



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 2015

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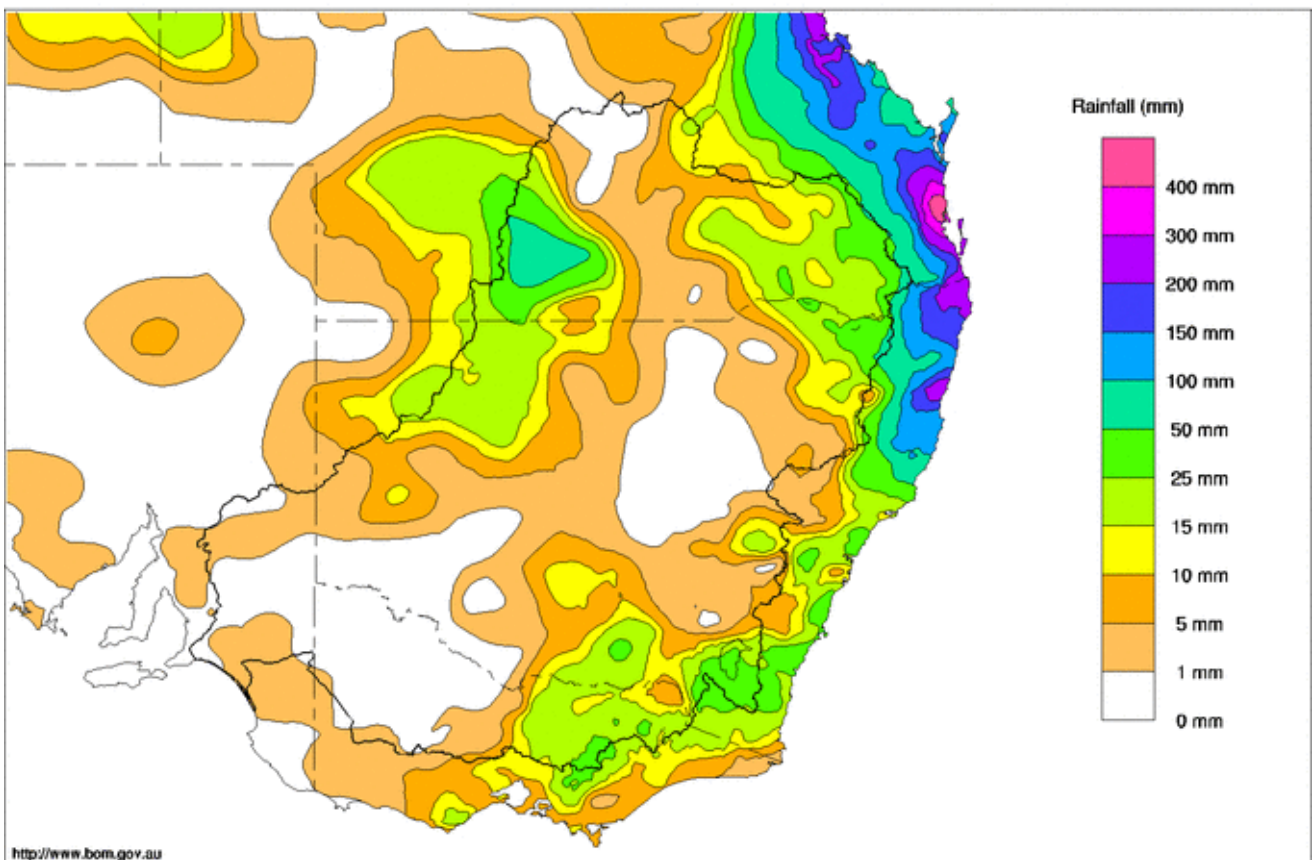
Rainfall and Inflows

At the start of the week, a surface trough extending from inland western Queensland, through New South Wales and central Victoria triggered thunderstorms and showers. This produced moderate rainfall totals for parts of eastern Victoria, through central New South Wales and light rainfall for southwest Queensland (Bureau of Meteorology).

