



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2011

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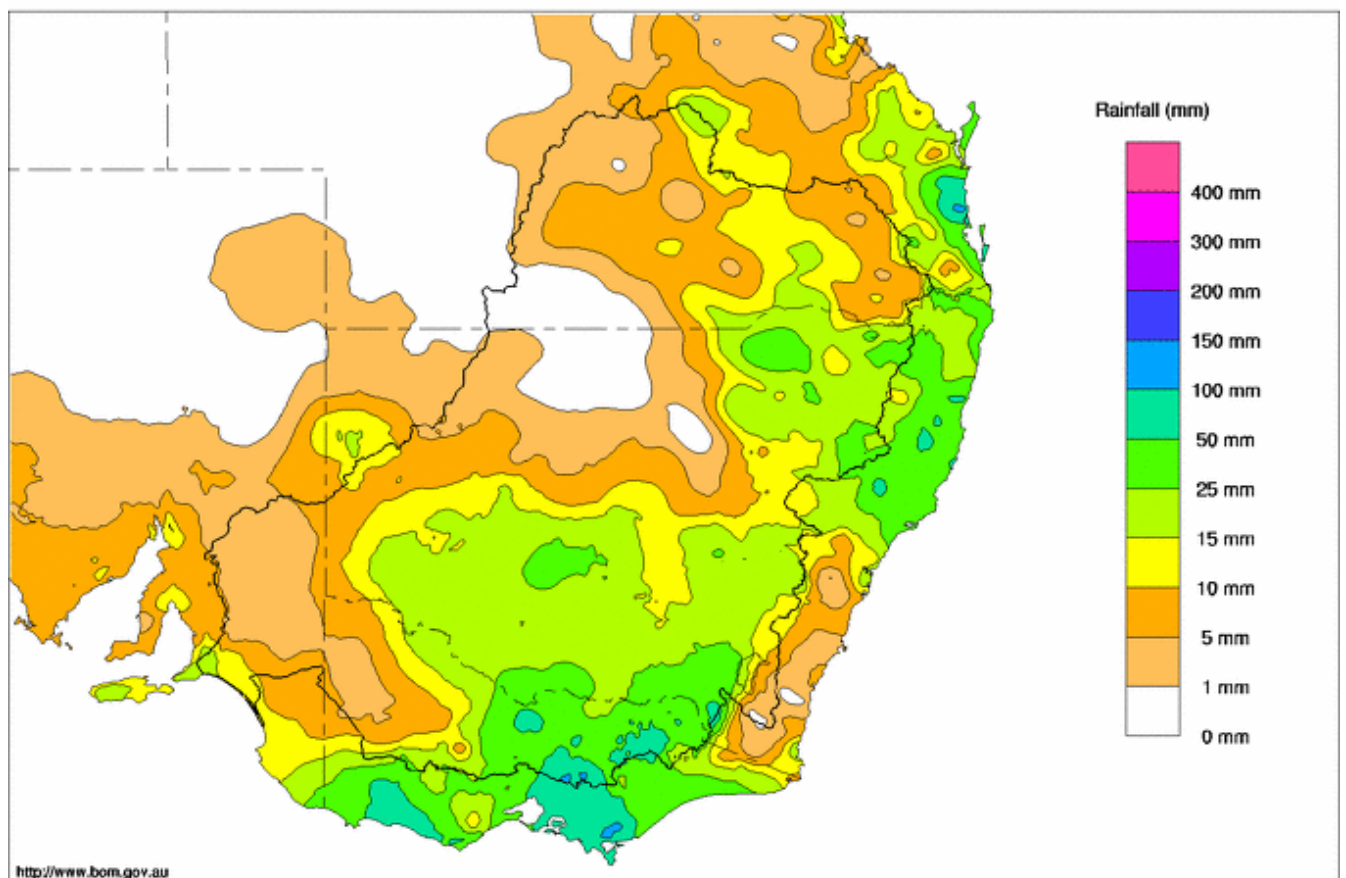
Rainfall and Inflows

A cold front and associated low pressure system brought cooler and wetter conditions to much of the southern Murray-Darling Basin over the past week. Rainfall totals generally increased towards the south, with much of northern and eastern Victoria recording totals between 25-100 mm, while lighter totals were also recorded in north-eastern NSW (see Map 1).

