



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 AUGUST 2011

Trim Ref: D11/25009

Rainfall and Inflows

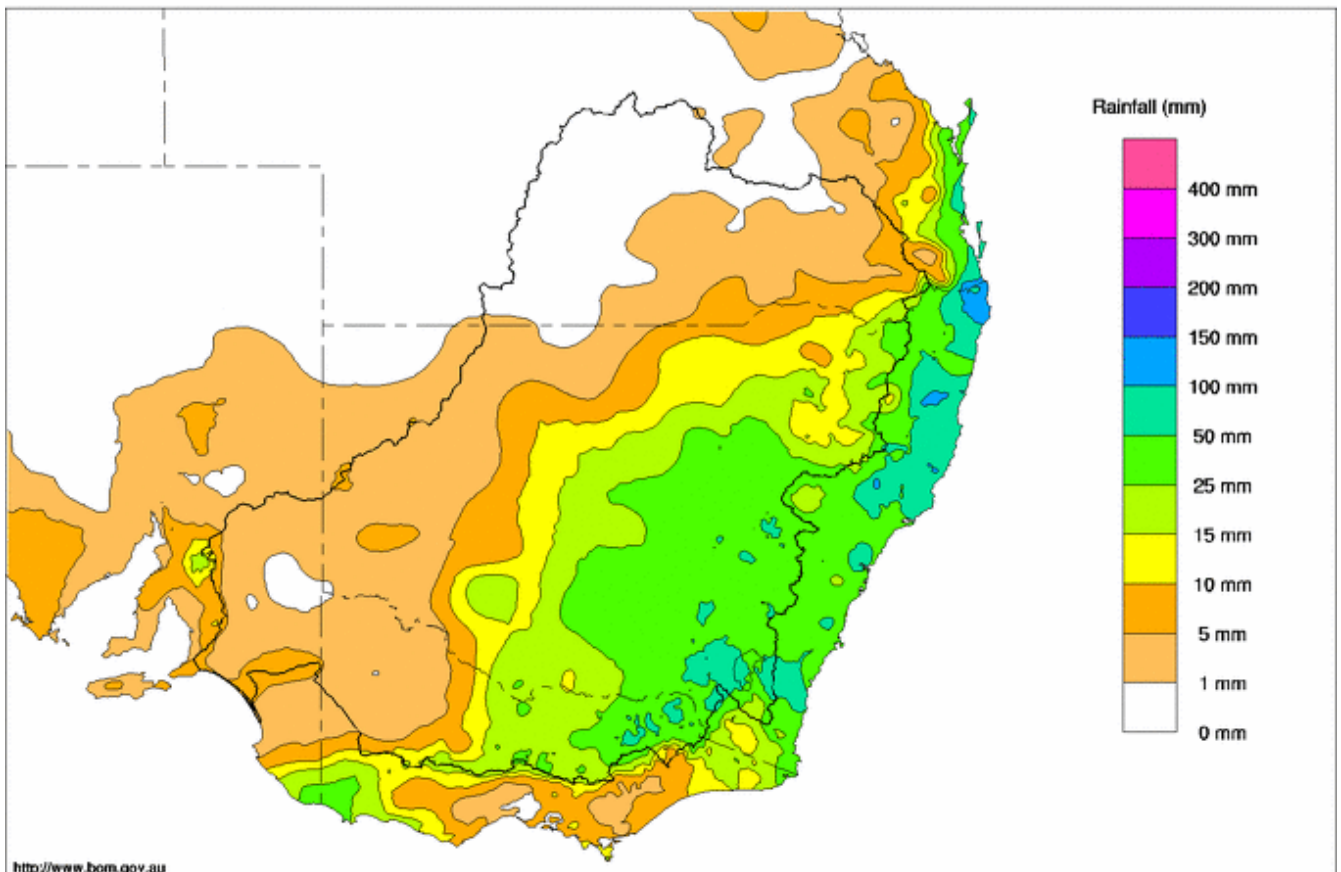
Most of the Murray-Darling Basin received some rain during the last 7 days, with falls in excess of 25 mm occurring in the south-eastern areas. The highest falls were in the upper catchments of the Goulburn, Ovens, Kiewa, Murray, Murrumbidgee and Macquarie Rivers with Whitlands recording 68 mm, Yackandandah 53 mm, Corryong 51 mm, Batlow 78 mm and Orange 56 mm.

