



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2011

Trim Ref: D11/4399

## Rainfall and Inflows

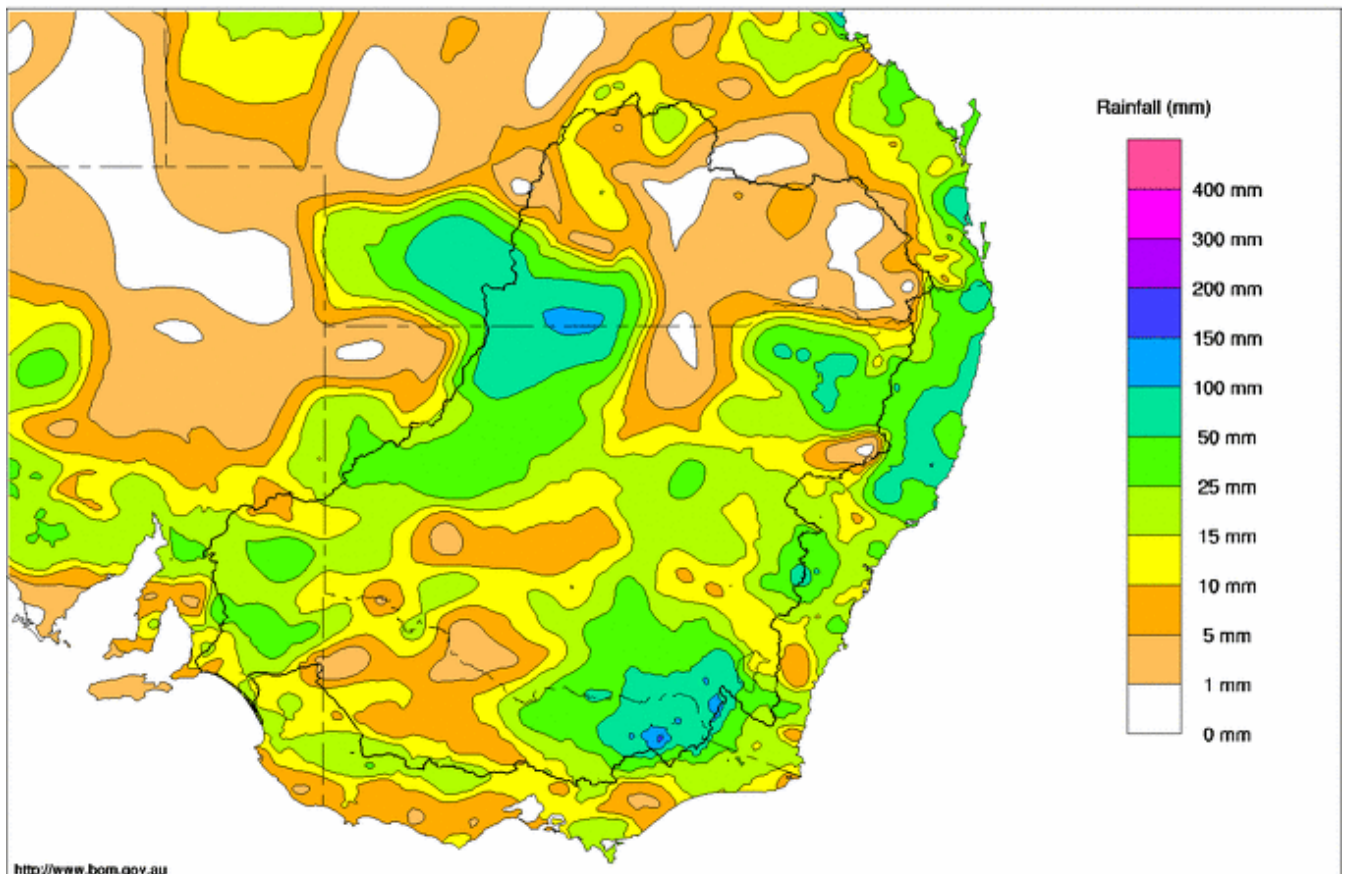
There was more rainfall across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with the highest falls in the upper Murray (for example, 81 mm at Dartmouth Reservoir and 63 mm at Hume Reservoir) and Ovens River catchments (87 mm at Lake Buffalo). Other areas receiving more than 25 mm rainfall included northern NSW (83 mm at Manilla), south-western Queensland and north-western NSW (69 mm at Wanaaring) and small areas within the lower Murray (72 mm at Swan Reach).

