



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2012

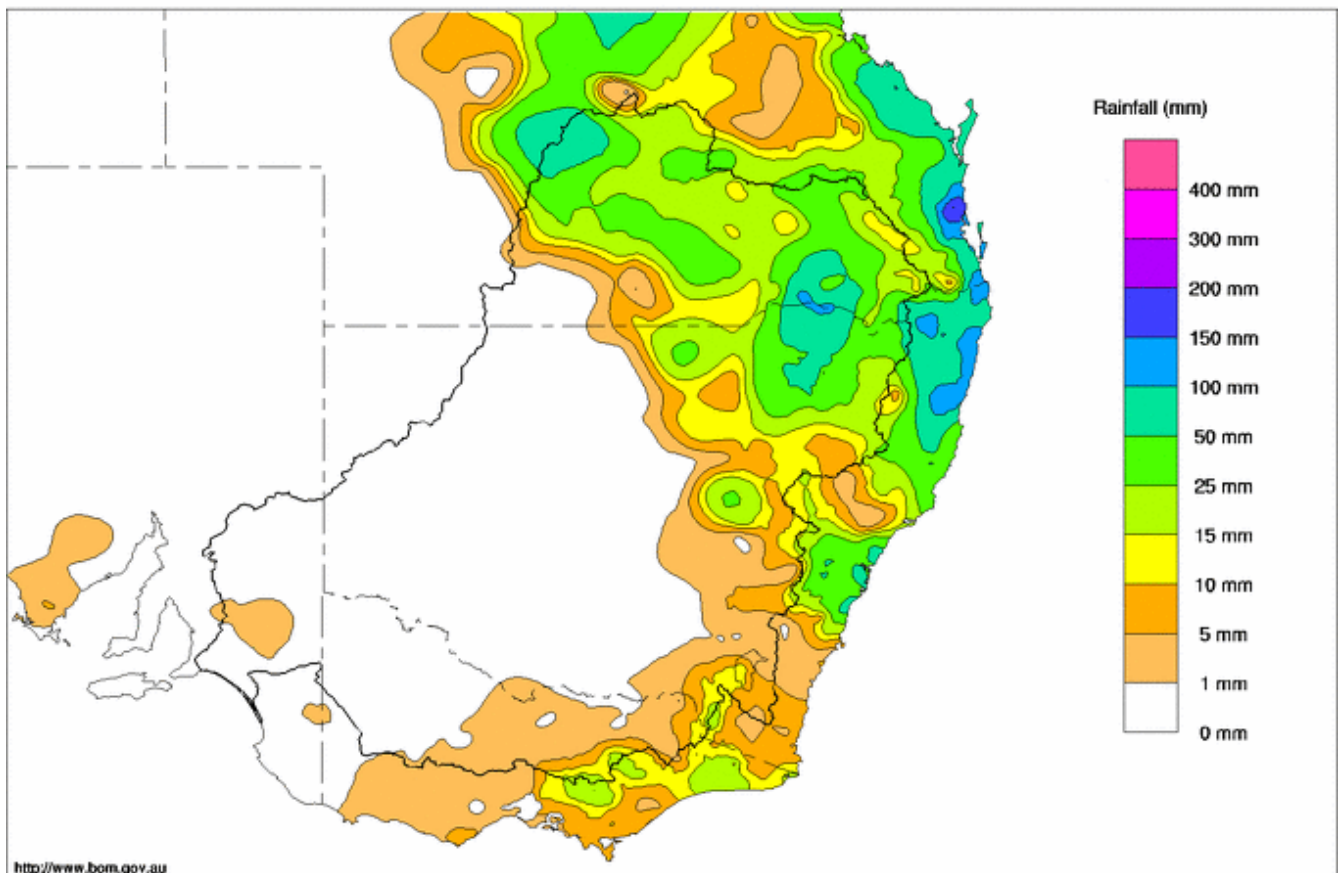
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Rainfall and Inflows

The weather gradually warmed up again during the past week after a respite from the summer heat for some parts of the Murray-Darling Basin late last week. Conditions were fine and dry over central and south-western areas, while rainfall returned to the north and north-east during the last few days with some moderate totals recorded along the Queensland-NSW border (Map 1).