These falls resulted in minor flooding at some locations in River Murray tributaries. For example, upstream of Hume Reservoir, Tallangatta Creek at McCallums peaked at 1.96 m (about 5,600 ML/day) on Wednesday 18 August, which is just below the moderate flood level of 2.0 m. The Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 12.21 m (about 30,200 ML/day) on Friday 20 August and, in the Goulburn River catchment, the Sevens Creek at Euroa peaked at 3.32 m on Thursday 19 August.

Other high inflows during the week included 24,500 ML/day in the River Murray at Jingellic, upstream of Hume Reservoir, and 4,400 ML/day in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir.

Inflow to the Murray from the Goulburn River peaked at 19,700 ML/day at McCoys Bridge on Wednesday 24 August and high inflows from the Murrumbidgee River, of about 9,000 ML/day past Balranald, are expected in early September.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 24th August 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 24 August 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



River Operations

MDBA active storage has increased 57 GL since last week and is now 7,394 GL (86% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage rose by 37 GL during the week to 2,693 GL. Inflows peaked at 8,000 ML/day, while releases were around 700 ML/day for most of the week for power generation.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage rose by 44 GL during the week to 2,920 GL (97% capacity). Inflows totalled 188 GL and peaked at around 38,000 ML/d in response to the rain. Releases totalled around 144 GL and were progressively reduced from 22,000ML/d to 15,500ML/d by the end of the week. Hume storage will continue to be increased over the coming week if conditions remain dry. However, operations at Hume over September and October will remain under constant review with very careful attention given to short and longer term weather forecasts. Should heavy rainfall be forecast, consideration will be given to the temporary lowering of Hume for flood mitigation purposes.

During the week, the level at Lake Mulwala peaked at around 124.85 m AHD. The level will slowly fall to around 124.80 m AHD in the coming week. Inflows peaked around 55,000 ML/day, while releases peaked at 53,000 ML/d – well below the minor flood level of 81,000 ML/day downstream of Yarrawonga.

On the Edward River, the flow at Toonalook, and inflows from Bullatale Creek, add to around 11,500 ML/d and will continue to rise over the coming week. At Stevens Weir the gates are now completely out of the water allowing the unimpeded passage of river flows and fish alike. The flow is currently 9,400 ML/d and expected to reach around 15,000 ML/d in early September. Further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing is 4,400 ML/d and falling, but is expected to begin rising again in the coming week.

At Torrumbarry Weir the release is currently 31,000 ML/d and rising. These weir gates will also be fully removed from the water by Thursday 25 August. The flow is expected to peak in the next few days at around 35,000 ML/d. Further downstream, inflow from the Murrumbidgee River is around 1,500ML/d but will increase over the next week toward 9,000 ML/d and is expected to stay at this rate for around two weeks. The flow at Euston is currently 31,600 ML/d and slowly falling, but will begin rising again later in the coming week. Euston Weir pool is currently 600 mm below full supply level (FSL) to assist with construction works. The pool level will fall for another 2 to 3 days before gradually returning to FSL in two weeks.

The Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at 1,956 GL (113% capacity). Pulsed flow past Weir 32 ranged between 800 ML/d and 440 ML/d. The flow at Burtundy has fallen away to around 400 ML/d. At the confluence of the Murray and the Darling Rivers, the flow at Wentworth is 39,000 ML/d and slowly falling.

Lake Victoria was lowered by 20 GL during the week to 499 GL (25.5 m AHD, 74% capacity). Releases supplemented the flow to South Australia which averaged around 40,000 ML/d for the week. The level in Lake Victoria will continue to fall away over the coming week to around 25.0 m AHD in order to reduce inundation to help maintain riparian vegetation essential for erosion protection. The flow to South Australia will briefly increase to around 43,000 ML/d in the coming week, before falling back to around 40,000 ML/d.

