



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2012

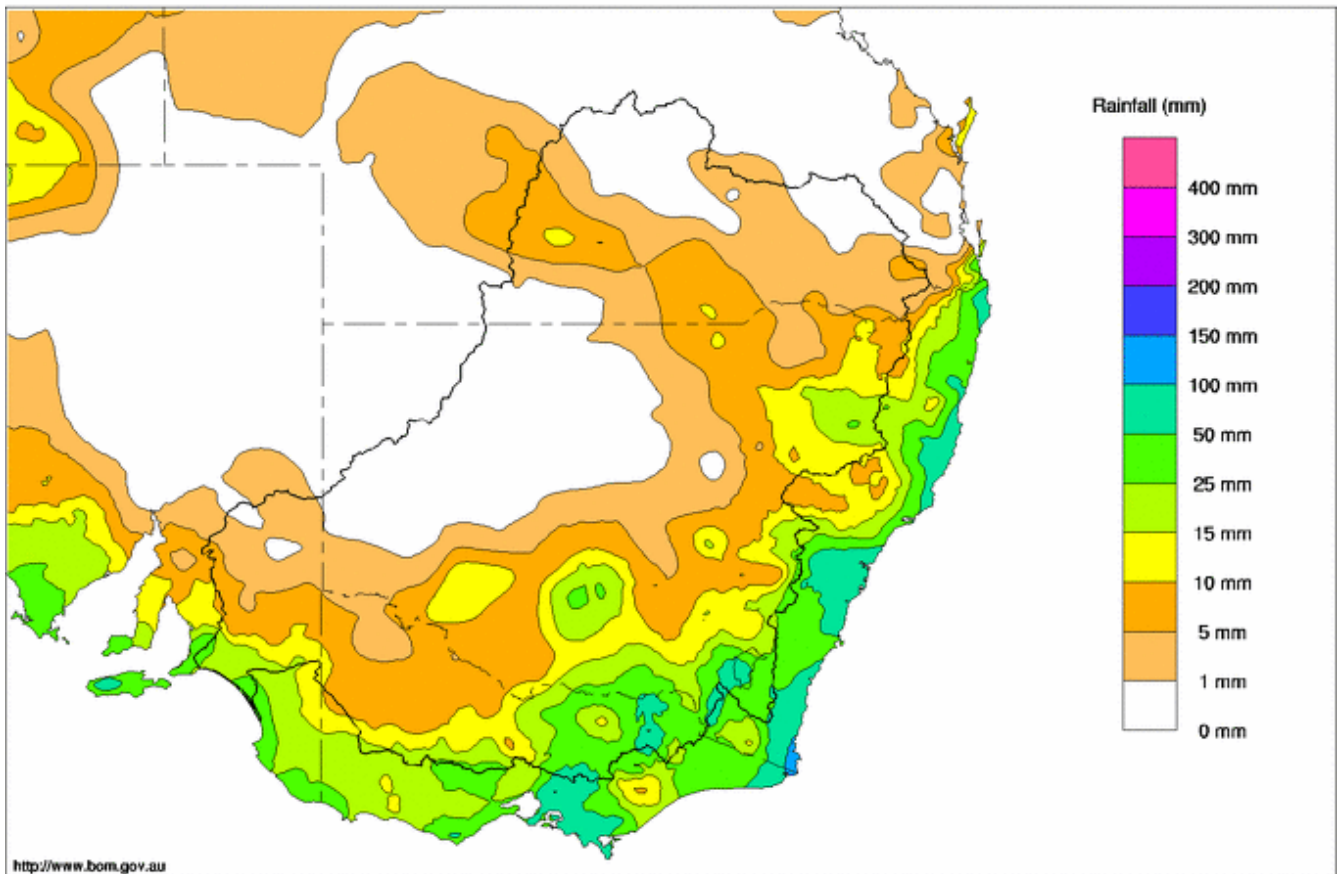
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Rainfall and Inflows

A trough along Australia's east coast and persistent humid easterly winds brought further rain and storms to the coast and ranges, but there was a generally diminishing trend in rain totals westward of the Great Divide. Late in the week a strong cold front and low pressure system affected the south-east bringing cold air and heavy showers to southern Victoria and South Australia, although once again it was mostly only light precipitation that penetrated further inland beyond the ranges. This meant that overall there were moderate rainfall totals recorded over some upper catchments of the Murray-Darling Basin; while conditions tended to be drier across the bulk of areas to the north and west (Map 1).