The highest recorded rainfall in NSW included 75 mm at Croppa Creek, 54 mm at Moree, 47 mm at Wee Waa and 41 mm at Dubbo; while notable weekly totals in Queensland included 95 mm at Applethorpe, 86 mm at Goondiwindi, 72 mm at Ripple Downs and 63 mm at Chinchilla.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th January 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 18 December 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Rainfall during the week over the Border Rivers catchments has generated only a small streamflow response. For example, the McIntyre River at Boggabilla peaked at over 11,000 ML/day but has since receded to 4,000 ML/day. Downstream on the Barwon-Darling River, floodwaters from rain that fell over the northern Basin in late 2011 continue flowing towards and into the Menindee Lakes. The river is currently peaking at Louth where the flow is just under 70,000 ML/day, while downstream at Wilcannia, the river continues to rise steadily with the flow now at 27,600 ML/day. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.



In the upper Murray catchments, flows have generally been receding during the past week. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara eased from 700 to 600 ML/day, while the flow at Jingellic has decreased from 2,500 to 2,100 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point fell from 1,100 to 600 ML/day and the flow at Wangaratta has fallen from 1,900 to below 1,000 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 77 GL during the week to 6,611 GL (77% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 2 GL to 2,960 GL (77% capacity). The release to the Mitta Mitta River, measured at Colemans, was around 300 ML/day for the week. At Hume Reservoir the storage volume fell by 90 GL to 2,248 GL (75% capacity). The flow past Doctors Point averaged around 16,000 ML/day.

At Yarrowonga weir, the pool level was raised earlier in the week above its normal operating range to capture some of the additional water in this reach of the Murray resulting from reduced irrigation demand. The level fell over the remainder of the week, as the stored water was used to supply demand, and is currently 124.75 m AHD. Demand at the irrigation offtakes totalled 65 GL this week compared with 72 GL last week. The release from Yarrowonga was reduced over the week from 11,500 ML/day to 8,300 ML/day and should remain around 8,300 ML/day for the coming week.

On the Edward River, flow through the Edward Offtake remained steady this week at 1,660 ML/day, however the Gulpa Offtake was reduced to around 650 ML/day in order to allow the higher areas of Reed Beds Swamp to start drying out. Releases from the Edward Escape eased back this week from around 2,000 ML/day to 1,700 ML/day. Diversion to Colligen Creek increased this week to around 290 ML/day to compensate for the lower flows last week of around 70 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge increased to around 2,000 ML/day mid week as expected. The Goulburn system is being managed by Goulburn-Murray Water to provide a flow of around 1,600 ML/day at McCoys Bridge and this flow should be maintained over the coming week.

On the Murray, the flow at Torrumbarry Weir has increased to 7,700 ML/day. The flow is now expected to peak around this level and fall back to below 7,000 ML/day in the next few days. Downstream at Euston Weir, the flow fell away early in the week but has remained fairly steady during the past few days at around 5,300 L/day. The flow should rise slightly in the coming week.

On the Darling River, inflows to the Menindee Lakes continue rising and the storage volume is now starting to increase. The current volume is 1,526 GL (88% capacity), which is 15 GL more than last week. Release from the lakes was decreased during the week and is currently 18,000 ML/day measured at Weir 32. To manage the storage level and bring the lakes back to full supply, the NSW Office of Water has advised that the release will continue to be decreased during the second half of January and, at this stage, should return to around 9,000 ML/day by early February. On the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy is currently at 13,400 ML/day and close to a peak, which should be observed during the next week. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au>).

