



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

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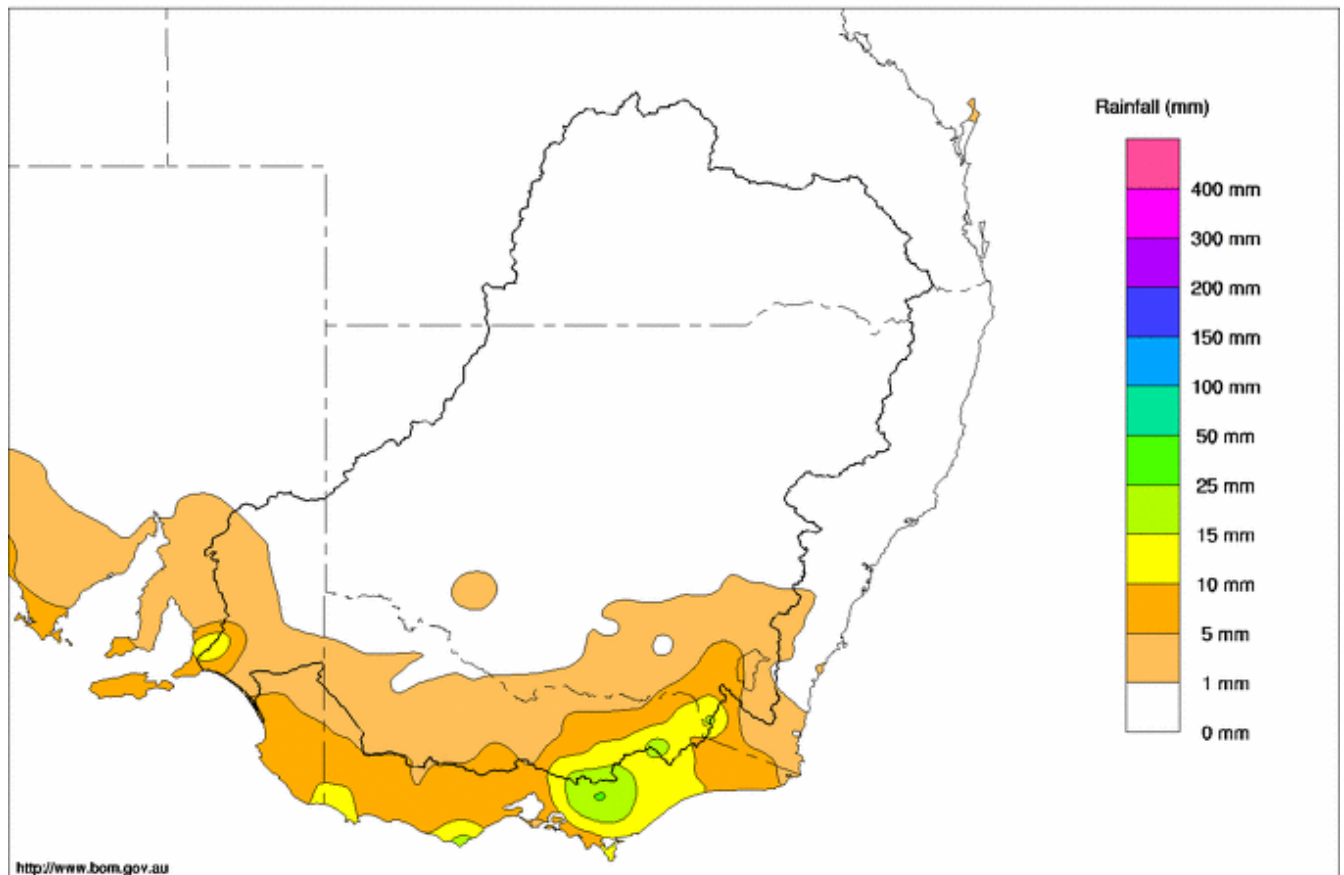
## Rainfall and Inflows

It was a warm and mostly dry week across the Murray-Darling Basin with only light precipitation across the south as a cold front crossed south-eastern Australia late in the week.

The highest weekly rainfall totals were recorded in the ranges of north-east Victoria and in the NSW Snowy Mountains. In the Goulburn River catchment, there was 26 mm at Marysville and 21 mm at Yea, while in the higher alpine areas, Mt Buller picked up 25 mm, 24 mm fell at Mt Hotham, and there were similar totals recorded across the main peaks of the NSW Snowy Mountains. Elsewhere, there was some rain around the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia, but nothing recorded over most remaining districts further north (Map 1).

Streamflows in the Murray headwaters have receded slowly through most of the week. On the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie has receded from 1,150 to 1,000 ML/day; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has declined from 4,000 to 3,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st September 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 21 September 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by just 10 GL during the week as Dartmouth Reservoir and Lake Victoria continued filling, while releases and evaporation reduced the storage volumes in Hume Reservoir and Menindee Lakes. The net inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir during the week increased the storage by 13 GL, and releases have remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. The storage volume is currently 2,766 GL (72% capacity).

