



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2011

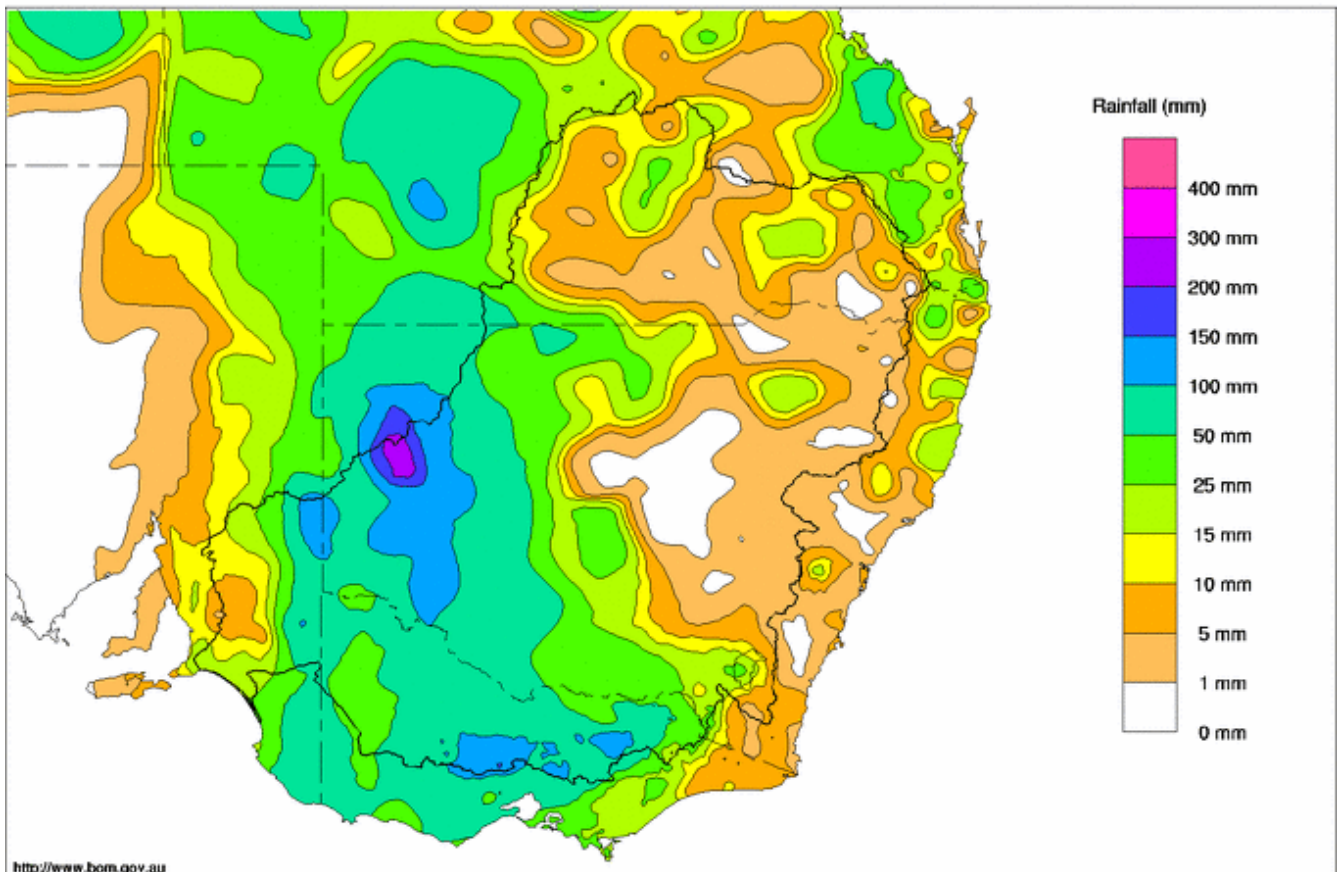
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Rainfall and Inflows

High rainfalls have continued in the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with falls greater than 50 mm occurring over large areas of the south-western half of the Basin. At Kyneton, in the upper reaches of the Campaspe River, there was 208 mm while Dunolly, in the Loddon River catchment, recorded 153 mm. At Avenel, in the Goulburn River catchment, there was 109 mm. On the lower Darling River at Menindee, there was 120 mm and anecdotal reports of much higher rainfall nearby. This local rainfall contributed to both high flows in the river and directly to increased storage in the Menindee Lakes.

