



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2013

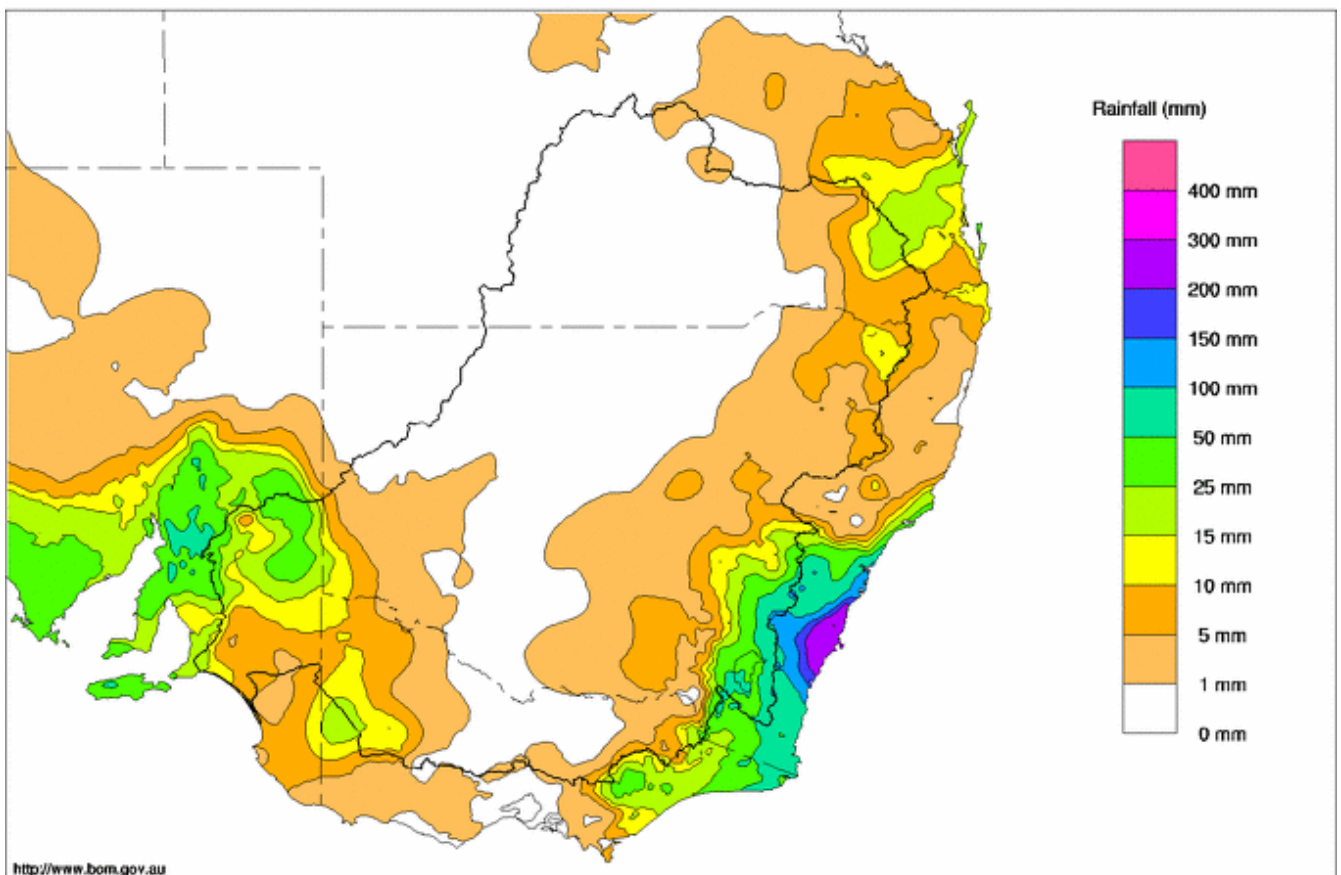
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## Rainfall and Inflows

It was another week of active weather for parts of south-eastern Australia. A low pressure system brought rain to parts of the far western Murray-Darling Basin and an intense trough system developed off the southern NSW coast. This second system pushed very heavy rain across Sydney and the Illawarra region but also crossed into the eastern Basin with soaking rain falling over the upper Lachlan and Murrumbidgee catchments.

