



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2014

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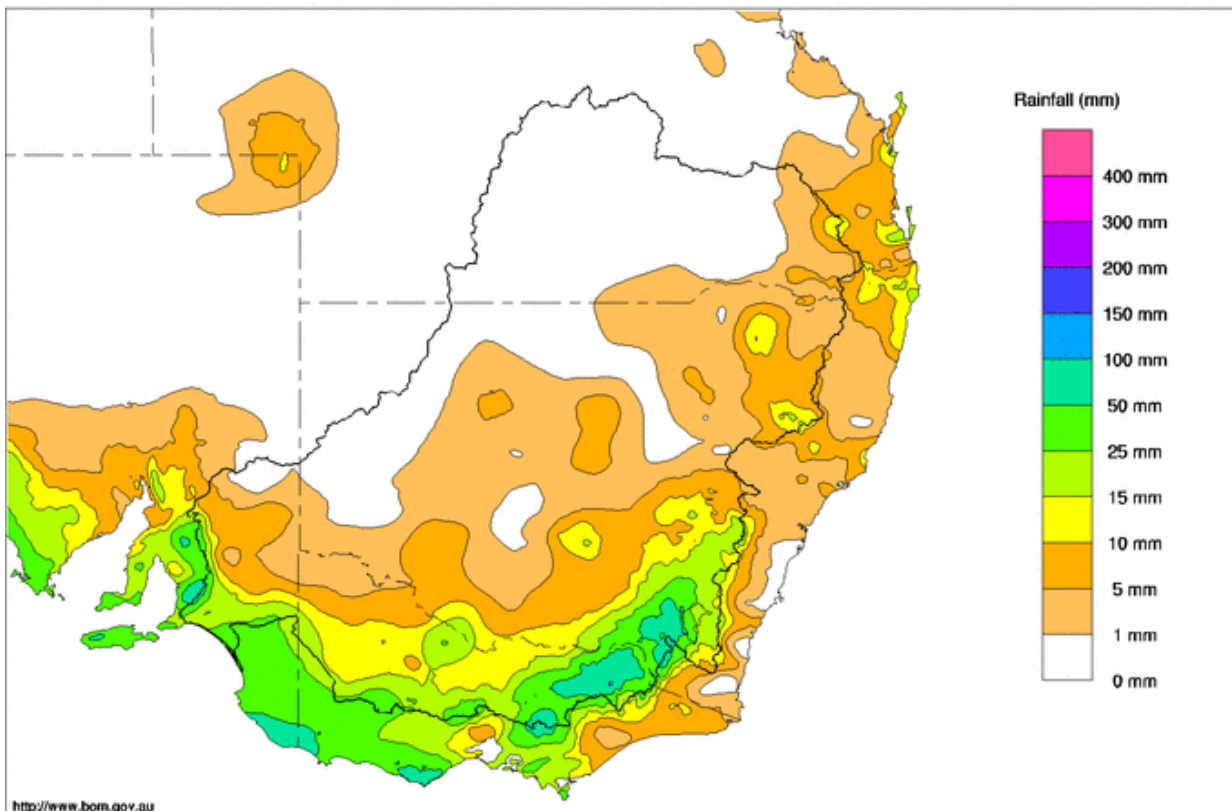
Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions this week were dominated by a significant winter cold front and intense low pressure system that buffeted south-eastern Australia with very strong winds and heavy showers over several days. The system also brought extensive snowfalls across the south-east ranges, with up to a metre of snow accumulating across the alpine areas in Victoria and NSW. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting further rain and snow across the south-east during the coming weekend.

The highest precipitation totals were observed over the south-east of the Murray-Darling Basin with moderate falls also recorded along the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia. Across the far north and west of the Basin, conditions were mostly dry (Map 1). The highest weekly rain totals in Victoria included 128 mm at Rocky Valley, 104 mm at Mt Buffalo, 93 mm at Harris Lane and 91 mm at Dohertys. In NSW, there were totals up to 100 mm over the Snowy Mountains, 91 mm at Batlow, 65 mm at Tumbarumba and 57 mm at Burrinjuck Dam. Notable totals in South Australia included 62 mm at Mt Barker and 39 mm at Meningie.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th June 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 25 June 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flows in the upper Murray system tributaries increased again late this week, and were continuing to rise as at 26 June 2014. On the upper River Murray the flow at Biggara is currently (as at 26 June) 3,000 ML/day and rising. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge is 2,600 ML/day and rising. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point is 12,600 ML/day and rising.



