



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 02 FEBRUARY 2011

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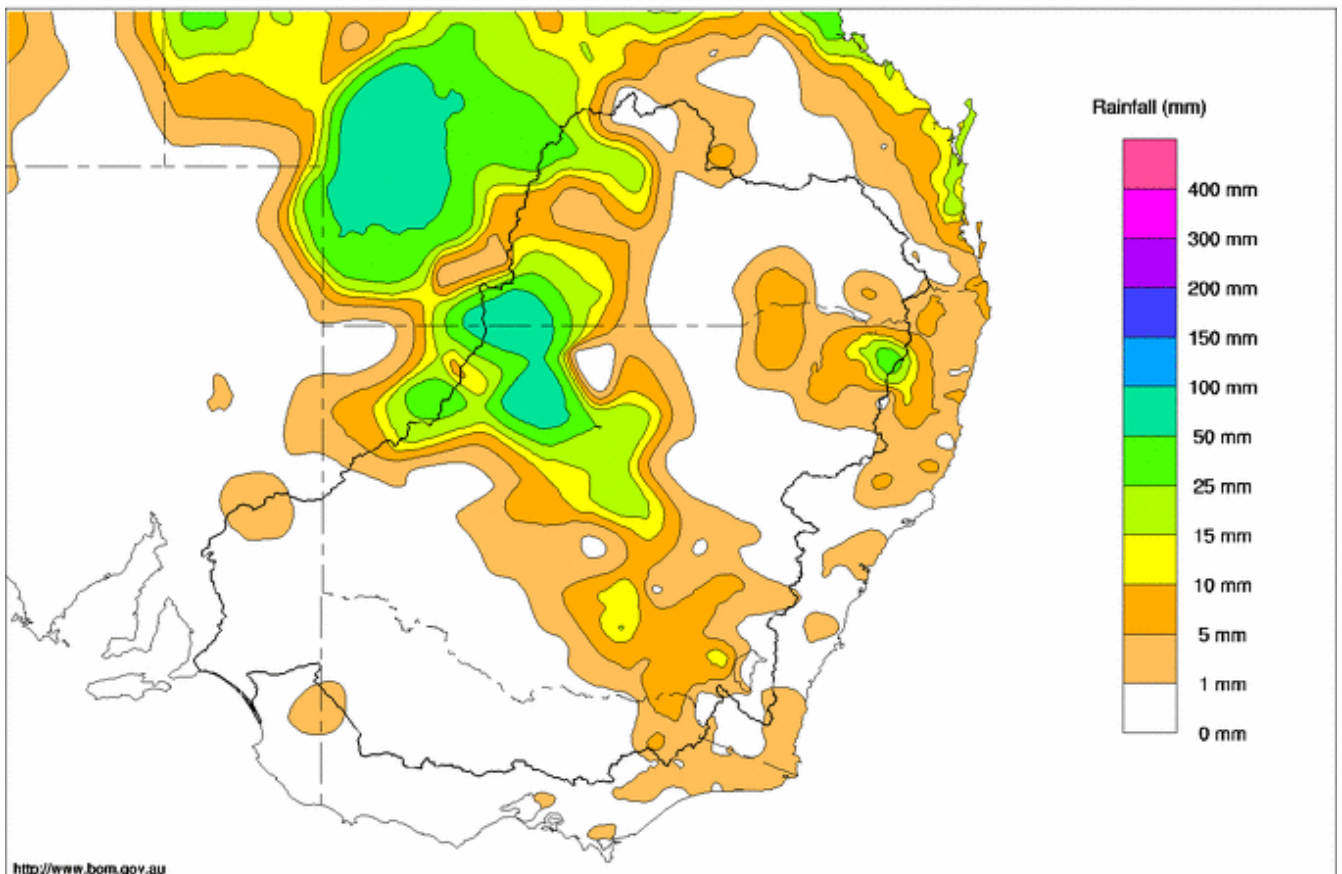
Rainfall and Inflows

It has been another relatively dry week in the Murray-Darling Basin, with the highest rainfalls in north-western NSW and south-western Queensland. Louth, on the Darling River, recorded 78 mm while Hungerford, on the Paroo River, recorded 91 mm and Glen Innes, in the northern tablelands of NSW, had 37 mm. However, there is more rain forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology, with total falls greater than 50 mm along the River Murray, in NSW and Victoria, expected by the weekend.