Downstream on the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow is currently 15,300 ML/day, down from 16,300 ML/day this time last week. Higher than expected transmission losses and diversions have kept the flow here lower than expected, however it should increase slightly over the coming week.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 25.94 m AHD (551 GL, 81% capacity). The flow into South Australia averaged around 16,500 ML/day during the last week with the delivery of environmental water maintaining a flow above the usual entitlement. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level is currently 0.70 m AHD and barrage releases have increased to around 7,000 ML/day.

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 18 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	471.21	2 960	77%	71	2 889	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	187.91	2 248	75%	23	2 225	-90
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.94	551	81%	100	451	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 526	88%	(480 #)	1 046	+15
Total		9 269		7 285	79%	--	6 611	-78
Total Active MDBA Storage							77% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	848	83%	3	845	-31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 367	84%	24	1 343	-52
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 188	96%	100	3 088	-13

* 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 17 Jan 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 131	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	286
Snowy-Murray Component	707	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	246
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	-1	40
			Murray 1 Release	+8	601

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)	52.3	756	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.8	163
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.3	5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.4	325
Western Murray Irrigation	1.2	13	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.5	57
Licensed Pumps	5.9	112	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.7	28
Lower Darling	10.7	101	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	160
TOTAL	72.4	987	TOTAL	43.7	733

* 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	114.7
Flow so far this month	341.2
Flow last month	520.4

(16 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	130	140
Euston	120	130	130
Red Cliffs	180	170	120
Merbein	190	180	130
Burtundy (Darling)	310	300	390
Lock 9	240	260	160
Lake Victoria	220	220	200
Berri	560	510	240
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	380	330	270
Mannum	280	290	290
Murray Bridge	330	330	340
Milang (Lake Alex.)	500	490	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	440	480	320
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 120	5 080	5 430
Goolwa Barrages	660	1 890	1 360



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 18 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	-	-	-	1 120	F	970	950
Jingellic	4.0	1.34	207.86	2 140	F	2 300	2 760
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.50	218.39	720	S	940	1 400
Heywoods	5.5	3.20	156.83	17 290	S	15 320	19 150
Doctors Point	5.5	3.25	151.72	17 700	F	16 210	19 970
Albury	4.3	2.26	149.70	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.42	129.44	16 330	R	15 510	21 010
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.44	116.48	8 400	F	9 680	10 320
Tocumwal	6.4	2.12	105.96	8 250	F	9 640	9 590
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.45	81.00	7 720	R	7 030	5 630
Swan Hill	4.5	1.31	64.23	5 740	R	5 280	5 100
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.71	51.83	7 260	R	6 940	7 670
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.22	43.06	5 370	S	5 370	6 740
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 620	F	5 300	7 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.58	28.34	15 280	R	15 680	16 730
Rufus Junction	-	4.92	21.85	16 880	R	15 680	17 200
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.13	-	14 010	F	15 700	18 870
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.07	154.30	650	F	840	970
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.09	145.77	930	F	1 210	1 270
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.86	93.28	1 630	F	1 940	990
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.47	81.24	1 280	F	1 500	1 330
Edward at Liewah	-	1.77	57.15	1 090	R	1 000	1 070
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.34	54.83	250	F	270	340
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.66	56.62	360	F	610	410
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	-	200	F	460	1 050
Darling at Bourke	-	11.87	-	63 460	F	68 890	71 950
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.02	-	13 420	R	13 020	12 020

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 830	5 500
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.19	+2.52
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.74
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.62
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+1.55
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.94	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.08	+0.86
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.55	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.86
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.26	+0.87	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.00	+0.38

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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Barrages

