



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2009

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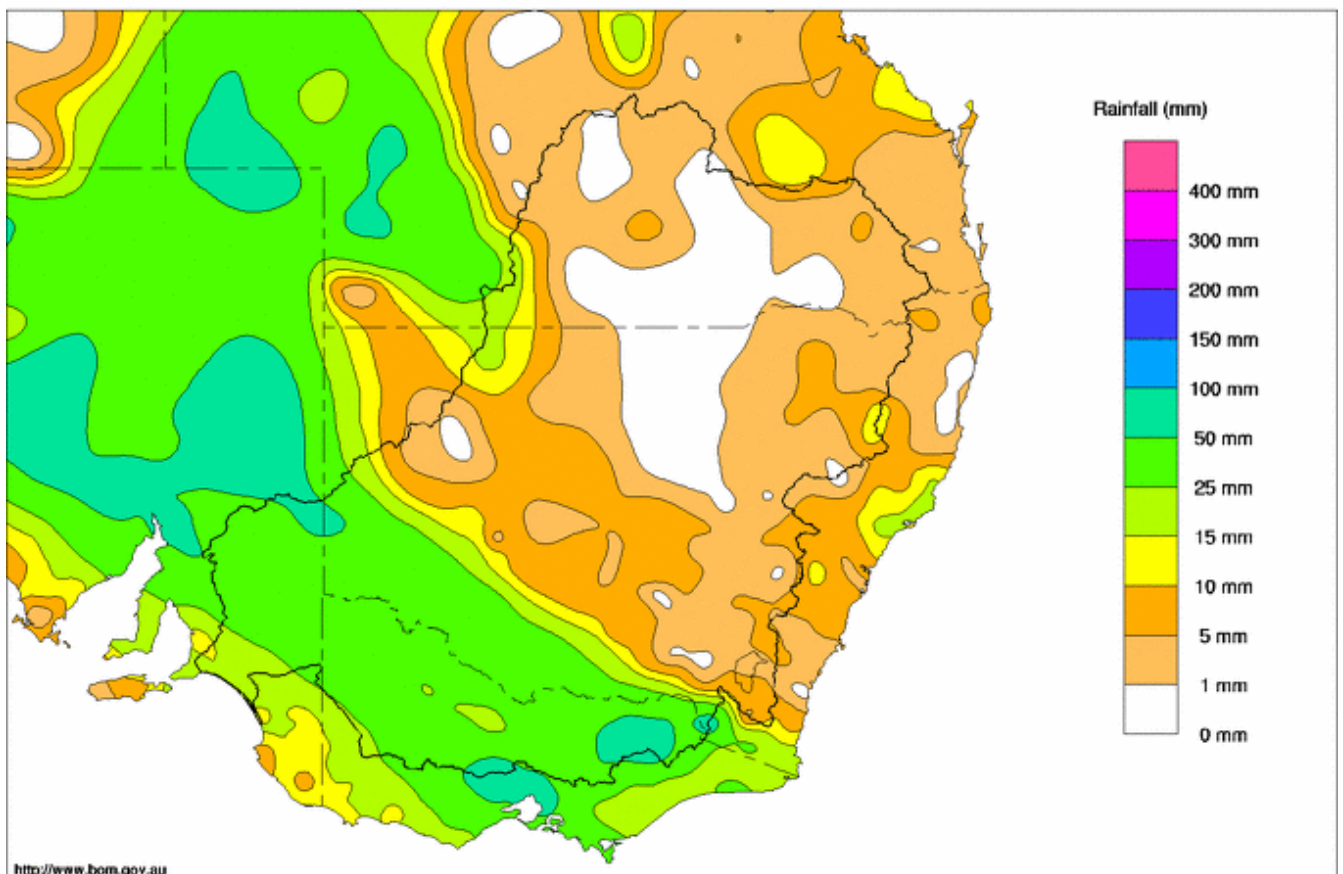
Rainfall and Inflows

After four weeks of exceptionally hot and dry weather, there were good falls of rain (25 – 50 mm) across the southern Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). The highest rainfall was recorded in the Victorian Alps, in particular Mt Hotham which received 130 mm. In contrast, the central and northern regions of the Basin received less than 10 mm.

Despite the good falls of rain across the catchments of the upper Murray and its tributaries, the streamflow response was very limited, due to the hot and dry preceding conditions. For instance at Hinnomunjie on the upper reaches of the Mitta Mitta River, the flow increased from 400 to 2,400 ML/day, but has quickly receded to 750 ML/day. Similarly, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River, the flow increased from 860 to 3,030 ML/day but has already receded to 1,180 ML/day. This compares with a peak flow in mid-October of 8,100 ML/day.

