



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 4TH APRIL 2012

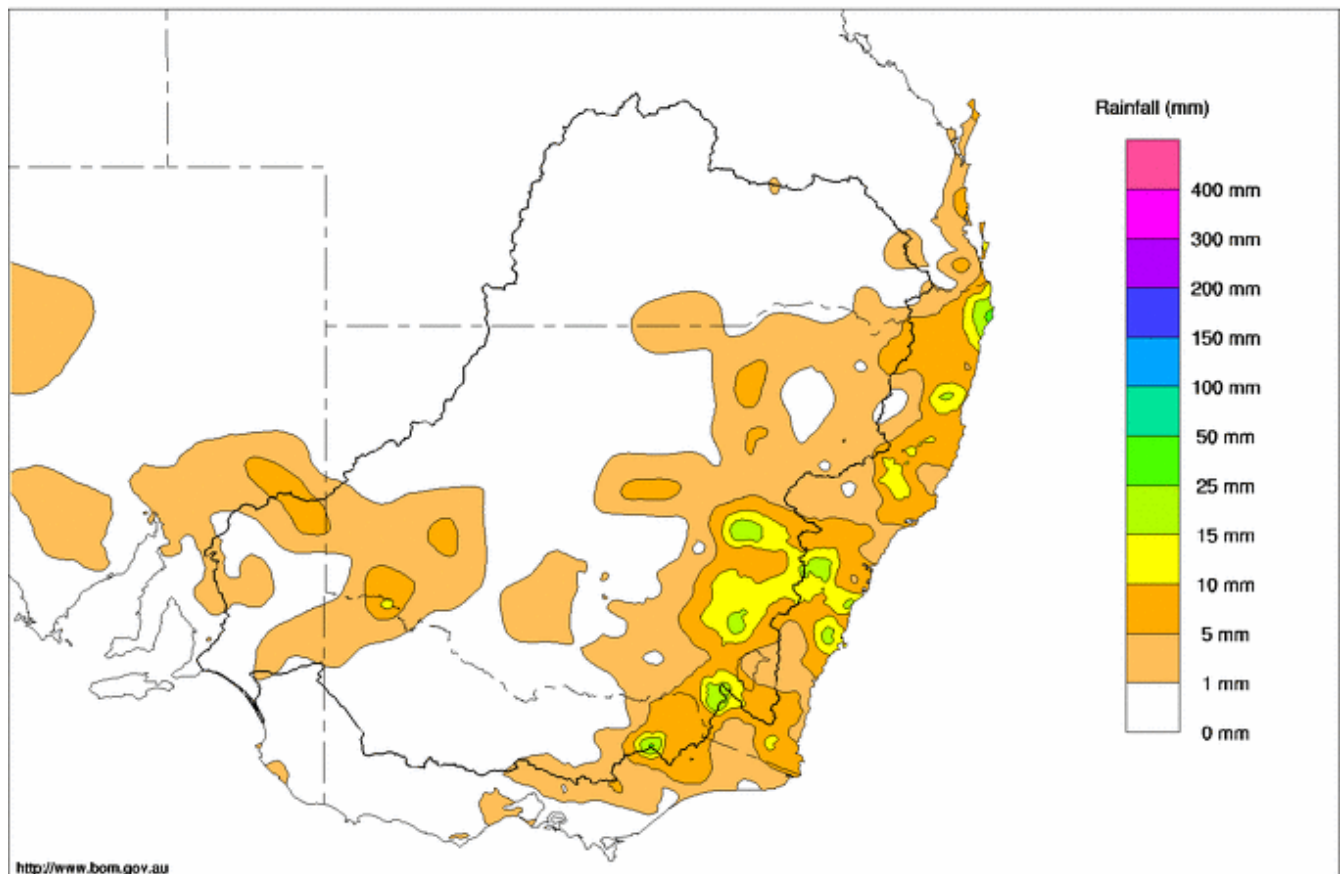
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Rainfall and Inflows

It was quite a dry week across the Murray-Darling Basin this week with only relatively light rainfall confined mostly to eastern and south-eastern areas. Highest totals were reported from the Riverina and central western slopes of NSW and included 51 mm at Culcairn, 35 mm at Cumnock, 23 mm at Cowra and 20 mm at Boorowa. Elsewhere there was 14 mm at Mildura, while in the Victorian high country there was 25 mm at Harrietville and 23 mm at Mt Hotham.