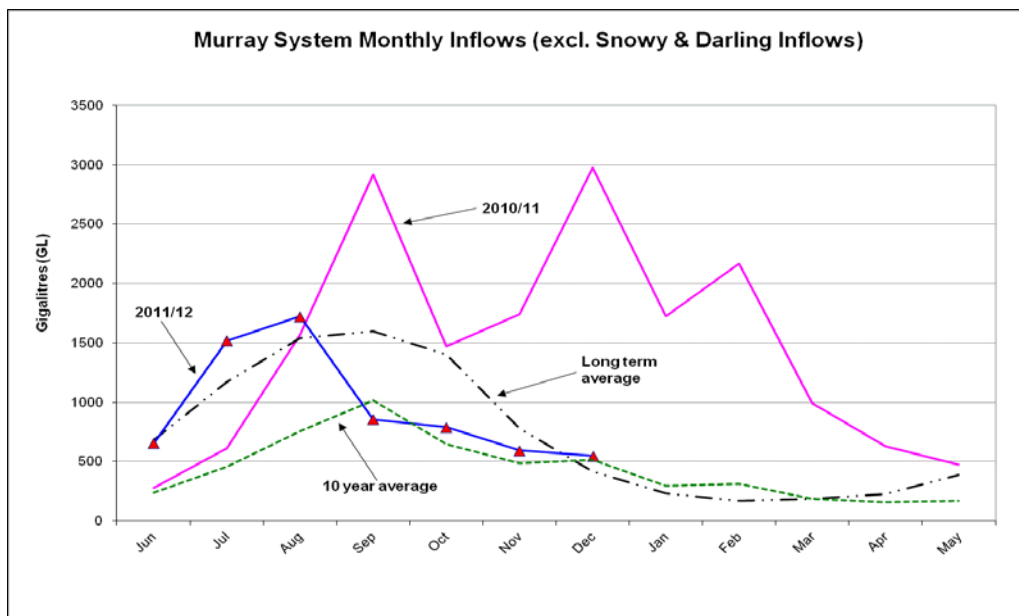
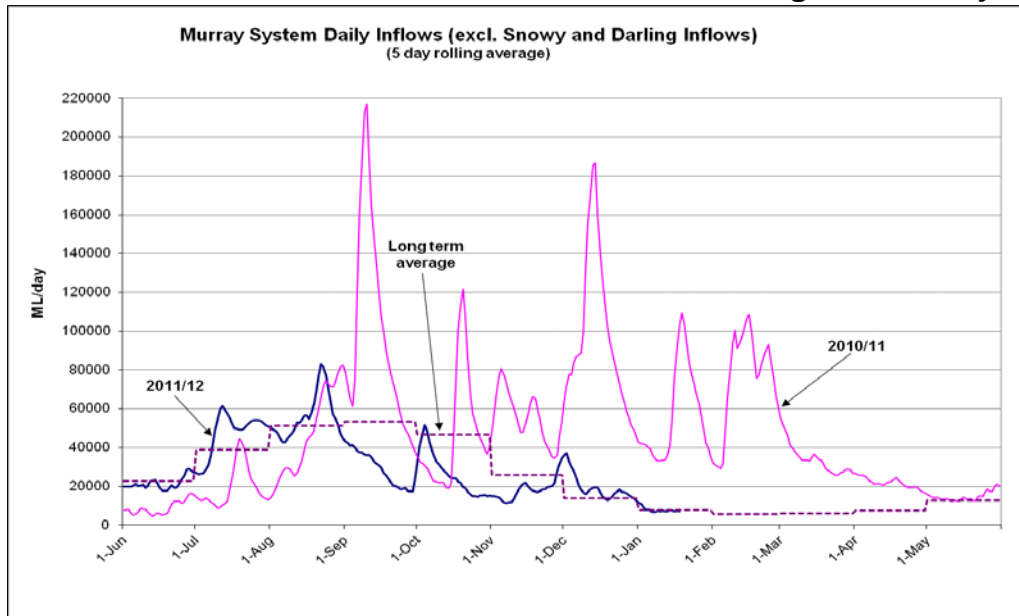
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	4	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.60	13	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 18 Jan 2012



State Allocations (as at 18 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%
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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/>