



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010

Trim Ref: D10/17590

Rainfall and Inflows

There were good falls of rain across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. The highest falls of rain were in the upper catchments of the Goulburn, Campaspe and Loddon Rivers while there were moderate falls in parts of southern and western NSW. Violet Town, in northeast Victoria, recorded 61 mm while there was 72 mm at Kinglake West, north of Melbourne, and 56 mm at Junee, near Wagga Wagga.

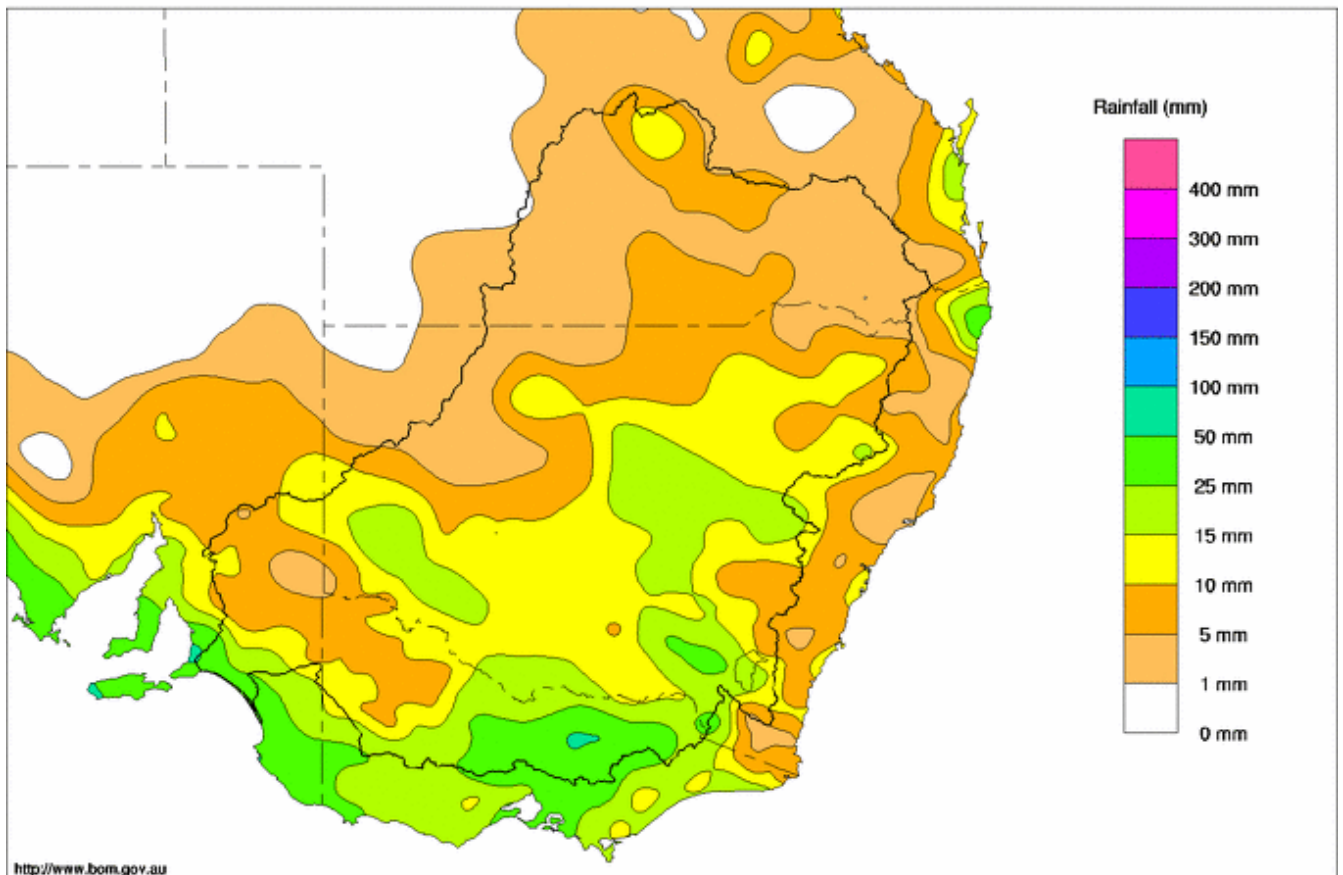
Streamflows responded well in the upper Murray tributaries, as the catchments were primed from previous rain. The Mitta Mitta River recorded a flow peak of 2,370 ML/day at Hinnomunjie while the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 8,050 ML/day. Inflows from the Goulburn River are expected to increase to about 2,500 ML/day during the coming week.

