



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2010

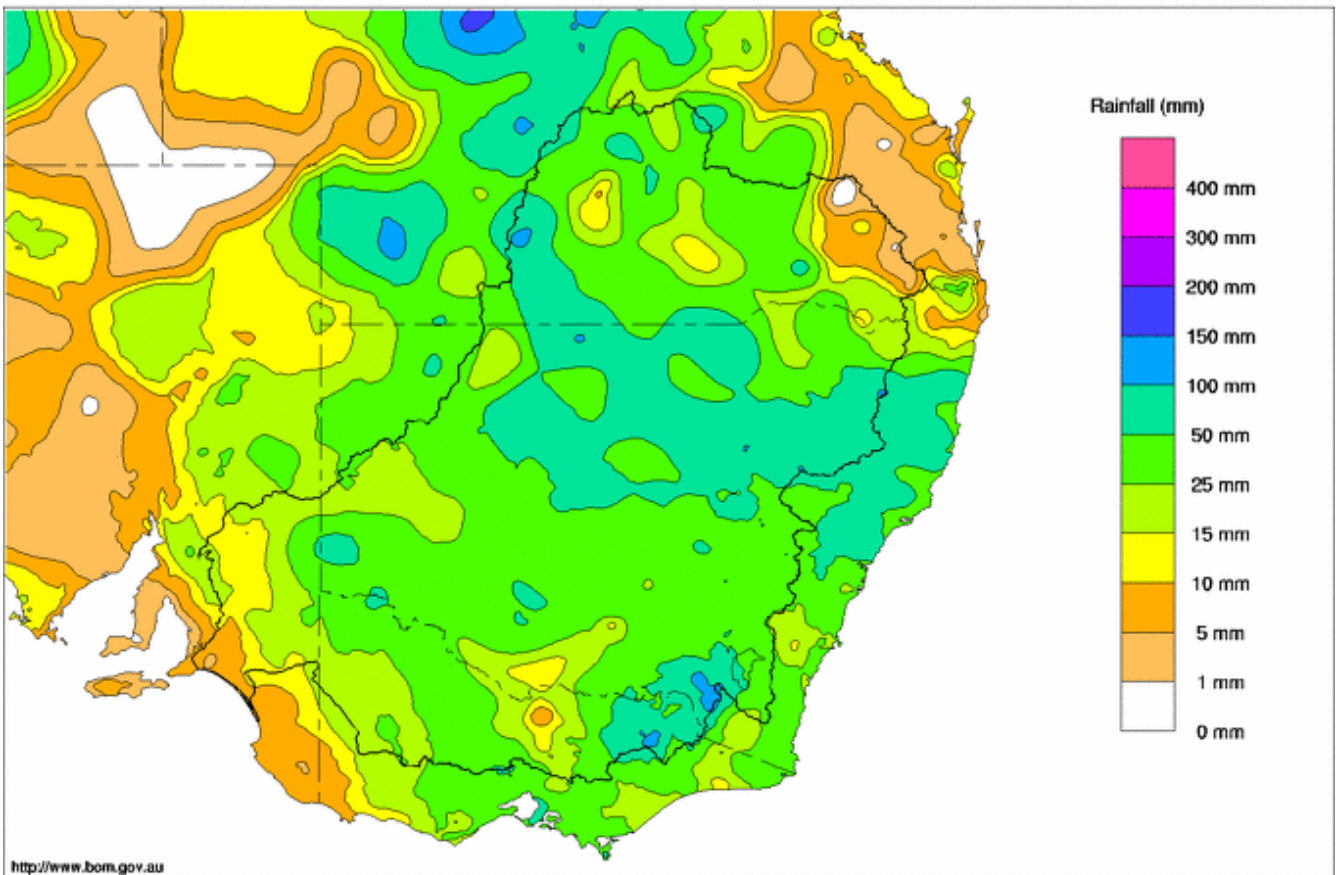
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread rain fell across the Murray Darling Basin - continuing the wet trend of recent months - with many areas receiving more than 50 mm and some over 100 mm. The heaviest falls were in north-east Victoria and in south-west NSW, while significant totals were also recorded across a wide area of inland northern NSW. In Victoria, 120 mm was recorded at Mongans Bridge and 130 mm at Mt Hotham, while across the border, 122 mm fell at Tumbarumba and 83 mm at Mt Ginini in the ACT. Further north, 117 mm was recorded at Tamworth Airport, 79 mm fell at Brewarrina along the Barwon River, while good rain also fell at Mildura with 64 mm recorded for the week.

