



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2014

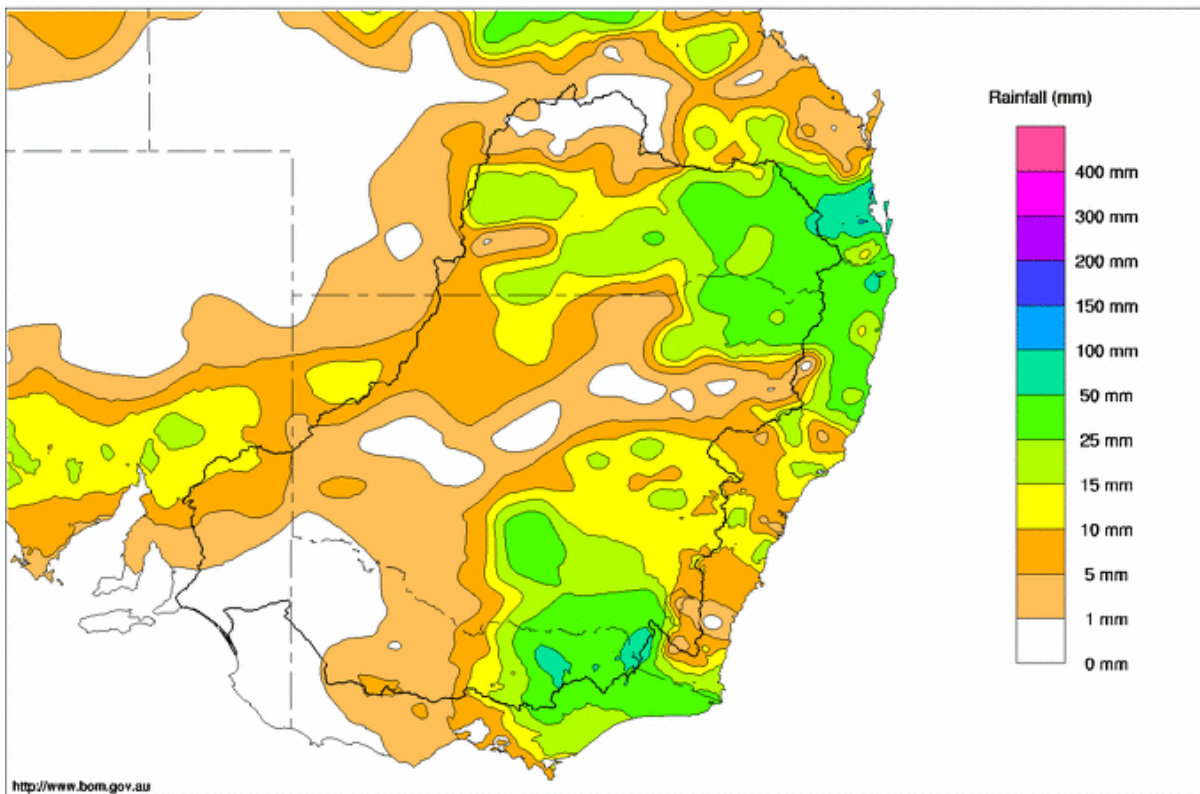
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## Rainfall and Inflows

There was some brief respite from the heat across the Murray-Darling Basin this week, due to a slow-moving trough that brought rain to parts of Victoria, New South Wales and southern Queensland (Map 1). Highest rainfall totals in Queensland were reported near Toowoomba, with 112 mm at Mt Kynoch and 62 mm at Oakey. In New South Wales, there was some significant rainfall in the alpine region including 92 mm at Charlotte Pass, as well as notable rainfall along parts of the Riverina including 42 mm at Darlington Point on the Murrumbidgee. In Victoria, highest totals were recorded in the Ovens River catchment including 93 mm at Greta West, whilst only minor rain was registered in South Australia.

The low pressure system that delivered this rain has now passed, seeing a return to hot and dry conditions throughout the Basin. Further extreme heat is expected this week, with many towns along the River Murray forecast to experience consecutive days of 40 degrees Celsius or above.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 29th January 2014  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 29 January 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Increases in streamflows across the upper Murray catchments were short-lived this week following the rain. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 1,300 ML/day on Saturday and has now receded back to 485 ML/day. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge peaked at 668 ML/day and has now decreased to 160 ML/day; and on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta rose to 850 ML/day and has now returned to 430 ML/day.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 142 GL this week and is currently 5,798 GL or 67% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 13 GL to 3,576 GL (93% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, remained steady at 2,500 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 80 GL to 1,799 GL (60% capacity). The release averaged around 15,000 ML/day over the past week, and is expected to rise in the coming days to around 20,000 ML/day.

At Yarrowonga Weir, diversions from the irrigation offtakes eased this week, totalling around 50 GL compared with 66 GL last week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala remained slightly above 124.8 m AHD due to the reduced irrigation demand, and is now anticipated to lower to around 124.70 m AHD. The downstream release averaged 10,100 ML/day, and will increase up to 10,300 ML/day over the coming week.