In the upper Murray tributaries, flows continued to gradually recede throughout the week. For example, on the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 1,800 ML/day to 1,500 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta declined from 3,200 to 2,300 ML/day, while on the Kiewa River the flow at Bandiana receded from 2,000 ML/day to 1,300 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 4th April 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 4th April 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

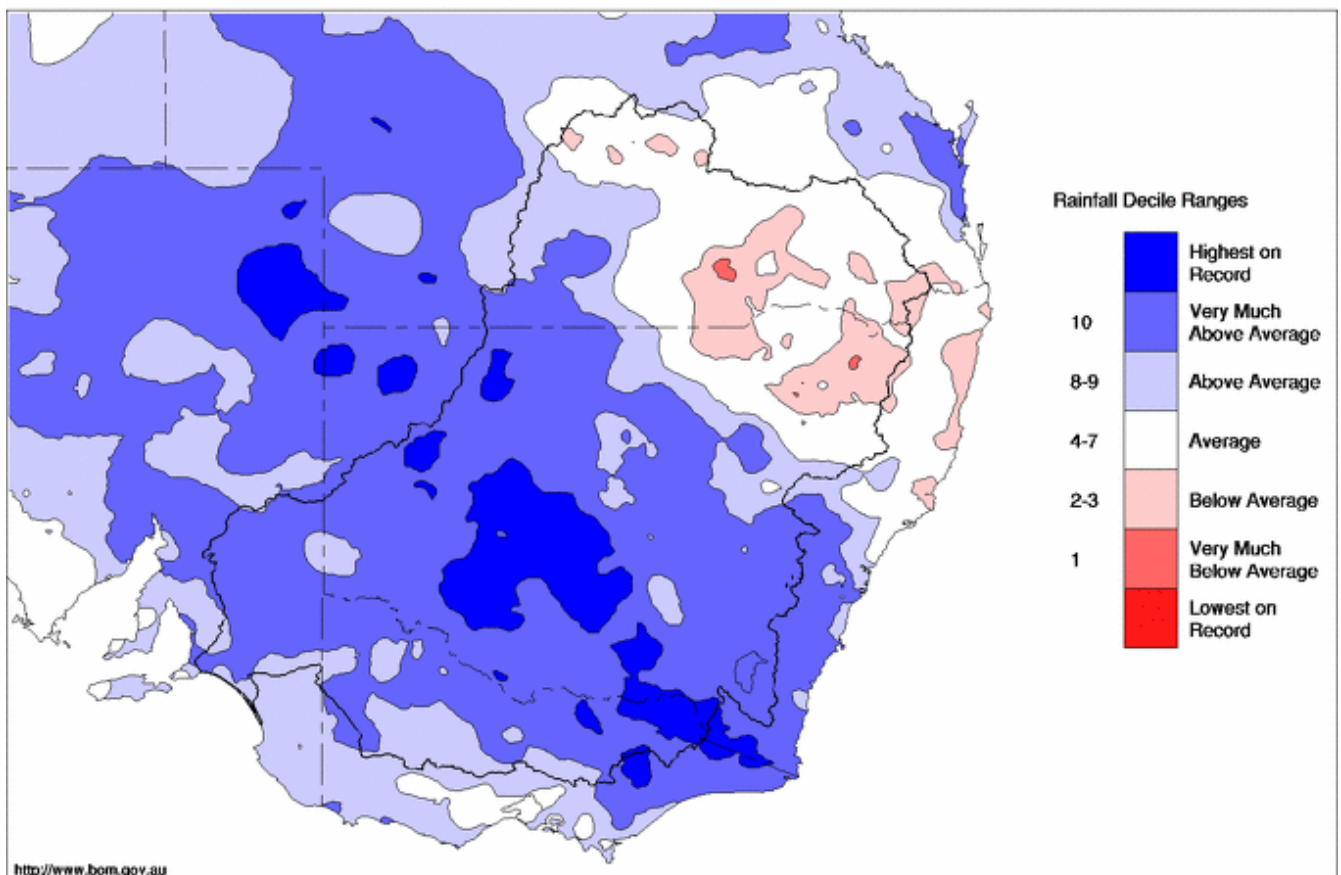


March 2012 Summary

March 2012 was a very wet month across most of Australia. According to the Bureau of Meteorology NSW recorded its 2nd wettest March ever and Victoria its 4th wettest. For the Murray-Darling Basin it was also the 4th wettest March ever recorded, with 92.1 mm averaged across the region and followed generally wet conditions during February. 'Highest on record' March rain was recorded over much of central NSW and around the upper Murray and Murrumbidgee catchments. By contrast, the north-east of the Basin recorded only average or below average rain (Map 2).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 03/04/2012

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for March 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

