



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL 2011

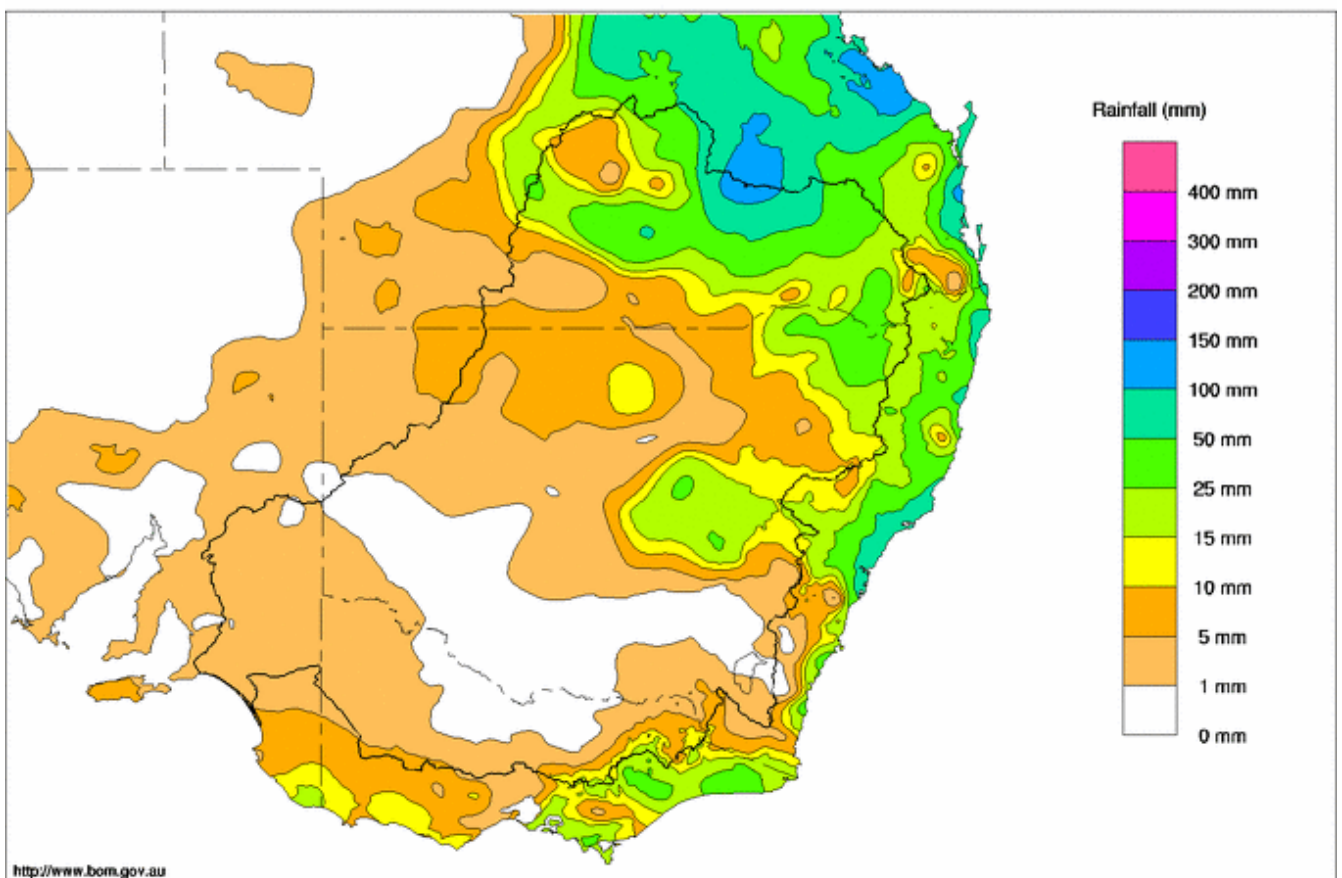
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Rainfall and Inflows

A pool of slow moving cold air in the upper atmosphere caused instability over a wide area of southern and central Queensland during the past week, with some rainfall spilling into the far north of the Murray-Darling Basin (Map 1). Highest totals were in the region north of Roma where some totals were in excess of 100 mm. Localised areas of flooding developed along some of the smaller tributaries of the Condamine-Balonne River system with the flow in some creeks reported to briefly exceed 30,000 ML/day. These flows will progress south into the Balonne River over the coming days. Elsewhere, there were moderate totals up to around 40 mm recorded in parts of north-eastern NSW and around the Dubbo region in central western NSW.

