



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2011

Trim Ref: D11/15740

## Rainfall and Inflows

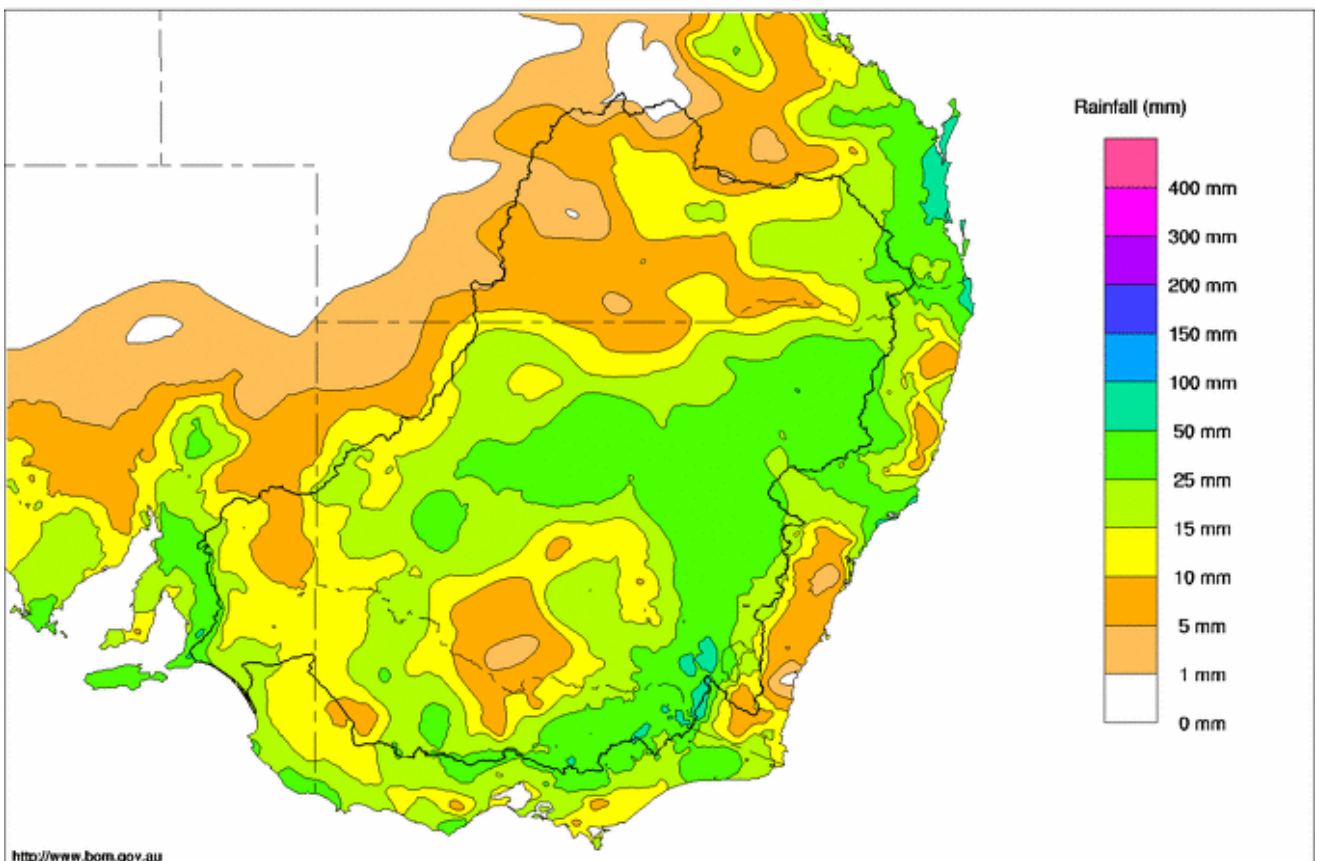
There was rainfall across the entire Murray-Darling Basin last week, with the highest falls along the Great Dividing Range. Areas of central and western NSW had falls in excess of 25 mm, including Parkes (50 mm) and Trangie (42 mm). In the alpine areas, falls included 54 mm at Mt Hotham and 42 mm at Falls Creek.

The rain generated modest streamflow rises in the upper River Murray. For example, at Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow rose to 1,100 ML/day and inflows to Dartmouth increased to about 1,600 ML/day. At Biggara, on the River Murray upstream of Hume Reservoir, flow increased from 630 to 2,300 ML/day and is currently 1,300 ML/day. Total inflows to Hume Reservoir are currently about 10,500 ML/day, and will increase for the next day or two.

In the Ovens River catchment, responses to the rainfall included a rise in the King River at Cheshunt from 200 to 1,160 ML/day and the Ovens River at Rocky Point rose from 940 to 1,910 ML/day. The flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta on 25 May reached 4,040 ML/day and is now receding.

Inflows from the Goulburn River have been boosted by releases of environmental water and the flow past McCoys Bridge is currently 5,170 ML/day. The flow past Bourke on the Darling River continues to decline and is 3,440 ML/day, while on the lower Darling at Burtundy, the flow has been steadily receding to 5,320 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th May 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 25/05/2011

## River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 6,858 GL, which is a rise of 23 GL since last week. Dartmouth Reservoir has continued its slow and steady increase in storage volume and is now holding 2,447 GL (63% capacity).