River Operations

- Tributary inflows increase following further rain;
- Trading water across the Barmah Choke continues into the 2014–15 water year;
- High tides and large swell preventing releases through the barrages at the Lower Lakes.

MDBA total storage rose by 69 GL this week, with the active storage now 5,190 GL or 62%.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 12 GL to 3,478 GL (90% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans gauge, continued at 800 ML/day due to entitlement releases by AGL Hydro for electricity generation.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage increased 53 GL to 1,457 GL (48% capacity). The release remains steady at 600 ML/day. Doctors Point gauge, which is located on the Murray downstream of the Kiewa River junction, rose this week to 4,000 ML/day due to increased tributary flows from the Kiewa catchment.

At **Yarrowonga** Weir, the pool level eased to 124.81 m AHD. The downstream release was steady at around 5,600 ML/day for most of the week, however, was increased to 7,000 ML/day on Wednesday 25 June 2014, in anticipation of higher inflows. The release will rise above channel capacity (~10,400 ML/day) in the coming days as inflows from upstream tributaries are passed downstream.

The MDBA has advised that trading water from above the **Barmah Choke** to downstream of the choke will be allowed to continue into the 2014–15 water year. See the attached media release for more information.

On the **Edward** River system, higher flows in the Murray have increased the combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes to 1,150 ML/day. Diversions to Colligen and Yallakool Creeks are currently 550 ML/day and 150 ML/day respectively. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir increased to 600 ML/day this week, and is continuing to be managed to protect works downstream at Tumudgery Creek Regulator.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge eased to 1,800 ML/day but is forecast to rise in the coming week in response to recent rain. At **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel are steady at 700 ML/day with this water supplying an environmental watering event in Gunbower Forest. The downstream flow at Torrumbarry is currently 5,800 ML/day.

On the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald eased to 450 ML/day during the week. Downstream on the Murray at **Euston**, the flow was steady, averaging around 6,700 ML/day.

At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume decreased by 3 GL and is now 383 GL (22% capacity). The release at Weir 32 is 200 ML/day and the flow downstream at Burtundy is 140 ML/day.

The flow at **Wentworth** Weir averaged 5,300 ML/day. Flows at Wentworth are forecast to be around 5,500 ML/day over the coming week.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased by 6 GL to 449 GL (66% capacity, 25.01 m AHD). The flow to **South Australia** averaged 4,000 ML/day over the past week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the five-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.65 m AHD. Releases through the barrages and fishways are currently being impacted due to high tides and a large swell. The current release is estimated to be only 180 ML/day. Despite closing the Barrages and the Goolwa fishway, intruding sea water has increased salinity at Signal Point (Goolwa) and Tauwitchere to 6,700 EC and 5,100 EC respectively.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 Jun 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 | 480.06 | 3 478 | 90% | 71 | 3 407 | +12 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 005 | 182.63 | 1 457 | 48% | 23 | 1 434 | +53 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 25.01 | 449 | 66% | 100 | 349 | +6 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731* | | 383 | 22% | (- -) # | 0 | -3 |
| Total | | 9 269 | | 5 767 | 62% | -- | 5 190 | +69 |
| Total Active MDBA Storage | | | | | | | 62% ^ | |

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 611 | 60% | 3 | 608 | +16 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 980 | 60% | 24 | 956 | +29 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 334 | 2 348 | 70% | 100 | 2 248 | +14 |

* 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 24 Jun 2014

| Storage | Active Storage (GL) | Weekly Change (GL) | Diversions (GL) | This Week | From 1 May 2014 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 527 | -10 | Snowy-Murray | +5 | 101 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 848 | +9 | Tooma-Tumut | +7 | 47 |
| Target Storage | 1 240 | | Net Diversion | -2 | 54 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +9 | 141 |

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) | 0.0 | 1080 | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | 0 | 312 |
| Wakool Sys Allowance | -0.3 | 52 | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 4.9 | 560 |
| Western Murray Irrigation | 0.2 | 27 | Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.5 | 111 |
| Licensed Pumps | n/a | 248 | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 5.2 | 184 |
| Lower Darling | 0.2 | 198 | Licensed pumps - LMW | 1.5 | 301 |
| TOTAL | 0.1 | 1605 | TOTAL | 12.1 | 1468 |

