 ML/day, however this water has further to travel and is not expected to reach the Murray until next week. Around 130 ML/day is being pumped into Lake Kramen – a large episodic wetland some distance from the rest of the lakes. Pumping into Lake Kramen is expected to continue until early January 2015.

At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume has decreased 10 GL to 320 GL (18% capacity), with around 4 GL released to supply demand in the lower Darling and via Cawndilla outlet and the remainder lost to evaporation. The release from the Lakes at Weir 32 is currently 140 ML/day following the decision by NSW Office of Water to reduce releases below the minimum of 200 ML/day. The reduced releases are a contingency measure to protect Broken Hill's water supply through to 2015-16 should dry conditions persist in the Darling. NSW Office of Water is closely monitoring flows in the Lower Darling River, with the aim of maximising the volume of water retained in the Lakes whilst still ensuring there is a visible flow at Burtundy. For more information please visit the NSW Office of Water website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)).



At **Wentworth Weir** on the Murray, the pool level is being held around 10 cm above FSL. This is aimed at assisting irrigators within the weir influence to continue to divert water while there are low flows in the Lower Darling. The release from Wentworth Weir averaged 8,400 ML/day and is forecast to fall to around 7,000 ML/day over the coming week.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased by 5 GL to 669 GL (99% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently around 7,150 ML/day. This incorporates entitlement flows, environmental water traded from the Goulburn River, and environmental water being used to test the new works on the Chowilla Floodplain.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the five-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.73 m AHD and the total barrage release is around 1,600 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 24 Sep 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	483.15	3 672	95%	71	3 601	-17
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.07	2 276	76%	23	2 253	+6
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.94	669	99%	100	569	+5
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		320	18%	(- -) #	0	-10
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 937</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 423</b>	<b>-16</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							76% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	877	86%	3	874	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		0%	24	- 24	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 922	88%	100	2 822	+1

\* 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 Sep 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 010	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	201
Snowy-Murray Component	910	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	154
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-5	48
			Murray 1 Release	+16	362

**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)	15.4	148	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.1	39
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.2	5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.4	177
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	10
Licensed Pumps	n/a	41	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	5
Lower Darling	2.8	14	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>259</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	135.0 *
Flow this week	41.1
Flow so far this month	140.8
Flow last month	439.1

(5 900 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	90	70	90
Euston	110	120	110
Red Cliffs	140	140	120
Merbein	150	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	690	690	840
Lock 9	150	160	140
Lake Victoria	180	200	200
Berri	220	210	200
Waikerie	260	260	300
Morgan	n/a	250	280
Mannum	300	290	350
Murray Bridge	370	380	420
Milang (Lake Alex.)	750	750	740
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	530	520	570
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 210	2 230	2 260
Goolwa Barrages	760	780	1 290





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Sep 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	-	-	-	3 340	F	3 430	3 610
Jingellic	4.0	1.84	208.36	5 380	R	5 950	7 150
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.92	219.81	6 700	R	4 660	1 180
Heywoods	5.5	2.22	155.85	6 970	F	9 400	1 800
Doctors Point	5.5	2.38	150.85	7 660	F	10 660	4 460
Albury	4.3	1.38	148.82	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.49	128.51	10 700	F	9 990	4 680
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.66	116.70	10 030	S	8 570	6 890
Tocumwal	6.4	2.25	106.09	9 350	R	7 640	7 190
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.24	79.79	3 060	R	2 890	4 820
Swan Hill	4.5	0.78	63.70	3 260	F	4 020	6 190
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.44	51.56	5 520	F	6 740	7 780
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.53	43.37	7 320	F	7 900	8 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 870	F	7 750	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.09	27.85	8 430	R	8 430	7 490
Rufus Junction	-	3.49	20.42	6 460	R	5 050	5 070
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.68	-	4 270	R	4 360	4 080
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.46	154.69	1 130	F	1 450	2 420
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.68	146.36	2 310	F	2 620	4 210
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.72	93.14	1 340	F	1 430	1 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	570	F	590	1 200
Edward at Liewah	-	2.01	57.39	1 340	F	1 550	1 120
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.54	55.03	680	F	740	750
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.81	57.77	1 360	S	1 340	1 340
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.97	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	30	S	50	70
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	50	F	80	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 440	13 560
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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	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.17
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.12	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.11	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.25	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.56
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+0.45	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.45
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+0.68	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.30	+0.44
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.66	+0.16	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.32	-0.08