On the Edward River at Stevens Weir, the downstream flow is around 1,200 ML/day. Diversions to the Wakool River remain at about 100 ML/day, with approximately 250 ML/day flowing into Yallakool Creek. Flow in the Edward River at Moulamein increased this week from around 1,100 ML/day to 1,200 ML/day whilst the Niemur River at Mallan School remained steady at 120 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow has receded from 2,800 ML/day to 2,150 ML/day. Over the coming days this flow will recede to a low of about 2,000 ML/day before rising up again to around 2,500 ML/day by the end of the week. These flows are resulting from the delivery of 'Inter-Valley Transfer' (IVT) water, which has been traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority can draw on water from IVT accounts in the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee valleys as required for Murray system operations. In the current instance, IVT water is being drawn on from the Goulburn Valley to ensure a secure supply to the Sunraysia district and South Australia during the current heatwave. The pattern of IVT delivery has been determined through consultation between Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Goulburn-Murray Water and the Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority, taking into consideration environmental objectives for the Goulburn River.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel increased this week from 3,000 ML/day up to 4,000 ML/day. The flow downstream of the weir is currently 5,700 ML/day and expected to recede to a low of around 5,000 ML/day on Monday. Flows are then expected to steadily rise in the lead up to the Southern 80 ski race on the weekend of 8/9 February.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is steady at around 200 ML/day. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow is currently 4,400 ML/day and expected to rise up to around 5,000 ML/day over the coming week.

A combination of high evaporation and private diversions are currently resulting in losses close to highest on record within the River Murray System. This reflects the prolonged nature and areal extent of hot weather throughout the system.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 20 GL over the past week to 547 GL (32% capacity). Releases from the lakes, measured at Weir 32, have reduced from 1,350 ML/day to 1,000 ML/day where they will remain steady until about 9 February, after which time the release will be reduced to a minimum flow of 350 ML/day. At Burtundy, the flow is currently around 1,500 ML/day and will slowly recede to around 1,300 ML/day over the coming week.

On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir has fallen this week from 5,000 ML/day to around 3,000 ML/day. Flows at Wentworth are expected to begin rising over the coming week as increased flows pass down the River Murray upstream of the confluence. At Lock 9, the weir pool will be brought back to full supply level following a draw-down of 10cm.



At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 25.93 m AHD (550 GL, 81% capacity) and the flow into South Australia is averaging around 7,500 ML/day. South Australia's February entitlement flow is planned to be delivered in an altered daily pattern to deliver additional water in the first half of February and less water later in the month. This is necessary as essential remedial works on the Lake Victoria outlet regulator will commence in mid-February 2014, which will constrain the daily volume of water able to be released from Lake Victoria. As such, commencing 1 February the flow to South Australia will be targeted at just under 10,000 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level is currently 0.65 m AHD.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



### Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 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	481.63	3 576	93%	71	3 505	-13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.09	1 799	60%	23	1 776	-80
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.93	550	81%	100	450	-29
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		547	32%	(480 #)	67	-20
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 472</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 798</b>	<b>-142</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							67% ^	

#### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	491	48%	3	488	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 140	70%	24	1 116	-57
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 749	82%	100	2 649	-43

\* 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 28 Jan 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 532	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+6	621
Snowy-Murray Component	735	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+0	234
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	5	387
			Murray 1 Release	+7	905

### 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)	43.3	782	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.9	214
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.6	19	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.2	314
Western Murray Irrigation	1.3	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.6	83
Licensed Pumps	7.7	150	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	142
Lower Darling	5.5	169	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>955</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	217.0 *	
Flow this week	52.3	(7 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	225.9	
Flow last month	374.1	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	70	70	80
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	130	130	110
Merbein	140	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	470	460	510
Lock 9	300	300	170
Lake Victoria	220	240	260
Berri	330	320	250
Waikerie	290	280	300
Morgan	290	280	300
Mannum	290	280	340
Murray Bridge	290	280	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	660	710	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	540	530	540
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 630	2 590	2 610
Goolwa Barrages	960	950	1 370





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 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	-	-	-	3 620	F	1 410	2 270
Jingellic	4.0	1.65	208.17	3 880	R	1 820	3 490
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.14	219.03	2 740	S	2 820	4 690
Heywoods	5.5	3.38	157.01	17 210	R	15 200	19 330
Doctors Point	5.5	3.28	151.75	18 200	R	15 570	20 010
Albury	4.3	2.31	149.75	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.14	129.16	15 020	R	16 340	20 010
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	F	10 040	10 120
Tocumwal	6.4	2.30	106.14	9 750	R	9 730	9 620
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.02	80.57	5 690	F	6 260	5 000
Swan Hill	4.5	1.25	64.17	5 900	R	5 320	4 400
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.75	51.87	6 540	R	5 860	6 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.02	42.86	4 400	R	4 290	5 250
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.69	27.45	3 200	F	4 240	5 970
Rufus Junction	-	3.53	20.46	6 710	F	6 890	6 590
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.82	-	3 930	R	3 410	3 110
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	310	F	340	730
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.92	145.60	430	F	480	190
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.16	93.58	2 170	F	2 490	2 280
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.43	81.20	1 230	F	1 230	1 150
Edward at Liewah	-	1.71	57.09	1 050	R	1 040	1 220
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.50	54.99	610	R	590	730
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	200	F	220	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	440	R	110	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.92	-	0	F	0	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.21	-	1 540	F	1 870	2 620

