



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2012

Trim Ref: D12/1766

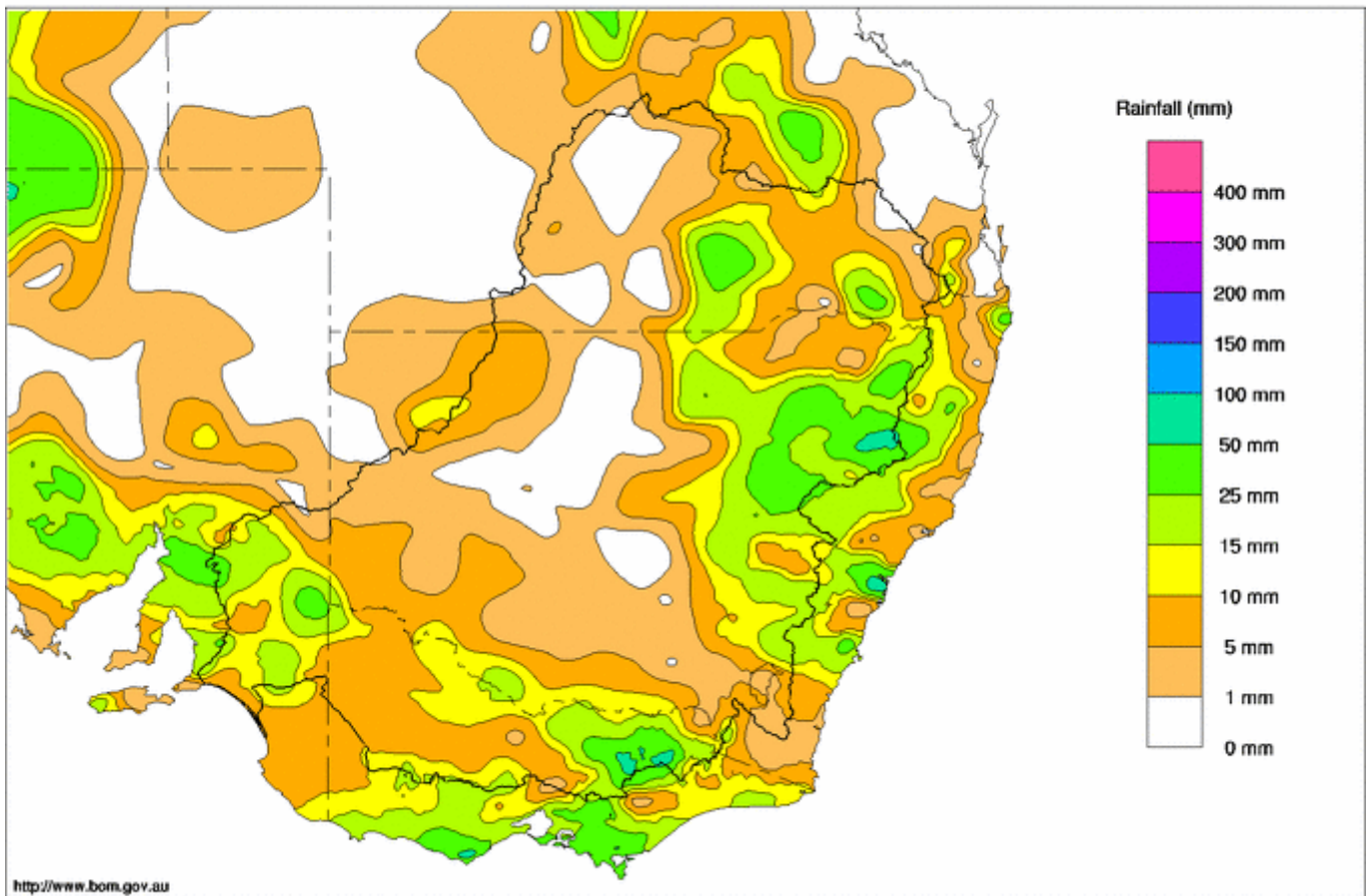
Rainfall and Inflows

There was further hot weather across the Murray-Darling Basin during the last week, with very high temperatures in the north. Storms affected some areas mid-week before generally cooler weather arrived over the last few days. Highest rain totals for the week were over north-east Victoria, along the NSW slopes and ranges, and across parts of South Australia (Map 1).

