



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2010

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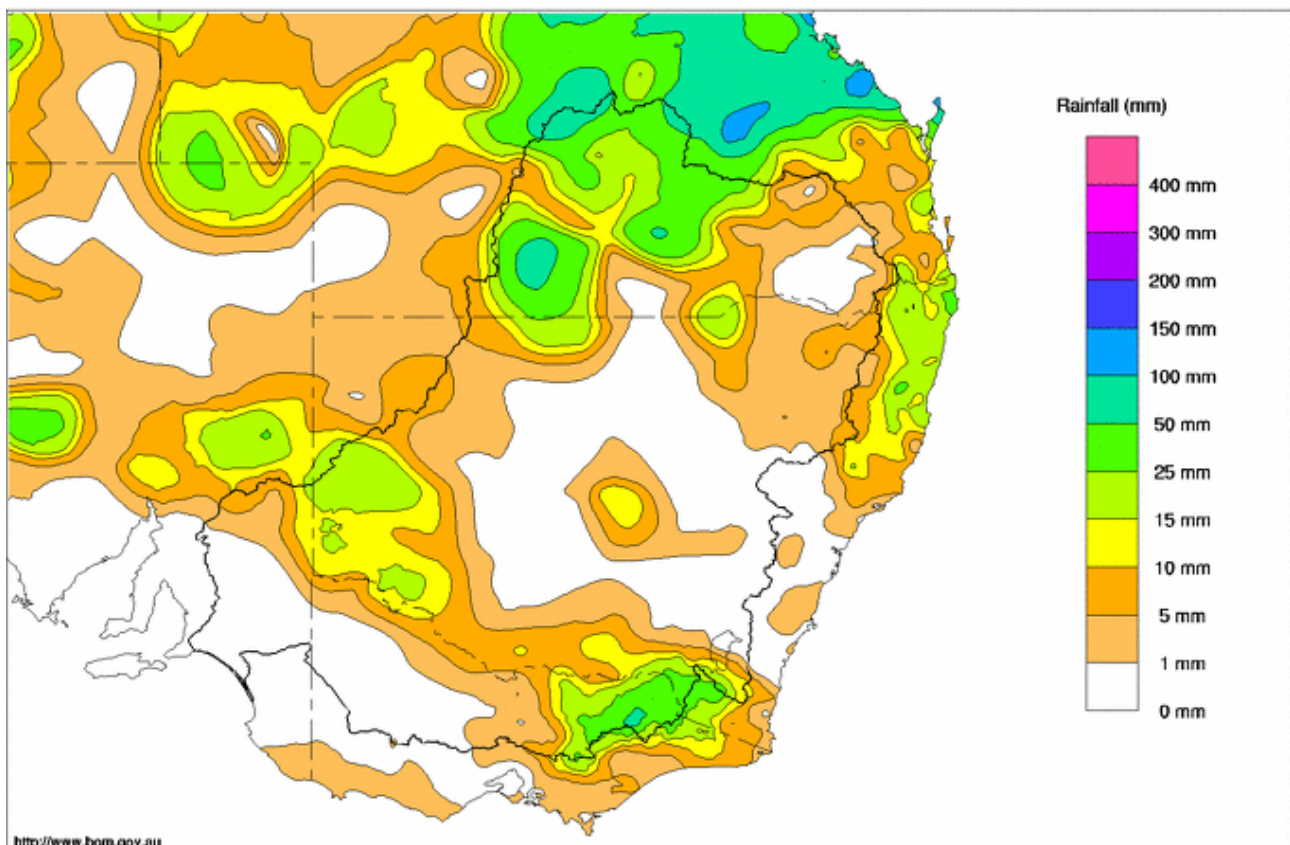
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was patchy in the Murray-Darling Basin during the last week with the highest falls in the northern part of the basin (70 mm at Rocky in the Warrego catchment, 63 mm at Roma and 72 mm at Milmerran), the Victorian Alps (69 mm at Mt Hotham and 51 mm at Rocky Valley near Falls Creek) and western NSW (18 mm at Menindee).

