



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2011

Trim Ref: D11/37827

## Rainfall and Inflows

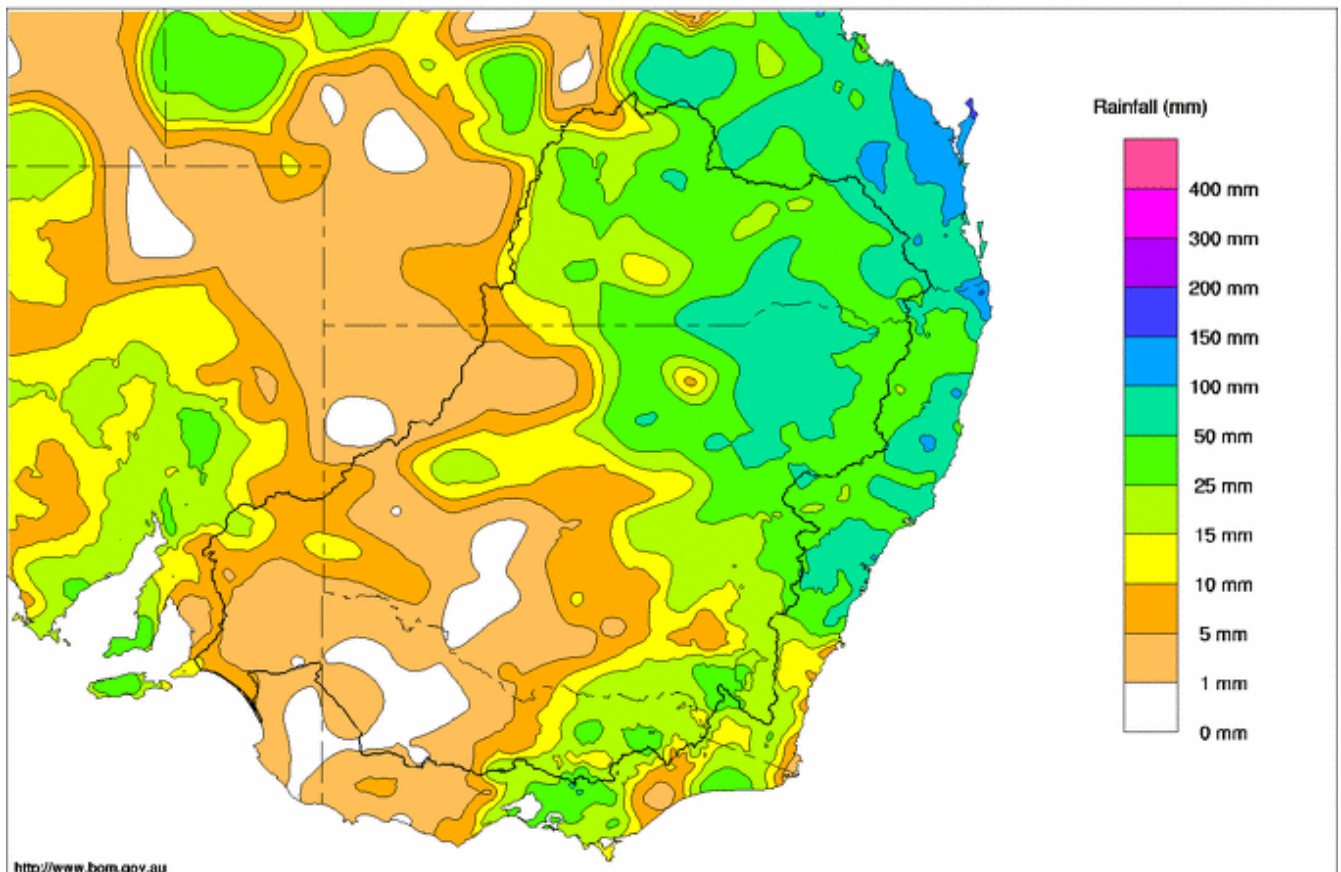
There was further humid and stormy weather across much of the Murray-Darling Basin during the past week with the highest rainfall again recorded across northern and south-eastern areas (Map 1).

In southern Queensland and northern NSW, there was a continuation of the recent wet conditions experienced across several upper Barwon-Darling catchments. Some of the best totals this week fell in the upper Condamine catchment including 101 mm at Pratten and 69 mm at Toowoomba. There was also good rain at several locations along the McIntyre and upper Barwon Rivers including 84 mm at Goondiwindi, 81 mm at Mungindi and 88 mm at Mogil Mogil. Further south, there was 89 mm at Coonabarabran, 86 mm at Bingara and 69 mm at Coonamble; while in the south-east, there was 58 mm at Tuggeranong in the ACT, and 45 mm at Benalla and 36 mm at Mt Buffalo in Victoria.