In contrast, very little rain was recorded in most of the southern Basin catchments, and in the upper Murray system tributaries, flows generally receded from small peaks during the previous week or early this week. For example, on the upper River Murray at Jingellic the flow decreased from 6,600 to 4,600 ML/day after peaking at 7,800 ML/day early in the week. And on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point began the week at 2,500 ML/day but has now reduced to 1,500 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th April 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 20 April 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) decreased by 12 GL during the week to 6,970 GL (or 81% capacity), which is well above the long-term average for April of 4,790 GL.

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 6 GL to 2,422 GL (63% capacity). The release from Dartmouth has remained at around 200 ML/day since mid February.

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 22 GL to 2,809 GL (81% capacity, which is about 200 GL airspace). Releases from Hume Reservoir have increased slightly during the week to 5,800 ML/day, to match inflows as irrigation demand can be readily met from these inflows. Prior to any significant flood inflows, release from Hume Reservoir can be expected to fluctuate in the coming weeks to pass inflows and thereby maintain some airspace within the reservoir.

A small pulse of higher flow (up to 10,000 ML/day) has passed through Yarrowonga Weir. The current release is 9,000 ML/day and is expected to be reduced to around 8,000 ML/day this week. The pool level at Yarrowonga is expected to remain at about 124.7 m AHD until after Easter, when the level will be gradually lowered to about 123.5 m. Further lowering of the lake will occur in mid-May (see attached media release). The aim of lowering Lake Mulwala is to control the aquatic weed, *Egeria densa*, which has recolonised in some shallower parts of the lake.

On the Edward-Wakool system, the flow past Stevens Weir has been receding and is currently 1,800 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 2,500 ML/day in the coming days. At Moulamein on the Edward River, the flow is 3,420 ML/day while at Kyalite, on the Wakool River, the flow has gradually receded to 10,000 ML/day.

Mid-Murray tributary inflows currently include 5,800 ML/day from the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, 1,000 ML/day from Billabong Creek at Darlot and 3,900 ML/day from the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release is currently 11,900 ML/day, and likely to increase slightly over the Easter weekend before receding again. Planning has commenced to partially lower the Torrumbarry Weir pool by up to 40 cm at the beginning of May and further information will be provided through a media release and future Weekly Reports.

At Euston, after the weir was reinstated last week, the weir pool has risen back to its Full Supply Level of 47.60 m AHD. Flows past Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs continue to fall as the floodwaters recede.

The Menindee Lakes are currently holding 1,961 GL (113% capacity). Release from the lakes continues to be reduced and the flow past Weir 32 is currently 18,000 ML/day. Upstream of the Lakes, at Wilcannia, the flow in the Darling River is currently 7,700 ML/day and is expected to remain above 7,000 ML/day for the next week. On the lower Darling, the flow past Burtundy is expected to peak in the next few days at about 20,000 ML/day and is then likely to recede through May.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased during the week to 452 GL (67% capacity). The release through the outlet is currently being increased. This will lower the water level in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy.

At the Lower Lakes, the water level is currently +0.74 m AHD and likely to remain at or slightly below this level for the next couple of weeks as high flows continue down the lower Murray and high water levels continue in the Coorong.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 20 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	460.99	2 422	63%	71	2 351	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.01	2 809	93%	23	2 786	+22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.04	452	67%	100	352	+10
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 961	113%	(480 #)	1 481	-51
Total		9 269		7 644	82%	--	6 970	-13
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		997	97%	3	994	-3
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 581	97%	24	1 557	-2
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 788	84%	100	2 688	+12

* 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 19 Apr 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 256	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+9	969
Snowy-Murray Component	421	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+3	396
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	6	573
			Murray 1 Release	+15	1 438

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)	6.4	472	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.6	96
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	1.3	155
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	47
Licensed Pumps	1.1	69	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	14
Lower Darling	10.0	301	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.3	245
TOTAL	17.7	857	TOTAL	4.7	557

