



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2011

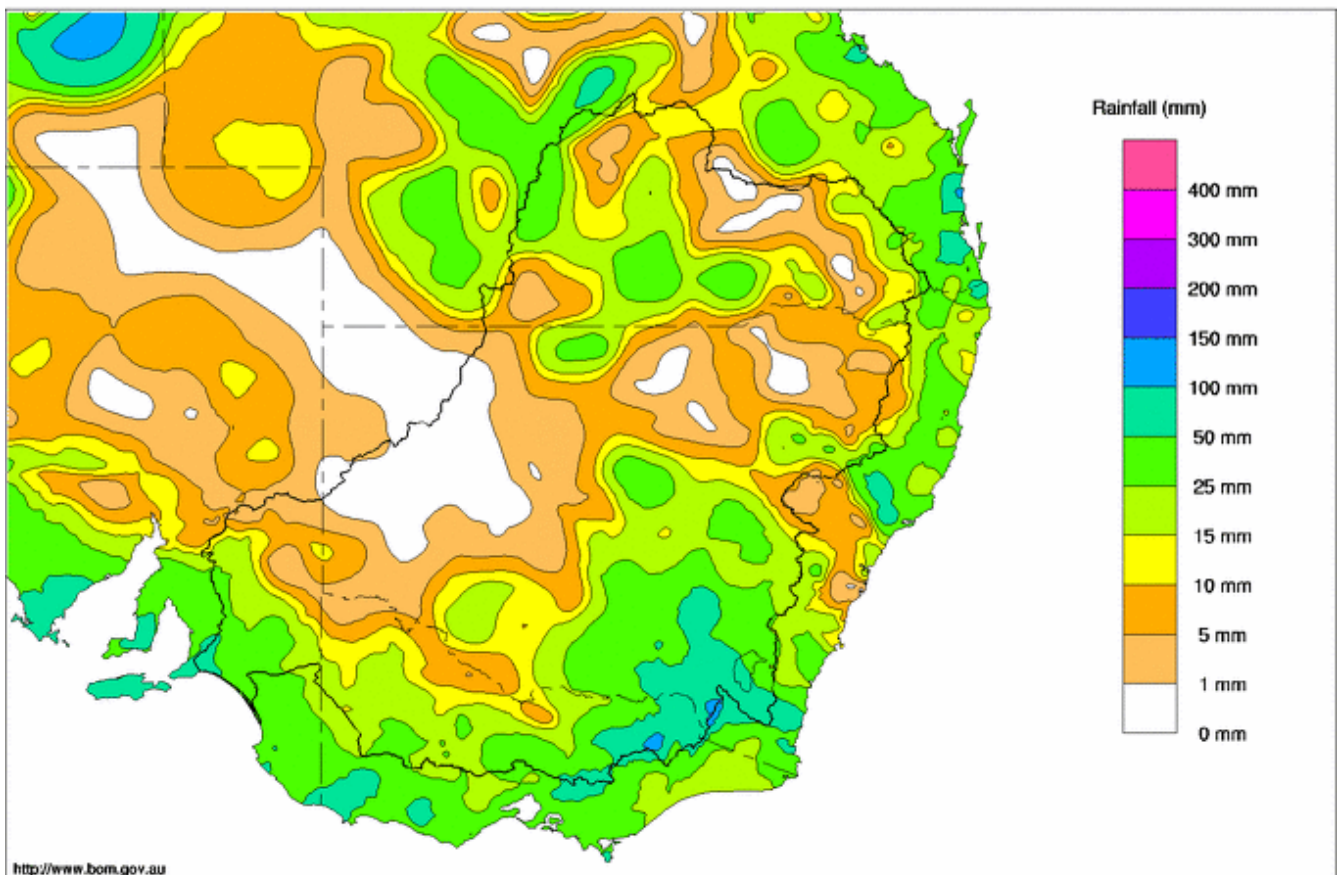
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rain-bearing weather systems crossed the Murray-Darling Basin once again during the past week, continuing the on-going wet trend experienced in recent months. Like the previous week, the area most affected was the south-east of the Basin with the heaviest totals recorded around the upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens catchments (Map 1). Upstream of Hume Reservoir, 74 mm was recorded at Biggara on the River Murray, while totals in excess of 100 mm were recorded in the Snowy Mountains. In the Ovens and Kiewa catchments, 123 mm was recorded at Mt Buffalo and 147 mm at Rocky Valley Dam.