Murray System inflows for the last 7 days averaged 3.5 GL/day and continue to track well below the long term average of 6.1 GL/day for February. Highest flows in the main upper tributaries were 700 ML/day in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie above Dartmouth Dam and 560 ML/day at Biggara on the Murray River. There were flows of up to 460 ML/day at Bandiana on the Kiewa River while the Ovens River at Rocky Point peaked at 660 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke is currently about 3,000 ML/day. Small volumes of water in the Warrego and Culgoa Rivers, which are tributaries of the Darling, combined with any further rain in the catchment will help maintain flows in the Darling River at modest levels for the next few weeks. Further rain, which is currently forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the next week, could enhance these flows.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 24th February 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 24/02/2010



River Operations

Storage increased in Dartmouth Reservoir by 5 GL to 1,194 GL (31% capacity) but decreased in Hume Reservoir by 12 GL to 540 GL (18% capacity). Releases from Dartmouth Reservoir have been maintained at near minimum, targeting 600 ML/day at Tallandoon. Releases from Hume Reservoir have been targeting 8,500–9,000 ML/day at Doctors Point (near Albury).

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently steady at about 124.75 m AHD (0.15 m below FSL). Releases from Yarrowonga Weir have been steady at about 6,000 ML/day for the last week, but are likely to drop further in the coming weeks. These unseasonably low releases are in response to the high inflows from the Darling River, which are boosting storage levels in Lake Victoria and providing flow to South Australia.

The target release from Stevens Weir on the Edward River has been reduced to 800 ML/day, in line with the lower flows down the River Murray.

The pool levels at Torrumbarry, Euston and Mildura Weirs have remained steady at close to Full Supply Level.

Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo in the Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) are both full, while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla remain dry. Overall, storage is now 35% of total capacity. Flow into the lakes, due to upstream flooding at Christmas-New Year, peaked in early February with a subsequent boost in mid-February due to local rain. Inflows are now falling rapidly. The release from Menindee Lakes is currently 16,000 ML/day at Weir 32, but this release will gradually be reduced over the next few weeks. Flows at Burtundy, on the lower Darling River, are expected to peak in early March at about 12,000 ML/day.

At Wentworth Weir, immediately downstream of the confluence of the Darling and Murray Rivers, the release is currently 14,300 ML/day and is expected to rise to nearly 15,000 ML/day by late February and remain at that level for about 10 days.

In response to high inflows from the Darling River, storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 31 GL during the last week to 379 GL (56% capacity), and the storage volume is expected to peak in late March. The target flow to South Australia is currently 8,000 ML/day and the flow past Lock 1 has averaged 4,700 ML/day. In the last week, the water level in Lake Alexandrina has been steady at -0.88 m AHD (1.63 m below FSL).

Salinity levels in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth Weir are generally less than 120 EC. However, downstream of Lake Victoria salinities are higher, partly due to higher salinities from the Darling River, and range between about 180 EC at Lake Victoria and 470 EC at Murray Bridge. Salinities in the Lower Lakes are high, being about 6,000 EC in Lake Alexandrina and 15,000 EC in Lake Albert.

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has issued an Algal Alert Bulletin for the River Murray, extending the red alert for blue-green algae from Hume Reservoir to Barham and including the Edward River (see attached media release).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 24 Feb 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	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.78	540	18%	30	510	-12
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.34	379	56%	100	279	+31
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		614	35%	(- -) #	0	+30
Total		9 352		2 727	29%	--	1 903	+54

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **22%**

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		466	45%	3	463	+16
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		533	33%	24	509	+9
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		933	28%	100	833	-22

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Feb-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	884	-37	Snowy-Murray	+32	584
Snowy-Murray Component	633	-60	Tooma-Tumut	+0	243
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	31.5	342
			Murray 1 Release	+36	807

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)	5.2	152	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	105
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.3	49	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	9.1	183
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.7	96
Licensed Pumps	2.0	73	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	11
Lower Darling	0.2	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	203
TOTAL	10.3	300	TOTAL	26.1	598

* 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	194	(7 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	55.6	
Flow so far this month	202	
Flow last month	232	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	80	70	60
Euston	80	80	90
Red Cliffs	90	100	100
Merbein	110	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	230	220	500
Lock 9	160	150	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	200
Berri	180	170	330
Waikerie	270	260	410
Morgan	270	260	510
Mannum	340	350	610
Murray Bridge	470	490	680
Milang (Lake Alex.)	6 590	6 390	5 570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 700	5 240	5 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	15 410	14 620	11 290
Goolwa Barrages	15 000	14 480	13 490