In Victoria, the heaviest rain fell with storms over the weekend with the high country particularly affected. Totals included 107 mm at Rocky Valley, 87 mm at Mt Buffalo, 86 mm at Mt Hotham and 73 mm at Whitlands. In NSW, the highest reported totals included 67 mm at Woolbrook, 52 mm at Tamworth Airport and 45 mm at Parkes Airport; while in South Australia, totals up to around 40 mm were reported over the Mt Lofty Ranges.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 11th January 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 11/01/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 28 December 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

On the upper Darling River a broad peak was observed at Bourke with flow remaining above 70,000 ML/day since last Friday. The flow is now expected to remain steady around this level until the coming weekend. Once this peak passes however, a relatively quick recession should ensue during the second half of January. Downstream at Wilcannia, the Darling continues to rise steadily towards a peak expected in early February, with the river now flowing at 25,000 ML/day. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.



On the River Murray system, the best tributary response was on the Ovens River, where the flow at Rocky Point increased from 700 to 2,700 ML/day following the rain and is now flowing at 1,100 ML/day. Further east on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie increased from 500 to 1,600 ML/day, but has now receded to 600 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 6,688 GL (78% capacity), down 188 GL since last week. The total storage at Dartmouth Reservoir fell by 1 GL during the week and is now 2,957 GL (77% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, is now 2,400 ML/day where it has been for the last two days as a small flow pulse is released for water quality management in the Mitta Mitta River. The release will be returned to 300 ML/day over the coming days.

At Hume Reservoir, the total volume is currently 2,338 GL (78% capacity), which is a decrease of 113 GL since last week. The flow past Doctors Point has decreased from 24,000 to 16,000 ML/day during the week as, due to the rain, downstream demand has reduced and there has been a short period of higher inflows from the Ovens River.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.9 m AHD, which is full supply level. The pool level was raised during the week above its normal target operating range to capture some of the additional water in this reach of the River Murray brought about by rain. It is expected to return towards 124.8 m AHD over the coming days. The release from Yarrawonga Weir peaked at 12,000 ML/day on 11 January and is expected to be reduced to about 9,000 ML/day within a week.

On the Edward River, the flow at Toonalook is currently 2,300 ML/day and at Stevens Weir, the flow is 1,500 ML/day. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Moulamein is currently 1,100 ML/day and at Kyalite is 1,300 ML/day. The flow at Kyalite should remain relatively steady over the coming week.

Inflows to the Murray from the Goulburn River were increased during the week to help supply water traded out of the Goulburn valley with the river at McCoys Bridge currently flowing at 1,400 ML/day. These flows are expected to increase to about 2,000 ML/day during the coming week.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level was raised back to the full supply level of 86.05 m AHD during the weekend. Release from the weir is currently 6,000 ML/day and is expected to be in the range 5,500–6,500 ML/day during the next few weeks. The flow at Euston has receded during the week and is now 6,300 ML/day. The flow is expected to continue falling to below 5,500 ML/day in the next 7–10 days.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume continued to decline as releases were increased up to a flow of 24,000 ML/day at Weir 32. These higher releases were made to create air-space for incoming floodwaters arising from heavy rain in the northern Basin in late 2011. The current storage volume is 1,511 GL (87% capacity), which is 63 GL less than last week. The Lakes are expected to start rising again in the next week or two as the higher flows arrive from upstream. On the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy is currently about 12,500 ML/day and expected to peak above 13,000 ML/day later in January. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au/).