A low pressure system located on the monsoon trough, over the Coral Sea deepened and developed into tropical cyclone *Marcia* on 18 February. Cyclone Marcia reached the east coast on 20 February bringing heavy rain. Thunderstorms also formed along a surface trough situated through Queensland's interior producing light to moderate falls for southern inland Queensland and areas of northwest and central New South Wales (Bureau of Meteorology).

In Queensland, Cunnamulla in the Warrego catchment received 63mm of rain for the week, while The Head and Killarney in the upper Condamine Balonne received 128mm and 56mm respectively. In New South Wales, notable rainfall totals included 40mm at Glen Innes in the north east and 38mm at Mulwala Post Office on the River Murray. In Victoria, Myrtleford in the Ovens catchment received 32mm and Hinnomunjie in the Mitta Mitta catchment recorded 37mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th February 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Map 1 – Murray Darling Basin rainfall week ending 25 February 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



There was little rain across the upper Murray catchments this week and stream flows remained low. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge was relatively steady, averaging 270 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara receded from 390 to 330 ML/day while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta remained around 300 ML/day.

River Operations

- Bulk transfers from Dartmouth to Hume to cease
- Flow downstream of Stevens Weir expected to ease

MDBA total storage decreased by 111 GL this week with the active storage now 4,335 GL or 51% capacity.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, storage decreased by 15 GL to 3,047 GL (79% capacity). Over the weekend, the release was temporarily reduced toward minimums at the request of the Victorian police to assist with the recovery of a kayaker who drowned while paddling further downstream. The flow at Colemans gauge is currently 2,500 ML/day and will be gradually reduced from Saturday morning until they reach 600 ML/day on Monday 2 March.

Bulk transfers to Hume Reservoir are no longer necessary as there is currently sufficient water in Hume, with expected inflows, to meet downstream demands until the end of the irrigation season. The planned gradual lowering of Lake Mulwala, commencing in late April, will also contribute water to meet downstream requirements. Reducing releases now will maximise the airspace in Hume Reservoir prior to the coming filling season, increasing the amount of water that can be captured for allocations next water year.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 46 GL to 1,187 GL (40% capacity). The average release from Hume this week was approximately 14,700 ML/day at Doctors Point.

At **Yarrawonga** Weir, diversions through Yarrawonga Main Channel (YMC) reduced this week on the back of some localised rainfall while orders through Mulwala Canal have remained steady. The release downstream of Yarrawonga remained steady this week at 9,900 ML/day and is expected to continue at around this flow rate during March if dry conditions persist. Water continues to be diverted around the Barmah choke through YMC and Mulwala Canal to meet downstream demands.

On the **Edward** River, flow through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes this week averaged 1,550 ML/day and 350 ML/day respectively. Flow downstream of **Stevens Weir** has averaged close to channel capacity since early February with River Murray Water orders maximised through the Edward Escape and relatively low diversions at Wakool Main Canal. The River Murray Water order at Edward Escape was reduced this week to target a total release of around 400 ML/day below capacity. In response, it is expected that flows downstream of Stevens Weir will also ease.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge receded from nearly 3,000 ML/day to under 2,000 ML/day this week as delivery of Inter Valley Trade (IVT) and environmental water reduced. Flows are forecast to recede to 1,100 ML/day over the coming week. IVT water refers to water which has been traded between valleys. When available, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority can draw on water from IVT accounts in the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee valleys for Murray system operations. Delivery of IVT water from these tributaries is critical for meeting high demands downstream of the choke, in years such as this, when no water is available from Menindee Lakes.

Further downstream on the Murray, the release from **Torrumbarry** Weir is 8,000 ML/day and is expected to reduce to below 7,000 ML/day in the coming week. On the lower **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald increased to 1,100 ML/day, following rainfall earlier in February, and is expected



to recede towards the seasonal minimum of 180 ML/day in early March. Downstream on the Murray at **Euston**, the flow is expected to peak at above 9,500 ML/day this week.