The rain in the northern Basin has continued to build on floodwaters that are currently moving along several tributaries and into the Barwon-Darling River. At Walgett, the Barwon maintained a peak flow of over 100,000 ML/day throughout the weekend with the flow currently at 91,000 ML/day. With renewed high flows now in transit from upstream reaches, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a second similar-sized flood peak at Walgett on 22 December. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 14th December 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 14/12/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 December 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



In the upper Murray tributaries there was only a small response to rainfall and streams are now receding after peaking during the week. For example at Pinegrove, the Tooma River peaked at 3,100 ML/day but is now flowing at 1,200 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana increased from 1,500 ML/day to a peak of 2,300 ML/day and is currently flowing at 1,800 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 108 GL during the week to 7,330 GL (85% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 11 GL to 2,935 GL, which is 76% capacity. The release remained steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

A small pulsed release from Dartmouth Reservoir will begin on Monday 19 December, with flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Colemans reaching about 2,500 ML/day by late afternoon before being reduced back to the normal 200 ML/day over the following two days. Pulsed releases aim to improve the health of the Mitta Mitta River by introducing variability in flows, without significant impacts on river users.

At Hume Reservoir the storage volume is currently 2,693 GL (90%), which is a decrease of 36 GL. The release has averaged 12,700 ML/day during the past seven days, which is slightly higher than last week. The release may increase slightly over the coming days to supply downstream demands.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release is currently 12,000 ML/day and is expected to drop back to the target release of 11,000 ML/day in the coming days to continue supplying environmental entitlements that are maintaining over-bank flows to the Barmah-Millewa forest. Diversions at the Yarrawonga Main Channel and Mulwala Canal have eased slightly during the past week and are currently totalling 5,160 ML/day. The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently 124.76 m AHD and is expected to remain within the target level of 124.7 – 124.8 m AHD over the coming days.

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir has receded to 1,200 ML/day and may fall below 1,000 ML/day during the coming week depending on demands. Flow in the Billabong Creek at Darlot dropped to 120 ML/day during the last week but is expected to rise slightly in a few days time. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite has increased and should reach a peak of around 3,500 ML/day during the coming week. At McCoys Bridge, inflow from the Goulburn River peaked at 4,300 ML/day during the week and is currently 3,600 ML/day. The flow should continue to fall away over the coming days.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to National Channel has increased to 3,000 ML/day and is expected to be steady in the coming days. Release from Torrumbarry Weir averaged 10,200 ML/day this week but should decrease to below 9,000 ML/day during the coming week unless there is significant rainfall.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 1,100 ML/day, but renewed rises are expected in the coming weeks as higher flows arrive from upstream. Downstream on the Murray, the flow at Euston is currently 12,200 ML/day and the pool is at the full supply level of 47.60 m AHD. The flow is expected to decrease slightly in the next few days.

At Menindee Lakes, the total storage decreased by 44 GL, to 1,749 GL (101% capacity) and should fall below full supply during the coming week. The release measured at Weir 32 has continued to be increased and is currently 5,000 ML/day. The release will now be increased to 16,000 ML/day prior to Christmas in preparation for the arrival of floodwaters from the upper Barwon-Darling (see attached media release by NSW Office of Water).

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 38 GL during the week to 627 GL, which is 93% capacity or around 26.59 m AHD. Flow to South Australia increased this week and is currently 16,900 ML/day. The average level in the Lower Lakes fell 0.02 m to 0.63 m AHD and the flow out the Barrages averaged around 4,500 ML/day for the week.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN

Executive Director, River Murray



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 14 Dec 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	470.77	2 935	76%	71	2 864	+11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.40	2 693	90%	23	2 670	-36
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.59	627	93%	100	527	-38
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 749	101%	(480 #)	1 269	-44
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 004</b>	<b>86%</b>	- -	<b>7 330</b>	<b>-108</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							85% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	951	93%	3	948	-9
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 525	93%	24	1 501	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 248	97%	100	3 148	-10