* 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 early delivery of a portion of July entitlement.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 90.0 * | |
| Flow this week | 27.9 | (4 000 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 85.5 | |
| Flow last month | 114.7 | |

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

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2013 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 210 | 200 | 100 |
| Euston | 120 | 110 | 110 |
| Red Cliffs | 150 | 170 | 130 |
| Merbein | 200 | 200 | 140 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | - | 640 | 510 |
| Lock 9 | 220 | 220 | 180 |
| Lake Victoria | 230 | 230 | 240 |
| Berri | 370 | 370 | 280 |
| Waikerie | 440 | 430 | 330 |
| Morgan | 440 | 440 | 330 |
| Mannum | 370 | 370 | 360 |
| Murray Bridge | 430 | 430 | 380 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 700 | 690 | 680 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 580 | 600 | 570 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 2 430 | 2 460 | 2 610 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 6 740 | 2 450 | 1 310 |



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 25 Jun 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 | - | - | - | 2 810 | R | 1 950 | 3 710 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.32 | 208.84 | 9 670 | R | 5 620 | 5 910 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 2.11 | 219.00 | 2 620 | R | 1 450 | 660 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.30 | 154.93 | 600 | S | 600 | 600 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 1.96 | 150.43 | 3 990 | R | 2 220 | 2 010 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.02 | 148.46 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 3.8 | 0.76 | 126.78 | 2 310 | F | 2 510 | 2 360 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.05 | 116.09 | 5 580 | S | 5 480 | 4 690 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 1.64 | 105.48 | 5 650 | R | 5 290 | 4 940 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.06 | 80.61 | 5 840 | R | 5 420 | 5 320 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.09 | 64.01 | 4 940 | F | 5 040 | 5 150 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.69 | 51.81 | 6 540 | F | 6 480 | 6 400 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.43 | 43.27 | 6 680 | R | 6 680 | 6 160 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 5 360 | F | 5 300 | - |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.02 | 27.78 | 5 630 | R | 5 330 | 4 030 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 2.88 | 19.81 | 3 190 | S | 3 260 | 2 790 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | 0.70 | - | 3 370 | R | 3 390 | 2 590 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 2.64 | 155.87 | 3 470 | R | 1 660 | 1 400 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 9.93 | 147.61 | 6 640 | R | 3 560 | 2 930 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.99 | 93.41 | 1 830 | F | 2 080 | 1 550 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.86 | 80.63 | 620 | F | 390 | 290 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 1.11 | 56.49 | 560 | F | 640 | 490 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 1.54 | 55.03 | 680 | R | 640 | 470 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.82 | 56.78 | 450 | F | 490 | 690 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.14 | - | 30 | S | 10 | 0 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.04 | - | 130 | S | 120 | 110 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.74 | - | 140 | S | 140 | 150 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 9 160 | 7 670 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | -0.09 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.03 | +0.59 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.04 | +0.02 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.19 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.07 | +0.08 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.06 | +0.13 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.00 | +0.45 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.03 | +0.38 | No. 3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.10 | +0.34 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.16 | +0.56 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.11 | +0.29 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.55 | +0.09 | No. 1 Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.20 | -0.05 |