High flows are still occurring along the length of the Darling River upstream of Menindee Lakes, with major flooding occurring at Tilpa and Louth. Upstream at Bourke, the river is rising again and is expected to peak with major flooding in mid-late February. The forecast peak at Bourke is due to the floodwaters which have recently past St. George and were derived from the torrential rainfall in southern Queensland in early January.

There are also high inflows to the River Murray at, and upstream of, Swan Hill from the floods in the Loddon River. Much of the flow from the Loddon into the Murray is over floodplains and therefore ungauged. The flow at Swan Hill is currently 29,330 ML/day and is expected to remain high for an extended period. Water from the Loddon River is also reaching Merran Creek, via overbank flows

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 2nd February 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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from the River Murray, and therefore contributing to high flows at Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River (currently 25,350 ML/day). The rain forecast for the next few days, falling on extensive areas of land that is already flooded, or close to saturation, may exacerbate the floods in this region. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

Other tributary inflows include 3,060 ML/day at Wangaratta on the Ovens River, 1,840 ML/day at McCoys Bridge on the Goulburn River and 13,340 ML/day at Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River.

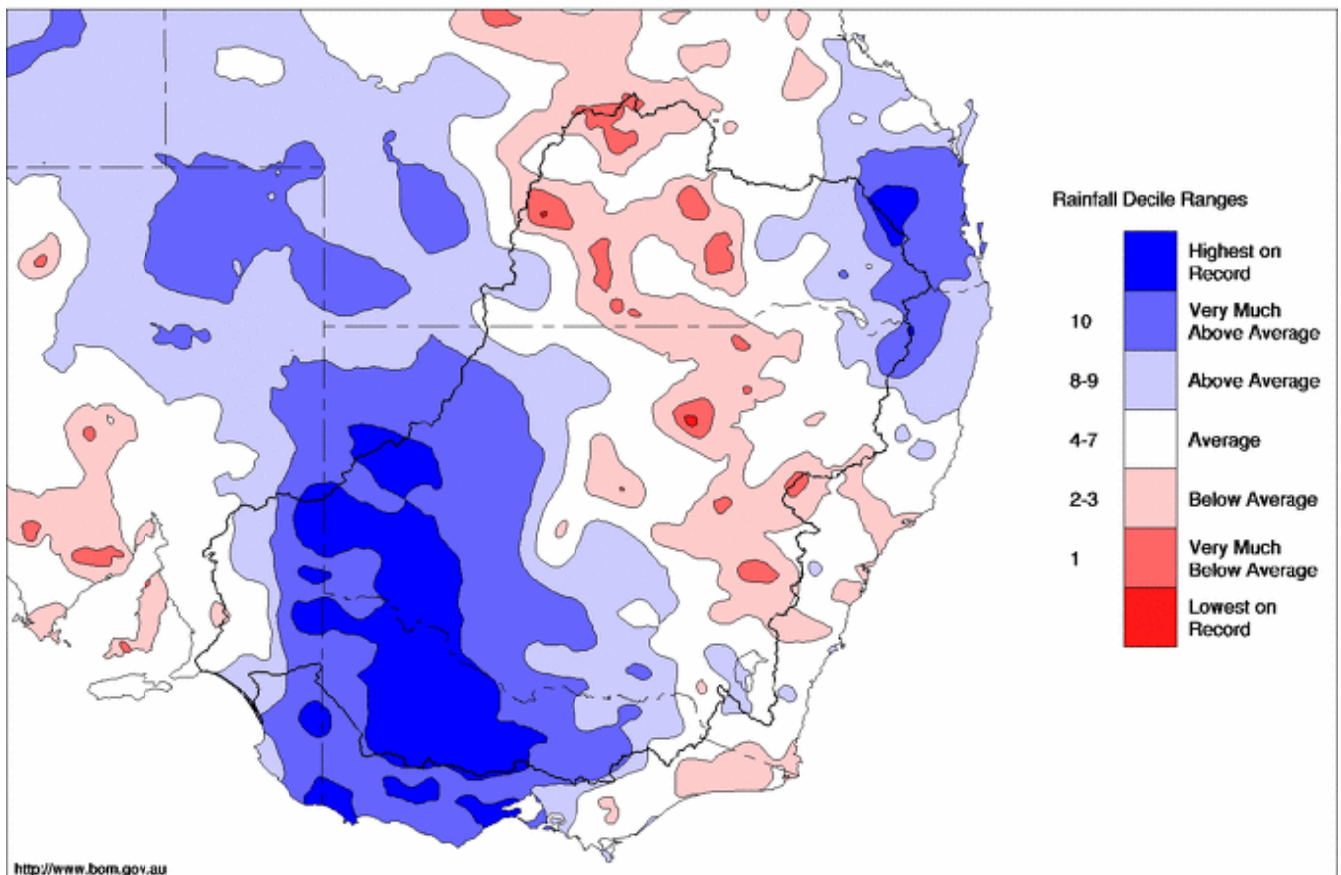
Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Darling inflows) during the last week were 228 GL. The total inflows for January were 1,730 GL, or about 650 GL more than the previous record of 1,080 GL from January 1974.