The average level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.6 m AHD, down 3 cm from last week. Operators will take advantage of the current low tide levels to try and lower the Lakes further in order to draw saline water out of Lake Albert prior to raising to assist salt flushing.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 24 Aug 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	466.29	2 693	70%	71	2 622	+37
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.57	2 920	97%	23	2 897	+44
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.48	499	74%	100	399	-20
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 956	113%	(480 #)	1 476	-4
Total		9 269		8 068	87%	--	7 394	+57
Total Active MDBA Storage							86% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	988	96%	3	985	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 597	98%	24	1 573	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 160	95%	100	3 060	+51

* 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 23 Aug 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1502	+63	Snowy-Murray	+2	273
Snowy-Murray Component	439	+21	Tooma-Tumut	+13	118
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-11	155
			Murray 1 Release	+10	387

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2011	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2011
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.3	61	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.3	3
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.6	17
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	2
Licensed Pumps	2.1	8	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	2
Lower Darling	0.4	3	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.6	9
TOTAL	3.9	73	TOTAL	2.5	33

* 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 August due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	281.1	(40 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	803.1	
Flow last month	845.1	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	120	130
Euston	100	110	110
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	90	90	90
Burtundy (Darling)	350	340	340
Lock 9	120	120	110
Lake Victoria	180	190	200
Berri	140	160	200
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	170	240	240
Mannum	320	280	230
Murray Bridge	340	260	230
Milang (Lake Alex.)	590	590	570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	260	300	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 150	5 210	5 310
Goolwa Barrages	560	2 270	1 150

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 24 Aug 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	-	-	-	-	F	3 900	3 740
Jingellic	4.0	2.50	209.02	11 890	F	17 060	11 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.05	218.94	2 490	F	2 970	1 460
Heywoods	5.5	3.14	156.77	17 380	F	21 140	22 980
Doctors Point	5.5	3.48	151.95	19 770	F	25 660	25 650
Albury	4.3	2.57	150.01	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.70	130.72	27 810	F	29 180	21 640
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	5.20	120.24	50 300	S	45 660	29 490
Tocumwal	6.4	5.54	109.38	46 380	R	40 940	23 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.68	85.23	31 320	R	25 400	18 940
Swan Hill	4.5	3.32	66.24	20 200	R	19 800	21 070
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.71	55.83	29 260	F	31 060	33 100
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.62	46.46	31 640	F	34 340	35 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	31 950	F	32 470	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.24	29.00	25 300	F	37 860	38 290
Rufus Junction	-	6.56	23.49	40 390	R	40 160	29 560
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.25	-	29 880	R	28 070	28 930
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.50	155.73	3 080	F	4 780	3 360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.07	148.75	13 360	F	19 320	14 400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.92	99.34	19 740	R	15 380	9 600
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.72	84.50	9 350	F	7 340	4 100
Edward at Liewah	-	3.66	59.04	3 670	F	3 940	4 480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.31	56.80	4 430	F	5 810	7 360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.02	57.98	1 550	R	2 090	7 490
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	50	S	70	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.21	-	850	S	880	980
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	410	F	590	860

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	29 430	19 900
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-31.10	+4.28
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.31	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+2.37
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.57	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+2.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+2.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.18	+3.17
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+1.60	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+2.43
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+1.76	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.16	+2.52
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.26	+2.69	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+1.50

