



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2012

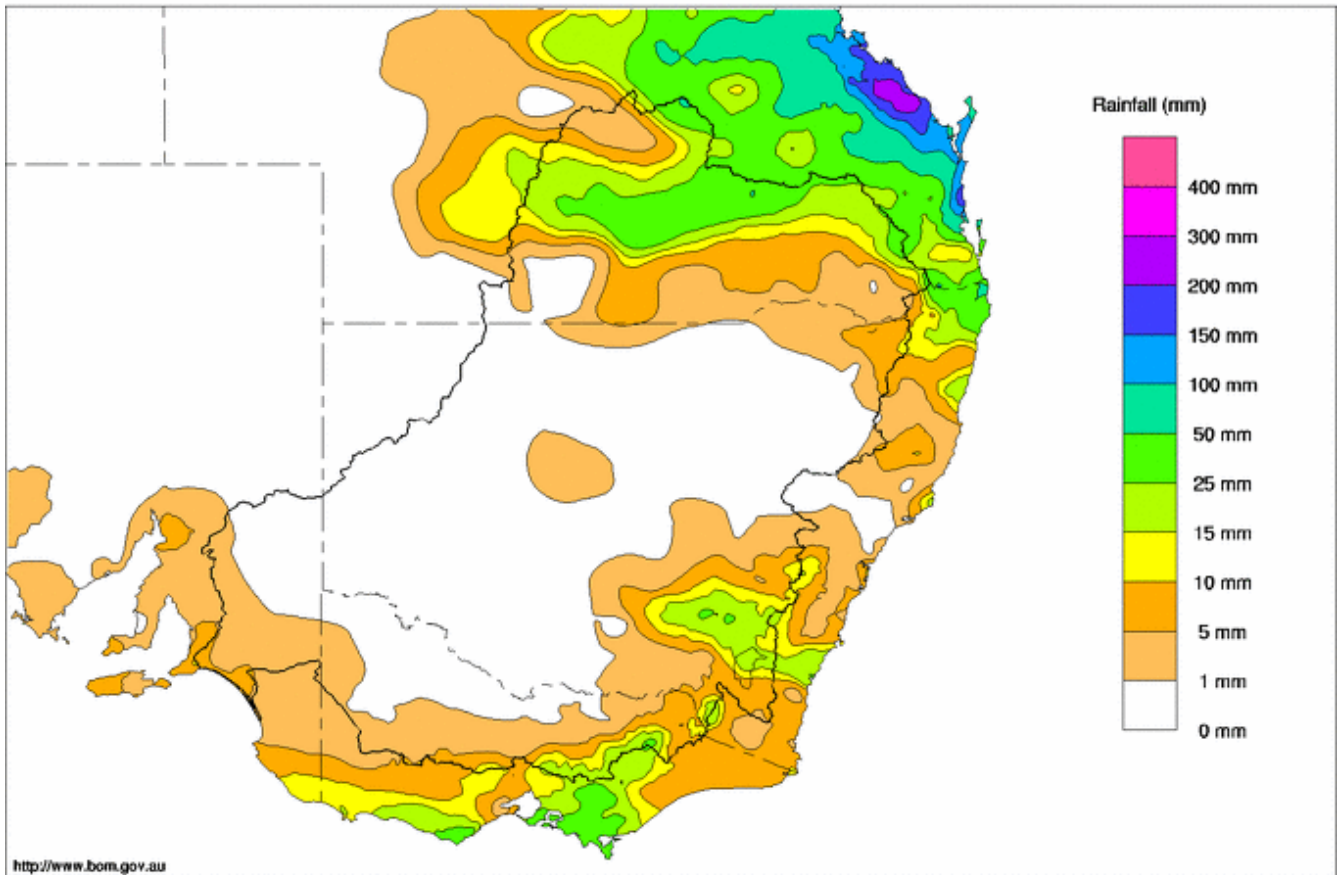
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was a lot less this week than last week and was mostly confined to the far north and far south of the Murray-Darling Basin, with precipitation also falling over parts of south-eastern NSW and the ACT during the last few days (Map 1). Highest totals were recorded in Queensland including 63 mm at Springfield, 62 mm at Wallumbilla 49 mm at Oakey. In the south, highest totals were recorded in the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps including 29 mm at Mt Hotham and 26 mm at Mt Buller, while over the NSW south-west slopes there was 24 mm at Temora and 23 mm at Boorowa.

In the upper Murray tributaries, flows generally receded steadily throughout the week from peaks resulting from the previous week's rain. For example, on the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic decreased from 8,800 ML/day to 5,700 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta declined from 4,800 to 3,200 ML/day, while on the Kiewa River the flow at Bandiana receded from 2,400 ML/day to 2,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 28th March 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 28 March 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 45 GL during the week and is currently 7,136 GL (83% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 13 GL and is now 3,166 GL (82% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, remained at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 6 GL during the week and is now 2,712 GL (90% capacity). The release from Hume increased to around 10,000 ML/day this week and is expected to remain around this rate over the coming week as operations balance late season demands and the transition to pre-release mode of operation. This operation will manage airspace through autumn and winter given the relatively early re-filling of the storage in March.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.69 m AHD. After a week of relatively dry weather, demand at the irrigation offtakes began increasing. The diversion at the Yarrawonga Main Channel reached 1,700 ML/day. The diversion at Mulwala Canal increased to 3,400 ML/day with around 2,200 ML/day being escaped to the Edward and Wakool Rivers to dilute the black water returning to these rivers and help maintain higher dissolved oxygen levels for fish populations. The release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 9,500 ML/day. This flow is being used to help maintain higher dissolved oxygen levels downstream at Barmah where large volumes of low dissolved oxygen water continue to enter the River Murray from Broken Creek. These conditions are expected to persist for another week, after which releases downstream of Yarrawonga are expected to be reduced.

On the Edward-Wakool system, flow at the Edward River Offtake held at around 1,500 ML/day, while the flow to Gulpa Creek offtake fell away to 400 ML/day. Inflow from Edward Escape was around 1,800 ML/day. A total of around 1,400 ML/day is being diverted at the Wakool, Yallakool and Colligen Creek regulators. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 3,100 ML/day. Inflow from the Billabong Creek is currently 4,200 ML/day and rising, while further downstream on the Edward River, the flow at Moulamein peaked at 9,400 ML/day late in the week. On the Wakool River the flow at Gee Gee Bridge is currently 3,400 ML/day and rising as water returning from the Perricoota-Koondrook forest via Barbers Creek supplements the flow. The Wakool River at Kyalite is estimated to be currently flowing at around 14,300 ML/day and rising.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is 8,400 ML/day and expected to remain around 8,000 ML/day for the coming week. The flow in the River Murray at Torrumbarry Weir peaked earlier in the week at around 31,000 ML/day and is currently 25,100 ML/day and falling. The flow at Swan Hill is 20,800 ML/day having remained relatively steady for the last two weeks averaging 21,200 ML/day.

Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River has been slowly creeping up and is currently 9,300 ML/day measured at Balranald, but is forecast to increase to around 35,000 ML/day by the second week of April and may go higher.

At Euston Weir the flow is currently 33,800 ML/day and rising. At this flow rate the difference in the water level upstream and downstream of the weir is small and as such the river is close to free flow conditions. The final stop logs are planned to be removed from the weir in the next few days and as a result of the flood peak, the river will now rise above normal pool level. During this period, the river will remain navigable through the lock chamber as normal. The flow at Euston Weir is forecast to reach close to 50,000 ML/day by mid-April, depending on the timing and magnitude of flood flows from the Murrumbidgee River.

Downstream at Mildura Weir the flow is increasing steadily, and like Euston, forecast to exceed 50,000 ML/day by mid-April. Exact flow rates are difficult to calculate at Mildura under high flow regimes, however upstream gauges are indicating the flow at Mildura is around 31,000 ML/day. Mildura Weir must be fully removed before the flow rate exceeds around 42,000 ML/day. It can take up to one week to remove all the drop bars and trestles from the river, and due to the uncertainty in flow forecasts, the removal of the weir will commence Friday 30 March.



At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased 21 GL to 1,425 GL (82% capacity) during the week. Releases from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) averaged around 33,800 ML/day and the gates at Main Weir remain fully raised. They will be returned to the water when the higher flows arrive from upstream. When this occurs the operational intent is to maintain the release at 35,000 ML/day and capture and store the additional flow in the Lakes. On the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy increased by 450 ML/day this week and is currently 18,000 ML/day. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/)).

At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth, the flow is currently 50,500 ML/day and may increase to around 65,000 ML/day by mid April. The differential level across the weir at Wentworth is now very small and the river here is also close to free flow conditions. The river will now begin to rise above normal pool level as flows continue to increase from upstream. The navigable pass has been removed at Wentworth, but small and low-powered vessels can still use the lock chamber as per normal.

Further downstream, the storage volume at Lake Victoria decreased by 43 GL over the week to 507 GL (75% capacity). The Lake level is being drawn down in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy in order to improve growing conditions for vegetation protecting aboriginal burials and the cultural heritage.

The flow to South Australia is currently 55,600 ML/day and is expected to climb to around 60,000 ML/day by mid to late April. It is possible that the flows may increase above 60,000 ML/day as flow estimates improve. At this stage, the flow to SA is not expected to reach the 93,800 ML/day observed in mid February 2011.

The average level of the Lower Lakes rose by 12 cm to 0.70 m AHD after the barrages were closed earlier in the week to prevent salt water intrusion resulting from higher tides. However increasing inflows and the need to lower the Lake level prior to the peak inflow arriving from upstream have required the barrages be reopened. The release from the Barrages is currently targeting a flow of around 40,000 ML/day.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management





**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 28 Mar 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	474.83	3 166	82%	71	3 095	+13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.50	2 712	90%	23	2 689	+6
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.58	507	75%	100	407	-43
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 425	82%	(480 #)	945	-21
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 810</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 136</b>	<b>-45</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							83% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	945	92%	3	942	-6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 538	94%	24	1 514	-29
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 091	93%	100	2 991	-41

\* 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 27 Mar 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 450	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	310
Snowy-Murray Component	906	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+14	336
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	-14	-26
			Murray 1 Release	+6	709

**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)	7.6	958	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.2	215
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	32	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.9	440
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	82
Licensed Pumps	1.9	161	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	48
Lower Darling	8.5	231	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.3	246
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>1031</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 March due to unregulated flow, Additional Dilution Flow and water trades to SA.

Entitlement this month	186.0 *
Flow this week	353.1
Flow so far this month	849.2
Flow last month	607.2

(50 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	130	150	130
Euston	140	140	130
Red Cliffs	290	180	140
Merbein	130	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	230	230	360
Lock 9	180	170	190
Lake Victoria	240	250	210
Berri	240	270	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	240	270	290
Mannum	290	360	440
Murray Bridge	340	410	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 010	920	540
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	390	400	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 870	4 900	5 270
Goolwa Barrages	1 610	7 120	1 590



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 28 Mar 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	-	-	-	1 780	F	1 590	4 060
Jingellic	4.0	1.87	208.39	5 870	R	6 450	13 220
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.66	218.55	1 080	F	1 180	1 630
Heywoods	5.5	2.55	156.18	9 420	F	7 570	1 290
Doctors Point	5.5	2.71	151.18	11 220	R	9 620	4 860
Albury	4.3	1.66	149.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.61	128.63	10 920	R	7 240	5 780
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.59	116.63	9 600	R	8 750	9 770
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	9 420	R	9 120	11 470
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.26	84.81	25 080	F	28 620	28 410
Swan Hill	4.5	3.49	66.41	20 800	S	21 000	21 370
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.09	56.21	30 180	R	28 500	24 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.83	46.67	33 750	R	30 600	26 230
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.71	30.47	50 500	R	48 190	41 960
Rufus Junction	-	7.13	24.06	55 650	R	50 520	28 600
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.30	-	35 070	R	30 520	22 100
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.92	155.15	1 970	R	2 080	4 070
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.95	146.63	3 160	F	3 750	5 770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.96	96.38	8 440	F	9 890	8 790
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.67	82.44	3 140	S	4 940	10 970
Edward at Liewah	-	5.17	60.55	7 500	R	6 860	4 740
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.95	57.44	7 870	R	6 360	3 400
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.43	61.39	9 310	S	9 260	8 940
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	100	R	130	180
Darling at Bourke	-	10.67	-	43 300	F	54 860	92 090
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.05	-	18 010	R	17 770	17 290

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 110	21 520
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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	-0.21	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.98	+4.78
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.25	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+2.79
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.11	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+2.37
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+1.77	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.24	+3.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.06	+3.07	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+2.45
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.11	+2.60	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+2.46
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.84	+3.31	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	+1.55

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

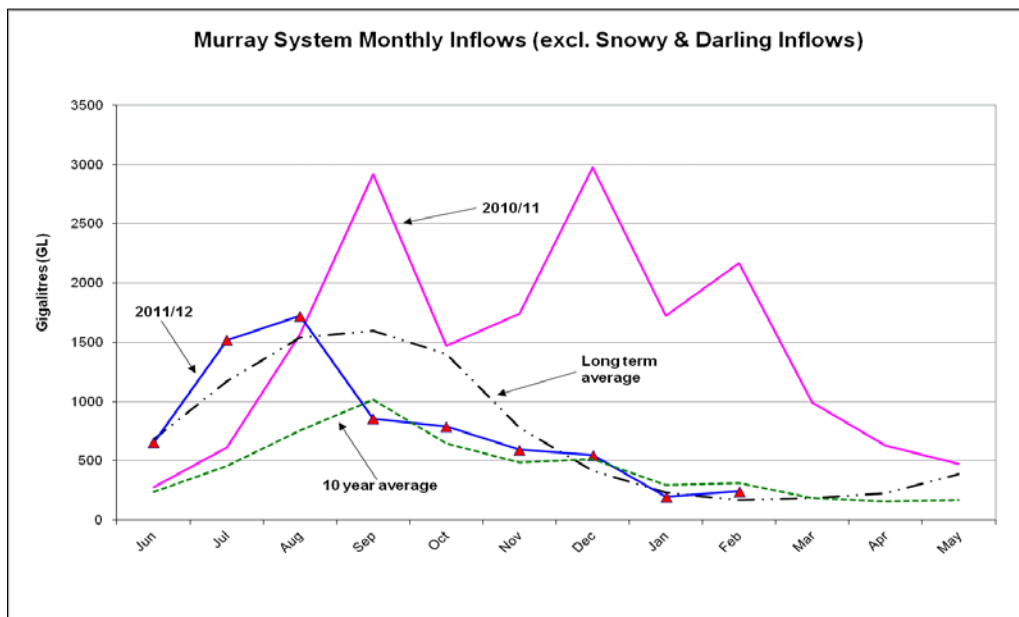
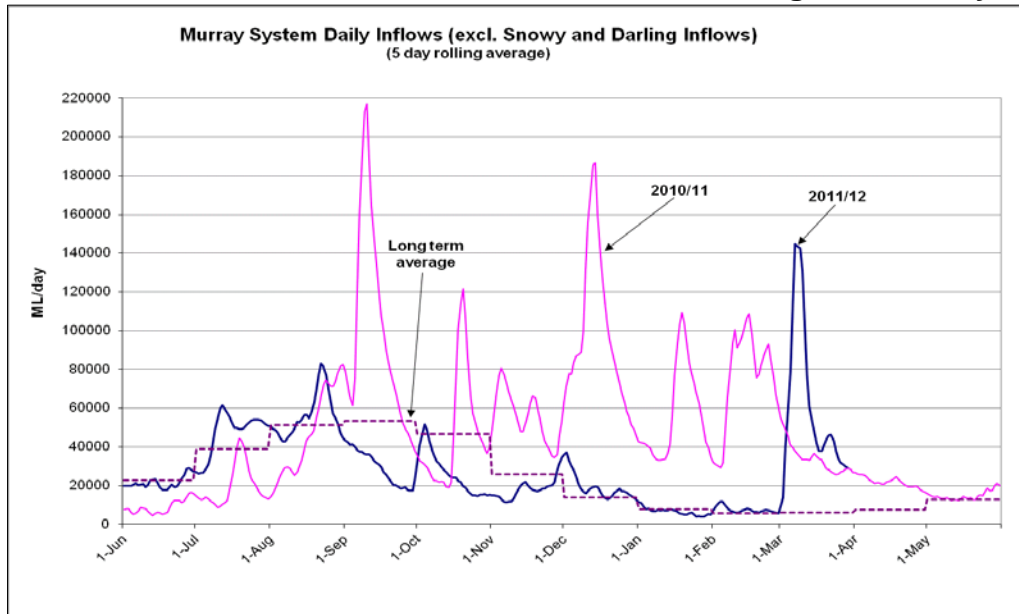
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	52	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	85	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 28 Mar 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/>