With the rainfall, river flows in the upper Murray have once again risen. At Hinnomunjie, the Mitta Mitta River peaked at 9,750 ML/day on 14 November, while the River Murray at Jingellic peaked at 31,450 ML/day on 16 November and has now receded to around 27,000 ML/day. At Wangaratta on 16 November, the Ovens River peaked at around 17,500 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 17th November 2010  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Responses in the Goulburn River were not as significant, with Shepparton peaking at around 3,600 ML/day. On the Murrumbidgee, good flows continue in the lower reaches with Balranald rising slightly to 9,700 ML/day. On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke dropped slightly during the week to around 23,000 ML/day, but is now rising slowly once again towards another peak expected in a few days with the arrival of renewed inflows from upstream.

Murray system inflows during the last week were just over 400 GL.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 96 GL during the week to 6,810 GL (79% capacity). Dartmouth Reservoir is now at 52% capacity (2,001 GL) after gaining 43 GL. This is the first time Dartmouth has held more than 2,000 GL since October 2006.

At Hume Reservoir the storage remains effectively at full capacity with spill operations continuing during the week following the rain. The current release of 27,000 ML/day is expected to be around the peak release resulting from the past week's rain. With a relatively dry outlook for the next few days, it is anticipated that the release will gradually reduce during the coming week as inflows from upstream decline.

At Yarrawonga Weir the release is once again on the rise. After dropping to around 26,000 ML/day earlier in the week, it is now around 38,000 ML/day and is expected to rise further to above 40,000 ML/day as peaks from the Ovens and Murray arrive. On the Edward River, a peak flow is currently passing through Deniliquin and similarly downstream of Stevens Weir where the flow is currently at 12,000 ML/day. Flows returning from the Barmah-Millewa Forest contain low dissolved oxygen and therefore both the Edward River downstream of Toonalook and the Murray River below Barmah, are experiencing poor water quality (see attached Water Quality Bulletin).

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently at 22,000 ML/day and will continue to recede for a few more days before steadying out at about 20,000 ML/day. At Swan Hill, the flow has risen gradually above 21,000 ML/day and is expected to remain above 20,000 ML/day into December.

The flow downstream of Euston Weir is currently 34,300 ML/day, and is now expected to keep rising during the next week to rates of around 36,000 ML/day. High flows are also expected to continue past Mildura and Wentworth Weirs for the next few weeks.

The total storage at Menindee Lakes has risen slightly during the week and is currently at 1,835 GL (106% capacity). Releases from the lakes are continuing with the flow past Weir 32 currently at 14,000 ML/day. These releases are expected to rise to around 16,000 ML/day in the coming week. Inflows from the Darling upstream of the lakes are still rising, with the flow at Wilcannia expected to remain close to 20,000 ML/day for several weeks. Releases from Lake Cawndilla to the Great Darling Anabranch are around 1,500 ML/day.

Lake Victoria's total storage increased during the week by 23 GL to 649 GL (96% capacity). However, the lake has begun to be lowered as the release has been increased in the past few days. The flow over Lock 1 during the week averaged 31,500 ML/day and the level in Lakes Albert and Alexandrina is steady at around 0.71 m AHD.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 17 Nov 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	3 856	451.99	2 001	52%	71	1 930	+43
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.97	2 999	100%	23	2 976	+5
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.76	649	96%	100	549	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 835	106%	(480 #)	1 355	+25
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 484</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 810</b>	<b>+96</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **79%**

# 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	1 022	100%	3	1 019	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 633	100%	24	1 609	+7
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 230	67%	100	2 130	+35

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Nov-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	904	+1	Snowy-Murray	+40	500
Snowy-Murray Component	621	+1	Tooma-Tumut	+13	252
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	26.8	248
			Murray 1 Release	+52	791

### 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)	12.2	160.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.8	18.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	15.5	20.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	0.3	97.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	2.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	12.0
Licensed Pumps	N/A	N/A	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2.0
Lower Darling	N/A	N/A	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	73.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>202.0</b>

\* 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	180.0 *	
Flow this week	266.1	(38 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	587.7	
Flow last month	881.8	

\* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for November due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flow s.