At **Menindee Lakes** (currently managed by NSW), the storage volume decreased by 9 GL to 118 GL (7% capacity). The release from the lakes has averaged 250 ML/day at Weir 32 on the Darling River. Recent rainfall resulting from ex-tropical cyclone Marcia has not had a significant impact on the tributaries of the northern Basin. However the remnant flow from rain events in Queensland in late December and in the Border Rivers in late January is slowly moving through the upper Darling, having peaked at Bourke on Monday 23 February at just over 2,900 ML/day. The flow front has yet to reach Wilcannia. More information regarding the recent rainfall and management of Menindee Lakes can be found at www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Drought-management. On the Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at **Wentworth Weir** is currently 6,300 ML/day.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume reduced this week by 40 GL to 295 GL (44% capacity). The flow to **South Australia** averaged 9,100 ML/day. The current flow rate is above the usual February entitlement flow rate due to the delivery of additional environmental water for barrage outflows into the Coorong. Delivery of environmental water to South Australia is currently planned to extend into March. At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently 0.56 m AHD and barrage releases have averaged over 2,000 ML/day for the week.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 Feb 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	472.77	3 047	79%	71	2 976	-15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180.47	1 187	40%	23	1 164	-46
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.51	295	44%	100	195	-40
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		118	7%	(- -) #	0	-9
Total		9 269		4 647	50%	--	4 335	-111
Total Active MDBA Storage							51% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	395	39%	3	392	-24
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	532	33%	24	508	+10
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 223	67%	100	2 123	-37

* 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 Feb 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 242	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+22	271
Snowy-Murray Component	1 100	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	205
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	21	66
			Murray 1 Release	+20	539

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)	16.3	666	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4	215
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.8	53	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.8	467
Western Murray Irrigation	1.0	21	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.4	88
Licensed Pumps	5.7	198	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	49
Lower Darling	2.2	58	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	245
TOTAL	26.0	996	TOTAL	32	1064

* 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	194.0 *
Flow this week	65.7
Flow so far this month	239.4
Flow last month	267.4

(9 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	80	90	100
Red Cliffs	120	130	120
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	810	750	750
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	230	220	210
Berri	220	220	220
Waikerie	250	260	290
Morgan	250	260	280
Mannum	320	310	330
Murray Bridge	320	320	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	840	810	760
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	690	610
Meninjie (Lake Alb.)	2 530	2 530	2 400
Goolwa Barrages	1 170	1 150	1 150



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 25 Feb 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	-	-	-	2 030	F	3 570	3 430
Jingellic	4.0	1.59	208.11	3 520	F	4 240	3 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.10	218.99	2 610	F	2 930	3 750
Heywoods	5.5	3.22	156.85	14 800	R	13 650	14 330
Doctors Point	5.5	3.11	151.58	16 000	R	14 710	14 930
Albury	4.3	2.16	149.60	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.95	128.97	13 800	R	14 370	16 100
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	R	9 970	10 120
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	10 270	R	10 170	10 170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.70	81.25	8 140	F	8 610	8 040
Swan Hill	4.5	1.54	64.46	8 340	R	8 140	6 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.47	52.59	9 960	R	9 460	7 930
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.66	43.50	8 570	R	8 140	6 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 370	F	6 530	5 950
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	6 270	R	5 930	5 520
Rufus Junction	-	3.83	20.76	8 650	R	8 430	8 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.76	-	6 320	F	6 300	5 980
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.24	154.47	830	F	900	600
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.83	145.51	290	R	280	330
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.04	93.46	1 930	F	2 430	2 870
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.37	82.14	2 580	F	2 590	2 590
Edward at Liewah	-	2.85	58.23	2 370	F	2 340	2 220
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.40	54.89	390	R	370	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.48	57.44	1 080	R	580	450
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	160	R	160	630
Darling at Bourke	-	4.41	-	2 390	F	2 420	680
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	10	S	10	10

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 710	2 020
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.52
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.32
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.98
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.12	+0.18	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.46	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.48	+0.12	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.07	+0.01

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.57
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Barrages