Elsewhere in the Basin, areas of light to moderate rain fell in parts of southern Queensland, central Victoria and the NSW Riverina, where Wagga Wagga recorded 60 mm for the week. Goolwa, near the Murray mouth, recorded 74 mm during the week. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting generally drier weather for the Basin over the coming week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 23rd February 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



http://www.bom.gov.au © Commonwealth of Australia 2011, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Issued: 23/02/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 23 February 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



This rain has once again increased flows and generated a new series of peaks in the key upper Murray tributaries. On the upper Murray itself, the flow at Jingellic increased to over 31,000 ML/day (a similar peak to the previous week) and has now receded to below 20,000 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana peaked at 8,000 ML/day (11,000 ML/day the previous week), while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta reached a peak on 21 February of just under 30,000 ML/day, slightly lower than the week before.

River Murray system inflows (excluding Menindee inflows and Snowy releases) this week totalled 595 GL, giving a total of about 1865 GL for the month to date. This month-to-date inflow surpasses last month's total of 1,730 GL and is more than ten times the long-term average February inflow of 169 GL.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased during the week by 97 GL to 6,770 GL (79% capacity). Dartmouth Reservoir continued its slow but steady increase in volume and now holds 2,335 GL (61% capacity), which is an increase of 44 GL.

Hume Reservoir inflows totalled about 226 GL during the week, with releases totalling 146 GL. The storage level is now 191.90 m AHD. The storage level is expected to peak at about 191.92 m AHD on 25 February. Releases from Hume Reservoir will continue at close to downstream channel capacity for at least the next 1–2 weeks, but may vary after taking into account the Bureau of Meteorology's rainfall outlooks and forecasts. At present, the releases are 21,350 ML/day and these will be increased later in the week, once the flow from the Kiewa River recedes, to target a flow of 25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point. The aim of this operating strategy is to balance the need for airspace at Hume for flood mitigation with the Reservoir's primary design function of safeguarding water security.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increasing since 20 February, to pass high flows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers and the spill from Hume Reservoir. The release from the weir is currently about 40,000 ML/day (24 February), which is expected to be the peak release during this event.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release has declined during the week to 26,180 ML/day, but this flow is expected to increase to about 28,500 ML/day during the next few days as a small spike in inflow from the Goulburn River arrives. At Swan Hill, the flow is currently 27,870 ML/day (4.43 m gauge height)—the river level has been greater than 4.4 m gauge height since 30 January.

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir is currently 10,900 ML/day, and is expected to rise to about 13,000 ML/day by the end of February. The Edward River at Moulamein is expected to continue rising through to mid-March, with flows likely to exceed 10,000 ML/day by early March.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow past Balranald has been steady for the past 10 days and is currently 12,420 ML/day. At Euston, the flow is currently 62,200 ML/day and expected to remain higher than 60,000 ML/day through early March.

The total storage in Menindee Lakes is currently 1,639 GL (95% capacity), a 26 GL decrease since last week. Upstream on the Darling River, the flow at Bourke peaked at 88,000 ML/day on 19 February, and has since fallen to 82,300 ML/day (24 February). At Wilcannia, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a peak near 10.5 m (about 38,600 ML/day) in late March (for more information on flood warnings, refer to the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au). Just upstream of Wilcannia, the Talyawalka Creek anabranch system has been flowing since mid-January, and the current flow at the Barrier Highway is about 18,500 ML/day (see Figure 1). This anabranch flow re-enters the Darling River downstream of Weir 32. At Weir 32, the flow is currently 32,400 ML/day and forecast releases are expected to remain below 35,000 ML/day. For more information on the management of Menindee Lakes, see the NSW Office of Water website www.water.nsw.gov.au.



Figure 1 - High flows move into the Talyawalka Creek anabranch system south of Wilcannia (22 February 2011).

Photo: Barry Philp, NSW State Water.

The level in Lake Victoria has been steady for the last 2 weeks at about 25.34 m AHD (72% capacity) while the flow to South Australia has declined during the week to 82,500 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the level rose quickly to 0.82 m AHD on Saturday 19 February after heavy rainfall in the area on Friday night. The water level is currently 0.84 m AHD, and barrage openings have been increased to reduce this level.

