



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

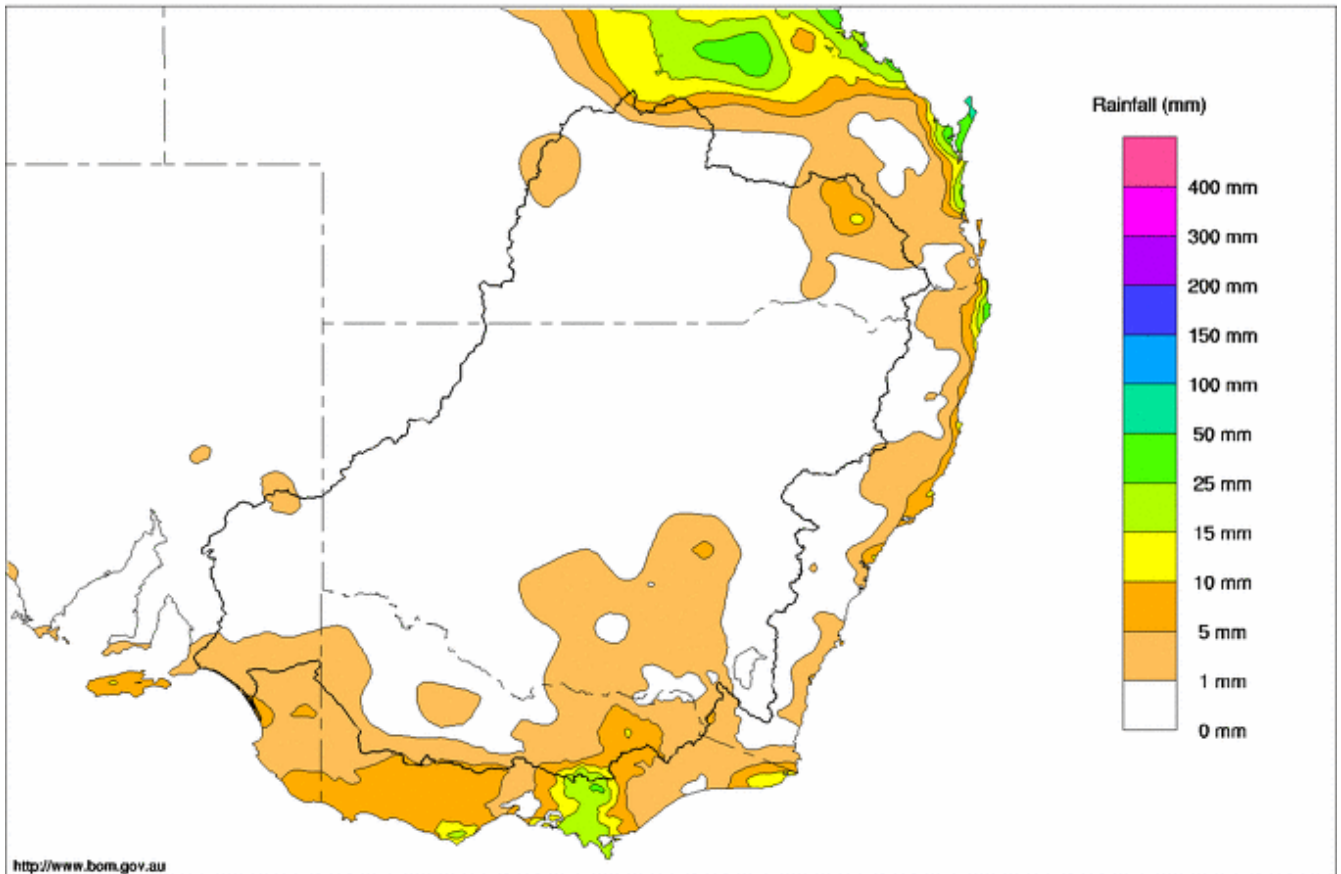
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2013

Trim Ref: D13/16526

Rainfall and Inflows

It was another week of fine weather across most of the Murray-Darling Basin. There was little in the way of worthwhile rain, with only light totals recorded in the far north-east and across the south associated with a passing cold front. Elsewhere conditions stayed dry (Map 1). Aside from an isolated report of 58 mm at Miles in Queensland, the only areas to record totals higher than 10 mm were in Victoria, where there was 15 mm at Mt William, 14 mm at Woods Point and 10 mm at Mt Buller.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 8th May 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 8 May 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

There has been little change in stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries. On the upper River Murray at Biggara, the flow remains at around 550 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow averaged around 450 ML/day; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 750 to 550 ML/day.



