



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2010

Trim Ref: D10/13358

Rainfall and Inflows

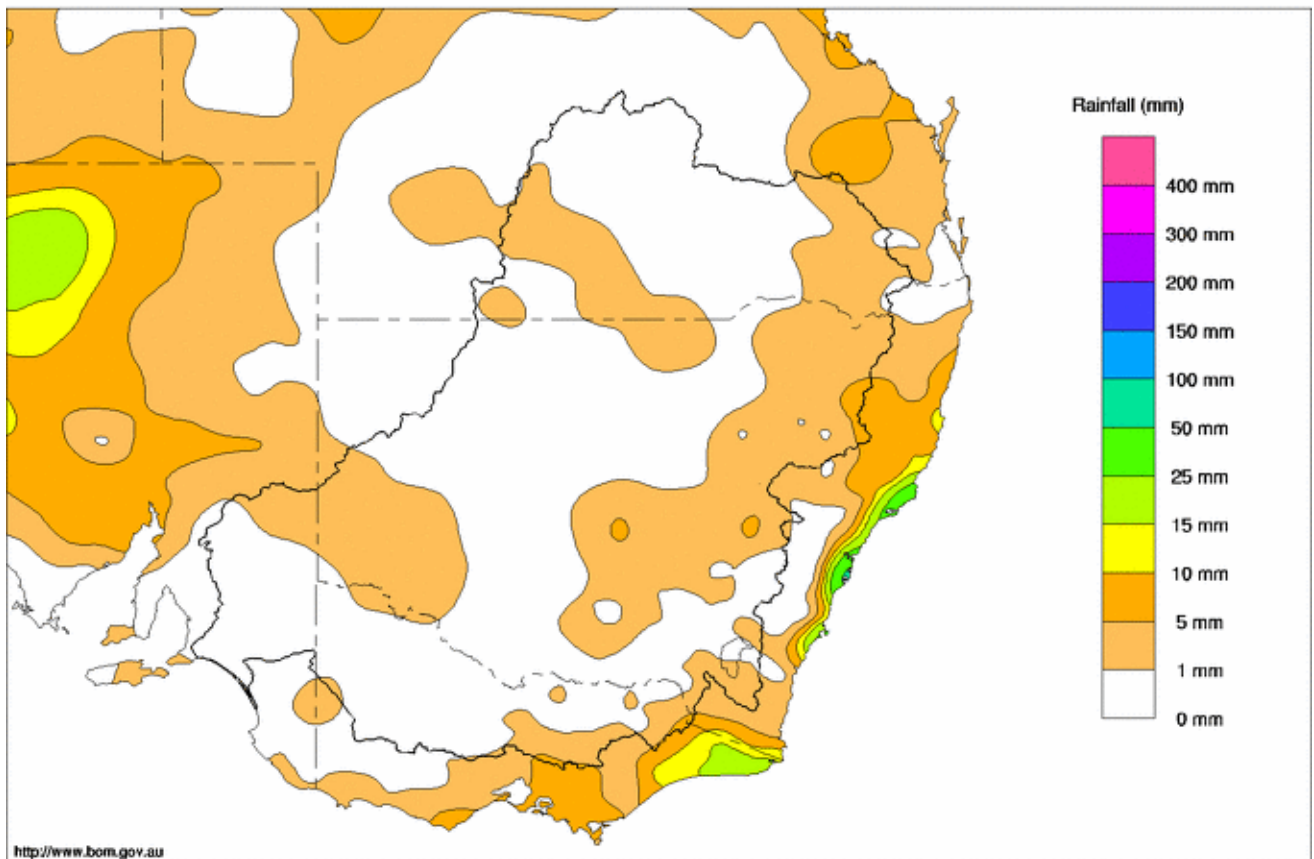
There was very little rainfall in the Murray–Darling Basin during the last week, with most of the catchment receiving no rainfall.

Murray System inflows (excluding Menindee Lakes) for the last 7 days averaged 2.2 GL/day, down from 2.7 GL/day last week. These inflows continue to track well below the long-term May average of 12.6 GL/day. Flows in the upper Murray tributaries continued to decline this week with the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie above Dartmouth Dam falling from 500 to 400 ML/day and the Murray at Biggara, above Khancoban pondage, falling from 350 to 270 ML/day. Flows in the Ovens River at Rocky Point have declined from 970 to 790 ML/day, and are currently being supplemented by releases of about 380 ML/day from Lake Buffalo.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke is currently 540 ML/day and at Wilcannia is 6,550 ML/day. The flow at Wilcannia peaked on 30 April at 26,400 ML/day and is currently declining by about 400 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th May 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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River Operations

MDBA active storage (which now includes Menindee Lakes) has increased by 77 GL to 2,851 GL (33% capacity).

Storage increased in Dartmouth Reservoir by 4 GL to 1,237 GL (32% capacity) and also in Hume Reservoir by 36 GL to 548 GL (18% capacity). Releases from Dartmouth Reservoir have been maintained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. Releases from Hume Reservoir are also targeting minimums of at least 600 ML/day at Heywoods and 1,200 ML/day at Doctors Point (near Albury).

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently at about 124.74 m AHD (0.16 m below FSL) and is likely to remain steady for the next week. Releases from Lake Mulwala to the Murray have varied between 1,800 and 2,100 ML/day and, if it remains dry, releases are expected to remain less than 2,500 ML/day for the next week.

On the Edward River, NSW State Water has continued lowering the Stevens Weir pool, with the level falling from 3.90 to 2.86 m during the week. Lowering of the pool will continue until the pool is nearly empty (approximately 0.6 m gauge height). This is normal winter operations and, this year, will also allow the installation of a fishway, commencing in late May–June.

The pool level at Torrumbarry Weir was lowered during the week to assist with supply of irrigation water through National Channel. The current pool level is 85.85 m AHD (0.20 m below FSL). The pool level will be raised as soon as possible, but this is dependent on receiving sufficient upstream tributary inflows. River levels at Swan Hill have been low during the week (average 0.60 m local gauge height) due to high demands upstream. These levels are likely to remain at about 0.6 m in the foreseeable future.

There were small inflows to the River Murray this week from the drainage of irrigation channels and small inflows are also expected next week.

Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs have remained steady at close to Full Supply Level.

Storage volume in the Menindee Lakes increased by 60 GL during the week to 1,342 GL (78% capacity). Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo are close to surcharge levels while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla are still filling at about 2,100 ML/day. The release from Menindee Lakes is currently at the normal May minimum of 200 ML/day.

The level at Lock 8 (Wangumma) is currently about 0.22 m below Full Supply Level to assist with the planned environmental works at Mulcra Island, while the Lock 7 (Rufus River) weir pool is about 0.09 m above Full Supply Level to assist with environmental watering at Lake Walla Walla.

Lake Victoria's storage has decreased by 24 GL in the last week to 414 GL (61% capacity), and the storage volume is expected to continue decreasing for the next few weeks. During the last week, the flow past Lock 1 has averaged 4,330 ML/day and the water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased by 0.03 m to -0.45 m AHD (1.20 m below FSL).

Algal blooms

Amber alerts remain in place at some locations between Hume Reservoir and Wentworth and in the Edward and Wakool Rivers. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 18000 999 457 or the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 19 May 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	431.26	1 237	32%	80	1 157	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.87	548	18%	30	518	+36
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.69	414	61%	100	314	-24
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 342	78%	(480 #)	862	+60
Total		9 352		3 541	38%	--	2 851	+77

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **33%**

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		359	35%	3	356	-18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		586	36%	24	562	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		815	24%	100	715	-5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-May-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	
				This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	655	-39	Snowy-Murray	+32	59
Snowy-Murray Component	482	-27	Tooma-Tumut	+3	7
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	29.5	52
			Murray 1 Release	+38	66

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)	-3.4***	245	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	141
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.6	62	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.6	329
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	126
Licensed Pumps	1.5	106	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	27
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	250
TOTAL	2.3	444	TOTAL	9.8	873

* 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**

***Negative Value due to draining channels returning flows at end of irrigation season

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93 *	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	33.4	
Flow so far this month	97	
Flow last month	203	

* Flow to South Australia includes entitlement plus trade

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	50	60	60
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	130	130	110
Merbein	120	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	210	220	430
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	260	240	300
Waikerie	-	-	350
Morgan	310	290	440
Mannum	310	300	520
Murray Bridge	150	360	630
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 700	5 610	5 570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 370	1 450	4 360
Meningie (Lake Alb)	17 180	17 790	13 030
Goolwa Barrages	21 060	21 490	15 140

Week ending Wednesday 19 May 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	-	-	-	6 230	F	6 060	2 950
Jingellic	4.0	1.90	208.42	6 350	R	6 030	3 130
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.29	218.18	330	S	340	370
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	600	F	720	610
Doctors Point	5.5	1.48	149.95	1 290	R	1 190	1 840
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.45	126.47	1 330	F	1 400	2 390
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.40	115.44	2 130	S	1 930	2 660
Tocumwal	6.4	0.83	104.67	2 270	R	2 350	3 530
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.95	79.50	2 210	R	2 000	2 400
Swan Hill	4.5	0.64	63.56	2 350	R	2 090	2 520
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.35	50.47	2 090	F	2 470	2 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.60	42.44	2 640	F	2 740	2 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 420	F	2 640	2 480
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	2 660	S	2 800	2 200
Rufus Junction	-	3.31	20.24	5 110	R	4 930	5 190
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.18	-	4 880	F	4 330	3 760
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.14	154.37	740	R	640	1 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.15	145.83	1 250	R	1 340	1 560
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.08	92.50	330	S	380	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.84	80.61	570	F	1 030	1 080
Edward at Liewah	-	1.51	56.89	870	R	560	480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.21	54.70	130	R	120	130
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	220	R	180	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	0	S	10	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.14	-	540	S	610	1 170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.91	-	640	F	700	770