River Murray system inflows for March were around 2,200 GL. This is the highest value ever recorded for March, breaking the record set only last year of around 1,000 GL. The record inflows were the result of above-average rain during late February leading into an extreme rain event that affected the Basin during the first week of March. Over the course of that very wet week, there were a large number of rainfall records broken with flooding along many rivers including the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, most upper Murray tributaries and in parts of northern Victoria including Broken Creek (Figure 1). According to the Bureau of Meteorology Special Climate Statement 39 [6 March 2012]:

“For the Murray-Darling Basin and the southern part of New South Wales, including northern Victoria, this event was the wettest 7-day period on record for any month. The accumulated rainfall in the Murrumbidgee catchment for the 7-days of 202.6 mm was nearly double the previous highest on record (114.7 mm for 1–7/2/2011 followed by 102.1 mm for 7–13/4/1974). In this context the event is one of the most extreme multi-day rainfall events in southeast Australia’s history.”



The cloud and rain also meant that the month was also a cool one for most of eastern Australia, with NSW recording its 4th lowest mean maximum temperature for the month of March at 2 degrees C below the long-term average.



Figure 1 - Flooding along Majors Creek near Yarrawonga Weir 29 February 2012. Heavy rain during late February and early March resulted in record River Murray system inflows for the month of March. Photo: Peter Klowss, Goulburn-Murray Water.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 65 GL during the week and is currently 7,071 GL (82% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 12 GL and is now 3,178 GL (82% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, remained at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage decreased by 22 GL during the week and is now 2,690 GL (90% capacity). The release strategy at Hume continues to balance late season demands and the transition to pre-release mode of operation. The release is currently targeting a flow of 12,500 ML/day at Doctors Point, which is downstream of the Kiewa River confluence. The target of between 10,000 and 12,500 ML/day is expected to be maintained over the coming days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.78 m AHD. Diversions through the Yarrawonga Main Channel and the Mulwala Canal increased and are currently around 6,600 ML/day, slightly more than a week ago. Around 2,200 ML/day of the Mulwala Canal diversion continues to be escaped to the Edward and Wakool Rivers to dilute low oxygen water returning to these rivers from forests and floodplains downstream. The release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 8,300 ML/day, and is expected to be reduced slightly over the coming days.

Downstream at the Edward River and Gulpa Creek Offtakes, diversion into the Edward River eased slightly over the week, with around 1,500 ML/day flowing through the Edward, and 300 ML/day



through the Gulpa Creek Offtake. Downstream at the escapes, water continues to be added via the Mulwala Canal; while through the regulators, around 1,400 ML/day is being diverted to the Wakool River and the Yallakool and Colligen Creeks. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir has receded from 3,200 to 2,000 ML/day. On the Billabong Creek, the flow at Darlot has continued rising and is currently 5,300 ML/day, while further downstream on the Edward River, the flow at Moulamein is now 8,500 ML/day and has receded only slowly. On the lower Wakool River the flow at Kyalite continues to increase and is estimated to be flowing at almost 18,000 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, Goulburn-Murray Water advises that diversion at Goulburn Weir has increased to around 4,000 ML/day. This has resulted in a reduced flow to the lower Goulburn River where the flow at McCoys Bridge has decreased from 8,400 to 4,400 ML/day. The flow is expected to decrease only slightly more and should remain above 3,000 ML/day over the coming week.

At Torrumbarry Weir the flow has receded throughout the week, reducing from 25,100 to 15,200 ML/day. A further reduction is expected during the next few days. At Swan Hill, the flow is now 19,700 ML/day, which is only a slight drop from last week, however a faster recession is expected here in the coming week.

Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River has only increased very slightly and is now at around 9,400 ML/day at Balranald. The expected flood peak remains upstream of Balranald and moving quite slowly towards the River Murray, and the Bureau of Meteorology has now lowered its forecast peak to 6.8 m on 12 April with minor to moderate flooding. For information regarding flood warnings please refer to the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

At Euston, the flow increased from 33,800 to 36,000 ML/day. The rate and magnitude of further rises here is mainly dependent on flood inflow from the Murrumbidgee, which is currently expected to increase the Euston flow towards 45,000 ML/day by mid April. Downstream at Mildura, the weir has been partially lowered in anticipation of high flows resulting from the Murrumbidgee. The final steps in removing the weir have now been delayed until after Easter due to lower and later forecast flood inflows arriving from the Murrumbidgee. For further information on Mildura weir operations please see the attached media release.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume has decreased by 12 GL to 1,413 GL (82%). Release from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) is currently 34,500 ML/day and the gates on the Main Weir are now back in the water to hold the release steady and commence re-filling the lakes as the main Darling River flood peak arrives. Downstream on the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy continues to rise and is now at 18,600 ML/day, with further rises expected 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).