This rain, following on from high rainfalls last week, has contributed to another peak in flows in the upper Murray tributaries, and the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, had a peak flow this week of 5,150 ML/day, compared with 4,700 ML/day last week. At Jingellic, on the River Murray upstream of Hume Reservoir, the flow peak this week was 27,750 ML/day compared with the peak last week of 23,500 ML/day. The peak flow past Bandiana on the Kiewa River was 11,050 ML/day (17,300 ML/day last week) while the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 33,750 ML/day (26,300 ML/day last week).

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke is close to its expected peak at 93,590 ML/day while, at Wilcannia, the flow continues to slowly rise and is currently 35,900 ML/day. These flows originated from rain that fell in southern Queensland in early January and further small peaks are in transit.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th February 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Darling inflows) during the last week were about 690 GL, with a total of about 1280 GL for February to date. Previously, the highest recorded total inflow for February was 508 GL in 1911. Further rain is forecast for the next week in the upper Murray which will continue to generate high flows, given the wet catchments.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is now 6,672 GL (78% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 48 GL this week to 2,291 GL (59% capacity), while at Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 180 GL, giving a stored volume of 2,905 GL (97% capacity). Releases from Hume Reservoir were increased during the week to target 25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point (on 17 February), which is the maximum possible pre-release rate. This pre-release aims to accommodate the current high inflows and to provide airspace to assist with the management of inflows from forecast rainfall over the next week.

High flows have continued to pass Yarrowonga Weir, with the current release being 37,430 ML/day, and the average for the week being 32,700 ML/day. Flows past Yarrowonga have been greater than about 10,000 ML/day since early August.

At Stevens Weir on the Edward River, the flow has risen to 9,130 ML/day and is expected to reach about 10,000 ML/day in the next few days. At Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River, the flow has fallen to 23,960 ML/day but this flow is expected to start rising again in late February as higher flows arrive from upstream.

Flow past Torrumbarry Weir has been greater than 30,000 ML/day for the last week, but should start falling within the next few days. At Swan Hill, the flow is currently 27,760 ML/day (4.41 m gauge height). The Bureau of Meteorology is expecting that the river will remain below minor flood level for the foreseeable future. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

Flows in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald have been steady for the last week at about 12,000 ML/day. Downstream at Euston, flows in the River Murray continue to decline and are currently 65,720 ML/day. However, even without further rain, flows past Euston are expected to remain greater than 40,000 ML/day until early March. At Wentworth, the flow has been steadily falling to 85,480 ML/day from a peak last week of 91,800 ML/day. This flow is expected to continue receding during the coming weeks.

Menindee Lakes are currently storing 1,665 GL (96% capacity), which is a decline of 21 GL since last week. The flow past Weir 32 is approximately equal to the inflow to the lakes and is currently about 32,440 ML/day. The flow at Burtundy is steady at about 17,700 ML/day.

The level at Lake Victoria has been steady for the last week at about 25.34 m AHD and the flow to South Australia has averaged 91,100 ML/day. The water level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.74 m AHD and continues to be raised to target a level of 0.8 m AHD.

## Water Quality

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is issuing regular water quality bulletins regarding the low dissolved oxygen levels and associated “blackwater” events that are still occurring across large areas of the Murray system. These bulletins are available early each week from the MDBA website ([www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater)).