Downstream on the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow is currently 16,300 ML/day and expected to rise to about 17,500 ML/day in the next week or two as the higher flows arrive from the Darling River.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 25.98 m AHD (556 GL, 82% capacity). The flow into South Australia is currently 16,500 ML/day, which includes the delivery of environmental water. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level is currently 0.68 m AHD and release through the barrages during the week has averaged around 5,500 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 11 Jan 2012

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	471.17	2 957	77%	71	2 886	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.43	2 338	78%	23	2 315	-113
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.98	556	82%	100	456	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 511	87%	(480 #)	1 031	-63
Total		9 269		7 362	79%	--	6 688	-189
Total Active MDBA Storage							78% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	879	86%	3	876	-41
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 419	87%	24	1 395	-50
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 202	96%	100	3 102	-23

* 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 10 Jan 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 128	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+2	285
Snowy-Murray Component	253	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	244
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	0	41
			Murray 1 Release	+0	593

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)	61.1	703	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.6	153
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.7	3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.7	310
Western Murray Irrigation	1.0	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	53
Licensed Pumps	5.6	105	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	24
Lower Darling	10.7	84	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	148
TOTAL	81.1	907	TOTAL	47.6	688

* 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 January due to Additional Dilution Flow and water trades to SA.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *
Flow this week	127.7
Flow so far this month	226.4
Flow last month	520.4

(18 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	140	120	140
Euston	140	140	130
Red Cliffs	170	170	120
Merbein	180	170	130
Burtundy (Darling)	290	390	390
Lock 9	350	370	160
Lake Victoria	190	190	200
Berri	440	370	230
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	290	280	270
Mannum	380	340	290
Murray Bridge	320	1 180	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	480	480	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	540	490	310
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 980	5 030	5 450
Goolwa Barrages	8 300	5 940	1 340

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 11 Jan 2012

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	-	-	-	960	F	950	1 780
Jingellic	4.0	1.40	207.92	2 510	F	2 760	3 600
Tallandoo (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.15	219.04	2 920	R	1 400	660
Heywoods	5.5	3.01	156.64	14 950	F	19 150	19 000
Doctors Point	5.5	3.11	151.58	16 000	F	19 970	20 540
Albury	4.3	2.11	149.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.69	129.71	18 440	F	21 010	17 440
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.94	116.98	12 200	R	10 320	10 980
Tocumwal	6.4	2.25	106.09	9 170	S	9 590	10 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.98	80.53	6 040	R	5 630	6 790
Swan Hill	4.5	1.16	64.08	4 830	R	5 100	6 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.66	51.78	7 000	F	7 670	9 840
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	6 290	F	6 740	10 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 610	F	7 640	12 520
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.74	28.50	16 270	S	16 730	19 430
Rufus Junction	-	4.78	21.71	15 610	F	17 200	23 360
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.45	-	18 500	F	18 870	18 830
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.34	154.57	1 050	F	970	1 280
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.48	146.16	1 850	F	1 270	1 260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.76	93.18	1 420	R	1 030	960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.67	81.45	1 540	F	1 330	810
Edward at Liewah	-	1.54	56.92	890	F	1 070	1 510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.37	54.86	290	F	340	460
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.24	57.20	810	R	410	990
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.47	-	740	R	1 050	7 560
Darling at Bourke	-	12.21	-	73 470	S	71 950	62 620
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.78	-	12 460	R	12 020	10 380

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 370	8 960
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	-------

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	+0.00	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+2.43
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.85
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.72
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.18	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+1.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+1.10	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+1.07
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.62	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+1.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.15	+0.95	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	+0.70

