



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2010

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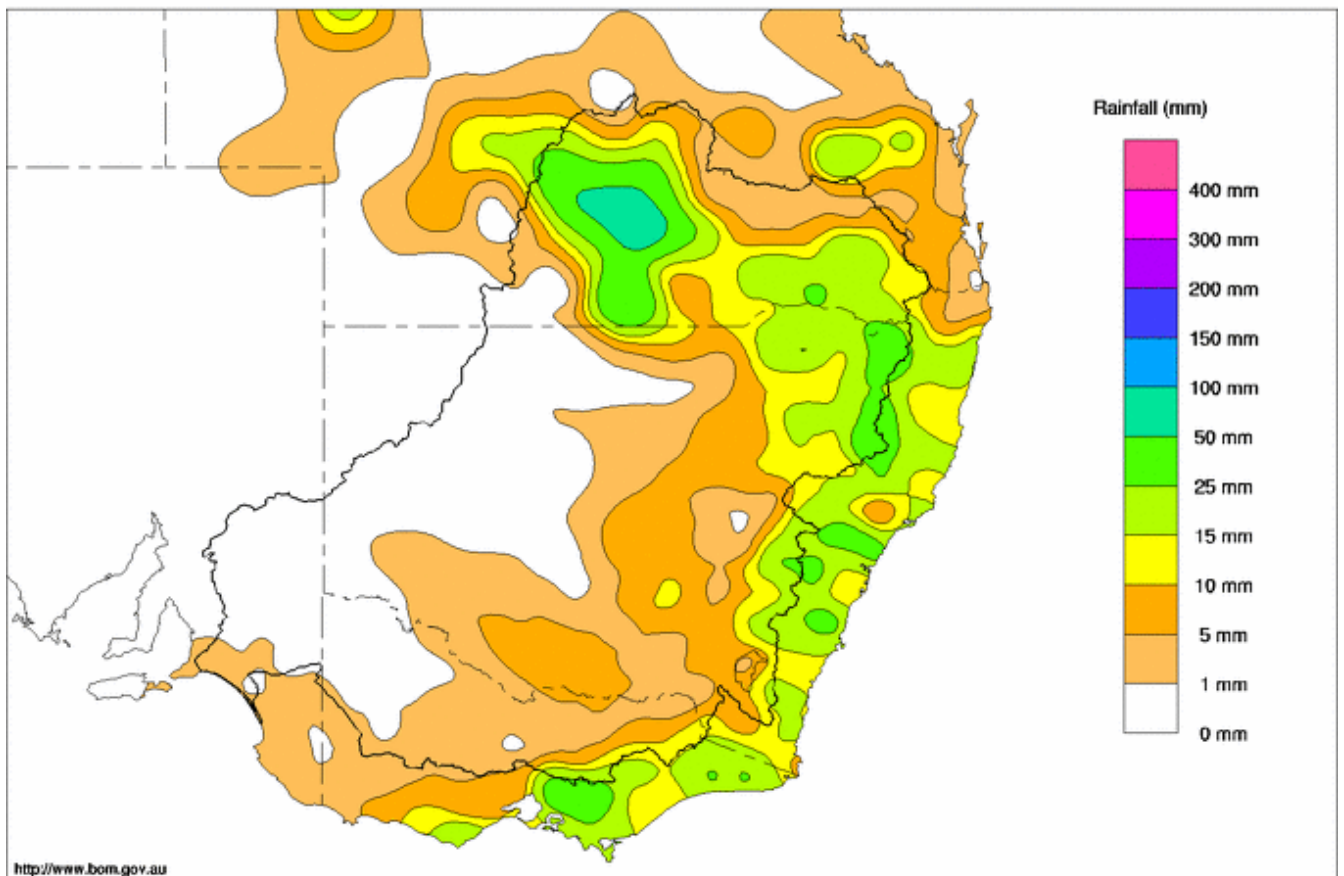
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was once again generally light across the Basin, with most areas receiving less than 10 mm. Heaviest falls were recorded in the far north and north-east, mostly from storm activity in the NSW eastern highlands and southern Queensland (see map below). Some of the notable totals for the week included 61 mm at Glen Innes Airport, 46 mm at Tenterfield, 42 mm at Goondiwindi and 33 mm at Moree Airport. Further south, storms brought 33 mm to Bathurst and 32 mm to Gunning. In the upper Warrego catchment in Queensland, Glenorie recorded 76 mm for the week while Charleville received 33 mm.