The recent rainfall provided only a small boost to Murray system inflows for November, which on the 25th November totalled about 215 GL. This is tracking well below the November long term average which is 780 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th November 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 24 GL to 2,436 GL (or 29 % capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 6 GL to 1,212 GL (31 % capacity) and the release is currently 200 ML/day. A small transfer of water to Hume Reservoir will commence on Friday 27th November. The flow at Colemans gauge downstream of Dartmouth Dam will peak at about 3,000 ML/day on Saturday 28th November, and then gradually decrease to about 500 ML/day over the following week. Further transfers of water might be required during the next few months, to help maintain sufficient water in Hume Reservoir for the remainder of the irrigation season.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 23 GL to 1,111 GL (37 % capacity). In response to the increase in inflows from the Ovens River, as well as a reduction in both irrigation demand and river transmission losses, the target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) was reduced from 12,900 to 8,500 ML/day. The reduction in irrigation demand, combined with local inflows, also resulted in the Lake Mulwala water level increasing to 124.91 m AHD (or 0.01 m above FSL). The release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased slightly, from 10,300 to 10,500 ML/day, which is equivalent to the channel capacity downstream through the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

At Stevens Weir on the Edward River, the release was increased from 2,200 to a peak of 2,800 ML/day in response to increased return flows from nearby irrigation areas. During the coming week, the release will be reduced back to about 2,200 ML/day.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release increased from 6,870 to 7,670 ML/day, and is expected to continue increasing slightly during the coming week. Further downstream at Euston Weir, the release increased from 7,370 to 10,130 ML/day, due to a reduction in both irrigation demand and river transmission losses upstream. Similarly, at Wentworth Weir the release increased from 3,920 to 6,450 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 8 GL to 323 GL (48 % capacity), and should remain fairly steady over the next few weeks. The flow to South Australia has remained steady at 5,000 ML/day, and this has allowed the pool levels in Weirs 1 to 6 to be raised back towards their full supply levels.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.80 m AHD, and in Lake Albert is steady at -0.44 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) decreased from 0.67 to 0.63 m AHD.

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DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 25 Nov 2009

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.49	1 212	31%	80	1 132	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.60	1 111	37%	30	1 081	-23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.78	323	48%	100	223	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		167	10%	(- -) #	0	-8
Total		9 352		2 812	30%	--	2 436	-33

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **29%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		446	43%	3	443	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		564	35%	24	540	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		1 092	33%	100	992	-7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Nov-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 239	-15	Snowy-Murray	+24	355
Snowy-Murray Component	791	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+7	215
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	16.4	140
			Murray 1 Release	+27	555

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.8	85.2	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	51
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.2	18.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.0	96
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	7.4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.0	35
Licensed Pumps	2.5	35.8	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	2
Lower Darling	0.2	3.2	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	76
TOTAL	10.3	149.7	TOTAL	16.9	258

* 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 is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180 *	
Flow this week	36.1	(5 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	117	
Flow last month	83	

* Reduced to approx. 135 GL during November drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC) (microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	70	70	80
Red Cliffs	100	100	110
Merbein	110	120	100
Burtundy (Darling)	570	580	520
Lock 9	130	120	150
Lake Victoria	150	190	210
Berri	260	280	420
Waikerie	-	-	560
Morgan	670	680	600
Mannum	600	590	600
Murray Bridge	670	680	700
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 790	5 860	5 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	5 410	5 020	4 890
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 940	11 330	9 570
Goolwa Barrages	10 450	10 430	14 670

Week ending Wednesday 25 Nov 2009

River Levels and Flows

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	-	-	-	2 410	F	4 620	5 050
Jingellic	4.0	1.70	208.22	4 820	F	6 490	6 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	590	F	690	610
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	155.83	7 050	F	10 560	12 170
Doctors Point	5.5	2.44	150.91	8 490	F	11 540	12 730
Albury	4.3	1.42	148.86	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.36	128.38	10 750	F	12 500	12 910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	10 600	R	10 420	10 270
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	10 490	F	10 390	9 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.52	81.07	7 670	R	7 090	7 080
Swan Hill	4.5	1.41	64.33	7 260	R	7 260	7 010
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.99	52.11	8 130	F	8 000	7 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.03	43.87	10 130	S	9 220	6 660
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 920	F	5 260	3 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	6 450	R	4 630	2 690
Rufus Junction	-	3.16	20.09	4 630	R	4 480	4 260
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.48	-	2 030	R	1 680	1 430
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.55	154.78	1 400	F	1 150	920
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.46	146.14	2 110	F	1 500	1 260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.37	92.79	750	R	500	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.46	82.23	2 740	F	2 560	2 210
Edward at Liewah	-	2.49	57.87	1 890	S	1 860	1 750
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.03	54.52	20	S	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.56	57.52	1 090	R	1 040	800
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.32	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.53	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	80	F	90	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 660	4 520
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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	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.86
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.25	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.57
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.50	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.91	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-1.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.85	1.47	70.82	1602
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.127	62.427	1394