January 2011 Summary

Rainfall totals in January were the highest on record for large areas of western Victoria and small parts of south-western NSW. The monthly rainfall total was greater than 100 mm across these areas, including 166 mm at Menindee, 127 mm at Mildura and 166 mm at Warracknabeal. Rainfall which was very much above average occurred in surrounding areas, and was also recorded in the eastern margin of the Basin in Queensland. Elsewhere in the Basin, January rainfall was generally average to below average.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles January 2011

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,306 GL (73% capacity). The volume of water stored at Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 6 GL during the week to 2,211 GL (57% capacity), with releases of up to 3,000 ML/day for electricity generation by AGL Hydro. Releases from Hume Reservoir have declined from 21,750 to 13,550 ML/day and the current storage at Hume is 2,591 GL (86% capacity).

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release is currently 17,020 ML/day. This release may need to be increased during the coming week, depending on the volume of inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. The pool level at Yarrawonga during the past week has averaged 124.82 m AHD which is slightly above the current target level of 124.7–124.8 m AHD.

At Stevens Weir, on the Edward River, the flow has declined from 8,030 to 5,630 ML/day. At Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River, flows have been boosted by ungauged inflows from the Loddon River via Merran Creek. During the last few days, the flow at Stoney Crossing has risen slightly to 25,350 ML/day and further rises are likely during the next week.

The gates at Torrumbarry Weir were re-instated on Monday 31 January and, as a result, the weir pool has risen from 84.88 to 85.20 m AHD. The pool level will be returned to its normal full supply level of 86.05 m by mid-February. The flow past Torrumbarry Weir has declined during the week from 43,620 to 21,500 ML/day.

The flow past Euston is slowly declining from a peak of about 74,000 ML/day in late January. Flows are expected to remain higher than 65,000 ML/day for at least another week. Higher flows are possible in the next week or two, depending on the response of the lower Loddon River to the rainfall forecast for this weekend. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

Menindee Lakes are currently holding 1,706 GL (99% capacity), a reduction during the week of 71 GL. The flow past Weir 32 on the lower Darling River is currently 33,350 ML/day. Downstream at Burtundy, the flow is 16,520 ML/day and is expected to rise to about 20,000 ML/day by mid February. Further information about the management of Menindee Lakes can be found at the NSW Office of Water website www.water.nsw.gov.au.

At Wentworth, the higher flows from the Murray are joining with those from the lower Darling to produce a river height of 32.06 m AHD. At this stage, further rises in the river level are not expected. At Lake Victoria, the level is currently 25.22 m AHD and this level will be steady for the next few days as the peak flow passes into South Australia. The flow to South Australia is currently 79,000 ML/day and is likely to peak at 80,000–83,000 ML/day.

The water level in the Lower Lakes has fallen from 0.68 to 0.64 m AHD during the past week. If possible, the lakes will continue to be drawn down towards 0.5 m AHD before filling again as the higher flows arrive. These operations should assist to dilute the salinity of the water in the Lower Lakes.