Murray System inflows (excluding Menindee Lakes) averaged about 14.8 GL/day for the last 7 days, up from 9.4 GL/day last week. The long-term average is 22.5 GL/day for June.

The Paroo River continues to flow slowly into the Darling River upstream of Wilcannia, where the flow is currently about 2,500 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th June 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 30/06/2010

Map 1. Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 30 June 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

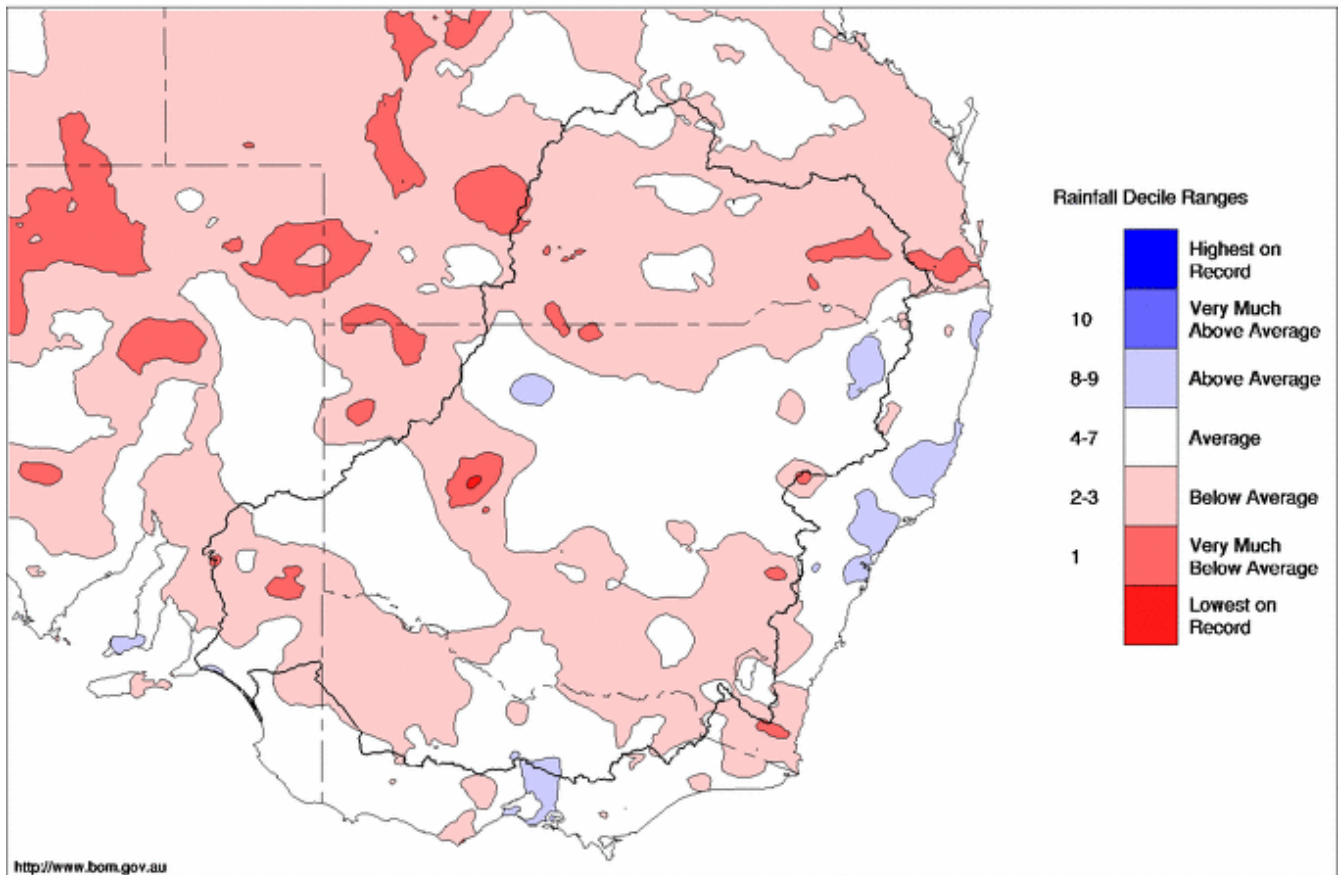


June 2010 Summary

Rainfall in June 2010 was below average across much of the Murray-Darling Basin, including the upper reaches of the River Murray System (see Map 2). As a result, Murray System Inflows (excluding Menindee inflows and Snowy releases) were about 280 GL, which is below the long term average for June of 674 GL, but is the highest for June since 2002. The upper catchments remain wet and should respond well to future rainfall events during winter and spring.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2010

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 2. Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for June 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) has increased by 70 GL to 3,285 GL (38% capacity). This volume is significantly higher than this time last year (1,200 GL or 14% capacity), but still well below the long term average for the end of June (5,530 GL).

Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 15 GL during the week and is currently storing 1,281 GL water (33% capacity). There was an increase of 49 GL in Hume Reservoir to 814 GL (27% 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 or 1,200 ML/day at Doctors Point (near Albury).



Inflows to Yarrowonga Weir have risen during the week from 6,000 to 8,500 ML/day in response to flows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers and, consequently, releases have risen from 5,000 to 8,700 ML/day. Inflows from the rain received this week are expected to peak at about 8,800 ML/day on 2 July. The current release from Yarrowonga Weir is the highest since January. The pool level at Yarrowonga Weir is currently at about 124.70 m AHD (0.20 m below FSL) and is likely to remain steady over the coming week.

On the Edward River, flows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes currently total about 600 ML/day. These flows are expected to remain below 650 ML/day during the next week to assist with the construction of fish ladders at the Gulpa offtake and Stevens Weir.

The pool levels at Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs have remained steady at close to Full Supply Level (FSL). Flows through these weirs are expected to increase over the next 1–3 weeks as the higher flows arrive from the upper Murray, and the Goulburn Rivers.

In late July, the Mildura Weir pool will be fully drawn down to allow for upgrade works. It is expected that the weir pool will be raised back to FSL by mid-August. The Mildura Lock will be closed while the pool level is low. More details are provided in the attached media release.

Menindee Lakes are still filling, albeit slowly. The storage volume increased during the week by 17 GL to 1,522 GL (88% capacity). Currently, Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo are fully surcharged while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla are at about 81% capacity. The volume of water stored in Menindee Lakes is expected to peak at about 1,550 GL in late July. The release from Menindee Lakes is currently at the normal winter minimum of 200 ML/day.

Lake Victoria's storage has decreased by 11 GL in the last week to 358 GL (53% capacity), and the storage volume is expected to continue decreasing for the next couple of weeks. The pool level in Weir 9 is close to FSL, while Weir 8 is about 0.14 m below FSL to assist with construction of the Mulcra Island environmental works. Weir 7 is 0.11 m above FSL to assist with delivery of environmental water to Lake Walla Walla and the pool levels in Weirs 1 to 6 are close to FSL.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina continues to rise. Last week, the level rose by 0.01 m to -0.20 m AHD (0.95 m below FSL). The level in Lake Albert has remained steady at about -0.40 m AHD.

Water Trade

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has announced a relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream reaches of the Murray River (see attached media release).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 30 Jun 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	432.61	1 281	33%	80	1 201	+15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.81	814	27%	30	784	+49
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.14	358	53%	100	258	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 522	88%	(480 #)	1 042	+17
Total		9 352		3 975	43%	--	3 285	+70

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **38%**

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	421	41%	3	418	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	744	46%	24	720	+86
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	916	27%	100	816	+45

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Jun-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	553	+6	Snowy-Murray	+19	211
Snowy-Murray Component	409	-2	Tooma-Tumut	+7	37
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	12.1	174
			Murray 1 Release	+24	237

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	244	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	177
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.2	63	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	328
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	127
Licensed Pumps	1.1	114	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.9	40
Lower Darling	2.3	13	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.6	255
TOTAL	3.4	458	TOTAL	5.6	927

* 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	90 *	
Flow this week	29.8	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	127	
Flow last month	172	

* Flow to SA in June includes underlivered entitlement flow from previous months

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	50	50	60
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	110	100	110
Merbein	80	80	110
Burtundy (Darling)	250	250	400
Lock 9	140	150	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	260	260	290
Waikerie	290	290	350
Morgan	330	330	430
Mannum	320	320	490
Murray Bridge	290	300	660
Milang (Lake Alex)	4 510	4 760	5 480
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 330	1 620	3 980
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	13 810	14 340	13 250
Goolwa Barrages	21 820	21 330	15 930