The highest rain totals included 102 mm at Crookwell and 101 mm at Captains Flat; while further south, there was 50 mm at Cooma and similar totals falling as snow over the Snowy Mountains. Across in South Australia, weekly rainfall exceeded 25 mm across areas north of the Riverland with isolated reports of much higher totals. Through the north-western and central southern parts of the Basin, conditions remained dry (Map 1).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 26th June 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 26/06/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 26 June 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

The strongest stream flow responses to the rainfall along the south-eastern NSW divide were observed across the upper Lachlan River tributaries with peak flows of around 20,000 ML/day reported along the Abercrombie and upper Lachlan Rivers. There were more modest flow responses along the Murrumbidgee's eastern tributaries upstream of Canberra; while in the upper Murray system there were small increases in some tributaries.



For example on the River Murray at Biggara, the flow increased from around 900 to 1,300 ML/day; while on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from 1,400 to 900 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded from 2,100 to 1,400 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 112 GL during the week to 6,581 GL or 77% capacity. For comparison, at this time last year, MDBA active storage was at 92% capacity and the long term June average is around 64%.

Dartmouth Reservoir total storage volume is currently 3,637 GL (94% capacity), an increase of 7 GL since last week. Release from Dartmouth Reservoir, measured at Colemans, has been reduced to 330 ML/day following higher releases of up to 3,100 ML/day, for electricity generation, earlier in the week.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows have remained relatively high with an average daily inflow of about 12,000 ML/day, primarily due to high release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Hume Reservoir's storage volume has increased by 79 GL to 1,849 GL (62% capacity) and release has remained at the normal minimum of 600 ML/day.

To assist works at the base of the spillway at Hume Dam, release will be passed in a variable manner through the power station outlets over the coming two to three weeks whilst still targeting the average daily minimum flow. Downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River, the flow at Doctors Point is currently around 1,500 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, release is being held higher than inflows to help manage salinity levels at Mildura Weir whilst Mildura Weir is drawn down for works. As a result, the level at Lake Mulwala is falling and is currently around 124.52 m AHD. Under a dry scenario, the lake level is expected to continue to fall over the coming week as release is kept between 4-5,000 ML/day. For further information, please see the attached Lake Mulwala media release.

The combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes is about 1,300 ML/day and likely to fall slightly over the coming week as lower flows arrive from upstream. The flow in the Edward River at Deniliquin is steady at around 1,500 ML/day, while further downstream at Moulamein, the flow, boosted by a small pulse from Billabong Creek, is about 1,900 ML/day and is expected to slowly recede over the coming week.

Goulburn River inflows to the Murray are currently 630 ML/day, as measured at McCoys Bridge and are expected to remain above 500 ML/day in the coming week. Downstream on the Murray at Swan Hill, the flow is 5,150 ML/day and receding.

On the Murrumbidgee River, maintenance works needed to be performed on Redbank Weir have meant that the weir is now being drawn down. As a result, flows at Balranald, which are currently around 500 ML/day will increase this week to around 1,200 ML/day and are expected to remain at around this level for the next 10 days at least.

At Euston Weir, the pool level is now around 47 m AHD, or around 60 cm below full supply level (FSL) due to work on the navigable pass. A lowering of up to 80 cm below FSL is possible; however the pool level will be highly dependent on river flows. For further information, see the following media release <http://www.mdba.gov.au/media-pubs/mr/lowering-of-euston-weir-pool>. The current release from Euston Weir is around 7,500 ML/day and is expected to be relatively steady over the coming week.

At Mildura, essential maintenance of the weir's concrete base is progressing well. As can be seen in FIGURE 1, the salinity levels downstream of Mildura Weir have remained fairly steady between 250 to 300 EC units, since the initial rise in salinity due to the drawdown of Mildura Weir in late May.



A small salinity peak, originating from upstream of Euston is now passing through Mildura and the salinity is now decreasing. Salinity forecasts for the Sunraysia area are available on the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/river-salinity>).

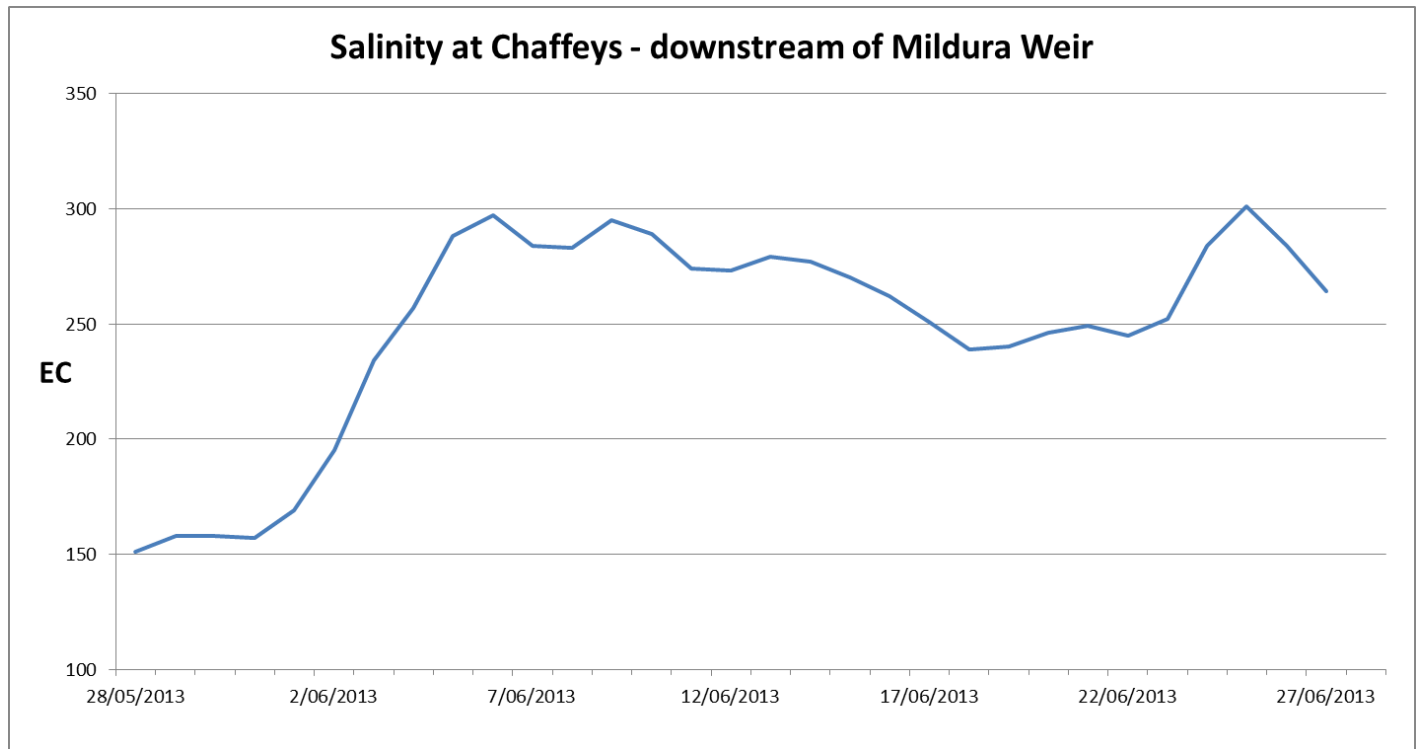


Figure 2 – EC levels downstream of Mildura Weir

Menindee Lakes storage volume has remained steady during the week at 1,254 GL (73% capacity). The release remains around the minimum and is currently 230 ML/day. On the lower Darling River at Burtundy, the flow has receded to about 550 ML/day. At Lake Victoria during the week, the storage volume rose by 30 GL to 515 GL (76% capacity) and this trend is expected to continue in the coming week.