Week ending Wednesday 24 Feb 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	-	-	-	6 620	F	5 550	3 650
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 760	F	6 200	4 950
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	F	580	630
Heywoods	5.5	2.50	156.13	8 160	R	7 970	7 630
Doctors Point	5.5	2.50	150.97	8 980	R	8 620	8 480
Albury	4.3	1.48	148.92	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.93	127.95	8 020	S	8 200	7 930
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.12	116.16	6 060	R	6 110	7 270
Tocumwal	6.4	1.61	105.45	6 310	F	6 610	7 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.47	80.02	4 050	F	4 580	5 410
Swan Hill	4.5	0.98	63.90	4 390	F	4 630	5 250
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.44	51.56	5 940	F	6 190	6 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.39	43.23	6 180	F	6 120	5 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 010	F	4 810	4 510
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.80	28.56	14 260	R	13 030	12 610
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	7 120	R	7 180	7 460
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.21	-	4 510	R	4 510	4 090
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.92	154.15	460	R	340	450
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	420	R	430	460
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.24	92.66	550	S	560	630
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.10	80.88	840	F	1 100	1 500
Edward at Liewah	-	2.24	57.62	1 590	F	1 680	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.21	54.70	130	R	120	100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.25	57.21	820	F	660	380
Barwon at Mungindi	-	-	-	-	F	50	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.48	-	2 970	R	2 310	2 200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.37	-	11 010	R	10 080	9 300

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 740	2 290
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.27
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.94
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+1.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.37
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.35
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+1.68	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.96

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.73	0.91	70.26	612
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.04	0.8	62.1	975

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.88

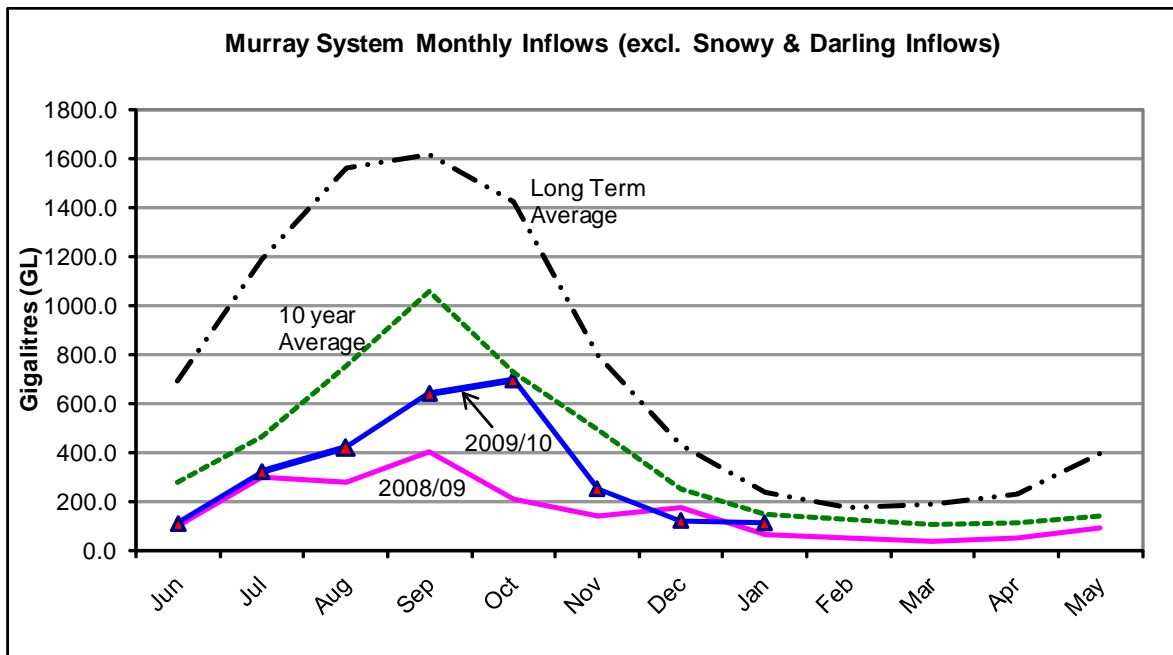
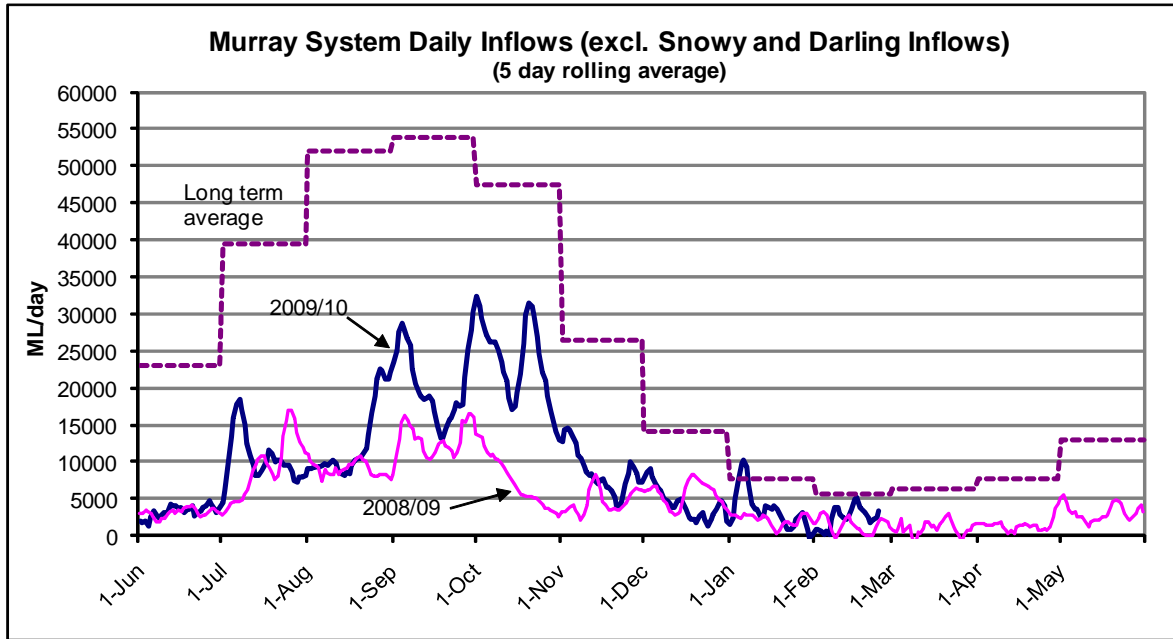
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.06	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