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

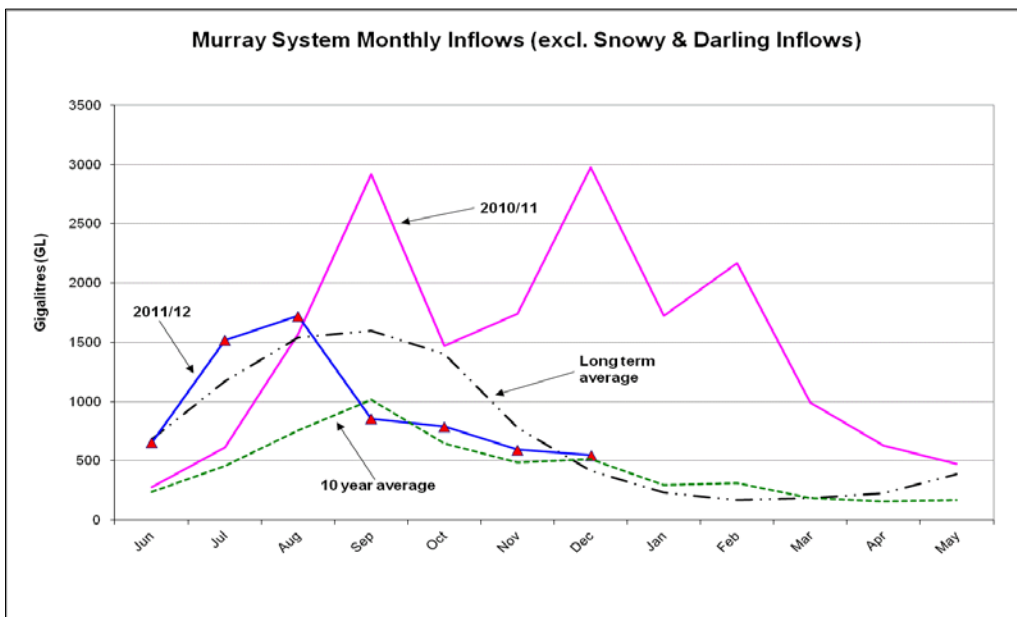
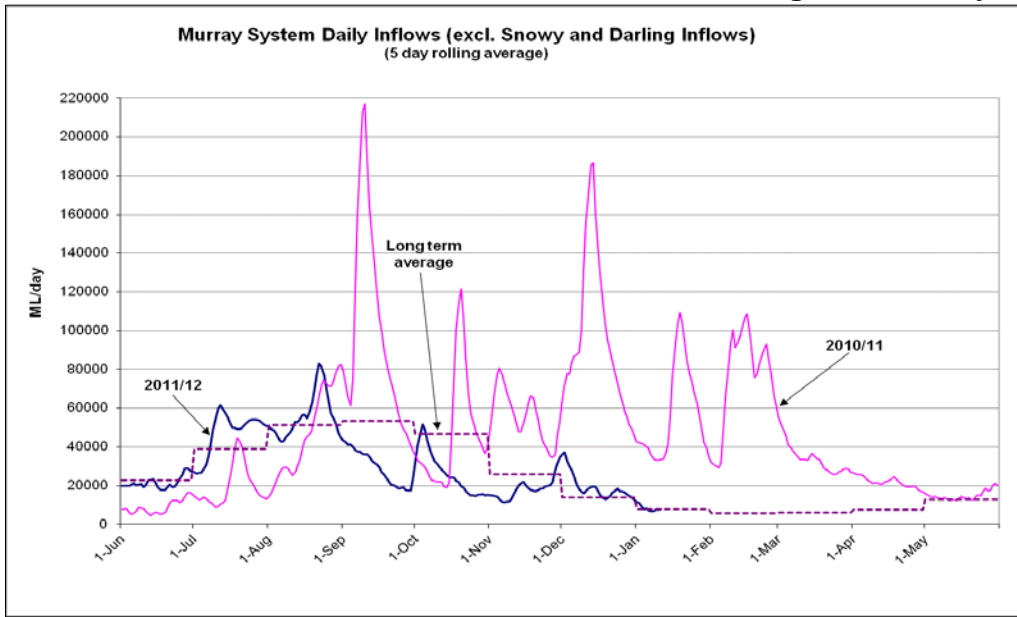
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.68
------------------------------------------------------------	------

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.42	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.46	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.45	9	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 11 Jan 2012)

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%
---------------	------

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/>