The flow into South Australia is currently targeting about 4,250 ML/day for the remainder of June. The flow at Lock 1 is currently about 4,000 ML/day and the five day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.60 m AHD. Some of the Barrage gates were closed during the week in order to help mitigate against water from the Coorong entering Lake Alexandrina. The lower release rate is likely to continue to help prolong the time that releases from the Barrages can be made.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 26 Jun 2013**

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	482.60	3 637	94%	71	3 566	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.42	1 849	62%	23	1 826	+79
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.62	515	76%	100	415	+29
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 254	72%	(480 #)	774	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 255</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 581</b>	<b>+112</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							77% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	409	40%	3	406	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 128	69%	24	1 104	+57
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 338	70%	100	2 238	+11

\* 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 25 Jun 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 601	-49	Snowy-Murray	+39	264
Snowy-Murray Component	646	-29	Tooma-Tumut	+6	53
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	34	210
			Murray 1 Release	+44	305

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-0.1	1510	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	392
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.8	74	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	700
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	30	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	126
Licensed Pumps	0.2	270	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	83
Lower Darling	0.0	103	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	307
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1608</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 traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	90.0 *
Flow this week	29.7
Flow so far this month	100.4
Flow last month	164.0

(4 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	130	140	110
Euston	140	140	130
Red Cliffs	260	270	150
Merbein	300	290	170
Burtundy (Darling)	560	570	460
Lock 9	250	230	260
Lake Victoria	340	350	280
Berri	490	490	340
Waikerie	520	530	360
Morgan	540	530	360
Mannum	510	500	370
Murray Bridge	500	510	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	610	620	460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	570	560	390
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 130	3 130	3 450
Goolwa Barrages	870	770	1 600





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 26 Jun 2013**

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	-	-	-	9 210	F	6 980	8 300
Jingellic	4.0	2.30	208.82	10 030	R	9 790	11 420
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.48	218.37	650	F	1 400	1 100
Heywoods	5.5	1.29	154.92	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.54	150.01	1 540	F	1 870	2 740
Albury	4.3	0.69	148.13	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.69	126.71	2 040	F	2 550	3 280
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.96	116.00	4 980	F	5 850	5 990
Tocumwal	6.4	1.70	105.54	6 000	S	5 990	6 040
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.89	80.44	5 270	F	5 420	5 590
Swan Hill	4.5	1.14	64.06	5 160	F	5 320	5 210
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.91	52.03	6 670	F	6 770	6 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.64	43.48	7 580	R	7 780	7 870
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.18	27.94	9 360	F	8 750	8 440
Rufus Junction	-	3.01	19.94	3 800	F	3 710	3 100
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.57	-	3 930	F	3 500	3 310
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.42	154.65	1 080	F	1 380	2 130
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.54	146.22	1 910	R	2 060	2 850
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.32	92.74	640	F	710	730
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.58	81.36	1 420	F	1 430	1 430
Edward at Liewah	-	2.38	57.76	1 760	R	1 640	1 470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.34	54.83	290	S	320	510
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.85	56.81	480	F	600	670
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.45	-	640	R	430	270
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	540	S	540	620
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.87	-	490	S	530	710

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 800	10 600
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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	-0.35	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.01	+0.70
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.57	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	-	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.47
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.03	+0.54	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.18	+0.19	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.22	-0.02	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.19

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.60
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**Barrages**