Hume Reservoir was filled last week and remained around the operational full supply level for two days before regulated releases commenced, drawing the storage down by 40 GL during the week (Figures 1 and 2). The current storage volume is 2,939 GL (98% capacity). The releases have been used to supply downstream demand, including environmental water targeted for the Barmah-Millewa Forest. With longer range forecasts indicating rain later in September and into October close attention will be given to managing storage levels in Hume Reservoir to mitigate potential flood events.



**Figure 1 - The Bethanga Bridge at Hume Reservoir on 15 September 2011: one day after regulated releases began.**  
Photo: Andrew Bishop, MDBA



**Figure 2 - Hume Reservoir from the Kurrajong Gap Lookout: 15 September 2011.**  
Photo: Andrew Bishop, MDBA



At Yarrowonga Weir, the release during the week has varied between 11,000 and 12,000 ML/day. Releases at these flow rates will ensure that wetlands in the Barmah-Millewa Forest remain connected with the river system to support the breeding cycles of local birds, reptiles and amphibians. Total diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrowonga Main Channel, from Lake Mulwala have varied between 5,000 and 5,500 ML/day during the week as irrigation demands have picked up due to the warmer, drier conditions.

On the Edward River, the flow downstream of Stevens Weir continues to recede from 4,000 ML/day last week to 2,700 ML/day currently. The flow peak in the Wakool River has now passed Kyalite with a flow of about 18,400 ML/day recorded last weekend.

The flow past Torrumbarry Weir has fallen markedly during the week, from 14,800 ML/day last week to 8,200 ML/day. Diversions to National Channel have also decreased from about 4,000 to 3,000 ML/day. There has also been a steep recession in the flow past Swan Hill. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald has fallen during the week from 9,400 to 3,800 ML/day.

The flow peak, which was the result of high inflows from rainfall in late August, continues its slow progression down the river. At Euston, a peak flow of about 40,000 ML/day persisted over the weekend and the flow is now expected to fall to about 20,000 ML/day within a week. The peak is now passing Mildura and Wentworth Weirs, and the flow rate at these locations is expected to reduce over the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume has fallen by 11 GL during the week to 1,924 GL (111%). Pulsed releases from the lakes have resulted in flows past Weir 32 of 360–850 ML/day, which are averaging the normal minimum releases when the lakes are surcharged of 500 ML/day.

Filling of Lake Victoria continued during the week, with the lake gaining 49 GL in storage volume to 549 GL (81% capacity). However, filling of the lake may be able to be slowed during the coming week in advance of rain forecast for later in the month.

The level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.67 m AHD, and is expected to continue rising during the coming week as a level of about 0.85 m AHD is targeted for the end of September.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 21 Sep 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	467.66	2 766	72%	71	2 695	+13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.67	2 939	98%	23	2 916	-40
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.89	549	81%	100	449	+49
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 924	111%	(480 #)	1 444	-11
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 178</b>	<b>88%</b>	- -	<b>7 504</b>	<b>+10</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							87% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 013	99%	3	1 010	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 525	94%	24	1 501	-46
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 212	96%	100	3 112	+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 20 Sep 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 645	n/a	Snowy-Murray	-0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	495	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+0	146
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	0	129
			Murray 1 Release	+12	439

## 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)	26.2	140	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.9	35
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	27.2	92
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	8
Licensed Pumps	6.3	23	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	4
Lower Darling	3.0	20	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.7	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>161</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 August due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	216.0	(30 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	622.6	
Flow last month	1,082.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	150	140	140
Euston	110	160	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	110	110	90
Burtundy (Darling)	370	350	340
Lock 9	130	130	110
Lake Victoria	200	210	200
Berri	180	180	180
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	200	230	230
Mannum	240	250	220
Murray Bridge	240	230	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	550	510	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	220	220	280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 750	5 820	5 570
Goolwa Barrages	3 630	1 280	1 980

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 21 Sep 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	-	-	-	4 870	F	2 230	2 380
Jingellic	4.0	2.05	208.57	7 440	R	5 480	8 000
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.69	218.58	1 160	R	1 090	1 270
Heywoods	5.5	2.82	156.45	13 350	F	13 390	6 850
Doctors Point	5.5	3.04	151.51	14 810	R	14 840	9 320
Albury	4.3	2.03	149.47	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.31	129.33	15 520	F	13 330	10 520
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.92	116.96	12 030	S	11 470	11 570
Tocumwal	6.4	2.60	106.44	12 920	S	12 090	13 740
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.57	81.12	8 160	F	10 570	18 300
Swan Hill	4.5	2.08	65.00	11 530	F	16 070	21 190
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.16	56.28	32 620	F	35 940	36 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.31	47.15	38 970	F	39 850	37 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	34 910	F	34 250	32 440
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.28	30.04	42 800	R	41 860	36 640
Rufus Junction	-	6.04	22.97	30 210	S	29 490	25 500
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.91	-	28 800	R	27 960	31 640
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.91	155.14	1 940	R	1 980	2 540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.91	146.59	3 040	R	3 350	4 600
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.56	92.98	1 050	F	1 160	2 110
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.42	82.20	2 670	F	2 990	5 650
Edward at Liewah	-	4.30	59.68	5 090	F	6 060	6 250
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.18	57.67	8 960	F	10 860	10 650
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.48	59.44	3 820	F	5 970	9 490
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.60	-	1 240	R	1 040	1 530
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	910	R	790	630
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	320	F	530	750