Week ending Wednesday 30 Jun 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	-	-	-	7 570	R	4 420	5 110
Jingellic	4.0	1.81	208.33	5 710	R	6 060	6 570
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.55	218.44	750	F	780	780
Heywoods	5.5	1.19	154.82	600	S	600	670
Doctors Point	5.5	1.76	150.23	2 640	R	2 420	2 130
Albury	4.3	0.87	148.31	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.86	126.88	2 690	R	2 240	1 760
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.48	116.52	8 710	R	6 600	3 520
Tocumwal	6.4	1.72	105.56	6 930	R	6 050	3 250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.90	80.45	5 600	R	4 290	2 530
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	63.80	3 890	R	2 990	2 680
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.78	50.90	3 530	R	3 270	3 470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.80	42.64	3 500	S	3 480	3 810
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 400	F	3 370	3 720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	2 930	F	3 030	3 430
Rufus Junction	-	2.98	19.91	3 620	R	3 670	3 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.11	-	2 660	R	2 710	3 160
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.10	155.33	2 330	R	2 140	1 660
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.58	147.26	5 850	F	5 410	3 140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.27	92.69	600	R	490	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.92	80.69	650	F	440	270
Edward at Liewah	-	0.96	56.34	460	F	520	570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.18	54.68	110	S	110	120
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	230	S	210	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	140	F	190	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	90	F	100	120
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	280	R	250	300

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 790	8 670
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.69
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	-2.14	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.14	+0.33	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.86

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.16	0.867	70.217	532
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	0.032	61.332	177

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.20

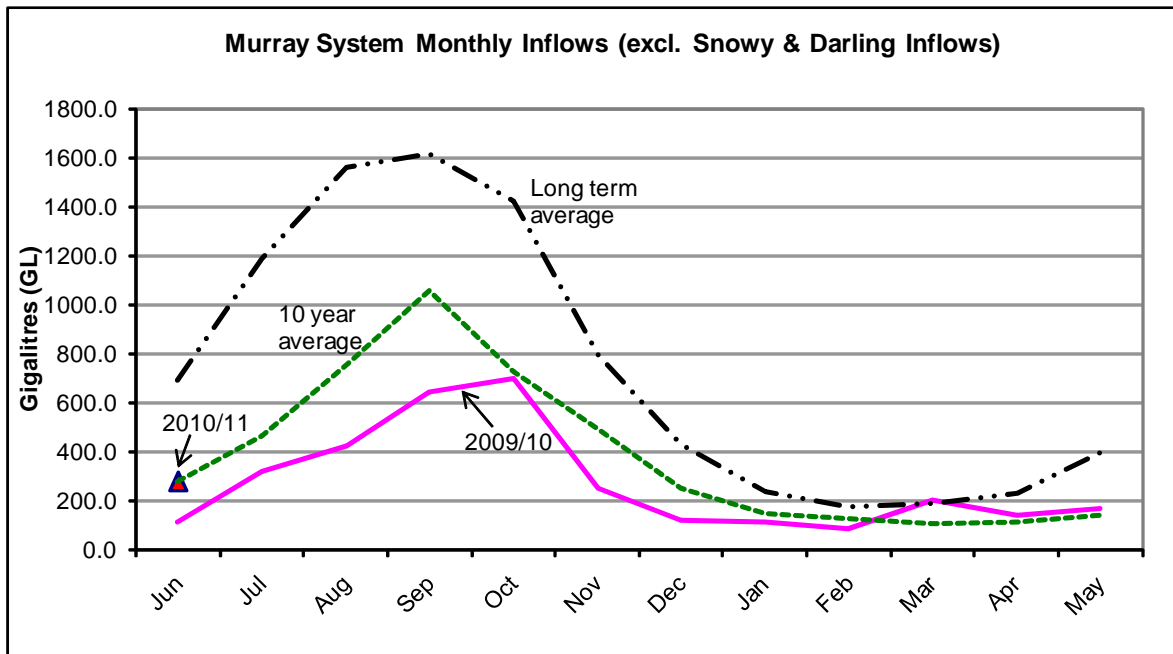
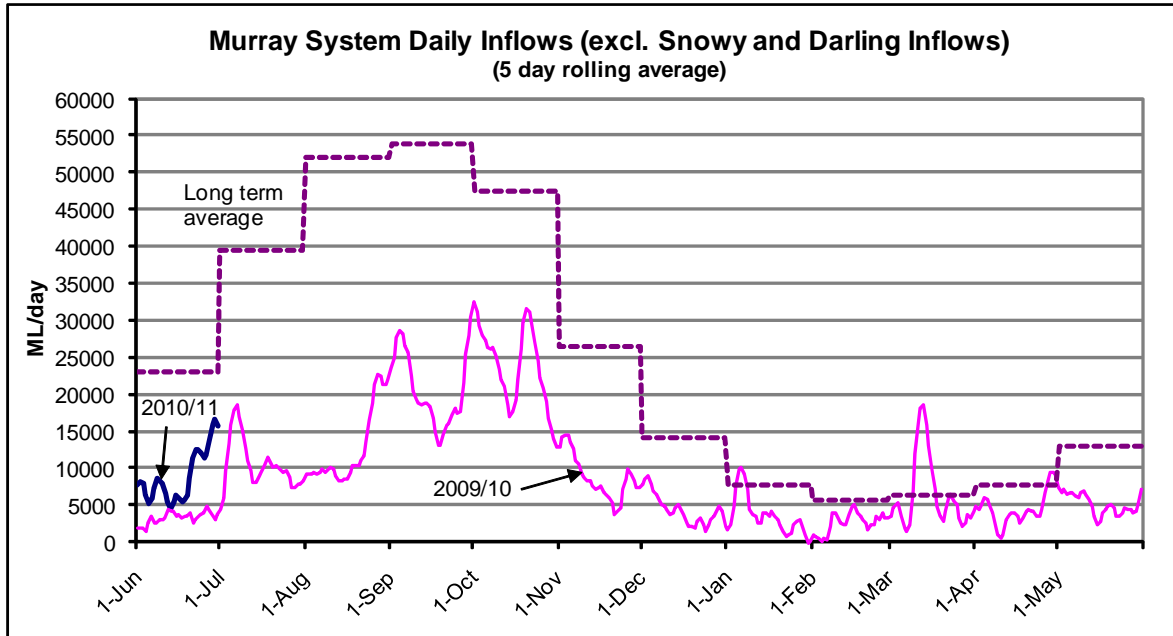
Barrages