Water Quality

Salinity levels in the mid and lower reaches of the River Murray have been increasing during the last few weeks, mainly due to higher salinity inflows from the Campaspe and Loddon Rivers. At Swan Hill, the salinity reached 368 EC units in mid-February but has since fallen to 336 EC units. These salinity levels are expected to continue to slowly decrease if conditions remain dry. Salinity forecasts are available on the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/river_salinity).

Detailed information on the “blackwater” events that are still occurring across large areas of the Murray system can be found on the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater). This website also links to a map showing the dissolved oxygen status at various points along the river, compiled from data collected by various agencies.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 23 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	459.21	2 335	61%	71	2 264	+44
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.90	2 985	99%	23	2 962	+80
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.34	485	72%	100	385	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 639	95%	(480 #)	1 159	-26
Total		9 269		7 444	80%	--	6 770	+97

* 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						
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 630	100%	24	1 606	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 709	81%	100	2 609	+24

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Feb-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 137	+66	Snowy-Murray	+16	863
Snowy-Murray Component	459	+24	Tooma-Tumut	+14	360
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	2.1	503
			Murray 1 Release	+31	1 301

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)	7.8	404.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.7	54.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	0.0	128.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	9.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	40.0
Licensed Pumps	1.4	51.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	8.0
Lower Darling	11.8	232.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	211.0
TOTAL	21.4	699.0	TOTAL	11.6	441.0

* 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	596.9	(85 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	2,001.8	
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	340	350	190
Euston	260	250	160
Red Cliffs	220	220	150
Merbein	300	300	160
Burtundy (Darling)	340	330	260
Lock 9	340	340	210
Lake Victoria	250	220	180
Berri	290	320	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	450	440	290
Mannum	420	410	310
Murray Bridge	380	360	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	520	510	2 030
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	340	330	1 250
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 180	7 280	9 160
Goolwa Barrages	460	550	5 850

Week ending Wednesday 23 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	-	-	-	7 770	S	8 260	8 180
Jingellic	4.0	3.26	209.78	19 950	F	21 220	18 500
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.20	219.09	3 230	F	3 930	4 130
Heywoods	5.5	3.46	157.09	21 350	S	20 840	6 460
Doctors Point	5.5	4.08	152.55	26 730	F	25 250	13 570
Albury	4.3	3.26	150.70	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.66	130.68	32 010	R	27 760	17 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.46	119.50	38 990	R	35 020	32 730
Tocumwal	6.4	4.62	108.46	32 280	S	34 890	33 210
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.18	84.73	26 180	F	29 360	32 210
Swan Hill	4.5	4.43	67.35	27 870	S	27 850	27 890
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.73	57.85	50 700	S	51 930	56 590
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.73	48.57	62 200	F	64 000	66 920
Mildura Weir (d/s)	8.3	-	-	62 430	F	62 490	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.19	31.95	81 450	F	83 580	87 430
Rufus Junction	-	7.81	24.74	82 480	F	85 270	91 080
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.02	-	72 400	R	69 230	62 970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.81	156.04	6 040	F	5 450	6 390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.66	149.34	21 470	F	17 850	20 240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.74	96.16	8 560	R	9 150	18 030
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.07	84.84	10 900	S	10 490	6 720
Edward at Liewah	-	4.95	60.33	6 850	R	6 570	6 280
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.37	59.86	22 990	S	23 210	25 140
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	6.7	5.93	61.89	12 420	S	12 300	11 990
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.60	-	1 240	R	1 210	760
Darling at Bourke	9.0	12.48	-	93 590	F	95 840	87 070
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	6.1	7.00	-	17 760	S	17 790	17 770

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	38 780	34 990
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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	-0.25	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.72	-
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.82	+3.62
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.32	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.75	+3.61
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	+3.81	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.54	+4.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-	+4.55	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.96	+4.59
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+1.11	+3.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.99	+4.71
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+2.05	-	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.98	+3.27