Water Quality

Low dissolved oxygen levels and associated “blackwater” are still occurring across wide areas of the Murray system. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is issuing regular water quality bulletins which are available early each week from the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater>). These bulletins provide information on dissolved oxygen levels, blackwater, fish deaths and other water quality issues along the river.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 02 Feb 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	456.61	2 211	57%	71	2 140	-6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	189.85	2 591	86%	23	2 568	-97
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.22	472	70%	100	372	+15
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 706	99%	(480 #)	1 226	-71
Total		9 269		6 980	75%	--	6 306	-159

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **73%**

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	912	89%	3	909	-66
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 586	97%	24	1 562	+32
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 621	79%	100	2 521	-7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Feb-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	983	-3	Snowy-Murray	+21	822
Snowy-Murray Component	397	-15	Tooma-Tumut	+4	327
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	17.0	495
			Murray 1 Release	+23	1 217

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)	34.2	380.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	7.1	55.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	0.0	126.0
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	8.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.8	38.0
Licensed Pumps	2.9	46.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	8.0
Lower Darling	12.3	196.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	181.0
TOTAL	50.7	633.0	TOTAL	22.0	408.0

* 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	194.0 *	
Flow this week	537.8	(76 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	157.1	
Flow last month	2,041.3	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for February 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	290	250	170
Euston	230	220	150
Red Cliffs	200	190	150
Merbein	260	240	140
Burtundy (Darling)	270	250	260
Lock 9	270	270	200
Lake Victoria	200	190	170
Berri	310	310	220
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	400	390	270
Mannum	370	360	310
Murray Bridge	320	310	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	580	570	2 200
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	430	420	850
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 640	7 620	9 350
Goolwa Barrages	680	640	6 450



Week ending Wednesday 02 Feb 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	-	-	-	5 400	R	4 040	2 560
Jingellic	4.0	2.10	208.62	7 960	R	5 820	4 760
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.34	219.23	4 010	R	1 750	1 000
Heywoods	5.5	2.80	156.43	13 550	F	18 730	18 570
Doctors Point	5.5	3.12	151.59	15 730	F	20 260	20 250
Albury	4.3	2.12	149.56	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.84	129.86	23 140	F	25 660	19 990
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.52	117.56	17 020	S	16 550	18 850
Tocumwal	6.4	3.20	107.04	18 120	R	17 700	21 550
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.50	84.05	21 500	F	30 430	49 400
Swan Hill	4.5	4.55	67.47	29 330	S	28 230	26 100
Wakool Junction	8.8	9.05	58.17	54 940	R	55 480	61 250
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	7.20	49.04	70 420	F	72 610	73 270
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	66 700	F	66 570	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.30	32.06	84 860	S	84 060	80 030
Rufus Junction	-	7.74	24.67	79 020	R	76 830	72 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.26	-	52 100	R	51 730	50 730
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.00	155.23	2 160	R	1 530	1 510
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.78	146.46	3 060	F	3 650	6 010
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.02	93.44	1 840	F	4 650	21 730
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.69	83.46	5 630	S	6 510	8 360
Edward at Liewah	-	4.77	60.15	6 340	F	6 910	8 380
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.60	60.09	25 350	S	25 230	27 510
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.03	61.99	13 340	F	16 590	23 150
Barwon at Mungindi	-	7.20	-	16 380	F	22 660	19 470
Darling at Bourke	-	11.83	-	72 220	R	64 360	69 740
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.75	-	16 520	S	16 480	16 470

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 (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.64	N/A
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.85	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.61	+3.40
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.68	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.32	+3.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+4.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.11	+4.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	N/A	+4.66	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.25	+3.89
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+1.12	+3.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.24	+3.88
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+2.05	+4.43	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.38	+2.51

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.65	1.826	71.176	2423
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.32	3.242	64.542	4820