Week ending Wednesday 24th February 2010



State Allocations (as at 24th February 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	19%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	63%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	20%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	58%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	55%
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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.htm>

Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

Tuesday 23 February 2010

Red alert for Murray River extended to include Barham

Deputy Chair of the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (MRACC), Natasha Ryan, today said the 'red alert' for blue-green algae in the Murray River had been extended further downstream and now includes Barham.

"New sampling results have revealed the presence of high levels of potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Murray River from Hume Dam to Barham – half way between Moama and Swan Hill," Ms Ryan said.

"The latest results also indicate a red alert level for Gulpa Creek at Mathoura."

"Sampling has also shown Torrumbarry Weir, between Echuca and Barham, is on amber alert, but is likely to reach a red alert during the next week based on the latest results."

A 'red alert' level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals.

Town water supply authorities have been informed and are treating town water supply with powered activated carbon for both NSW and Victorian consumers; however, raw water drawn from these areas should be avoided for all purposes.

"The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins," said Ms Ryan.

Local residents and visitors should avoid any water that appears bright green, where obvious green scums are present, or a distinctive odour is noticeable. Blue-green algae are usually very obvious, appearing as clumps or specs in the water and are often associated with a strong musty or earthy odour.

People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river whilst a red alert warning is in place.

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae and to remove stock from foreshores where surface scums are visible or blue-green algae are suspected.

There is some evidence that small quantities of algal toxins may enter fish flesh when a bloom produces toxins. Any fish caught in water affected by a bloom should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

People should not eat mussels, crayfish or the internal organs of fish from red alert areas. Toxins might also taint fish flesh and when a bloom is toxic common sense indicates finfish should not be eaten.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and red alert areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee freecall Algal Information Hotline on **1800 999 457** or visit www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS