



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2012

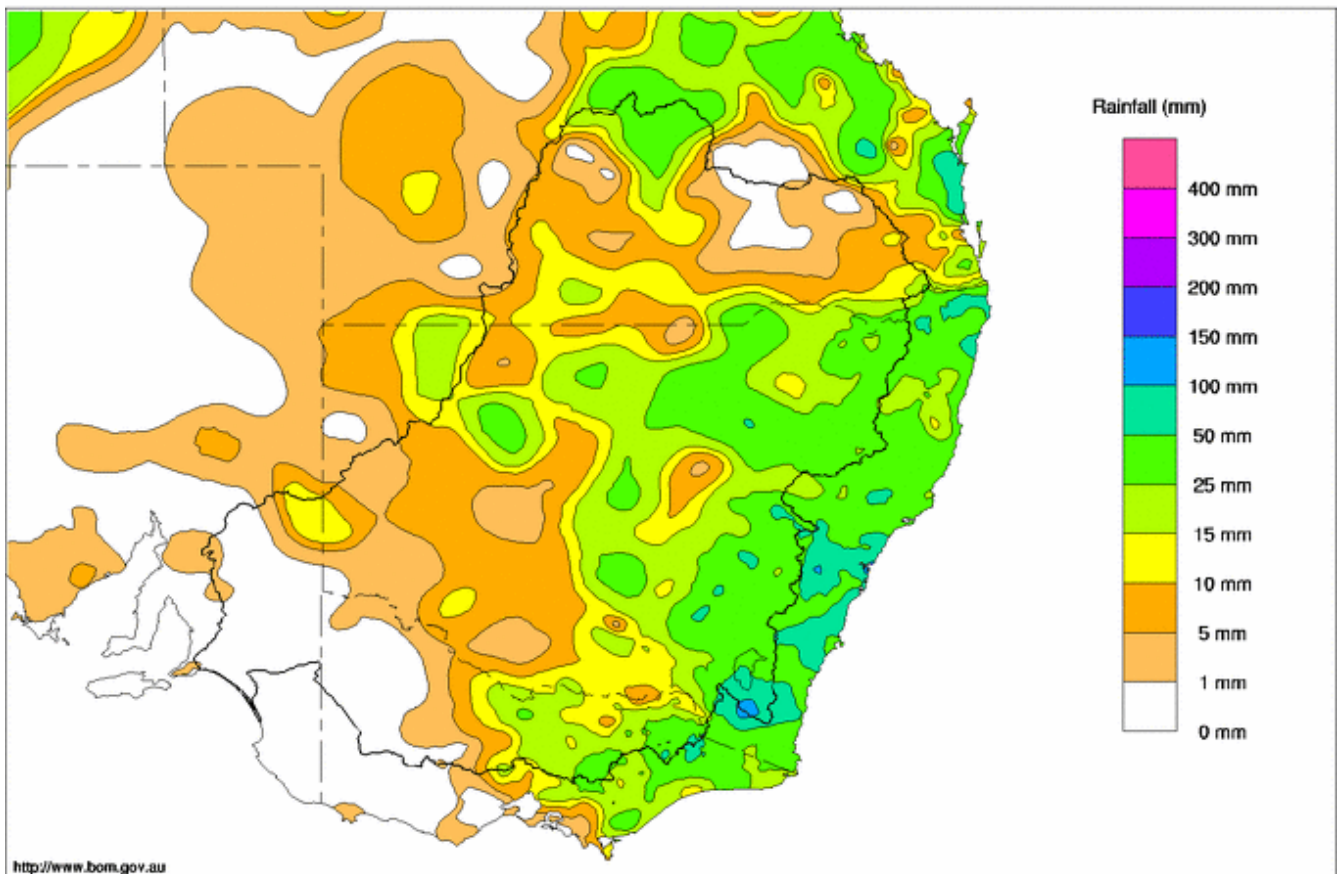
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Rainfall and Inflows

There was rain and further thunderstorm activity this week over eastern and south-eastern districts of the Basin, maintaining a pattern experienced in many districts for several weeks. Rainfall was also recorded in the far north of the Basin and over parts of central and western NSW, with mainly dry weather once again in the south-west (Map 1).

Heaviest rainfall during the past week was recorded across the upper Murrumbidgee catchment where there was 154 mm at Cooma, 59 mm at Mt Ginini and 45 mm at Tharwa. There was also 69 mm at Koorawatha, near Cowra, and 66 mm at Manildra, west of Orange. In the Victorian high country, Omeo recorded 61 mm, while in Queensland, 37 mm was recorded at Wallangarra, near the NSW border, and 45 mm at Lochinvar station, north-east of Augathella.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 22nd February 2012
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 22 February 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

On the Barwon-Darling River, peak flows from the recent northern Basin floods are anticipated to arrive at Brewarrina in the next few days, where the total flow has climbed to 220,000 ML/day. Downstream at Bourke, the Darling River has risen to 50,000 ML/day with steep rises expected over the coming week ahead of the main peak. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.



In the upper Murray, the flow at Hinnomunjie, upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir has averaged nearly 500 ML/day during the week, while upstream of Hume Reservoir the flow at Jingellic has increased slightly from 1,980 to 2,380 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 173 GL during the week and is currently 6,221 GL (72% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage has increased by 3 GL and is now 2,969 GL (77% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, has been varied between 200 and 300 ML/day (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Riparian flow of 200 ML/day released to the Mitta Mitta River from the regulating pond downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir on 21 February 2012 (Photo courtesy Catherine Goonan, MDBA)

At Hume Reservoir, the total volume is currently 1,921 GL (64% capacity), which is a decrease of 79 GL since last week. The release from the reservoir peaked at 15,400 ML/day during the week to supply increasing diversion orders; however, with rainfall now forecast across the irrigation areas, actual diversions were lower than ordered resulting in cuts to the release during the last few days. The current release is 10,600 ML/day and may be reduced further in the next few days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level has risen from around 124.72 to 124.9 m AHD (full supply) during the week to buffer additional flow arriving from upstream. The pool should remain around this level for a few days before easing back towards the target level between 124.7 and 124.8 m AHD later in the coming week. Diversions at the irrigation offtakes have gradually decreased during the week and are currently around 5,600 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga Weir remained at 6,500 ML/day for most of the week but has now been increased to 7,500 ML/day to help manage the pool level.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has remained fairly steady through the week at around 1,260 and 350 ML/day, respectively. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the pool is currently 4.92 m on the local gauge and the flow downstream of the weir has averaged around 650 ML/day throughout the past week. The flow may increase slightly in the coming days. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite has receded slightly during the week and is expected to continue this trend into the new week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has started to rise with the arrival of inter-valley trade water called on to supplement downstream flows. The flow is currently 2,000 ML/day, but will fall back towards a target of 1,000 ML/day in around 10 days' time. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has



remained between 4,000 and 4,700 ML/day over the past week as forecast, and diversions to National Channel have remained steady at around 2,000 ML/day.

Further downstream, the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald has receded to 1,800 ML/day over the last week; however a flow of about 2,000 ML/day is now expected to continue for at least the next 3–4 weeks with a release of environmental water aimed at diluting low oxygen water returning from the Lowbidgee Wetlands. At Euston Weir, the flow receded during the week as expected and is currently at 6,200 ML/day.

At Menindee Lakes, a further 66 GL of airspace has been gained during the week, ahead of high flows expected over the next few months resulting from recent flooding in the northern Basin. The storage volume is currently at 1,514 GL (87% capacity). Release from the lakes (measured at Weir 32) was increased up to around 34,300 ML/day during the week and is expected to remain at or just below this flow for several weeks prior to renewed rises in the Darling upstream of the Lakes expected during March, when further increases to the release may be required.

Downstream on the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy has slowly increased from 14,100 to 14,700 ML/day during the week and will continue rising over the coming weeks. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au/) and for flood warnings refer to the Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au/).

At Wentworth weir, the Murray has continued its steady rise during the past week and is now flowing at 18,700 ML/day. Flows here are expected to continue rising until well into the autumn.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level was dropped further during the week and is now at 25.43 m AHD (491 GL, 73% capacity). The flow into South Australia averaged around 22,500 ML/day over the last week but will now be reduced back to 20,000 ML/day over the coming days. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level rose by 3 cm to 0.68 m AHD and barrage releases are now being managed to increase lake levels towards 0.70 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 22 Feb 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	471.38	2 969	77%	71	2 898	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.89	1 921	64%	23	1 898	-79
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.43	491	73%	100	391	-31
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 514	87%	(480 #)	1 034	-66
Total		9 269		6 895	74%	--	6 221	-173
Total Active MDBA Storage							72% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	744	73%	3	741	-19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 296	79%	24	1 272	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 070	92%	100	2 970	-25

* 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 21 Feb 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 158	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	301
Snowy-Murray Component	725	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	263
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	0	38
			Murray 1 Release	+4	634

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)	32.9	922	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.3	207
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.4	19	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.3	404
Western Murray Irrigation	0.9	17	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	76
Licensed Pumps	5.4	146	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	39
Lower Darling	10.6	178	Licensed pumps - LMW	10	211
TOTAL	52.2	1282	TOTAL	35.5	937

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

Entitlement this month	194.0 *
Flow this week	157.8
Flow so far this month	452.8
Flow last month	543.1

(22 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	110	120	130
Euston	140	150	130
Red Cliffs	180	160	130
Merbein	180	170	140
Burtundy (Darling)	310	300	380
Lock 9	250	250	180
Lake Victoria	240	230	200
Berri	330	330	260
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	320	310	280
Mannum	-	330	300
Murray Bridge	360	380	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	550	560	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	500	500	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 740	4 920	5 340
Goolwa Barrages	760	760	1 280



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 22 Feb 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	-	-	-	930	F	950	1 330
Jingellic	4.0	1.38	207.90	2 380	R	2 100	2 560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.48	218.37	660	F	700	630
Heywoods	5.5	2.71	156.34	10 630	F	13 420	12 100
Doctors Point	5.5	2.69	151.16	11 100	F	14 180	12 870
Albury	4.3	1.64	149.08	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.95	128.97	13 030	F	13 710	11 250
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 510	R	6 680	6 610
Tocumwal	6.4	1.85	105.69	6 880	F	6 760	6 930
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.59	80.14	4 670	R	4 510	4 810
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	3 680	R	3 770	4 510
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.41	51.53	5 700	F	5 960	6 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.39	43.23	6 190	F	6 610	6 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 980	F	6 790	6 190
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.82	28.58	18 720	S	18 180	17 090
Rufus Junction	-	5.50	22.43	22 770	R	21 450	22 430
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.53	-	20 130	S	21 920	16 970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.04	154.27	610	R	750	820
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.13	145.81	1 020	R	820	830
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.09	93.51	1 990	R	1 430	1 150
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.97	80.74	700	F	650	630
Edward at Liewah	-	1.49	56.87	850	F	960	1 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.59	55.08	740	R	700	600
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.45	58.41	2 060	R	2 030	2 790
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.71	-	1 630	F	4 140	13 660
Darling at Bourke	-	11.08	-	49 570	R	37 520	25 450
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.33	-	14 670	R	14 410	13 770

Natural Inflow to Hume	4 710	3 780
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(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

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	+0.32	+3.08
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+1.24
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.12	+0.95
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.06	+1.93
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.18	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.07	+1.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	+0.61	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.07	+1.27
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+1.13	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.78

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

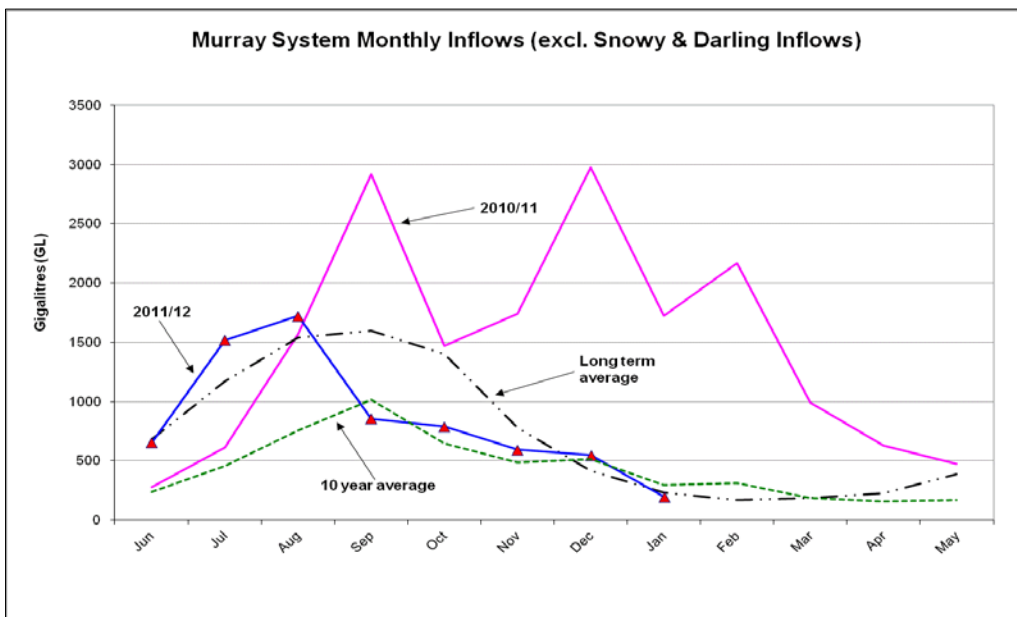
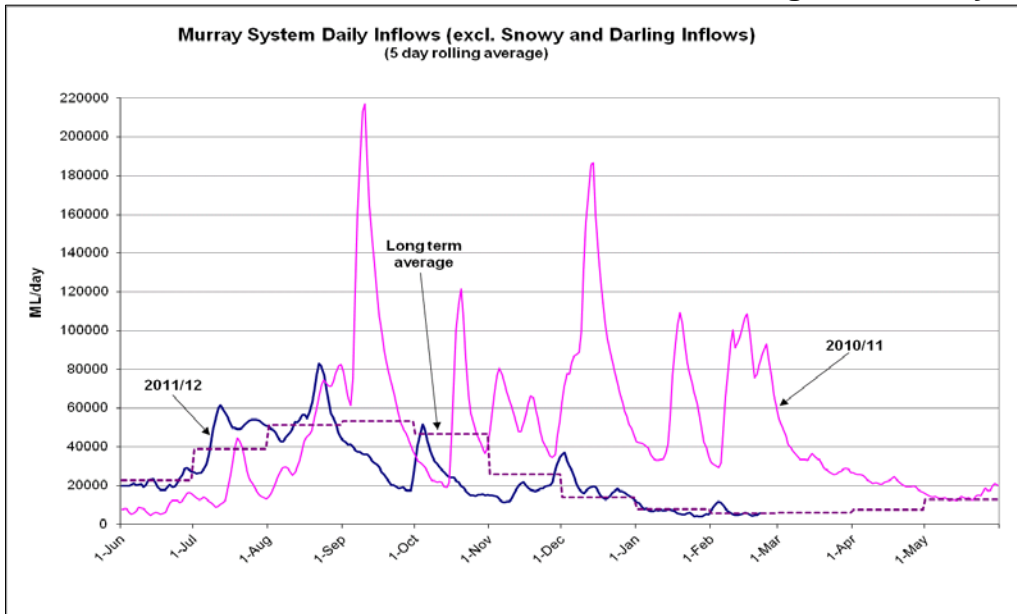
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.68
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	6	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	13	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 22 Feb 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/>