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.73
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**Barrages**

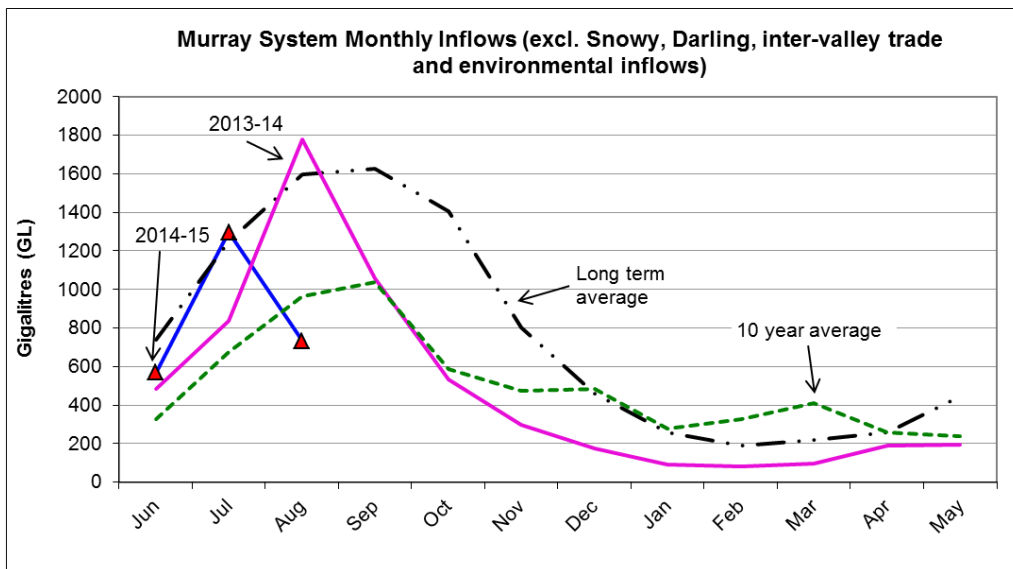
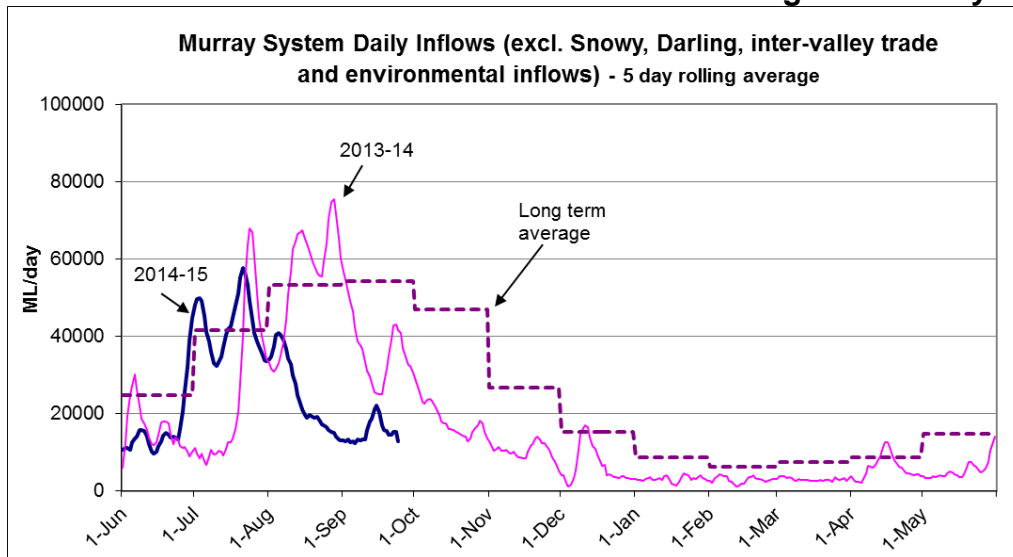
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.76	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.75	3	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 24 Sep 2014



State Allocations (as at 24 Sep 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	28%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	34%

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>