These falls gave little response to stream flows across the Basin and the generally dry and warm weather in the south meant stream recessions in the key southern tributaries continued. For example, Rocky Point on the Ovens River has receded from around 500 to 430 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th January 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 72 GL to 2,009 GL (or 24%). This is higher than this time last year (1,611 GL or 19% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has decreased by 1 GL during the week to 1,194 GL, or around 31% capacity. The release (measured at the Colemans gauge downstream) has been steady at 500 ML/day during the last week and this is expected to be maintained in the coming days. The planned pulsed releases for the Mitta Mitta River have now been postponed as a consequence of expected Darling inflows.

Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 57 GL to 692 GL (23% capacity) over the last week. Negotiations between the states have resulted in an agreement to supply a significant increased flow along the lower Darling and into the River Murray at Wentworth in the coming weeks. Releases down the River Murray from Lake Hume have therefore been reduced as part of an overall change in operational strategy in response to these higher flows from the Darling, which have already commenced. The release from Hume was targeting 13,500 ML/day at Doctors Point at the beginning of the week, but has since been decreased with the target now at 9,000 ML/day. Corresponding reductions in flows will result progressively downstream over the next few weeks.

The water level in Lake Mulwala remained above 124.7 m AHD throughout last week with the level now at 124.78 m AHD, which is 12 cm below FSL. The level is expected to remain above 124.7 m AHD for the coming week. In response to the reduction in flows from Lake Hume, releases from Yarrawonga Weir are now also decreasing. The release was reduced from 10,000 to 8,000 ML/day over the last few days and should remain around this value in the coming days.

On the Edward River, the Stevens Weir release has also been reduced from around 2,200 ML/day at the beginning of the week and is now below 2,000 ML/day. The release should be gradually decreased further in the coming days to a target of 1,600 ML/day.

Flows in the mid Murray have been fairly steady over the past week, but are also expected to gradually decrease over the coming few weeks. At Torrumbarry Weir, the release has decreased slightly from 7,000 to 6,700 ML/day during the week and is expected to continue dropping slowly in the coming week, with the weir pool remaining at FSL.

Downstream at Euston Weir, the release has been steady at around 9,500 ML/day during the week and is expected to slowly decrease in the coming days, while further downstream, both Mildura and Wentworth Weirs remain above FSL.

Flows from the Christmas-New Year rain in northern NSW have continued to progress down the Barwon-Darling river system. The Darling River flow at Bourke has held up well, with a continued steady rise observed throughout the week taking the flow to over 45,000 ML/day. The river at Bourke is now expected to peak in the next few days. The flows below Wilcannia have continued to increase and at Menindee Lakes there has been an increase in total storage of 94 GL over the past week to 239 GL (14% capacity). The storage has now increased by 114 GL since these current inflows began to arrive.

As announced last week, NSW has now commenced releasing higher flows downstream of Menindee Lakes. The flow has gone from around 350 to 3,100 ML/day and is expected to be increased to around 9,000 ML/day in the coming days. These flows should begin arriving at the River Murray around the end of January. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has approved trades from the Lower Darling to the River Murray for the remainder of 2009/10 water year (see attached media release).

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 14 GL to 333 GL (49% capacity) over the last week and should continue to decline over the next couple of weeks ahead of the higher flows expected from the Darling. The target flow to South Australia has been set at 6,850 ML/day over the past week and is expected to be increased to 8,300 ML/day in the next few days. This is to help achieve an increased flow over Lock 1 and push higher flows into the Lower Lakes. The weir pool level at Lock 6 remains just above



FSL, however the pool levels for Locks 1 to 5 are all below full supply as a result of the current Lock 1 target.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has dropped to -0.93 m AHD, while at Lake Albert (which remains separated from Lake Alexandrina) the level remains at -0.70 m AHD. The water level in the Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) decreased during the week from 0.32 to 0.27 m AHD.

Algal Blooms

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (RACC) has recently updated its alerts for blue-green algae. There are currently Amber alerts for the River Murray below Yarrawonga Weir and at Cobram, Koraliegh Water Supply Channel and for Billabong Creek at Walbundrie. Further updates will be provided over the coming months.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 20 Jan 2010

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	429.94	1 194	31%	80	1 114	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.53	692	23%	30	662	-57
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.89	333	49%	100	233	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		239	14%	(- -) #	0	+94
Total		9 352		2 458	26%	--	2 009	+22

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **24%**

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	419	41%	3	416	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	472	29%	24	448	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 022	31%	100	922	-16

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Jan-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 094	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+11	452
Snowy-Murray Component	740	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	228
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	9.8	224
			Murray 1 Release	+10	665