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

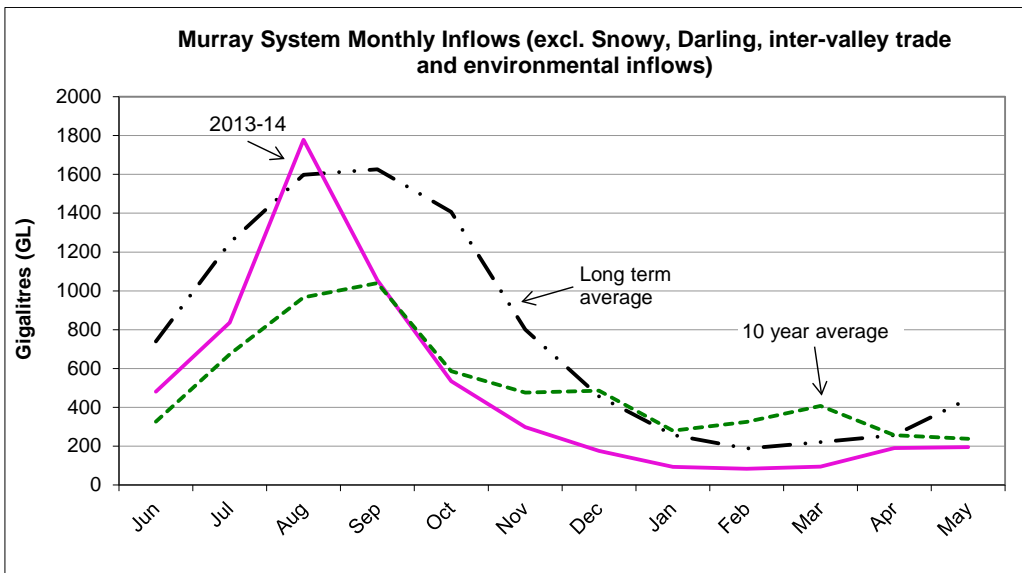
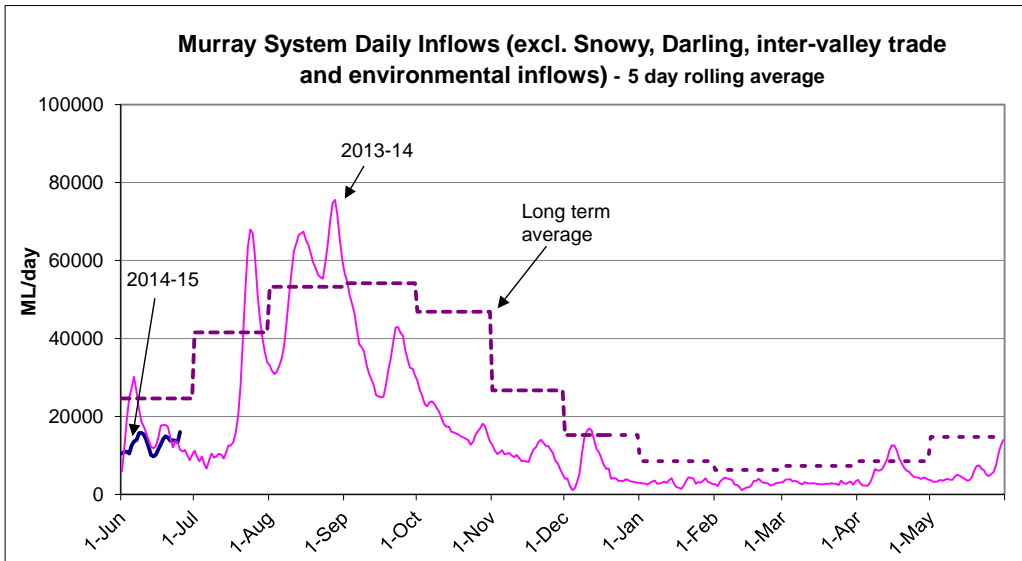
| | |
|--|------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD) | 0.65 |
|--|------|

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | No. Open | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.57 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.63 | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | 0.1 | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.64 | All closed | Open | Open |

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



State Allocations (as at 25 Jun 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High security | 100% |
| General security | 100% |

Victorian - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High reliability | 100% |
| Low reliability | 0% |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High security | 95% |
| General security | 63% |

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.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

MEDIA RELEASE



19 June 2014

Choke allocation trade to continue

Trading water from above the Barmah Choke to downstream of the choke will be allowed to continue into the 2014–15 water year.

MDBA chief executive Rhondda Dickson said an assessment had been made of the potential risks to channel capacity and it was determined risks were low at this time.

"We've looked at how much water is moving through the system, we've done an estimate of future demand, and we've looked at how much trade is taking place," Dr Dickson said.

"We're satisfied the trade restriction can be lifted without any risks to supplying water.

"However, as per our usual practice, we'll continue to monitor this and can re-instate the restriction if required."

Irrigators upstream of the choke can continue to trade water allocations downstream. Trade

in water entitlements (permanent) from above to below the choke remains restricted, in accordance with the rules of the Basin governments' Murray–Darling Basin Agreement.

Under the agreement, the restriction on trading allocation water to downstream of the choke can be relaxed when there is a low risk of demand for water downstream of the choke exceeding channel capacity.

ENDS

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

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