* 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 April due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	115.0 *
Flow this week	408.5
Flow so far this month	1,311.7
Flow last month	2,367.5

(58 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	280	310	210
Euston	150	170	170
Red Cliffs	250	180	160
Merbein	190	170	170
Burtundy (Darling)	350	340	280
Lock 9	310	290	230
Lake Victoria	230	230	190
Berri	250	250	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	260	260	330
Mannum	280	290	320
Murray Bridge	300	310	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	460	450	2 340
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	310	330	1 070
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 610	6 640	8 340
Goolwa Barrages	500	620	4 880

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 20 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	-	-	-	2 510	F	3 540	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.73	208.25	4 640	F	6 240	5 320
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.58	218.47	900	R	960	970
Heywoods	5.5	2.09	155.72	5 740	F	4 500	6 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.40	150.87	8 120	S	6 800	8 340
Albury	4.3	1.40	148.84	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.09	128.11	9 020	R	7 490	10 500
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.58	116.62	9 520	F	9 590	8 600
Tocumwal	6.4	2.36	106.20	11 200	S	10 680	10 620
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.54	82.09	11 890	R	13 740	15 220
Swan Hill	4.5	1.84	64.76	10 090	F	10 360	11 940
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.28	54.40	20 360	F	22 630	28 900
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.88	45.72	23 080	F	27 200	38 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	24 720	F	25 670	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.80	30.56	52 200	F	57 790	64 900
Rufus Junction	-	7.08	24.01	54 150	F	58 110	67 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.04	-	73 000	F	74 090	74 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.65	154.88	1 500	R	1 500	1 420
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.81	146.49	3 150	F	3 710	2 810
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.81	95.23	5 790	F	4 250	1 110
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.86	81.63	1 780	F	1 830	2 380
Edward at Liewah	-	3.63	59.01	3 630	F	4 510	6 290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.49	55.98	5 260	F	5 530	3 470
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.51	59.47	3 890	F	4 550	8 050
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.40	-	530	F	600	670
Darling at Bourke	-	5.02	-	7 860	F	8 220	6 480
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.40	-	19 890	S	19 890	19 710

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 360	5 380
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.07	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.32	+3.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.41	+3.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+1.60	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.09	+4.33
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.11	+3.16	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.78	+4.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.38	+2.71	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.82	+4.54
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.10	+3.50	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+1.01	+3.29