Many towns and localities in the Murray-Darling Basin have been affected by flooding this week, as a result of recent rain, or rain that has fallen since early December. Major flooding has occurred along tributaries of the Darling River in Queensland including the towns of Chinchilla and Condamine on the Condamine River; Surat, St. George and Dirranbandi on the Balonne River; and Goondiwindi on the Macintyre River. In NSW, Boggabilla on the Macintyre River and Tilpa, Louth and Bourke on the Darling River have all been subject to major flooding this week. Victorian rivers in the Murray Darling Basin have also flooded, with major flooding occurring at Horsham and Warracknabeal in the Wimmera River catchment, Charlton and Quambatook on the Avoca River, Appin South and Kerang

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th January 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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on the Loddon River, and Rochester on the Campaspe River. The Wimmera River terminates in wetlands and has no direct connection with the River Murray. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

During the week there were also high inflows upstream of Yarrawonga Weir, with a peak flow at Wangaratta on the Ovens River of 22,520 ML/day and at Bandiana on the Kiewa River of 4,200 ML/day. Although there was rainfall of 10–60 mm in the catchment of Hume Reservoir, there was very little flow response.

At Balranald, on the Murrumbidgee River, the flow is currently 24,510 ML/day. The flow at this site has been higher than 10,000 ML/day since late November 2010, but is expected to peak soon. On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been rising and is expected to peak at about 28,000 ML/day on 21 January.

With high inflows from all tributaries along the River Murray, Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Darling inflows) during the last week totalled nearly 650 GL. This volume is significantly higher than the long-term average monthly total for January of 231 GL. High inflows are expected to continue during the next week, particularly from the Darling, Murrumbidgee, Loddon and Goulburn Rivers.

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,593 GL (77% capacity), which is an increase of 120 GL since last week. The storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 14 GL last week, with the storage volume currently 2,211 GL (57% capacity). At Hume Reservoir, storage declined by 22 GL to 2,782 GL (93% capacity). Maximum reductions to the release from Hume Reservoir were made throughout most of the week, down to 7,900 ML/day. The release is currently 10,700 ML/day. If conditions remain dry, this release will be increased over the coming weeks to supply downstream demands at Yarrawonga.

At Yarrawonga Weir, releases during the week peaked at 31,100 ML/day in response to local rain, decreases in diversions and higher inflows. Currently, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.70 m AHD, and a pool level of 124.7–124.8 m AHD will be targeted for the next few months to enable supply of expected high diversions. Diversions at Mulwala Canal currently include about 2,000 ML/day to supplement flows in the Edward River system, downstream of the Edward escape for water quality purposes.

In the Edward River system, the flow past Stevens Weir is currently 8,550 ML/day and is expected to increase to more than 10,000 ML/day by late January. At Stoney Crossing, the flow has been close to 30,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to fall slightly before another peak passes in early February.

The flow past Barmah is currently 20,400 ML/day and is likely to remain above 10,000 ML/day until early February. With high inflows from the Campaspe River, the River Murray at Echuca peaked at 92.84 m AHD late on 18 January. Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow was 54,620 ML/day on Thursday 20 January, which is expected to be close to the peak.

At Swan Hill, the flow will be boosted by inflows from the Loddon River and is currently 24,560 ML/day. The Bureau of Meteorology expects the river to reach the major flood level of 4.7 m this weekend and is forecasting a peak height of 4.8 m AHD early next week, which would be a flow of about 35,000 ML/day. However, the Bureau cautions that due to the uncertainty of the magnitude of inflows from the Loddon River floods, the above forecast will be subject to review as the event unfolds. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

The flow at Euston is 71,670 ML/day and rising. The flow peak at Euston will depend on the timing, magnitude and duration of peak flows past Swan Hill, Kyalite (on the Wakool River) and Balranald (on the Murrumbidgee River). Further downstream, the flows at Mildura and Wentworth are also rising.



Flooding is expected to exceed the minor flood level at Wentworth. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

The storage in Menindee Lakes is currently surcharged to 1,829 GL (106% capacity), including a rise of more than 110 GL over two days due to local rainfall of 120 mm, as well as inflows. The release from the Lakes to the Darling River will be increased to 30,000 ML/day by 21 January and further rises are likely in the next few days. Further information about Menindee Lakes' management and the flows entering NSW from Queensland can be found at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/>.

Lake Victoria received 102 mm of rain during the week, which helped to keep the storage volume at about 445 GL (66 % capacity). The stored volume is expected to increase slowly during the coming week. The flow to South Australia continues to rise and is now at 68,400 ML/day.