\* 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 13 Dec 2011**

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 068	+31	Snowy-Murray	+0	275
Snowy-Murray Component	693	+11	Tooma-Tumut	+4	229
Target Storage	1 510		Net Diversion	-4	46
			Murray 1 Release	+13	572

**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)	41.3	509	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.1	116
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.5	238
Western Murray Irrigation	0.8	8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.1	37
Licensed Pumps	4.7	83	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	11
Lower Darling	1.0	24	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	103
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>505</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 December due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *	
Flow this week	116.5	(16 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	199.6	
Flow last month	296.6	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	110	140
Euston	120	130	130
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	140	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	400	400	370
Lock 9	150	160	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	270	290	220
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	340	350	260
Mannum	420	410	260
Murray Bridge	350	330	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	430	410	520
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	450	400	280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 870	4 990	5 540
Goolwa Barrages	560	530	1 220





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 14 Dec 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	-	-	-	910	F	2 290	2 660
Jingellic	4.0	1.71	208.23	4 490	F	6 320	9 390
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.59	218.48	930	F	1 010	1 210
Heywoods	5.5	2.78	156.41	12 350	R	12 690	11 170
Doctors Point	5.5	2.96	151.43	14 300	R	14 640	13 760
Albury	4.3	1.92	149.36	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.09	129.11	13 970	F	14 190	13 160
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.85	116.89	11 490	R	11 110	13 990
Tocumwal	6.4	2.45	106.29	10 520	F	10 690	15 190
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.21	81.76	10 420	F	10 200	11 030
Swan Hill	4.5	1.82	64.74	8 920	R	8 960	10 370
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.98	53.10	12 890	S	13 220	14 120
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.32	44.16	12 190	F	12 120	14 010
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	11 990	F	13 070	15 070
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.30	28.06	11 250	S	11 580	12 960
Rufus Junction	-	4.83	21.76	16 060	F	15 830	11 150
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.15	-	14 000	R	13 310	8 550
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.81	155.04	1 790	F	1 920	2 530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.63	146.31	2 250	F	2 500	3 660
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.89	94.31	3 610	F	3 990	3 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.38	81.15	1 150	F	2 330	2 940
Edward at Liewah	-	2.84	58.22	2 350	S	2 230	1 900
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.73	55.22	1 150	R	1 020	900
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.57	57.53	1 110	F	1 360	1 280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	7.37	-	17 500	R	12 620	8 290
Darling at Bourke	-	7.21	-	19 660	R	13 830	2 260
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.13	-	1 340	R	820	510

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 530	15 740
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+2.51
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.79
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.67
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.43	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+1.58
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.66	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.79
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.27	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.82
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.53	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.40