Some of the best totals were recorded in the Goulburn catchment, where 87 mm fell at Mt Buller, 84 mm at Taggerty and 66 mm at Eildon. Good falls were also recorded in the lower Goulburn catchment with 65 mm at Violet Town and 62 mm at Rushworth. There were also good falls in the Ovens and Kiewa catchments with 78 mm at Mt Hotham and 66 mm at Mt Buffalo.

After the relatively drier conditions of recent weeks, stream flow responses in the upper Murray catchments were only modest considering the rain that fell. For example, on the upper River Murray at Jingellic, the flow increased from 5,400 to 6,600 ML/day, while on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from 1,300 ML/day at the beginning of the week up to 2,500 ML/day by week's end. The Goulburn River responded similarly with the flow at Shepparton increasing during the week from 1,200 to 2,500 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 13th April 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 13 April 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,984 GL (81% capacity). This is the highest volume of active storage since November 2001, and the highest April volume since 1993.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the volume stored is slowly increasing and is now 2,416 GL (63% capacity). At Hume Reservoir, the current storage is 2,788 GL (93% storage capacity).

Releases from Yarrowonga Weir decreased to 8,170 ML/day during the week, but will be higher in the next couple of days due to recent rainfall and lower diversions. The pool level at Yarrowonga Weir has risen to 124.83 m AHD, which is slightly higher than the recent target of 124.7 m AHD, and this extra storage has helped to buffer downstream releases. Partial lowering of the Yarrowonga pool level, to control the aquatic weed *Egeria*, is likely to commence after the Easter long weekend. Further information will be provided in media releases and future Weekly Reports.

At Stevens Weir on the Edward River, the flow is slowly declining and is currently 2,120 ML/day. Flows are also falling at all other sites on the Edward-Wakool system.

On the River Murray, the flow past Barmah is currently 8,500 ML/day and is expected to rise slightly in the next few days as the higher flows from Yarrowonga Weir arrive. Further downstream at Torrumbarry, the flow has been falling by about 150–200 ML/day and is currently 14,770 ML/day.

At Euston, the weir has been re-instated this week and most of the flood debris has been removed (Figure 1). Raising of the weir pool level is likely to commence in the next few days. The lock at Euston is now operational and work has re-started on the construction of the new navigable pass. Further downstream at Mildura, the weir was re-instated last week and the lock is operational.



Figure 1– Euston Weir was re-instated during the week and construction work on the new navigable pass has re-commenced (Photo: John Prentice, MDBA).



High flows continue past Wentworth Weir—the flow is currently 63,000 ML/day, down from 67,500 ML/day last week. The high flow at Wentworth is being sustained by continuing high inflows from the lower Darling River, with nearly 20,000 ML/day passing Burtundy.

At Menindee Lakes, the total storage has been steady since last week and is currently 2,012 GL (116% capacity). Releases from Menindee Lakes are gradually being reduced as inflows recede.

The River Murray flood waters in South Australia are falling slowly with flows at the border now back to 64,000 ML/day. At Lake Victoria, the release through the outlet has been reduced to assist with the reinstatement of the locks and weirs downstream. Higher releases through the outlet will commence late next week to lower the lake level, prior to winter, in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy.

The drop in flow and river level has allowed the navigable pass at Weir No 5 to be reinstated and boating traffic can now pass this weir using the lock chamber. It is anticipated that, as river flows and levels recede in the next 2 weeks, most of the navigable passes at Weirs 1 through to 9 will also be reinstated.