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

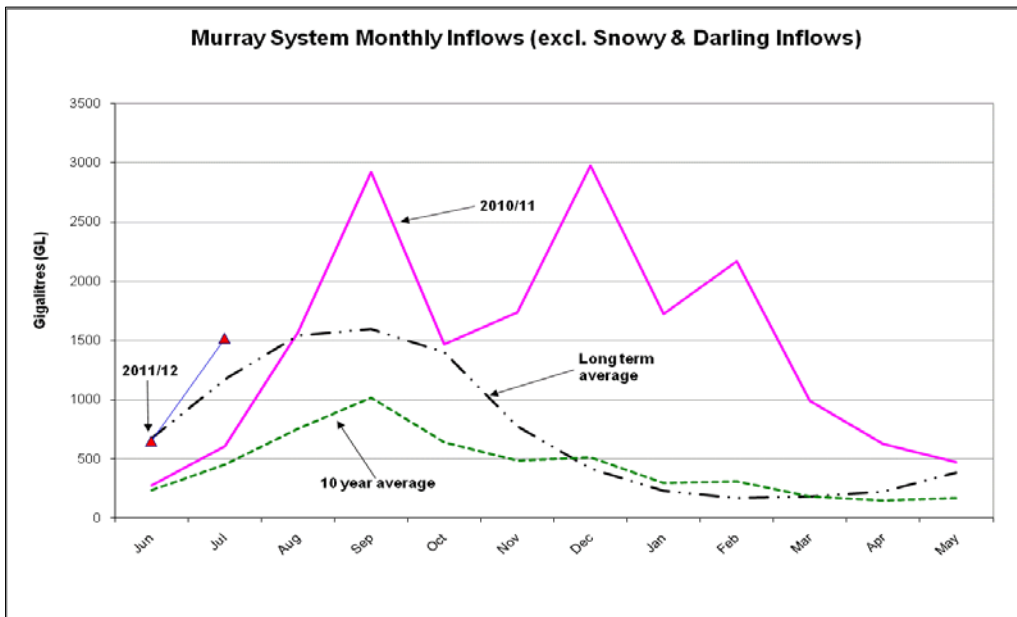
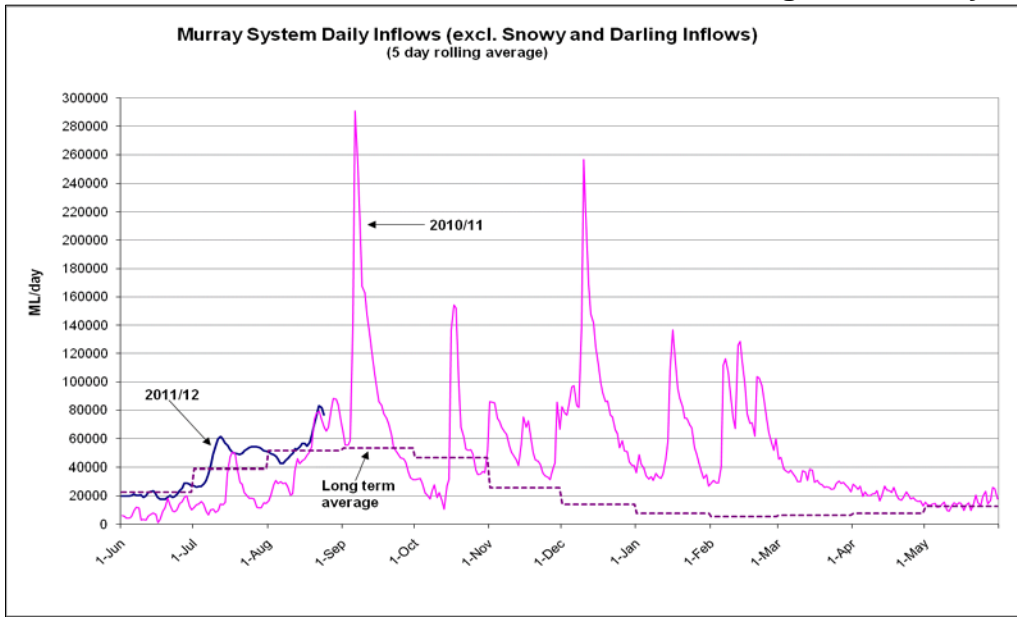
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.60
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	30	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.52	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	40	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	90	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 24 Aug 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	10%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	53%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	78%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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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/>