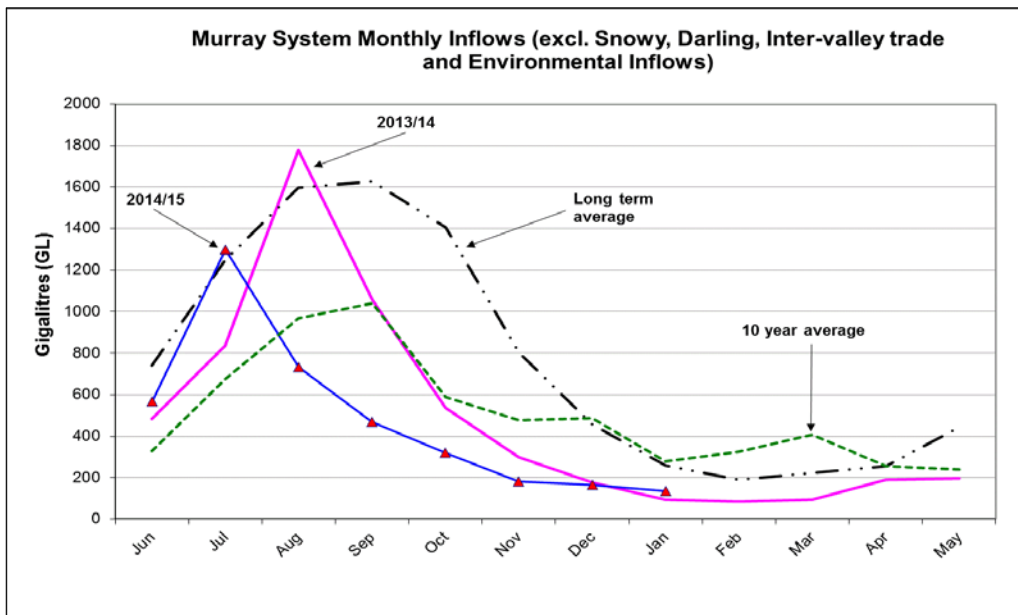
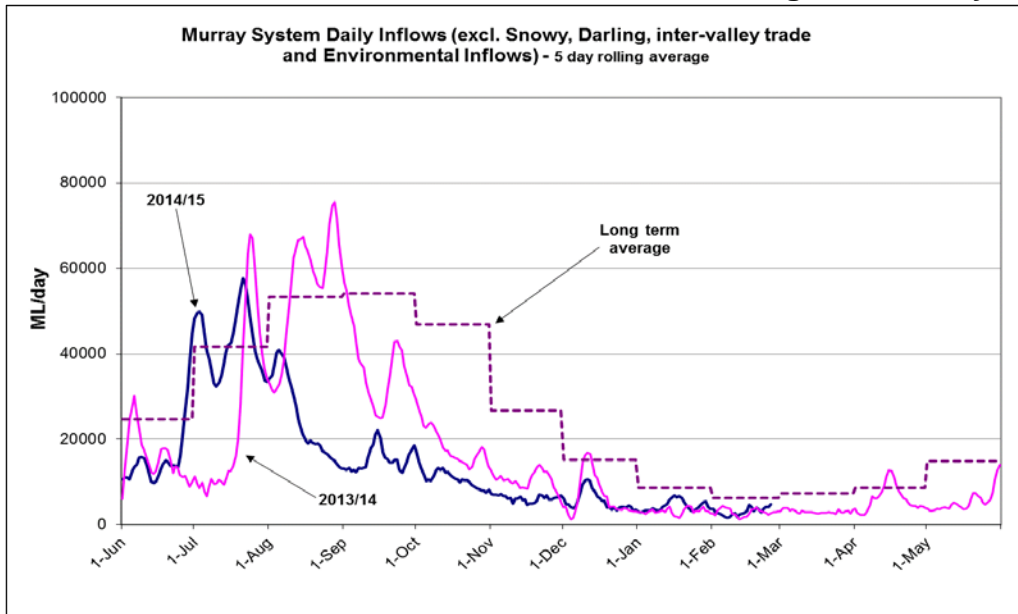
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.57	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.57	6	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 25 Feb 2015



State Allocations (as at 25 Feb 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	59%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	51%

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