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	150	150	140
Euston	150	130	130
Red Cliffs	180	160	130
Merbein	120	130	110
Burtundy (Darling)	230	230	270
Lock 9	230	230	170
Lake Victoria	170	170	170
Berri	210	210	180
Waikerie	-	-	200
Morgan	260	240	260
Mannum	240	240	280
Murray Bridge	230	240	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 350	2 480	3 090
Potalloch (Lake Alex.)	340	310	1 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 980	7 900	10 790
Goolwa Barrages	2 310	2 280	9 910



Week ending Wednesday 17 Nov 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	-	-	-	9 510	S	9 920	9 430
Jingellic	4.0	3.68	210.20	27 300	F	20 890	18 740
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.13	219.02	2 870	F	2 700	2 210
Heywoods	5.5	3.60	157.23	24 090	F	22 790	19 570
Doctors Point	5.5	4.55	153.02	33 500	F	28 970	23 490
Albury	4.3	3.83	151.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.79	130.81	33 600	R	29 410	29 530
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.05	119.09	33 630	R	29 270	39 440
Tocumwal	6.4	4.35	108.19	29 270	F	29 850	36 260
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.60	84.15	22 130	F	23 820	23 600
Swan Hill	4.5	3.47	66.39	21 250	S	20 880	17 910
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.80	55.92	31 170	R	29 670	26 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.90	46.74	34 360	F	33 090	30 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	29 680	F	29 500	27 520
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.66	30.42	49 000	F	48 140	44 510
Rufus Junction	-	6.71	23.64	44 010	R	38 010	33 030
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.19	-	33 900	R	31 740	29 290
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.87	156.10	7 360	F	6 570	4 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.07	148.75	14 420	F	10 950	12 970
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.86	94.28	3 500	R	5 610	13 970
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.29	85.07	12 000	S	10 350	5 780
Edward at Liewah	-	4.47	59.85	5 500	S	5 350	4 720
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.51	57.00	0	F	650	3 070
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.52	61.48	9 710	R	9 570	9 480
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.80	-	2 020	F	3 090	8 200
Darling at Bourke	-	7.78	-	23 450	S	23 400	24 630
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.99	-	13 300	S	13 040	11 970

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	28 450	21 270
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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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.50	+4.36
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.02	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.32	+2.43
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+1.99
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+2.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+2.90
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+3.02	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+2.27
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.34	+2.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.05	+2.28
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.69	+2.95	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	+1.44

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.08	5.872	75.222	17317
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.18	5.755	67.055	10736