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 470	14 650
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.98	+3.70
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+1.86
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+1.61
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+2.39	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+2.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+2.64	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+1.91
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+1.43	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+1.97
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.04	+2.28	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.06	+1.16

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

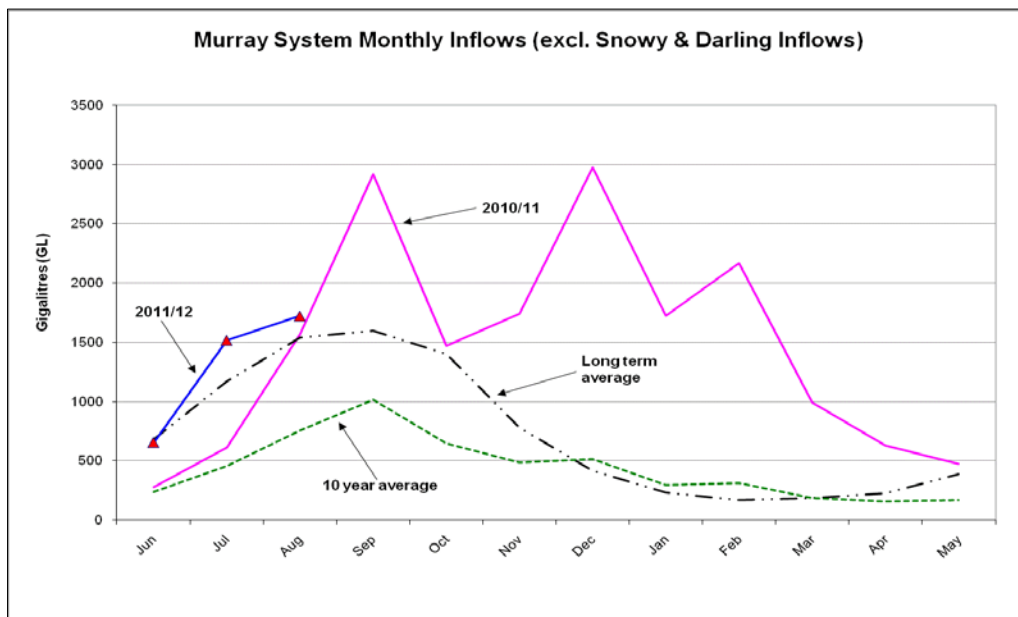
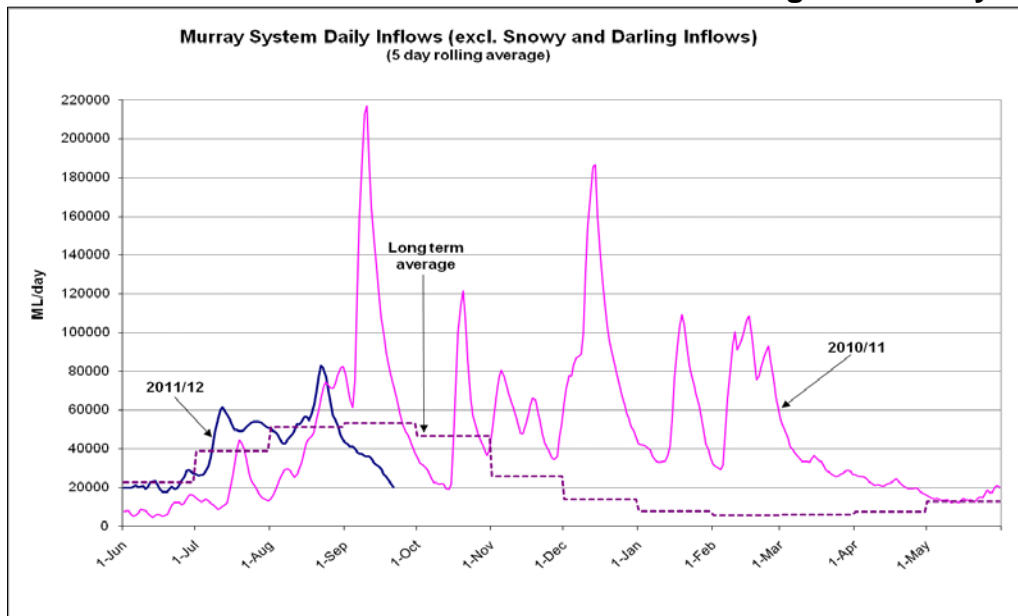
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.67
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## Barrages

## Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	10	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	30	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 21 Sep 2011)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	15%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	69%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	57%

#### Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	95%
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/>