However, SA Water anticipates that the lock chamber at Weir No 2 will not be reopened until late April. Weir No 2 has been closed for several months due to construction work on the navigable pass. The lock chamber is still submerged by flood water and not able to be used by river traffic. At this stage, the water level will need to drop a further 0.4 m before the lock chamber can be operated. Lock and Weir No 7 is unlikely to be reinstated before early May.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 13 Apr 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	460.86	2 416	63%	71	2 345	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.89	2 788	93%	23	2 765	-1
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.94	442	65%	100	342	-3
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 012	116%	(480 #)	1 532	+20
Total		9 269		7 658	83%	--	6 984	+24
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		998	97%	3	- 3	-0
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1585	97%	24	- 24	-0
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 776	83%	100	2 676	+9

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12 Apr 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 246	+8	Snowy-Murray	+12	960
Snowy-Murray Component	424	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+3	392
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	10	567
			Murray 1 Release	+17	1 423

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)	10.4	465	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.8	97
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.9	154
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	11	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.6	46
Licensed Pumps	2.6	68	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	13
Lower Darling	10.5	291	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.9	242
TOTAL	23.8	838	TOTAL	19.6	552

* 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 above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	135.0 *
Flow this week	473.6
Flow so far this month	903.3
Flow last month	2,367.5

(67 700 ML/day)

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	270	260	200
Euston	180	190	170
Red Cliffs	170	170	160
Merbein	190	190	170
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	280
Lock 9	280	280	230
Lake Victoria	220	220	190
Berri	250	250	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	270	270	330
Mannum	300	300	320
Murray Bridge	310	310	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	450	470	2 390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	340	350	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 670	6 700	8 390
Goolwa Barrages	940	5 890	5 000

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 13 Apr 2011

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	-	-	-	4 310	F	2 800	2 940
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 610	R	5 320	5 560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.75	218.64	1 350	R	970	990
Heywoods	5.5	1.88	155.51	4 190	F	6 370	9 810
Doctors Point	5.5	2.20	150.67	6 060	F	8 340	11 420
Albury	4.3	1.24	148.68	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.18	128.20	9 640	F	10 500	13 570
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.41	116.45	8 170	S	8 600	10 920
Tocumwal	6.4	2.20	106.04	10 080	F	10 620	13 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.18	82.73	14 770	F	15 220	16 690
Swan Hill	4.5	1.91	64.83	10 510	F	11 940	15 250
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.27	55.39	26 220	F	28 900	35 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.88	46.72	34 130	F	38 150	46 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	36 290	F	36 290	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.35	31.11	63 000	F	64 900	69 790
Rufus Junction	-	7.39	24.32	64 120	F	67 660	71 860
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.11	-	75 000	S	74 910	75 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.51	154.74	1 340	F	1 460	1 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.84	146.52	3 250	R	2 810	3 090
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.64	93.06	1 190	F	1 110	2 130
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.09	81.86	2 120	F	2 380	3 810
Edward at Liewah	-	4.55	59.93	5 710	F	6 290	7 240
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.45	56.95	6 590	F	4 140	9 300
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.76	60.72	7 090	F	8 050	8 950
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.45	-	690	F	670	1 000
Darling at Bourke	-	5.05	-	8 010	R	6 480	5 120
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.39	-	19 840	S	19 710	19 380

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 530	7 520
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.32	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.53	+3.35
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.39	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.47	+3.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+2.41	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.27	+4.48
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	N/A	+3.71	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.93	+4.38
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.59	+3.27	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.93	+4.65
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.54	N/A	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+1.08	+3.36