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.71

Barrages

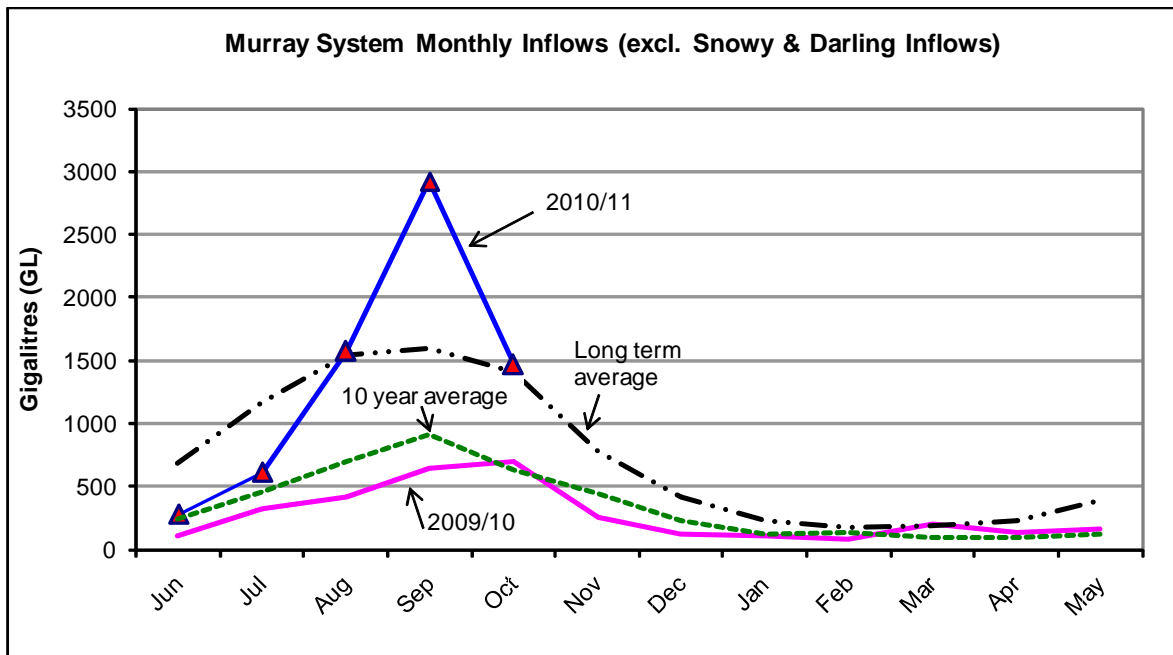
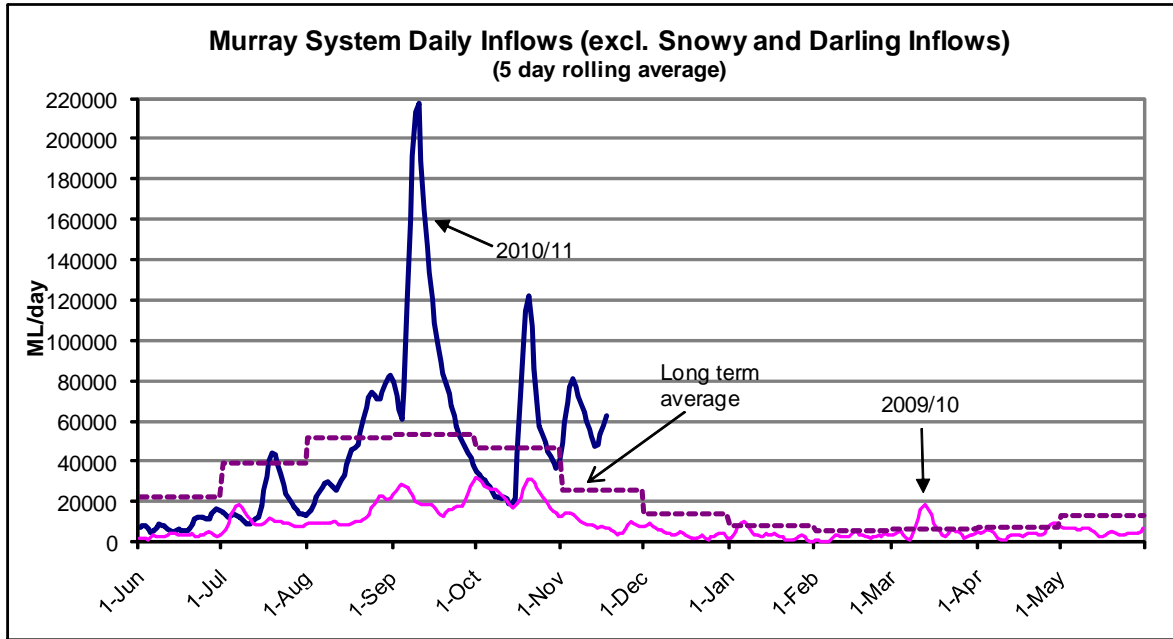
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	31	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.67	3	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	15	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	50	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 17 November 2010



**State Allocations (as at 17 November 2010)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	64%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
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**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	56%

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	100%
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**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	67%
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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/>

# Water Quality Bulletin



17 November 2010

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## Mid-Murray and Edward River Water Quality Alert

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority today advised of poor water quality in the River Murray downstream of Barmah and in the Edward River downstream of Toonalook.

The poor quality water is in relation to a 'blackwater event' arising from flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The flooding has occurred following several months of heavy rainfall across the upper Murray catchments resulting in high inflows from Kiewa and Ovens Rivers and Hume Dam spilling.

Blackwater events occur naturally due to the rapid breakdown of leaf litter on the forest floor causing water discolouration and at times very low dissolved oxygen levels. It is expected that flooding in the Barmah-Millewa Forest will continue over the coming weeks. The poor quality water in the Murray will mix with fresh inflows from the Goulburn River, reducing its impact downstream.

The Authority, together with New South Wales and Victorian agencies, will continue to monitor the water quality and explore measures to lessen the impact of the blackwater event. This includes releasing fresh water from irrigation systems to the river, such as from Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Channel. Whilst such measures may reduce the severity of blackwater impacts, they are unlikely to eliminate them.

River users are advised to take the water quality into account when planning their activities around the River Murray and Edward River.

Further advice will be issued if circumstances change significantly.

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au)

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