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 200	2 730
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+1.02
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.76
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.36
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.21	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.24
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.22	+0.48	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.93

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-15.00	1.042	70.392	847
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-14.60	0.145	61.445	265

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.45

Barrages

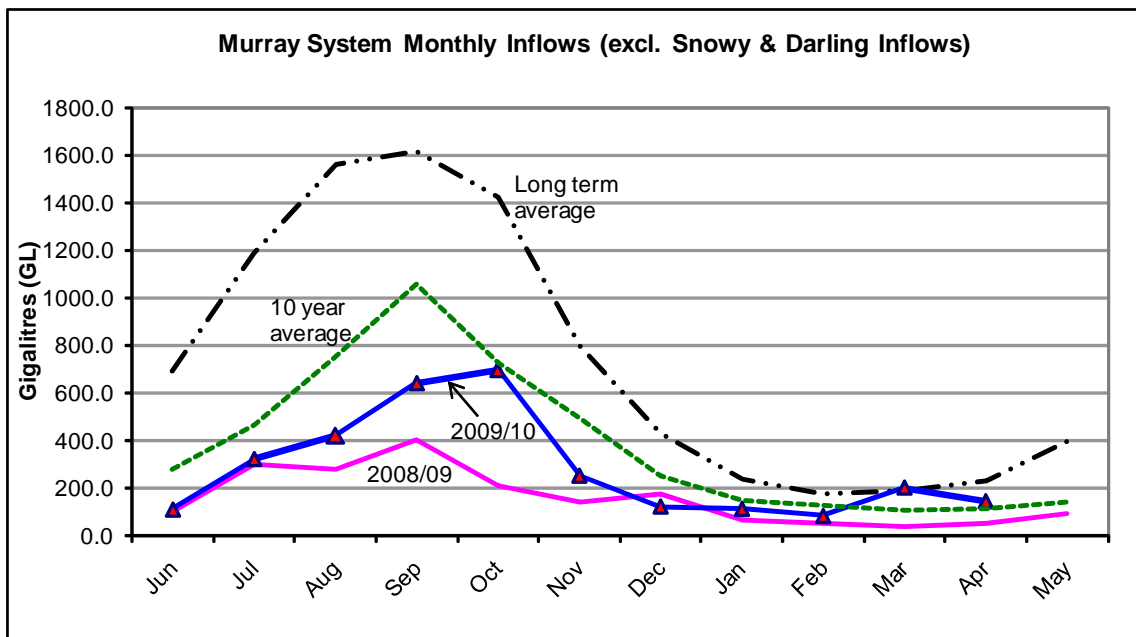
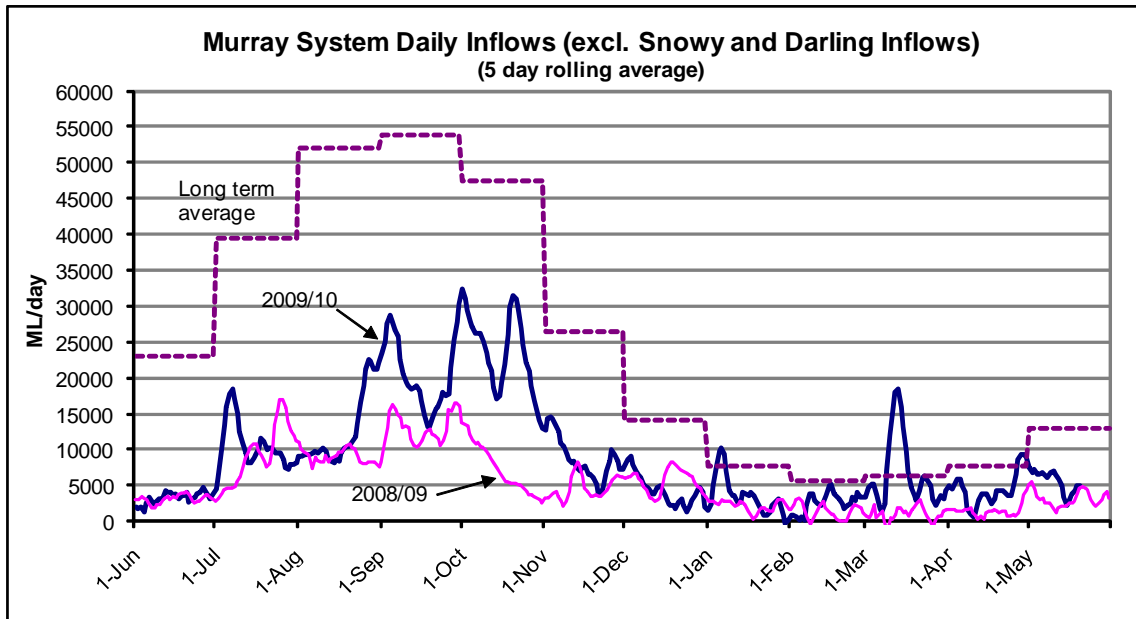
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.07	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 19 May 2010



State Allocations (as at 19 May 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	27%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	27%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	71%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
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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>