



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

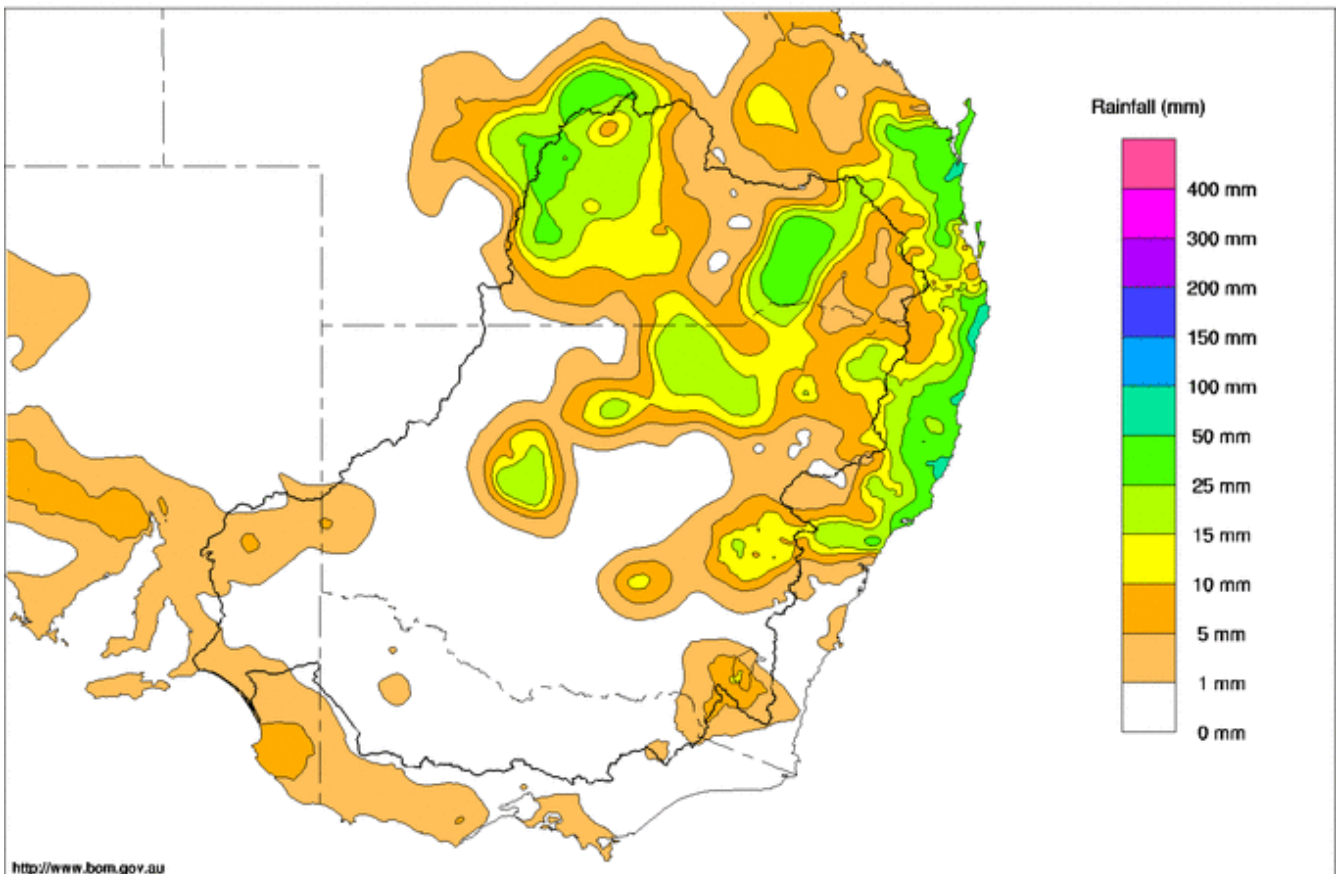
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## Rainfall and inflows

This week a high pressure ridge over southern Australia delivered dry, mostly sunny and relatively warm conditions across most of the southern Murray-Darling Basin (Map 1). Isolated shower and thunderstorm activity in the northern Basin resulted in patchy rain falling over north eastern New South Wales and southern Queensland. In New South Wales 42 mm was recorded at Bathurst while this week's highest total was in Queensland where 56 mm fell at Talwood.

Dry conditions are forecast over most of the Murray-Darling Basin this coming week.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th April 2018  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Map 1 Murray-Darling Basin rainfall map week ending 25 April 2018 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Given the lack of rainfall over Murray catchments, upper Murray tributaries continued to drop this week. At Biggara, on the upper Murray, the flow reduced from 350 ML/day to around 250 ML/day. The flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge, on the upper Mitta Mitta River, fell from 350 ML/day to around 200 ML/day.

Downstream of Hume Reservoir, inflows from the Kiewa River (measured at Bandiana) have fallen from 850 ML/day to just above 300 ML/day. The Ovens River, at Wangaratta, has also receded to around 300 ML/day after reaching 530 ML/day at the start of the week.



## River operations

- Drawdown of Lake Mulwala to begin Monday 30th April
- Releases downstream of Yarrawonga to be reduced in the coming week
- Delivery of IVT from the Goulburn system to ease
- Torrumbarry weir pool to be lowered 30 cm from mid-May
- Red alert for Blue-Green Algae remains current for Lake Wetherell and the lower Darling River between Pooncarie and Burtundy

MDBA active storage decreased by 67 GL this week to 4,387 (52% capacity).

The storage volume at **Dartmouth Reservoir** decreased by 6 GL to 3,414 GL (89% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, is currently targeting 300 ML/day.

At **Hume Reservoir**, the storage volume fell by 54 GL to 968 GL (32% capacity). The release from Hume was increased to 15,000 ML/day during this week to assist with meeting increased irrigation diversion to Mulwala Canal. Over the coming week, the release from Hume will reduce as Mulwala Canal closes for maintenance and the drawdown of Lake Mulwala commences.

Downstream at **Lake Mulwala**, diversion to Yarrawonga Main Channel averaged 1,350 ML/day this week, while diversion to Mulwala Canal increased from 3,700 ML/day to 4,900 ML/day as irrigators respond to warm and dry conditions and plan for the upcoming closure of Mulwala Canal (channel maintenance activities to commence from 1 May).

Over the coming days the weir pool level is expected to remain around 124.70 m AHD which is favourable for this weekend's [2018 Lake Mulwala Annual Fishing Competition](#). On Monday 30 April, the first stage of the draw down will commence with the lake gradually [lowered](#) to around 124.0 m AHD by mid-May when the irrigation season concludes. The lake will then be lowered to 121.2 m AHD by the start of June and held at that level until mid-July to manage the invasive waterweed *Egeria densa*. Lowering the water level and subjecting the exposed weed to drying and frost has proven to be an effective method for controlling its abundance within the weir pool. The draw down also provides an opportunity to undertake works on the lake foreshore. Releases from **Yarrawonga Weir** are currently targeting 8,800 ML/day and are expected to be gradually reduced over the next couple of weeks as downstream demands ease.



Photo 1: River Murray downstream of Yarrawonga. (Source: Andrew Shields, Goulburn-Murray Water)



Flow through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes has remained steady at 1,600 ML/day and 350 ML/day, respectively. Downstream, the flow in the **Edward River** at Toonalook remains steady around 1,700 ML/day. Wakool Main Canal demands continue to be supported by releases from the Edward Escape with diversions into the Wakool Main Canal averaging around 700 ML/day. Additional flows into the Wakool River system and Colligen Creek continue to be delivered on behalf of environmental water holders. Yallakool Creek is currently receiving 320 ML/day and Colligen Creek is receiving around 260 ML/day. Downstream on the Edward River at Stevens Weir, the release is around 970 ML/day.

Inflow to the Murray from the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoys Bridge, has eased from 2,600 ML/day to the current rate of 2,100 ML/day. Inflow from the Goulburn River is expected to reduce to around 1,000 ML/day over the next few weeks as demands ease thus reducing the need to call on inter-valley trade (IVT) from the Goulburn. Similarly, inflow from the **Campaspe River** is expected to reduce from the current flow at Rochester of 200 ML/day to around 100 ML/day in the coming weeks. Information regarding current opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray valleys is available at the [Victorian water register website](#).

At **Torrumbarry Weir**, the pool remains at the full supply level (FSL). From mid-May the pool is planned to be gradually drawn down by around 30 cm which is within the normal operating range. This action is aimed at reducing bank instability and aims to promote growth of native fringing vegetation. For more information please see the attached media release.

Diversion into National Channel remains steady around 2,400 ML/day. The downstream release from Torrumbarry Weir has fallen over the past few days from 6,700 ML/day to 6,450 ML/day and is expected to fluctuate around these levels over the coming fortnight.

Downstream at **Swan Hill**, the flow increased from around 5,600 ML/day to 6,300 ML/day but is likely to gently recede over the next few days before steadying later in the week.

Inflow from the **Murrumbidgee River**, measured at Balranald, remained steady near 250 ML/day. The [Murrumbidgee IVT balance](#) is currently 0 GL, restricting the MDBA from calling on water from this valley to help meet Murray system demands. Water trading in the Murrumbidgee Valley is finishing for the year with interstate trading closing at this end of this month. More information on Murrumbidgee trade can be found in the [WaterNSW media release](#).

At **Euston**, the weir pool is targeting between FSL and 10 cm below FSL with the downstream release currently at around 6,200 ML/day. Flows are expected to fairly steady over the coming days.

This week the **Menindee Lakes** storage volume decreased by 7 GL to 236 GL (14% capacity). WaterNSW continues to manage the Menindee Lakes in accordance with the [Lower Darling Annual Operations Plan](#). The [release from Weir 32](#) continues to target 200 ML/day with the aim to maintain a minimum flow in the lower Darling at Burtundy, where the flow is currently around 60 ML/day. A [red alert](#) warning (high alert) for blue-green algae continues for Lake Wetherell and the lower Darling River between Pooncarie and Burtundy.

Upstream of Menindee Lakes at Tilpa, flows resulting from rain in March peaked early last week around 750 ML/day. Whilst only a small volume of this flow is expected to reach Wilcannia, [environmental water](#) is being delivered in the northern Basin by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to supplement the flow and this is expected to reach Wilcannia by late May.

The **Wentworth** weir pool remains near 10 cm above FSL to assist pumpers in the upper reaches of the lower Darling arm of the Wentworth weir pool. The release from Wentworth reached 5,500 ML/day during this week and has since eased to around 5,000 ML/day.



At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume decreased by 6 GL to 199 GL (29% capacity). A small reduction in storage volume is expected over the coming days before filling commences. Flow from the drawdown of Lake Mulwala will be captured in Lake Victoria during June.

The flow to **South Australia** gently receded from around 6,000 ML/day to the current rate near 5,300 ML/day and is expected to decrease towards 3,200 ML/day over the next fortnight as environmental deliveries made on behalf of the CEWH, to support ongoing barrage releases into the Coorong, reduce. These environmental deliveries are expected to cease in early May.



**Photo 2: River Murray at Morgan at sunset, looking upstream towards Morgan-Whyalla Pump Station No.1. (Photo courtesy Liam Tohill, SA Water).**

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level is 0.52 m AHD. Environmental deliveries are enabling barrage releases to the Coorong, when weather permits, whilst maintaining the lakes above 0.50 m AHD.

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

ANDREW REYNOLDS  
Executive Director, River Management



## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 Apr 2018

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	479.01	3 414	89%	71	3 343	-6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	178.53	968	32%	23	945	-54
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.48	199	29%	100	99	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		236	14%	(- -) #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>4 817</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 387</b>	<b>-73</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							52% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	414	40%	3	411	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	773	47%	24	749	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 867	56%	100	1 767	-26

\* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

# NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

## Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24 Apr 2018

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2017
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 283	-46	Snowy-Murray	+26	821
Snowy-Murray Component	523	-22	Tooma-Tumut	+0	203
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	26	619
			Murray 1 Release	+31	1 066

## Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \*

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2017	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2017
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	25.8	945	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.3	284
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.2	66	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.8	462
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	111
Licensed Pumps	5.5	236	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1	40
Lower Darling	0.3	90	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	361
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>1258</b>

\* Figures are derived from actual and estimates where data is unavailable. 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 environmental flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *
Flow this week	40.3
Flow so far this month	149.4
Flow last month	206.0

(5 800 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2017
Swan Hill	70	80	100
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	140	140	160
Merbein	-	-	160
Burtundy (Darling)	710	710	670
Lock 9	180	190	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	290	290	280
Waikerie	340	340	320
Morgan	360	350	340
Mannum	370	370	370
Murray Bridge	400	400	400
Milang (Lake Alex.)	800	800	700
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	710	640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 650	1 670	1 580
Goolwa Barrages	5 240	7 320	1 830



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 25 Apr 2018**

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	-	-	-	3 200	F	4 050	5 040
Jingellic	4.0	1.62	208.14	3 800	S	4 900	5 030
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.53	218.42	820	F	1 120	640
Heywoods	5.5	3.16	156.79	15 000	R	13 500	13 400
Doctors Point	5.5	3.07	151.54	15 930	S	14 700	14 290
Albury	4.3	2.12	149.56	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	3.04	129.06	14 390	R	13 400	13 530
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.51	116.55	8 680	F	8 700	8 460
Tocumwal	6.4	2.12	105.96	8 580	S	8 520	8 310
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.25	80.80	6 440	F	6 620	6 160
Swan Hill	4.5	1.25	64.17	6 320	R	5 990	5 910
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.82	51.94	6 970	R	6 720	6 890
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.32	43.16	6 230	R	5 990	5 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 740	F	5 960	5 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.74	27.50	5 000	R	5 330	4 630
Rufus Junction	-	3.20	20.13	4 780	F	5 400	5 690
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.51	-	3 540	F	4 060	3 940
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	0.86	154.09	320	F	460	380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.85	145.53	310	S	360	340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.13	93.55	2 090	F	2 390	2 430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.28	81.06	970	F	750	730
Edward at Liewah	-	1.43	56.81	800	R	820	960
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.52	55.01	660	F	680	500
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.59	56.55	260	R	240	200
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.14	-	10	S	20	20
Darling at Bourke	9.0	3.99	-	50	S	60	170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	60	S	50	50

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 070	2 240
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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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.87
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.10	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.08	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.09	-0.27	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.28	-0.03	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.24

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

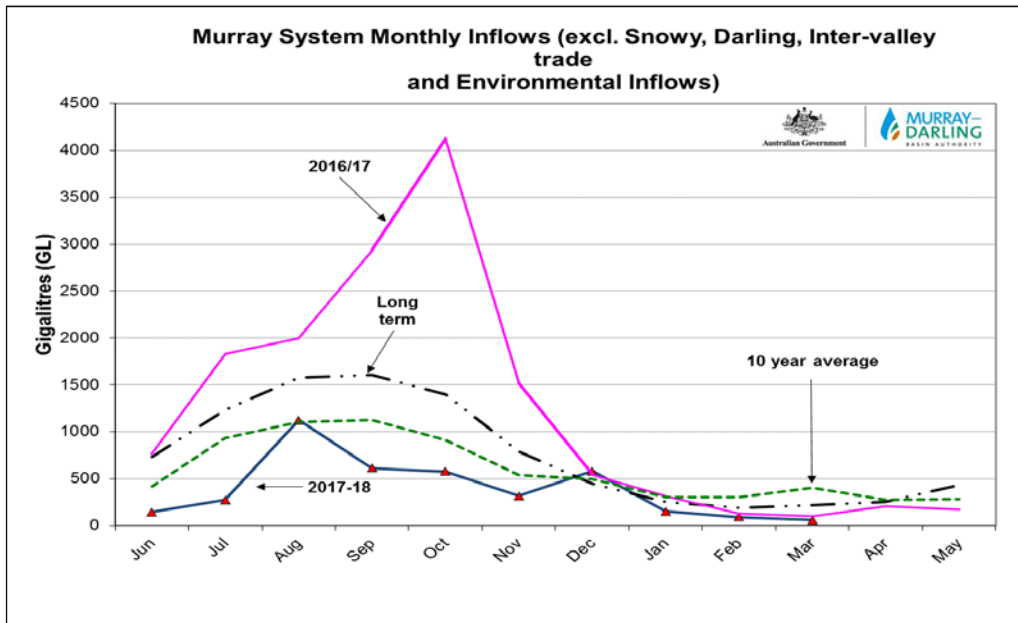
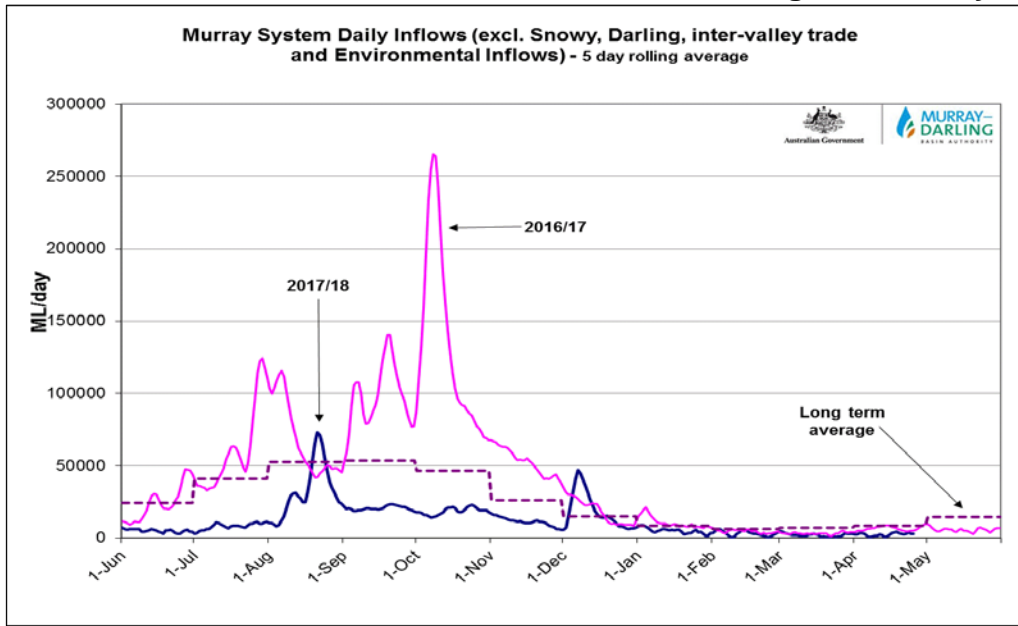
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.52
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.52	1	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.51	All closed	-	-	-	FALSE
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.54	1	Open	Open	Open	-