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

TONY MORSE  
Acting Executive Director, River Murray



**Week ending Wednesday 16 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	458.30	2 291	59%	71	2 220	+48
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.50	2 905	97%	23	2 882	+180
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.34	485	72%	100	385	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 665	96%	(480 #)	1 185	-21
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 346</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 672</b>	<b>+211</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **78%**

# 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	961	94%	3	958	+13
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 633	100%	24	1 609	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 685	81%	100	2 585	+26

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Feb-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 071	+51	Snowy-Murray	+13	847
Snowy-Murray Component	436	+18	Tooma-Tumut	+3	346
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	9.3	501
			Murray 1 Release	+30	1 269

**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)	5.5	396.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-1.2	53.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	2.3	128.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	9.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	39.0
Licensed Pumps	0.8	49.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	8.0
Lower Darling	12.3	221.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	201.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>678.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>429.0</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	194.0 *	
Flow this week	637.5	(91 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,404.9	
Flow last month	2,041.3	

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

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	360	350	180
Euston	250	240	160
Red Cliffs	220	220	150
Merbein	310	310	150
Burtundy (Darling)	300	290	260
Lock 9	330	330	210
Lake Victoria	220	230	180
Berri	340	330	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	420	410	280
Mannum	380	370	310
Murray Bridge	340	330	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	490	520	2 090
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 560	7 420	9 220
Goolwa Barrages	510	520	6 030



**Week ending Wednesday 16 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	-	-	-	8 200	R	8 180	7 740
Jingellic	4.0	2.91	209.43	16 010	F	18 500	13 510
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.20	219.09	3 180	F	4 130	3 500
Heywoods	5.5	2.77	156.40	13 000	S	6 460	6 840
Doctors Point	5.5	3.34	151.81	18 230	F	13 570	13 980
Albury	4.3	2.44	149.88	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.93	129.95	24 140	R	17 330	24 360
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.34	119.38	37 430	R	32 730	25 620
Tocumwal	6.4	4.68	108.52	33 110	R	33 210	22 040
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.72	85.27	31 810	F	32 210	22 600
Swan Hill	4.5	4.41	67.33	27 760	S	27 890	28 900
Wakool Junction	8.8	9.01	58.13	54 200	F	56 590	56 980
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.93	48.77	65 720	F	66 920	69 130
Mildura Weir (d/s)	8.3	-	-	64 000	F	64 140	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.32	32.08	85 480	F	87 430	89 150
Rufus Junction	-	7.91	24.84	87 640	R	91 080	87 190
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.77	-	65 500	R	62 970	58 930
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.80	156.03	5 600	F	6 390	7 490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.17	148.85	15 430	F	20 240	14 610
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.78	98.20	15 510	F	18 030	5 960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.67	84.44	9 130	S	6 720	5 650
Edward at Liewah	-	4.79	60.17	6 370	S	6 280	6 170
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.47	59.96	23 960	F	25 140	26 110
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	6.7	5.89	61.85	12 100	R	11 990	11 000
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.39	-	500	R	760	7 150
Darling at Bourke	9.0	12.48	-	93 590	R	87 070	79 560
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	6.1	7.00	-	17 710	S	17 770	17 300

<b>Natural inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	34 990	16 720
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.79	-
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.13	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.86	+3.67
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.45	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.70	+3.56
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	+3.97	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.48	+4.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-	+4.68	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.70	+4.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+1.24	+3.98	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.72	+4.38
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+2.15	-	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.73	+3.02

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-	-	-	-
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	5.6287	66.93	10100