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume is being kept relatively constant to maintain about 200 GL of airspace. Currently, the volume is 2,809 GL (93% capacity) and the releases, which are approximately matching inflows are 10,500 ML/day. With inflows from the Kiewa River, the flow past Doctors Point on 26 May was 12,550 ML/day and this flow is expected to rise over the next few days, up to 17,000–20,000 ML/day for a short while.

At Yarrawonga Weir, release increased to about 18,000 ML/day on 23 May to continue lowering Lake Mulwala to a target level of 122.1–122.3 m AHD. This target level will be reached during the weekend. High inflows to Lake Mulwala, of up to 20,000 ML/day, are expected to continue for the next 5–7 days, and releases from the weir may increase slightly during the next week.

Boaters on Lake Mulwala are warned to exercise extreme caution at all times while navigating the lake during the drawdown as new hazards such as snags and formerly submerged tree stumps may be exposed. For further boating information or to report any major hazards to boating, please contact NSW Maritime on 13 12 56.

With the high flows passing through Yarrawonga Weir, many regulators into the Barmah-Millewa Forest have been re-opened. The flow into the Edward River includes 350 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek offtake and 1,660 ML/day through the Edward River offtake. The gates at Stevens Weir have been fully removed from the river, as is normal practice for this time of year, and the flow past Deniliquin is currently 2,220 ML/day and expected to continue rising for the next week or two.

On the River Murray at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has been decreasing for the last couple of days and as is now 14,000 ML/day. Rising flows are expected during the next week and could exceed 17,000 ML/day. The weir pool level will remain within 40 cm of Full Supply Level for the remainder of May, and refilling of the weir pool is expected to commence in early June.

At Euston Weir, the flow has been rising since mid-May and is currently 13,940 ML/day. The flow is expected to remain about 14,000–16,000 ML/day for the next week or two. The flow at Mildura is following a similar trend, albeit a few days delayed and at slightly lower flow rates.

On the Darling River, the Menindee Lakes increased in volume by 15 GL during the week, and are now surcharged to 1902 GL (110% capacity). The lakes are expected to continue rising during the next few weeks as the release falls towards a minimum of 500 ML/day by early June. On the lower Darling, the flow past Burtundy will continue steadily receding. Downstream of the Darling confluence with the River Murray, at Wentworth, flows are also expected to continue declining for the next couple of weeks.

The level in Lake Victoria has been fairly steady since late April at about 24.3 m AHD, and will remain about this level for the remainder of May. The flow to South Australia is currently about 22,300 ML/day and will probably continue decreasing for the next few weeks. At the Lower Lakes, the level is currently 0.69 m AHD. The barrages are being operated to minimise any further salt intrusion into the lakes and to reduce current salinity levels. Further information will be provided in the Weekly Report next week.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 May 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	461.49	2 447	63%	71	2 376	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.01	2 809	93%	23	2 786	+2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.30	374	55%	100	274	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 902	110%	(480 #)	1 422	+15
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 532</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 858</b>	<b>+23</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							80% ^	
<b>Major State Storages</b>								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		1 000	97%	3	997	+7
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 590	97%	24	1 566	+5
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 807	84%	100	2 707	+1

\* 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 24 May 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 229	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+29	85
Snowy-Murray Component	473	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+6	12
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	23	73
			Murray 1 Release	+32	96

## 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)	-0.3	478	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	111
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	177
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	13	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	50
Licensed Pumps	1.4	76	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	20
Lower Darling	0.0	303	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	254
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>612</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 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 May due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	73.0 *	
Flow this week	171.1	(24 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	814.6	
Flow last month	1,817.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	90	110	210
Euston	240	180	170
Red Cliffs	170	180	160
Merbein	160	160	170
Burtundy (Darling)	310	310	290
Lock 9	240	120	230
Lake Victoria	230	250	190
Berri	390	310	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	360	360	330
Mannum	370	360	320
Murray Bridge	360	370	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	450	410	2 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	380	400	990
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 480	6 610	8 160
Goolwa Barrages	29 030	17 860	4 790

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 25 May 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	-	-	-	9 270	F	5 980	4 640
Jingellic	4.0	2.60	209.12	12 950	R	7 800	6 290
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.62	218.51	1 000	F	1 120	730
Heywoods	5.5	2.41	156.04	9 000	S	8 480	6 640
Doctors Point	5.5	2.71	151.18	11 170	R	10 260	8 670
Albury	4.3	1.66	149.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.45	128.47	11 400	R	10 330	9 090
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.58	117.62	17 560	F	15 180	11 760
Tocumwal	6.4	3.21	107.05	18 220	R	14 880	12 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.02	82.57	14 000	F	13 910	9 450
Swan Hill	4.5	-	-	12 850	R	11 520	9 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.74	53.86	17 490	R	16 480	14 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.83	44.67	13 940	R	13 430	12 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	14 160	F	14 160	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.16	28.92	24 000	R	24 370	32 610
Rufus Junction	-	5.37	22.30	21 380	F	23 480	30 340
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.07	-	26 700	F	29 870	42 030
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.98	155.21	2 060	R	1 320	1 490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.09	146.77	4 040	R	2 470	2 410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.57	94.99	5 170	R	5 200	3 290
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.02	81.80	2 030	F	1 960	2 210
Edward at Liewah	-	2.98	58.36	2 530	F	2 630	2 620
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.80	55.29	1 410	F	1 650	2 260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.74	57.70	1 270	F	1 360	1 780
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	260	R	140	140
Darling at Bourke	-	4.54	-	3 440	F	5 110	6 260
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.33	-	5 320	F	6 500	12 690