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	+0.07	5.75	67.05	10700

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

Barrages

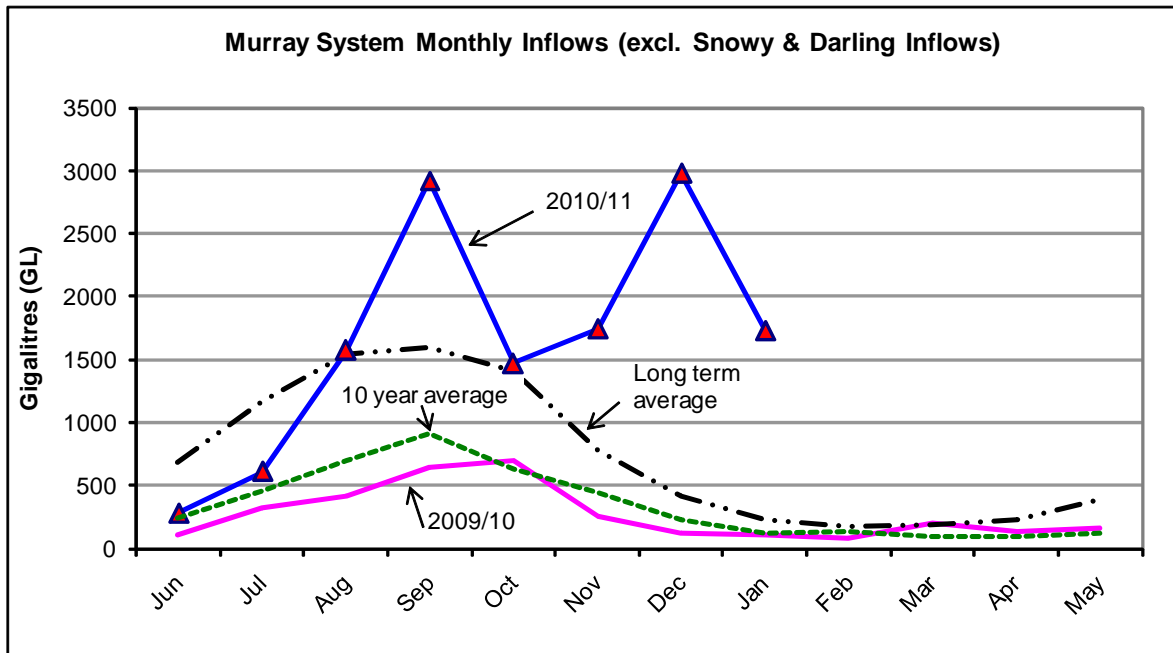
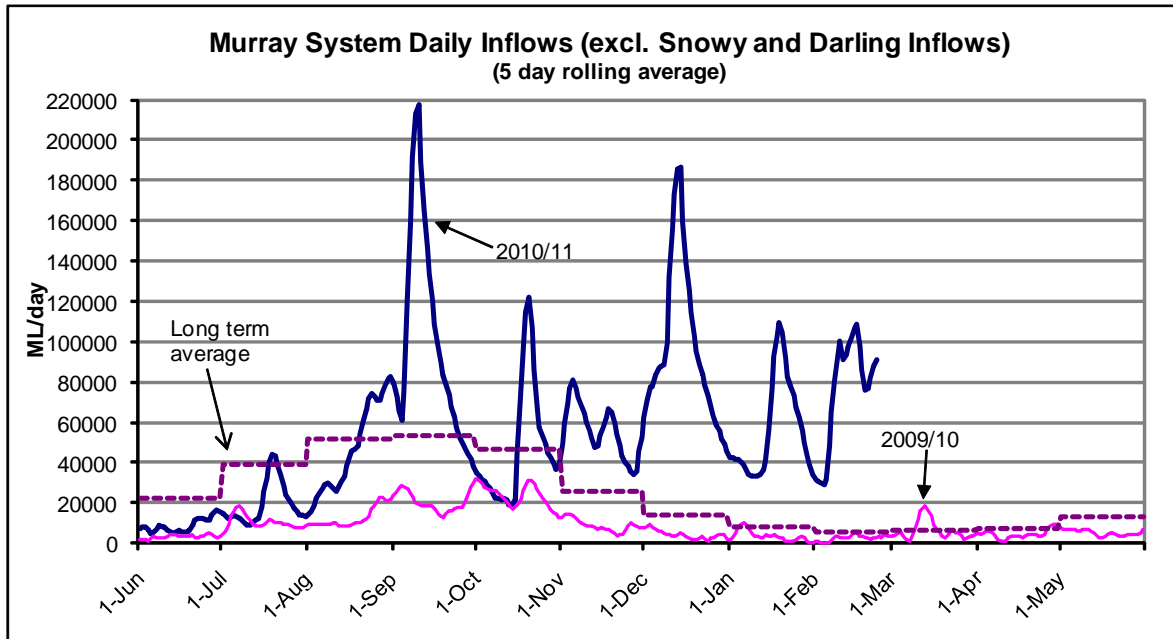
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.57	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.79	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 23 February 2011



State Allocations (as at 23 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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