At Wentworth, the flow has increased from 50,600 to 56,600 ML/day with higher flows arriving from both the Murray and Darling Rivers. The river remains free flowing through the weir and should remain as such for several weeks.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased by 43 GL and is currently 464 GL (69% capacity). The flow to South Australia has averaged around 59,000 ML/day over the past week and is expected to remain at close to 60,000 ML/day over the coming week.

The average level of the Lower Lakes decreased by 5 cm to 0.65 m AHD with extra gates opened during the week to release higher inflows. Further increases to inflows combined with high tides and water levels in the Coorong may result in the Lower Lakes increasing to above 0.75 m AHD in the coming weeks.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 04 Apr 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	475.04	3 178	82%	71	3 107	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.38	2 690	90%	23	2 667	-22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.16	464	69%	100	364	-43
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 413	82%	(480 #)	933	-12
Total		9 269		7 745	84%	--	7 071	-65
Total Active MDBA Storage							82% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	944	92%	3	941	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 549	95%	24	1 525	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 046	91%	100	2 946	-43

* 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 03 Apr 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 484	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	310
Snowy-Murray Component	900	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+8	344
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	-8	- 34
			Murray 1 Release	+8	716

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)	16.5	975	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.5	226
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.3	458
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	83
Licensed Pumps	2.8	164	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	48
Lower Darling	8.5	240	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.3	249
TOTAL	28.3	1425	TOTAL	35.1	1064

* 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 April due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	413.7	(59 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	238.6	
Flow last month	1,024.8	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	120	130
Euston	140	140	130
Red Cliffs	640	500	150
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	250	240	360
Lock 9	190	180	190
Lake Victoria	240	240	220
Berri	280	260	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	290	250	290
Mannum	240	260	430
Murray Bridge	290	310	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	750	770	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	340	380	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 890	4 850	5 260
Goolwa Barrages	600	670	1 570



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 04 Apr 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	-	-	-	1 860	F	1 370	1 550
Jingellic	4.0	1.74	208.26	4 710	R	5 110	6 450
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.61	218.50	890	F	1 000	1 180
Heywoods	5.5	2.69	156.32	11 000	R	10 580	7 570
Doctors Point	5.5	2.79	151.26	12 300	R	12 050	9 620
Albury	4.3	1.74	149.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.66	128.68	11 150	F	11 110	7 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.43	116.47	8 320	F	9 050	8 750
Tocumwal	6.4	2.18	106.02	8 890	F	9 370	9 120
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.51	83.06	15 230	F	19 510	28 620
Swan Hill	4.5	3.33	66.25	19 660	F	20 350	21 000
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.51	56.63	33 750	S	32 630	28 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.08	46.92	36 460	R	35 490	30 600
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	32.90	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.02	30.78	56 600	S	54 830	48 190
Rufus Junction	-	7.21	24.14	58 120	F	58 910	50 520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.67	-	-	-	-	30 520
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.49	154.72	1 250	R	1 590	2 080
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.65	146.33	2 300	F	2 700	3 750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.15	94.57	3 920	F	5 780	9 890
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.99	81.76	1 970	F	2 270	4 940
Edward at Liewah	-	5.20	60.58	7 630	F	7 750	6 860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.45	57.94	10 080	S	9 590	6 360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.45	61.41	9 400	S	9 350	9 260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	160	R	130	130
Darling at Bourke	-	7.53	-	20 930	F	28 750	54 860
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.17	-	18 580	S	18 330	17 770

Natural Inflow to Hume	9 840	11 510
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-31.10	+4.91
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.17	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	-25.30
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.10	+2.72
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.96	+2.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.47	+3.76
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+3.38	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+3.03
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.04	+2.70	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.38	+3.01
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.96	+3.44	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+1.92

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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Barrages