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

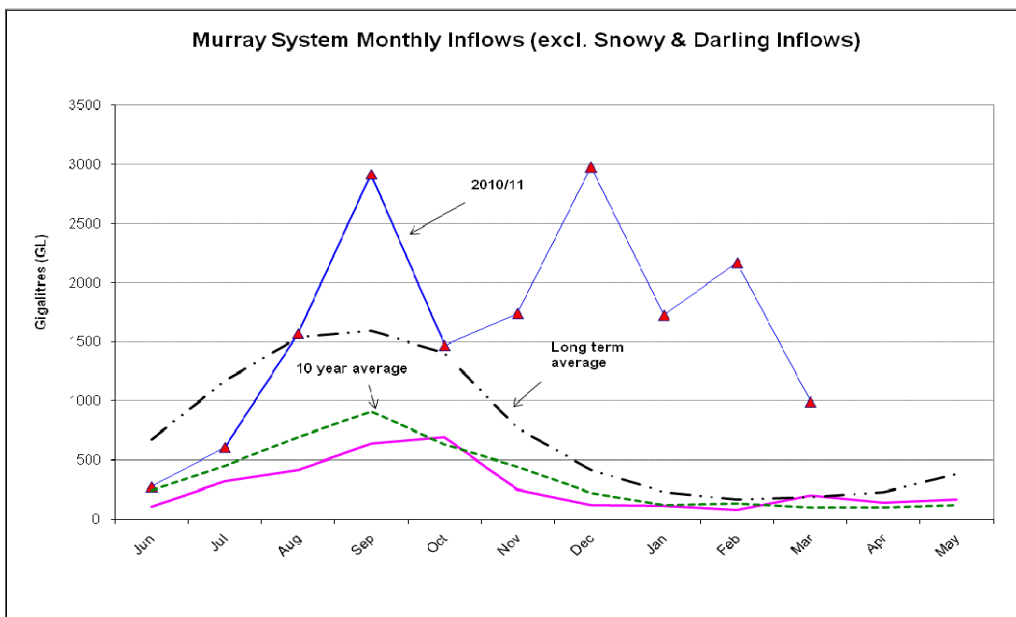
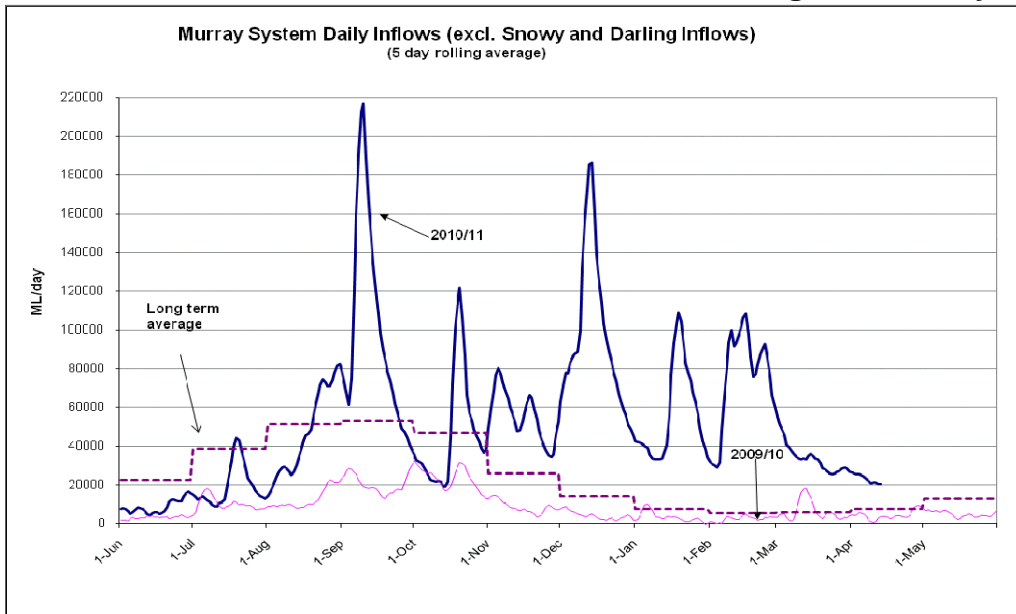
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.54	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.52	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.78	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 13 Apr 2011



State Allocations (as at 13 April 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Murrumbidgee

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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VIC - Goulburn

High reliability	100%
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SA - Murray

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/>