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 5 GL during the week to 5,797 GL (67% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 3 GL to 3,571 GL (93% capacity). The flow at the Colemans gauge remains steady at 350 ML/day. However, on Thursday 9 May, the flow will increase to around 3,000 ML/day due to an entitlement release by AGL Hydro for electricity generation. The duration of higher flows will depend on the electricity demand.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 19 GL to 1,329 GL (44%). The Hume release was decreased from 11,300 to 5,300 ML/day this week as system demands fell away downstream. Further decreases are expected this week as the main diversion channels prepare to close prior to completion of the current irrigation season.

At Yarrawonga, the water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.78 m AHD and decreasing. The level will continue to fall in the days ahead and will likely dip below 124.7 m AHD and remain there leading up to the Lake Mulwala drawdown (announced last week) that is scheduled to commence later in the month. The release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir was decreased from 7,000 to 4,500 ML/day during the week with further reductions anticipated for this week. It is expected that the release will be close to 2,000 ML/day by 14 May.

On the Edward River System, flow from the Murray through the Edward River offtake decreased to around 900 ML/day, with around 200 ML/day flowing through the Gulpa Creek offtake. At Stevens Weir, the current pool level is 4.64 m on the local gauge. NSW State Water Corporation has announced that the main winter drawdown of the Stevens Weir pool has been scheduled to begin on 14 May. The current release at Stevens Weir is around 450 ML/day; however this would be expected to increase for several days once the winter drawdown begins. Further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing is receding slowly with the current flow at around 350 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been steady at around 900 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir there were flows in excess of 4,000 ML/day for most of the week; however the flow has now eased to around 3,800 ML/day and is expected to fall away further during the coming days.

Downstream at Barham, the flow has risen to 4,100 ML/day, but will begin receding this week as lower flows from Torrumbarry Weir make their way downstream. At Euston, the flow is currently 4,800 ML/day and should remain steady for a few more days.

At the Menindee Lakes, inflows have fallen away to below 5,000 ML/day and will continue to do so as only the tail of the recent event remains in the Darling River upstream. Total storage in the four lakes decreased by 28 GL during the week with a current total volume of 1,266 GL (73% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, has been decreased throughout the week and is currently at 5,800 ML/day. The timetable for reducing releases has been brought forward by 2 days as outlined in the attached flow advice. Downstream at Burtundy, the flow is steady at a peak of around 7,400 ML/day and is expected to begin falling away later in the coming week.

At Wentworth Weir, the Murray is now flowing at 11,900 ML/day and is expected to remain close to 12,000 ML/day in the coming days. The water level in Lake Victoria has continued to increase and is now at 23.59 m AHD (303 GL, 45% capacity). The current flow into South Australia is 5,200 ML/day with similar flows expected in the coming week.

At the Lower Lakes, the five-day average water level for Lake Alexandrina has decreased to 0.61 m AHD. Favourable tide and swell conditions meant that, at times, up to 26 barrage gates were able to be opened during the week. The estimated average flow into the Coorong was around 6,000 ML/day.