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.80

Barrages

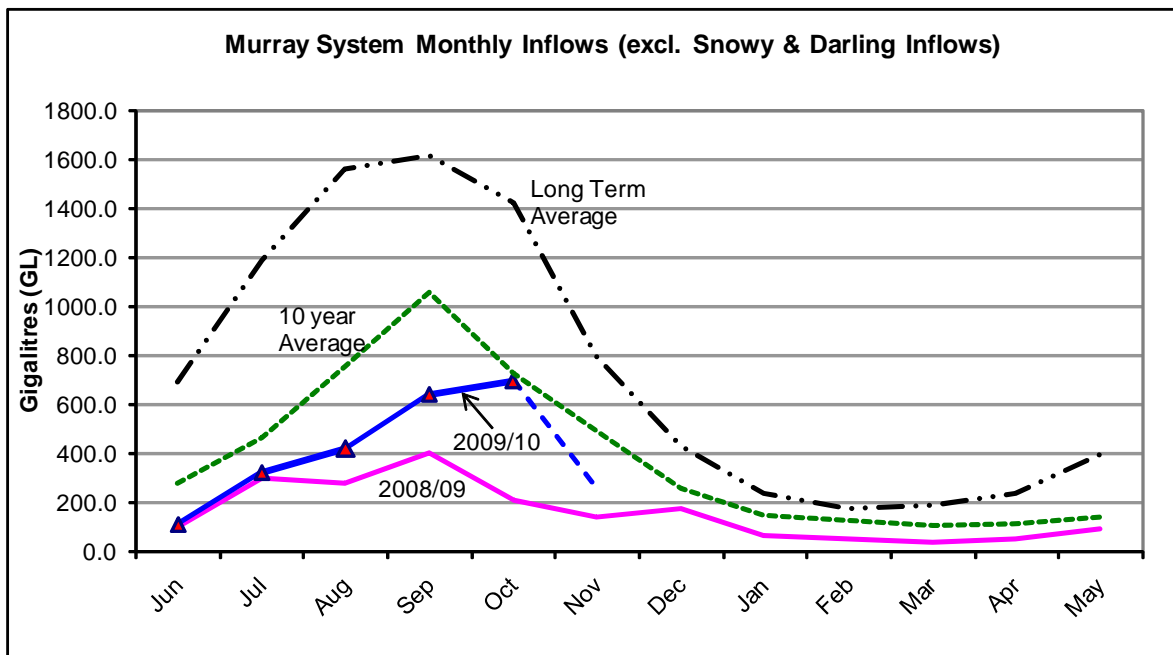
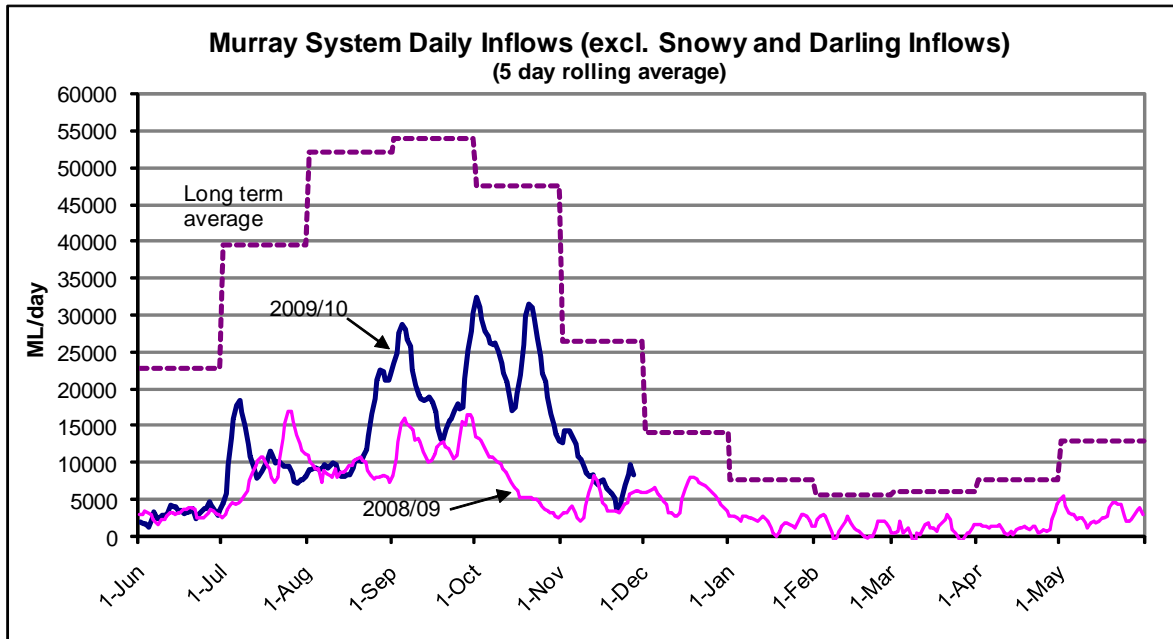
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 25th November 2009



State Allocations (as at 25th November 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	10%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	55%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	14%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	41%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	25%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	48%
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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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>