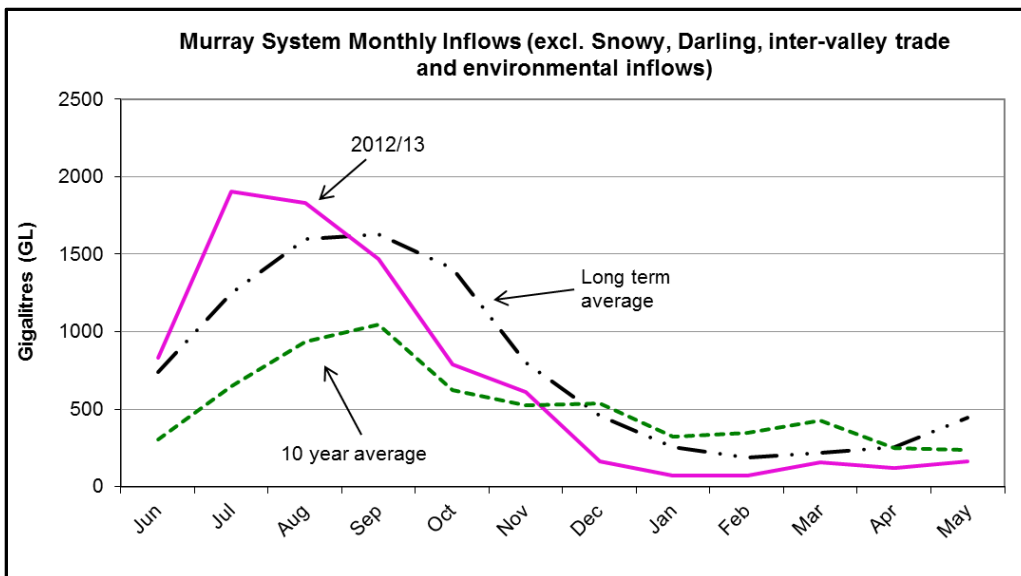
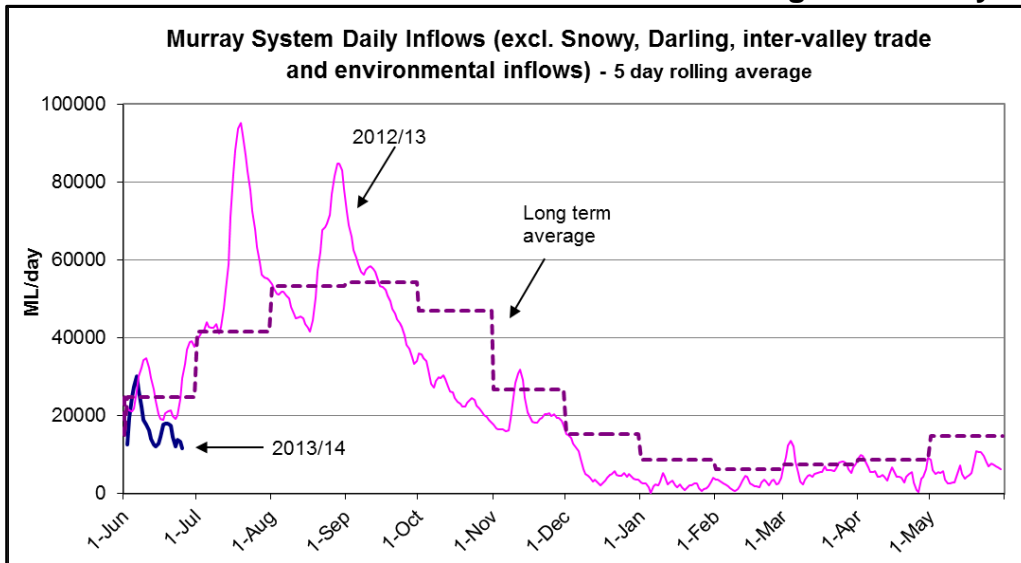
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	3	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 26 Jun 2013



State Allocations (as at 26 Jun 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>
- VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
- SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>

# MEDIA RELEASE



28 June 2013

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## Lake Mulwala levels update

The water level in Lake Mulwala is likely to continue to vary over the next four weeks as water is released from Yarrowonga Weir to help manage increased salinity levels downstream.

MDBA executive director David Dreverman said flows from Yarrowonga Weir were currently helping to manage salinity levels at Mildura Weir while it is drawn down for essential work to repair its concrete base.

“So far, the flows from Yarrowonga have helped us to keep salinity levels at Mildura to a manageable level over recent weeks,” Mr Dreverman said.

“There hasn’t been much variation to water levels at Lake Mulwala due to inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens rivers, however, this could change depending on the rainfall over coming weeks.

“If conditions are dry over the next two weeks, water held in Lake Mulwala will be needed to supplement inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens rivers, and the lake level could be drawn down by more than one meter. However, under a wet scenario, it would not need to be lowered at all.”

Over the past four weeks, the level in Lake Mulwala has varied between 124.5 and 124.8m AHD, while releases have varied between 3500 and 6000 ML/day.

Releases from Hume Reservoir during this time have been at the minimum rate of 600 ML/day.

Mr Dreverman said that regardless of how far the lake was drawn down, Lake Mulwala would be refilled by late July for the start of the irrigation season.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users should consider adjusting their activities as a result of the changes to water levels.

The MDBA will continue to closely monitor river and salinity levels throughout the drawdown period.

Further information is updated weekly in the River Operations Weekly Report, and the flow and salinity forecasts available from the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts)

ENDS

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