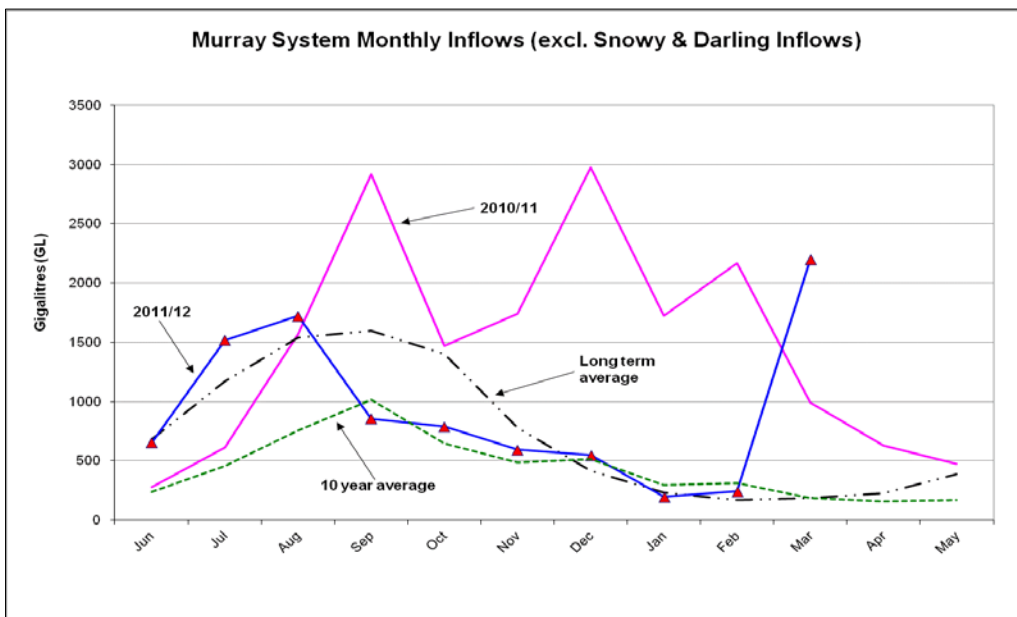
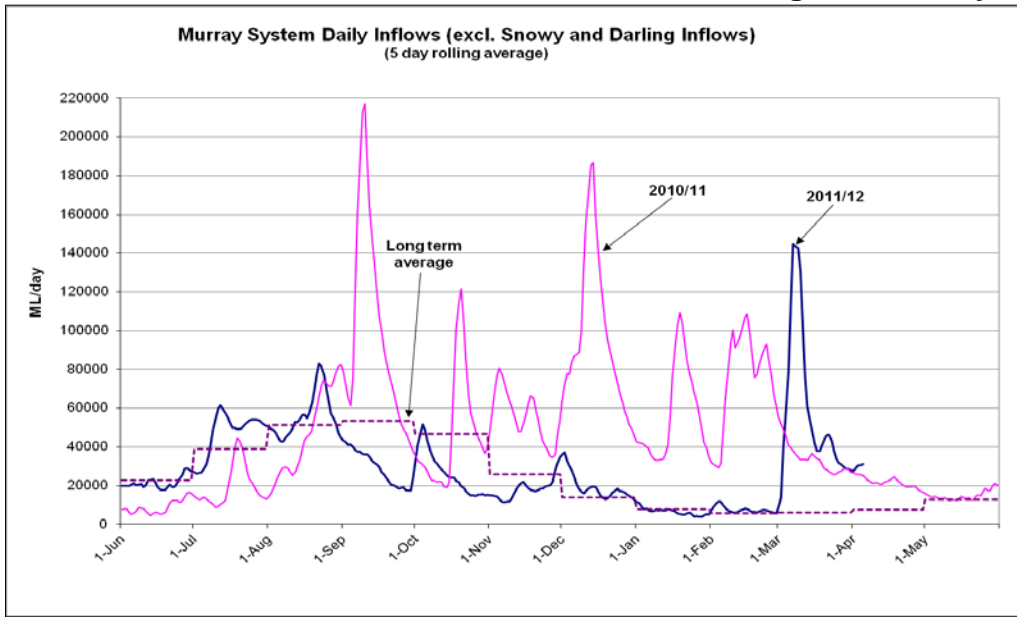
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.59	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	52	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.68	85	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 04 Apr 2012



State Allocations (as at 04 Apr 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/>

MEDIA RELEASE



3 April 2012

Final steps in Mildura Weir removal delayed until after Easter

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water advised today that the final steps in removing the Mildura Weir have been delayed until 10 April 2012.

The decision has been made based on the latest River Murray flows and community consultation.

This means that the Mildura river level will now be around 0.5 m higher, and less than 1 m below the normal pool level over the Easter Period, which will improve water access on local boat ramps.

From 4 April 2012, navigation along the river will be possible for boats using the normal lock process.

The latest peak forecasts for the River Murray indicate a lower-than-expected peak flow that will arrive later than previously estimated.

This allows sufficient time to complete the final stages of removing the weir at a safe river level starting on 10 April 2012.

The weir pool has already been partially lowered and the level has dropped by 95cm.

A final decision on whether to fully remove the structure will take place over Easter.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.



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