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.64

Barrages

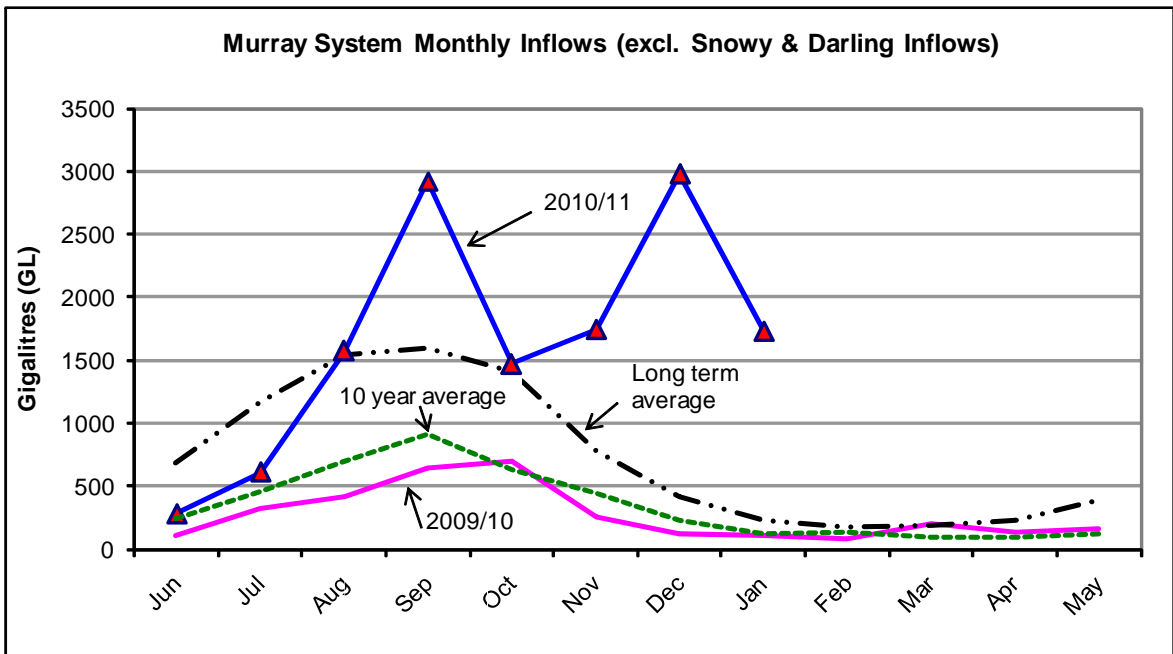
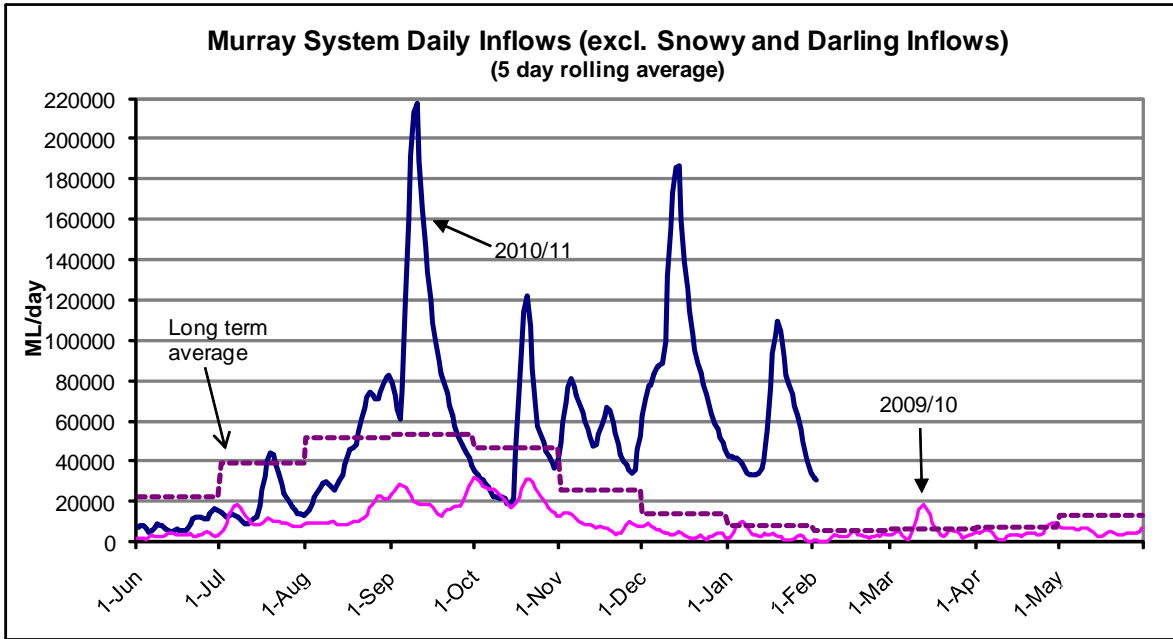
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.54	112	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.52	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	67	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.66	179	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 2 February 2011



State Allocations (as at 2 February 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
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/>