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 08 May 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	481.56	3 571	93%	71	3 500	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.63	1 329	44%	23	1 306	-19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.59	303	45%	100	203	+39
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 268	73%	(480 #)	788	-28
Total		9 269		6 471	70%	--	5 797	-5
Total Active MDBA Storage							67% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	389	38%	3	386	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	994	61%	24	970	+25
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2297	69%	100	2197	-23

* 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 07 May 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 761	-36	Snowy-Murray	+22	25
Snowy-Murray Component	635	-26	Tooma-Tumut	+2	2
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	20	23
			Murray 1 Release	+27	27

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)	22.8	1508	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.3	385
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.4	75	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	553
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	29	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1	124
Licensed Pumps	4.9	262	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	12.1	70
Lower Darling	2.1	98	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	287
TOTAL	31.4	1972	TOTAL	25.1	1419

* 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	93.0 *
Flow this week	36.1
Flow so far this month	41.5
Flow last month	219.2

(5 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	90	100
Euston	110	110	130
Red Cliffs	150	150	140
Merbein	160	170	160
Burtundy (Darling)	440	400	470
Lock 9	310	310	260
Lake Victoria	330	350	260
Berri	450	470	320
Waikerie	470	460	340
Morgan	450	450	330
Mannum	450	460	350
Murray Bridge	-	440	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	570	560	440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	530	520	370
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 250	3 280	3 450
Goolwa Barrages	1 140	1 460	1 580



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 08 May 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	-	-	-	3 760	F	2 170	3 830
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 880	R	4 680	5 380
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	218.28	470	F	490	1 120
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	155.83	5 270	S	6 750	11 600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.16	150.63	5 680	S	7 150	12 120
Albury	4.3	1.19	148.63	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.71	127.73	6 360	F	9 010	11 980
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.90	115.94	4 600	F	5 590	6 860
Tocumwal	6.4	1.61	105.45	5 420	F	6 220	6 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.47	80.01	3 850	F	4 100	3 990
Swan Hill	4.5	0.90	63.82	3 690	R	3 590	3 590
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.12	51.24	4 670	S	4 710	4 920
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.06	42.90	4 800	S	4 530	4 710
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 520	F	4 560	5 010
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.23	27.99	11 920	S	12 170	11 960
Rufus Junction	-	3.15	20.08	4 350	F	4 310	5 860
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.54	-	3 220	R	4 520	6 350
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	360	F	440	410
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.89	145.57	550	S	570	750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.51	92.93	910	F	900	890
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.68	80.45	440	F	440	460
Edward at Liewah	-	1.02	56.40	500	F	590	690
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.38	54.87	340	F	360	390
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.71	56.67	360	S	330	270
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	410	F	470	600
Darling at Bourke	-	4.28	-	1 350	F	1 790	2 290
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.19	-	7 390	S	7 390	7 100

Natural Inflow to Hume	210	1 330
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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	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.88
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.59	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.14	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	+0.21	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.21

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.61
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Barrages

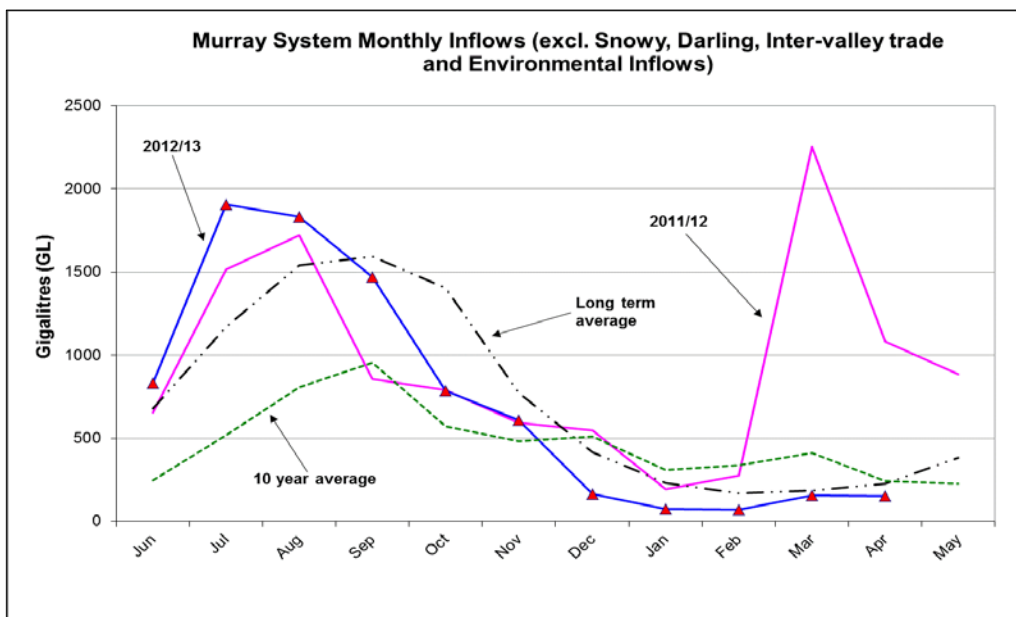
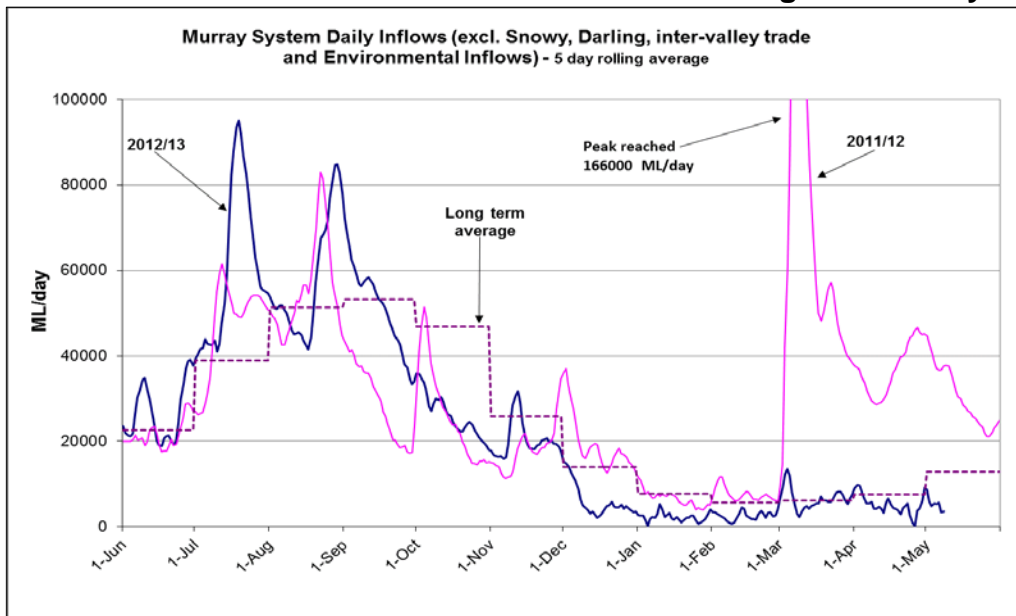
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.65	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.66	19	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 08 May 2013



State Allocations (as at 08 May 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/>

Lower Darling River Flow advice



3 May 2013

Flows to decrease earlier at Weir 32

The timetable to reduce flows at Weir 32 has been brought forward by 2 days. Flows at Weir 32 are now set to gradually decrease from today, Friday 3 May, from about 9,000 ML/day (3.3m), back to the normal winter minimum flow rate of 200 ML/day (1.4 m) by the end of May.

This is due to further reductions in operational demands on the River Murray as the 2012-13 watering season draws to a close.

Storage levels at Menindee Lakes are currently at 75% and are slowly falling.

NSW Office of Water has indicated the lakes will continue to be managed to maximise the storage in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo (see www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Flood-management/default.aspx#menindee).

At Burtundy, the flow is close to the peak at around 7,400 ML/day (4.2m). The flow is expected to remain around this rate for another week, and then start decreasing. The flow is expected to return to the normal minimum of around 200 ML/day later in June.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the changing flow rates along the lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

Forecast flows and Menindee storage volumes are also available on the MDBA website (see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts>).

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements. A further flow advice will be issued if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

ENDS

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

For other information contact MDBA at inquiries@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

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