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

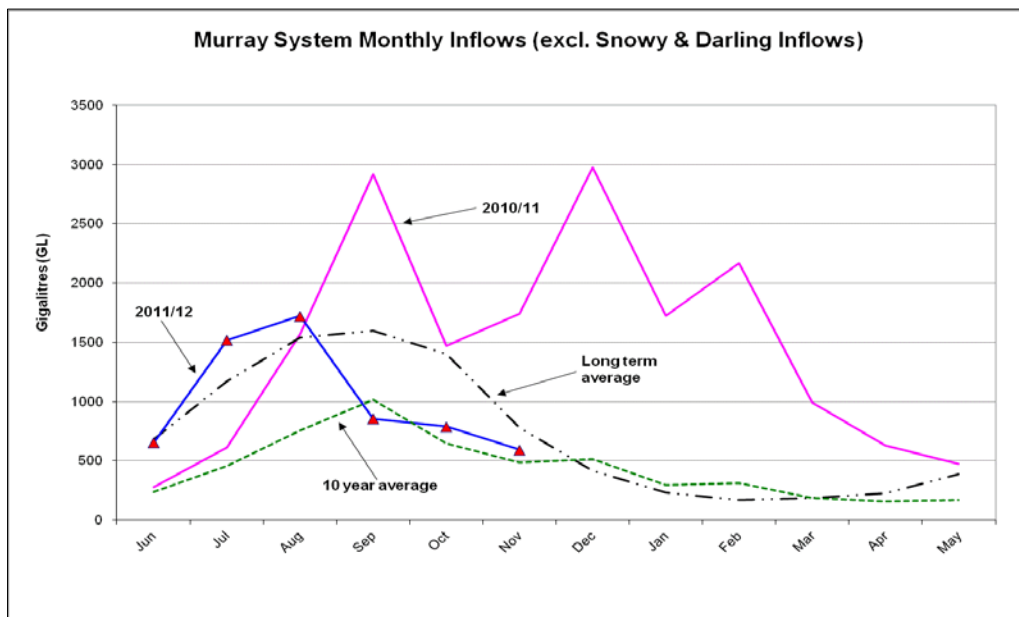
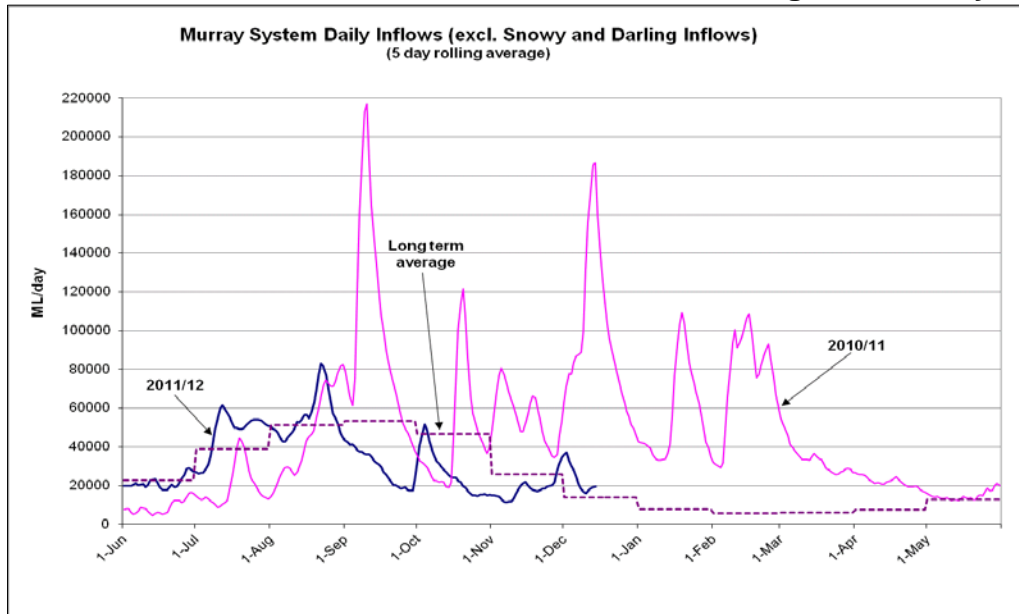
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	4	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.67	5	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 14 Dec 2011)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
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/>

Friday, 16 December 2011

## Flow advice for Lower Darling River Further increases at Weir 32 and Cawndilla Flows

The NSW Office of Water today advised landholders and the community in the Lower Darling Valley that releases from the Menindee Lakes will be further increased over the coming week to 16,000 megalitres per day at Weir 32 by 24 December 2011.

Releases from Lake Cawndilla to the Great Darling Anabranch will begin at 250 megalitres per day this weekend and will be increased to 1,800 megalitres per day by December 24.

At 16,000 megalitres per day in the Lower Darling, flows will pass naturally into the Great Darling Anabranch.

Flow further downstream will continue to rise in the coming weeks and will reach approx 12,000 megalitres per day or 5.65m in gauge height at Burtundy early next month.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, said that as high flows from tributaries in Northern NSW and Queensland reach the Barwon -Darling River, the NSW Office of Water can refine the estimated forecast flow volumes reaching the Menindee Lakes in the coming weeks.

The proposed releases from the Menindee Lakes will provide the capacity to store future inflows and reduce the potential for flooding in the Menindee area.

However, Mr Harriss said that with wet catchments, the lakes at near full supply capacity and higher than average rainfall forecast in the Northern Basin, the potential for floods in the Darling River is high.

Landholders with stock, and river users with pumps, should take into account the changed flow rates along the Lower Darling River and Great Darling Anabranch and make appropriate adjustments to their operations.

Campers need to be aware of the potential for rapidly rising river levels as areas of the floodplain and associated creeks will start to become inundated between Christmas and New Year.

More detailed information will be provided by the Office of Water prior to Christmas.

Date	Estimate Weir 32 pool level (m)	Weir 32 Flow (ML/d)
Monday 19 December	3.28	9,000
Tuesday 20 December	3.28	9,000
Wednesday 21 December	3.62	10,000
Thursday 22 December	4.27	12,000
Friday 23 December	4.87	14,000
Saturday 24 December	5.42	16,000
Sunday 25 December	5.42	16,000

**ENDS**

**Media contact:** Bunty Driver 0407403234

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