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.74

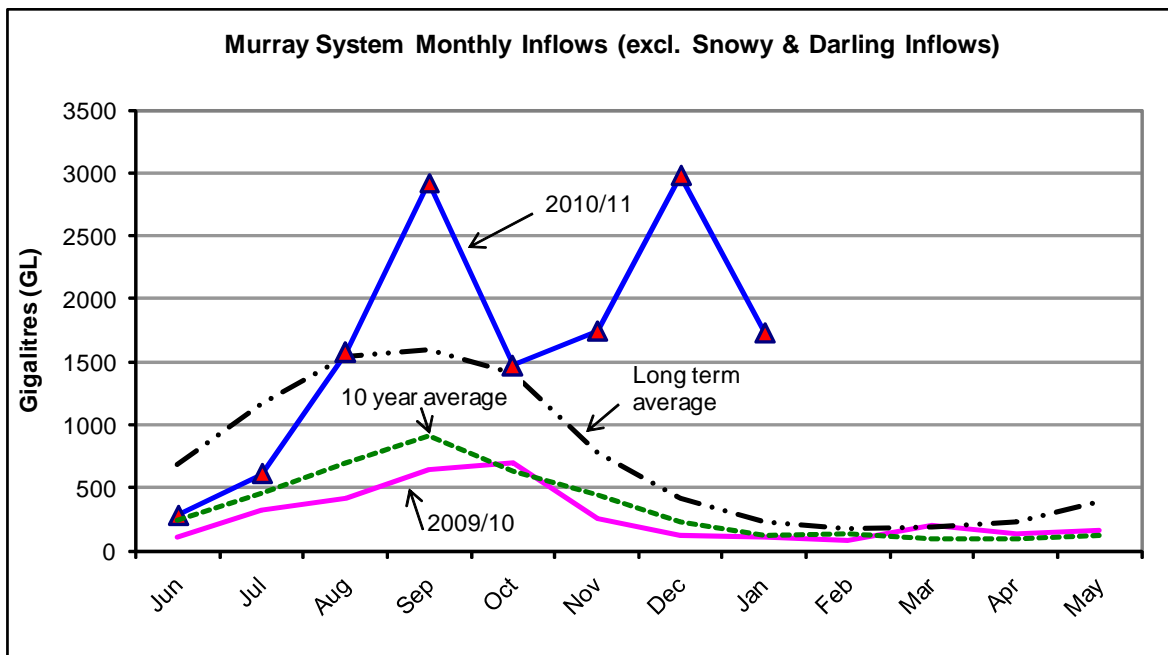
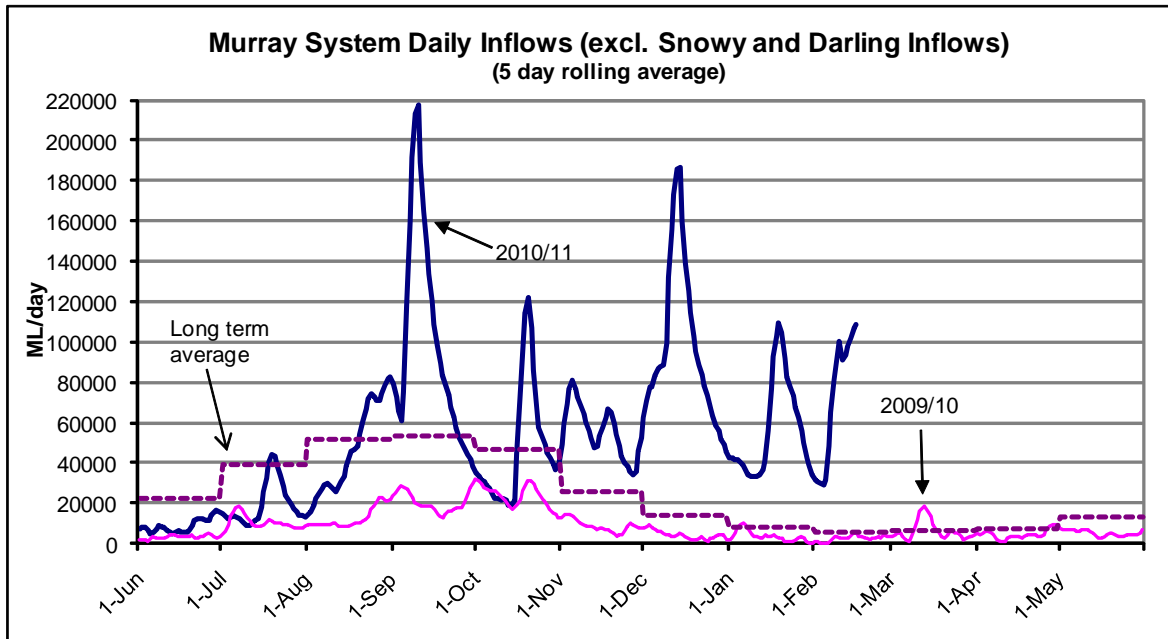
**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.75	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.47	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	17	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.78	23	Open	Open



Week ending Wednesday 16 February 2011



**State Allocations (as at 16 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/>