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	114.1	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.4	86
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.5	38.6	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.6	130
Western Murray Irrig.	1.1	15.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.8	72
Licensed Pumps	2.9	58.5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.5	10
Lower Darling	0.3	5.5	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	152
TOTAL	9.5	231.8	TOTAL	30.5	450

* 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	217	
Flow this week	49.7	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	138	
Flow last month	155	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	70	60
Euston	70	80	90
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	100	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	620	620	540
Lock 9	170	170	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	200
Berri	170	180	360
Waikerie	-	-	520
Morgan	330	350	560
Mannum	710	730	630
Murray Bridge	770	760	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	6 060	6 060	5 470
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	5 420	5 450	5 010
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	14 750	15 240	10 640
Goolwa Barrages	13 360	13 300	13 540

Week ending Wednesday 20 Jan 2010

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	-	-	-	2 150	F	1 340	5 200
Jingellic	4.0	1.21	207.73	1 350	F	2 190	5 490
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	590	F	630	620
Heywoods	5.5	2.52	156.15	8 490	F	10 740	11 670
Doctors Point	5.5	2.51	150.98	9 170	F	11 310	12 710
Albury	4.3	1.51	148.95	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.33	128.35	10 550	F	12 120	12 080
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.39	116.43	8 010	F	9 250	9 970
Tocumwal	6.4	1.99	105.83	8 570	F	9 410	9 910
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.14	80.69	6 380	F	6 720	7 200
Swan Hill	4.5	1.33	64.25	6 740	F	7 090	7 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.01	52.13	8 250	F	8 490	8 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.93	43.77	9 460	F	9 690	9 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 220	F	6 770	7 040
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.07	27.83	6 480	R	6 150	5 860
Rufus Junction	-	3.47	20.40	6 570	R	6 470	6 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.26	-	3 830	F	3 540	2 770
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	290	F	430	700
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	420	S	500	830
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.28	92.70	610	F	600	790
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.91	81.68	1 870	F	2 070	2 320
Edward at Liewah	-	2.65	58.03	2 080	F	2 150	2 160
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.23	54.73	150	F	170	220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.14	57.10	720	F	850	1 180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.55	-	900	F	1 080	500
Darling at Bourke	-	10.68	-	45 940	R	44 160	40 740
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	70	R	60	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	960	1 610
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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	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.18
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.10	+0.79
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.43	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.18
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.01	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.09	+0.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+1.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.06	-1.01

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.60	1.102	70.452	949
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.08	0.835	62.135	1018