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 460	1 150
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+1.17
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+0.18
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.05	-0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.12	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.07	+0.05	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.29
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.10	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-33.60	+0.06	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.07

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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**Barrages**

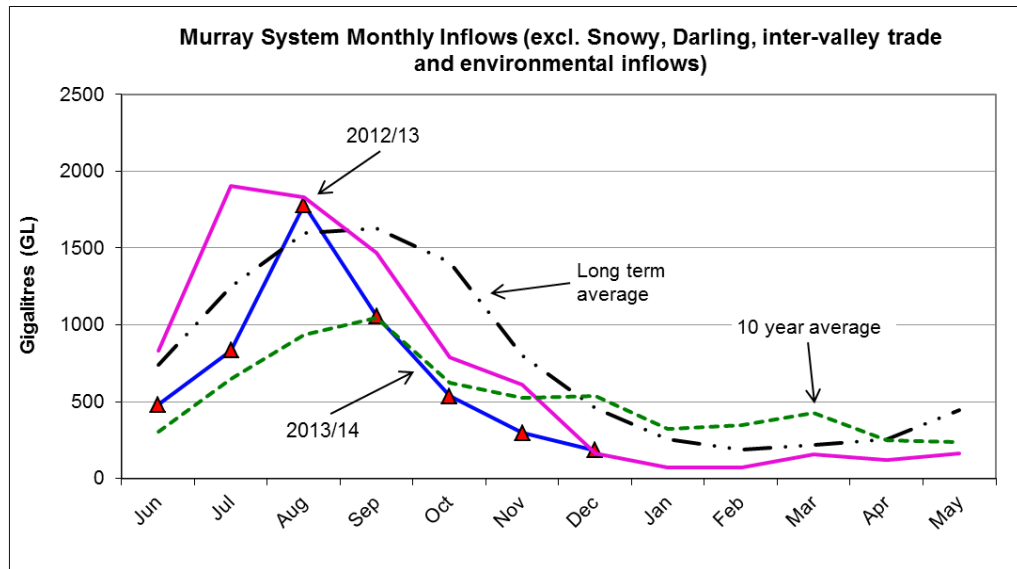
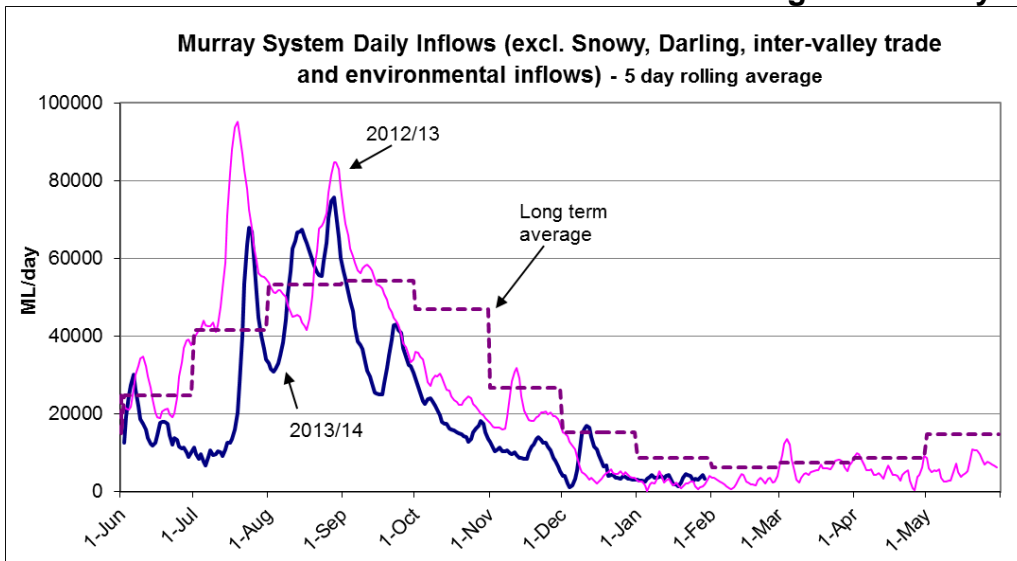
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.60	2	Open	Open

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



**Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 2014**



**State Allocations (as at 29 Jan 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	47%

**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>