Water Quality

Dissolved oxygen contents are low (about 1 mg/L) in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth Weir and moderate (about 4 mg/L) in the Darling River upstream of Wentworth. The mixing of these two sources of water has resulted in dissolved oxygen contents of about 1.5 mg/L downstream of Wentworth Weir. In Lake Victoria, dissolved oxygen contents remain high at 7.5–8 mg/L. MDBA, SA Water and the South Australian Department for Water are closely monitoring the quality of water in Lake Victoria and adjusting operations accordingly.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 19 Jan 2011

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	456.59	2 211	57%	71	2 140	+14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.86	2 782	93%	23	2 759	-22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.97	445	66%	100	345	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 829	106%	(480 #)	1 349	+126
Total		9 269		7 267	78%	--	6 593	+120

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **77%**

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		1 023	100%	3	1 020	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 559	96%	24	1 535	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 610	78%	100	2 510	+56

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Jan-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	969	+17	Snowy-Murray	+8	789
Snowy-Murray Component	419	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+5	320
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	3.2	469
			Murray 1 Release	+22	1 180

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2010		This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	10.3	322.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.4	42.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	9.2	126.0
Western Murray Irrig.	1.0	7.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	32.0
Licensed Pumps	1.0	41.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.0	8.0
Lower Darling	6.0	165.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	154.0
TOTAL	18.3	538.0	TOTAL	17.6	362.0

* 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	217.0 *	
Flow this week	462.6	(66 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,155.7	
Flow last month	1,943.9	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for January 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	230	240	160
Euston	180	190	150
Red Cliffs	190	190	140
Merbein	210	210	140
Burtundy (Darling)	260	250	260
Lock 9	240	250	190
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	250	240	210
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	n/a	-	270
Mannum	360	380	300
Murray Bridge	320	330	300
Milang (Lake Alex)	500	610	2 340
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	430	400	880
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 180	7 140	9 500
Goolwa Barrages	760	690	6 920

Week ending Wednesday 19 Jan 2011

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	-	-	-	3 890	F	3 140	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	208.41	6 050	F	6 280	4 930
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.65	218.54	1 050	F	1 340	1 100
Heywoods	5.5	2.64	156.27	10 660	R	12 520	22 320
Doctors Point	5.5	2.92	151.39	13 450	R	15 990	24 460
Albury	4.3	1.92	149.36	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.94	128.96	14 830	F	23 250	29 310
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.93	117.97	20 980	F	26 590	18 620
Tocumwal	6.4	4.26	108.10	28 310	F	26 490	19 430
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.72	86.27	54 210	R	36 890	25 690
Swan Hill	4.5	3.94	66.86	24 560	R	24 420	23 820
Wakool Junction	8.8	9.64	58.76	64 910	F	65 170	60 400
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	7.27	49.11	71 660	R	69 700	59 060
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	60 990	F	57 250	52 270
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.04	31.80	77 000	R	72 270	65 010
Rufus Junction	-	7.51	24.44	68 430	R	66 080	58 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.17	-	49 900	R	49 270	49 900
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.77	155.00	1 770	F	2 930	1 890
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.63	148.31	11 110	F	13 840	3 570
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.67	99.09	19 650	R	7 910	2 340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.54	84.31	8 550	F	8 110	7 700
Edward at Liewah	-	5.62	61.00	9 100	F	9 590	9 410
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.95	60.44	29 540	F	30 010	19 820
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.66	62.62	22 260	R	19 550	15 600
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.51	-	11 020	F	11 470	7 670
Darling at Bourke	-	12.05	-	78 490	F	83 440	86 980
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.74	-	16 470	S	16 250	15 160

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 570	6 100
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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	+2.46	n/a
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.32	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.45	+3.25
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.76	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.16	+3.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	n/a	+3.80	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.99	+4.16
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+1.11	+4.40	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.08	+3.71
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.94	+3.66	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.07	+3.73
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.86	+4.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.30	+2.42

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	2.99	72.34	5573
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.37	5.75	67.05	10700