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	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 30 June 2010



State Allocations (as at 1 July 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	0%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	0%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	20%
General security	0%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	0%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	21%
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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/>

Mildura Weir pool lowering to start in mid-July

To assist with upgrade works, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water have confirmed that the lowering of the Mildura Weir pool (to about 3.6 m below full supply level) is planned for the week starting **Monday 19 July 2010**.

As a result, the last boat passage through the Mildura Lock would be **4pm on Sunday 18 July 2010**.

Upgrades to the Weir will include installation of a new prototype trestle with mechanised gates and construction of a ‘Denil’ fishway.

After the new prototype trestle has been installed, the weir pool will be raised back to full supply level by mid August 2010, depending on river flows.

Construction of the fishway is expected to start in early July and will take about three months. To assist with construction, the water level of the Wentworth weir pool may need to be lowered slightly (by up to 20 cm) to reduce the water level on the downstream side of Mildura Weir. Such lowering, if needed, would occur in August or September.

The proposed schedule for works is:

Proposed date	Action
Early July	Commence construction of the fishway at Mildura Weir.
10-11 July	Wentworth Weir pool at full supply level for the ‘Junction Rally’.
18 July	Mildura Lock closed at 4pm.
19 July	Lowering of the Mildura Weir commences.
late July	Installation of new mechanised trestle at Mildura Weir.
mid August	Mildura Weir pool raised back to full supply level and Mildura Lock re-opened.
August-September	Lowering of Wentworth weir pool, by up to 20cm, if needed.

Water quality measurements will be taken during the drawdown at Mildura Weir, so that any salinity impacts in the weir pool or downstream can be carefully assessed.

Any higher salinity water will be diverted into Lake Victoria to minimise impacts on the river and to water users in South Australia.

Over the coming weeks, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water will continue to issue further advice via the MDBA’s Weekly report which can be viewed at www.mdba.gov.au

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141



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Water trading rules through Barmah Choke relaxed from 1 July

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority today announced that for the 2010/11 water season the trading rule controlling the trades of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream will be relaxed.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will undertake fortnightly reviews on the relaxation which may result in the need to lift the relaxation at anytime during the water season.

This will depend on water resource availability and the volume of net trades across the Choke during the course of the season.

Chief Executive Mr Rob Freeman said that while there has been an improvement in water resources in recent months, the decision was based on continued below long-term average system inflows, resulting in low water availability and having consideration of the volume of water available in Menindee Lakes.

“Based on current water resource availability for 2010/11 and net volumes traded in 2009/10, trade of allocations from above to below the Choke will be possible as long as channel capacity constraints are not encountered,” he said.

Any announcement to lift the relaxation will be made by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Allocation trades approved up until that time from above to below the Choke would be honoured.

If reviews of the relaxation indicate that it will remain in place, announcements to that effect will be made through the States together with water allocation announcements.

Mr Freeman said that the Choke constrains the volume of water that can be delivered to downstream users, particularly during summer when both demand and evaporation losses are high and in some circumstances, delivery of additional flows from trading water allocations from upstream to downstream cannot be guaranteed.

“However, because of the lower than normal regulated flows in this reach, transfers of allocations can be allowed,” he said.

Trade in entitlements from above to below the Choke will continue to be prohibited.

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141

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