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.93

Barrages

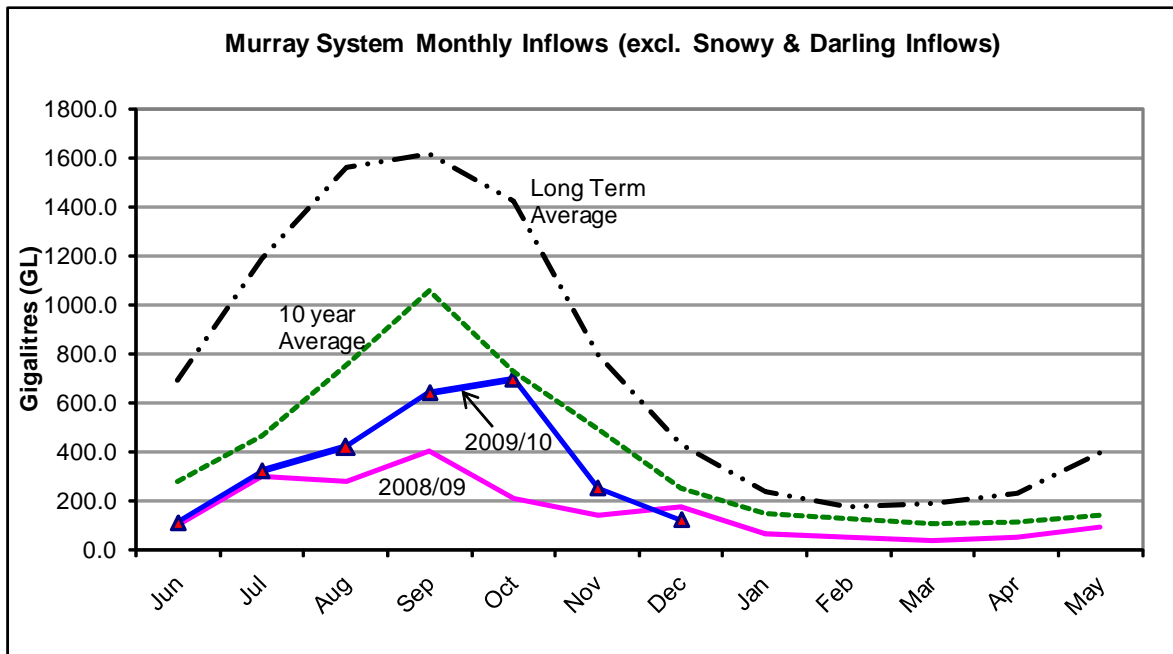
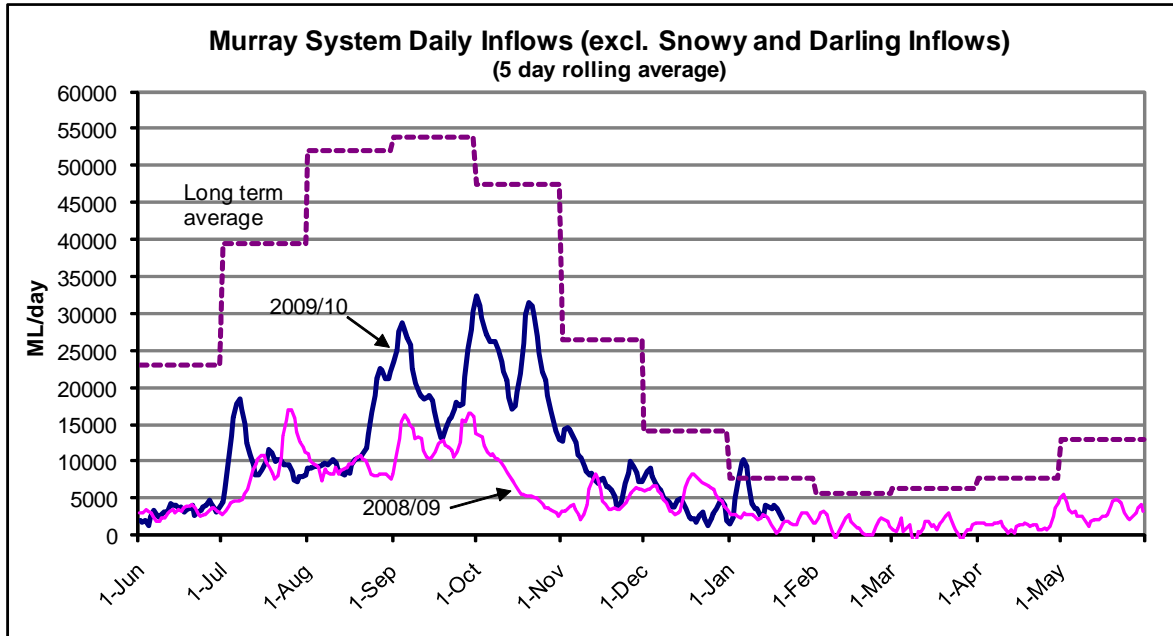
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.27	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 20 January 2010



State Allocations (as at 20 January 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	13%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	63%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	18%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	55%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

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>



21 January, 2010

NSW opens water trades from Lower Darling

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss today announced the opening of trades from the Lower Darling to the Murray River for the remainder of 2009/10 water year.

The decision to open trades was approved by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority following a request by NSW earlier this week.

Mr Harriss said that temporary trade of water is normally not allowed out of the Lower Darling when the Menindee Lakes are within NSW control, as there is no guarantee that flows will be continuous throughout the year and that this water can be delivered.

“With inflows from floods in northern NSW now reaching the Menindee Lakes, releases to the Lower Darling are being increased and will continue until the winter-spring at least.”

The increase in water availability has also enabled the allocation for general security water users in the Lower Darling to be increased to 100 percent of entitlement.

“This will provide immediate benefit for both local users and to interstate water users if this water is traded out,

“This agreement will also allow the diversion from the Menindee Lakes of 48 gigalitres of water derived from the NSW Darling Anabranch water savings project under *The Living Murray Initiative* to be delivered to the Lower Lakes in South Australia,” he said

“As the floodwaters continue to pass through the Darling River, we are able to refine our estimates of the total volumes that will reach the Menindee Lakes,

Mr Harriss said that the NSW Office of Water will continue to work cooperatively with other States and manage the flows that come into the system to maximise environmental outcomes, make some water immediately available for users and secure critical water supply for the coming year should dry conditions continue.

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Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 40 3234

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Department of
Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