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



**State Allocations (as at 25 Apr 2018)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	51%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	41%

**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>  
 VIC : <http://nvrn.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current>  
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

# Small weir pool changes for improved bank stability and environmental outcomes at Torrumbarry

## Joint media release

**Published: 26 April 2018**

Water levels in the Torrumbarry weir pool will vary from mid-May to August this year in an effort to help improve the health of the river banks.

Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) head of River Management, Andrew Reynolds, said locals and visitors to Torrumbarry might notice changes to water levels from mid-May, with the weir pool level to be lowered by up to 30 cm.

"Thirty centimetres might not seem like much—but small changes like this to the weir pool level helps restore a more natural wetting and drying cycle to benefit the local riverine environment," Mr Reynolds said.

"Holding pool water levels steady over long periods of time causes bank saturation. Saturated banks are generally more vulnerable to wind waves and vessel wash, which can accelerate rates of erosion. Lowering the water level will reduce soil saturation and susceptibility to erosion, and promote growth of native fringing vegetation.

"The weir pool level will be lowered gradually at a rate of around two centimetres per day. The lowering is planned to start in mid-May and reach a maximum of 30 centimetres below the full supply level sometime in June. Throughout July we expect the water level to vary but remain at or above 30 cm below full supply before being raised slowly to near full supply level in time for the start of the irrigation season in August.

"This is the third year the trial is being conducted by the MDBA in cooperation with Victorian and New South Wales water agencies. The approach is consistent with weir pool lowering practices at locks 7, 8, 9 and 15, all considered as routine operations."

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) General Manager Customer Operations, Scott Barber, said that whilst lowering the pool by 30 cm is within normal operating range, it has been timed to occur outside the irrigation season and main tourism season to avoid impact on these activities.

"As the weir pool level is remaining within the normal operating range, it means it is unlikely the reduced level will have any significant effects on river users, boat owners and landholders. However, we do ask that river users and landholders remain aware of the changing water levels in case adjustments need to be made to pumps, moorings and recreational activities," Mr Barber said.

"In particular, GMW customers are being asked to monitor pumping infrastructure to avoid any possible damage should water levels drop below extraction levels."

River Murray users can keep up to date with current weir pool levels by viewing River Murray data at [riverdata.mdba.gov.au](http://riverdata.mdba.gov.au) and can keep in touch with upcoming changes by registering to receive the free [River Murray weekly report](#).

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141 or Richard Bryce at GMW on (03) 5826 3470.

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