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.68

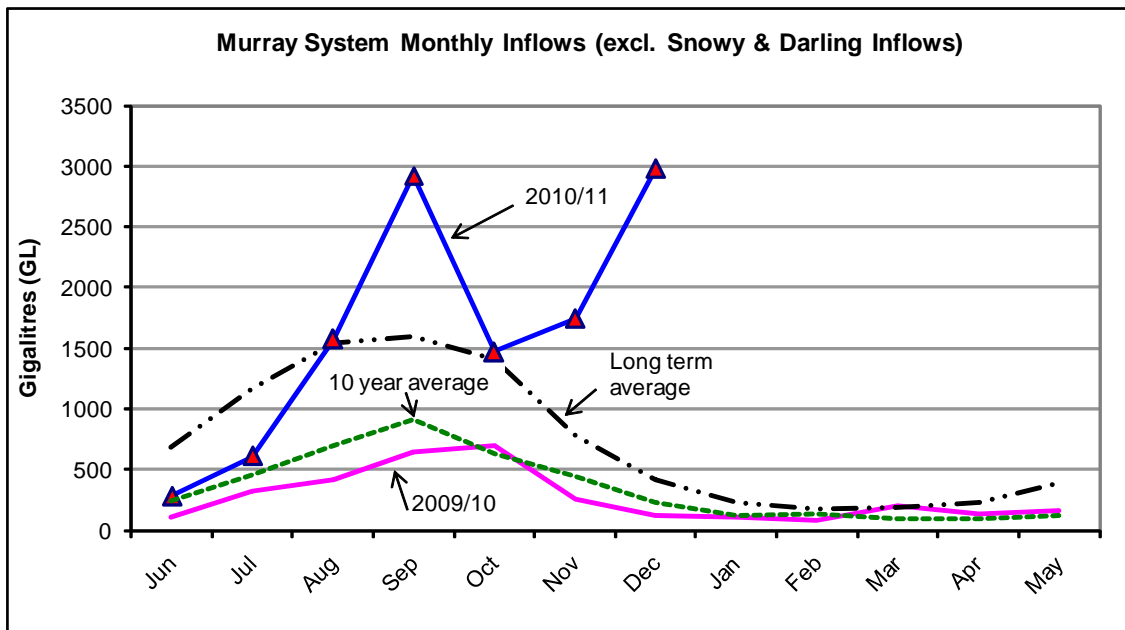
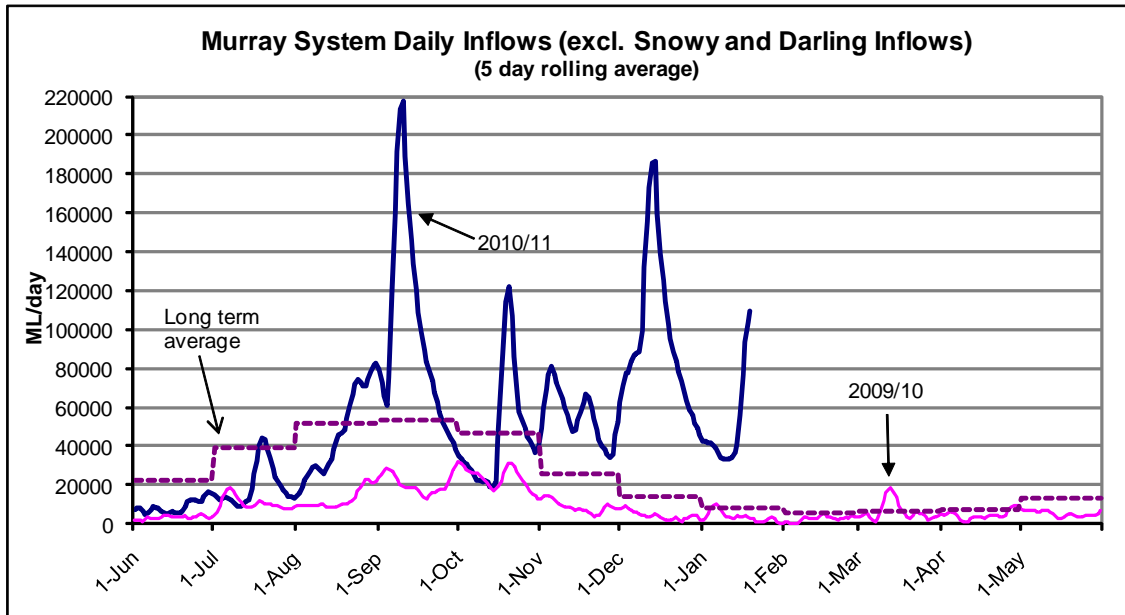
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	112	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	15	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	67	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	179	Open	Open



Week ending Wednesday 19 January 2011



State Allocations (as at 19 January 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	100%

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/>