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

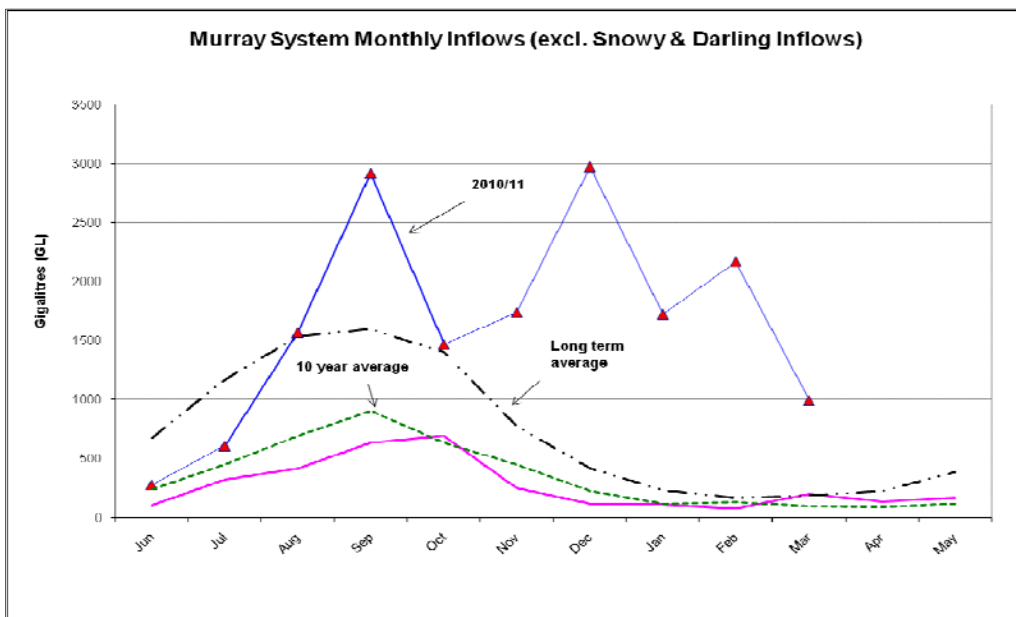
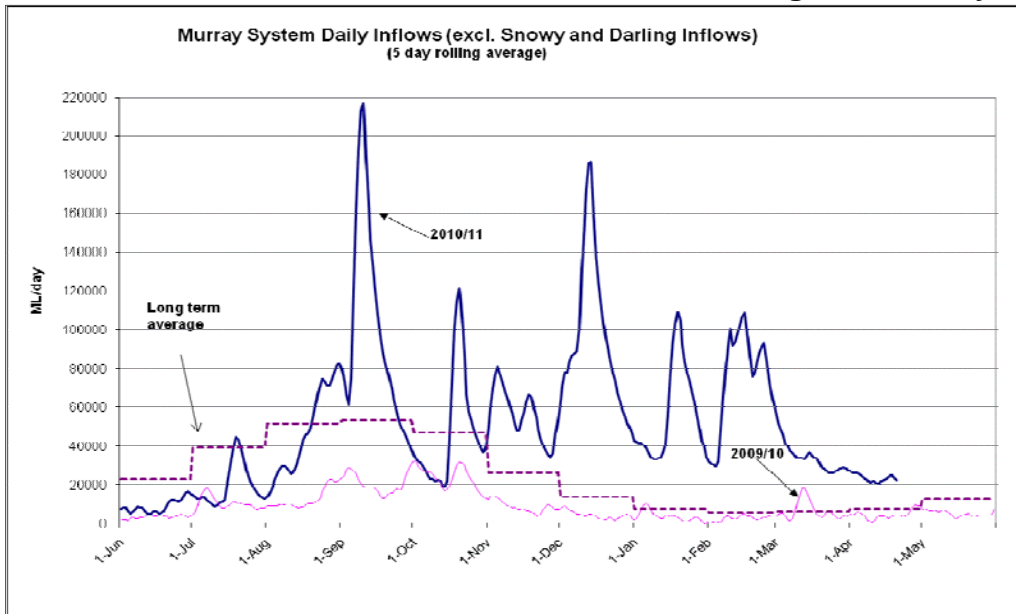
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.49	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.48	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.75	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 20 Apr 2011



State Allocations (as at 20 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/>

21 April 2011

Lowering of Lake Mulwala to control invasive weed

Lake Mulwala will be lowered after Easter so as to allow residents and visitors full use of the lake across the Easter holidays.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, in conjunction with Goulburn-Murray Water, is planning a partial drawdown of Lake Mulwala to about halfway (2.5-3m) in late autumn and winter this year to control the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa*.

The first phase of the lowering will commence after Easter, and the water level will be lowered, by about 10 cm/day, to about 123.5 m AHD (compared to Full Supply Level of 124.9 m AHD). At this level, diversions to the major irrigation channels should not be affected.

In the second phase, commencing mid-May, the water level would be dropped by up to 30 cm per day to about 122.2 m AHD. The water level in the lake would be held at about this level until mid-July.

Refilling of the lake is expected to begin in mid-July, ready for the start of the irrigation season.

The expected reduction in *Egeria* density will provide recreational and tourism benefits in warmer months in years to come. This weed has affected recreational and tourism activities, as well as power station and fishway operation at Yarrawonga Weir.

Egeria densa, commonly known as dense waterweed, is a non-native weed that has formed dense clumps in Lake Mulwala. Since the full drawdown of Lake Mulwala in winter 2009, which was successful in reducing the density of *Egeria* across the bed of the lake, *Egeria* has recolonised some of the shallower parts of the lake.

“A partial lowering this year will be beneficial in reducing the density of the weed before it once again impacts on lake usage”, said Dr Tony Dugdale, Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

This current plan may be altered in response to weather and river conditions over the coming months. Further updates will be provided in media releases and in the MDBA’s Weekly Report prior to, and during, the drawdown.

ENDS

For more information contact:

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