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 060	4 750
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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	-2.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.33	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.40	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+1.35
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+1.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.79	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+2.20
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+1.52	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.18	+1.76
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+1.89
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.11	+1.36	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+1.32

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.69
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## Barrages

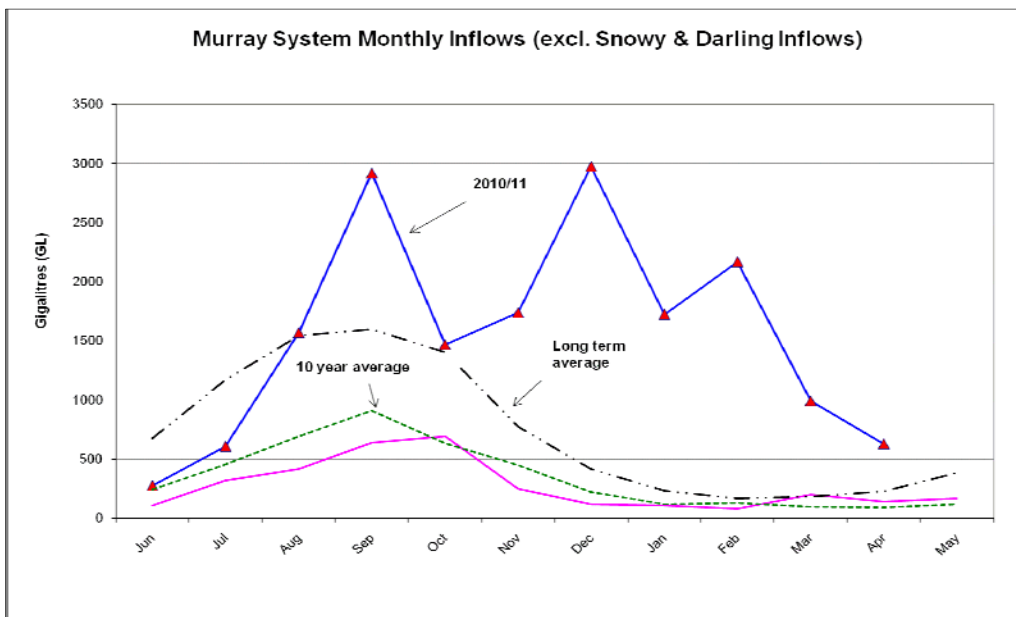
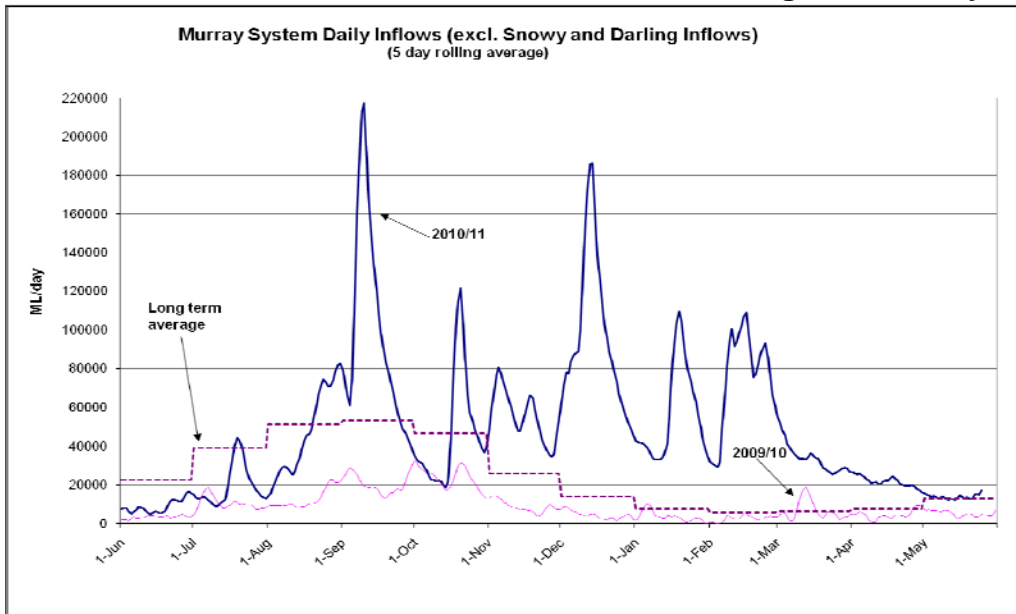
## Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	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 25 May 2011



State Allocations (as at 25 May 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/>