Highest rain totals this week fell in north-east Victoria and south-east NSW, with snow reported over the Alpine areas. In Victoria there was 73 mm at Falls Creek, 71 mm at Mt Hotham and 55 mm at Harrietville. NSW totals included 78 mm at Mt Ginini, 57 mm at Hume Dam and 44 mm at Tuggeranong. There were also some good totals across South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges including 51 mm at Bridgewater; and at the Lower Lakes with 26 mm recorded at Meningie.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th April 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 25 April 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



The moderate rainfall across the south-east ranges resulted in some small stream flow rises during the week. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie increased from 500 to 800 ML/day and is now flowing at 600 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from around 1,200 to a peak of 1,600 ML/day; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from 1,100 to 1,400 ML/day before receding slightly. Further downstream, high inflows to the mid-Murray from the Murrumbidgee River continue. The flow at Balranald reached a flow of just under 30,000 ML/day during the week and is now holding steady at what appears to be a broad peak. These high inflows are expected to be on-going over the coming weeks.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 200 GL during the week and is currently 7,280 GL (85% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 7 GL and is now 3,196 GL (83% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, remained at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 1 GL during the week and is now 2,618 GL (87% capacity). The release from Hume was progressively cut back for most of the week as downstream demands fell away. The release has been increased slightly over the last few days to a target at Doctors Point of 7,000 ML/day as tributary inflow began to recede again, and may be increased a little further in the coming days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.78 m AHD. It is expected to decrease towards a target level of 124.70 m AHD over the coming days. Diversion from Lake Mulwala has decreased from around 4,600 to 3,500 ML/day at the Mulwala Canal and from around 1,300 to 200 ML/day into the Yarrawonga Main Channel. These decreases are normal at this time of the year when approaching the end of the irrigation season. The release from Yarrawonga Weir remains at 7,500 ML/day, with additional in-channel dilution flow being maintained using Commonwealth environmental water to assist in managing low oxygen water currently flowing in from some tributaries further downstream on the River Murray system.

On the Edward-Wakool system, diversion into the Edward River has remained fairly steady with around 1,500 ML/day flowing through the Edward River Offtake, 350 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek Offtake and 2,100 ML/day through the Edward Escape. At Stevens Weir, the release has remained fairly steady, averaging just under 2,500 ML/day during the week. On the Billabong Creek, there is still a high flow at Darlot, but it has now dropped to around 2,200 ML/day and should continue to fall away over the coming weeks. Further downstream, all gauges from Moulamein to Kyalite are on a slow but steady recession, as the high inflows following the early March floods move through the system and back into the Murray. The current flow at Kyalite is estimated to be around 11,000 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge increased from 3,900 to 4,400 ML/day. Goulburn-Murray Water advises that a flow above 6,000 ML/day is likely over the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to the National Channel has now been cut back from 2,700 to 2,100 ML/day, and this in combination with higher inflows through Rices Weir and the Goulburn River has caused the downstream flow to rise back to 10,000 ML/day. The flow should increase slightly more in the coming days.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently steady near its peak of 6.79 m with a flow of just under 30,000 ML/day causing minor flooding. For information regarding flood warnings please refer to the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

Downstream at Euston, the flow continued to rise slowly during the week as Murrumbidgee flood waters flowed into the Murray. The flow is now at around 37,000 ML/day, which is similar to the peak flow observed earlier in April. The river here is still rising, but at this stage, is only expected to increase slightly more over the coming week.

On the Darling River, high inflows to the Menindee Lakes are continuing, averaging almost 60,000 ML/day over the past seven days. The lakes have continued to rise during this period and are now back in surcharge and storing 1,765 GL (102%), which is an increase of 227 GL since last week.



Release from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) has been reduced from 30,500 to 23,500 ML/day, and the release will be reduced further over the coming weeks as inflows start to drop away.

Downstream at Burtundy the flow crept slightly higher, and is now flowing at 19,700 ML/day. On the Great Darling Anabranch, the channel remains fully connected from Menindee Lakes to the Murray with floodwater that has progressed down from the upper Darling catchments now moving towards the lower reaches of this system. Historically, flow events through the Great Darling Anabranch are very slow and considerably attenuated. Inflows to the River Murray from the current event are expected to finally arrive during late autumn and then continue into the winter period. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au) with details available at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Flood-management/>.

At Wentworth, the flow eased for much of the week, decreasing to 53,000 ML/day before renewed rises began as higher flows arrived from upstream. The current flow is 54,600 ML/day and the upstream pool has risen again to be 8 cm above the normal level. Flows should rise further here during the coming week. At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased by 35 GL and is currently 375 GL (55% capacity), and the flow to South Australia has averaged 57,900 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, the operational focus has shifted in recent weeks to pass the unseasonal high inflows resulting from upstream flood waters caused by heavy rain in early March. The Barrages are being managed to balance the need to pass the flow while also protecting the Lower Lakes from periodic reverse flow of sea water due to high tides, strong winds and high water levels in the Coorong. Barrage gates at Goolwa and Mundoo were closed during the week to limit saline incursions from reverse flows resulting from several days of high tides combined with strong south-west winds. With the flow past Lock 1 now in excess of 50,000 ML/day, average lake levels rose accordingly, increasing by 5 cm to 0.71 m AHD (4 cm below FSL). It is expected that conditions will enable these Barrage gates to be re-opened over the coming days.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 Apr 2012

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)	
	(m AHD)			(GL)	(GL)				%
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	475.35	3 196	83%	71	3 125	+7	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	189.99	2 618	87%	23	2 595	+1	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.33	375	55%	100	275	-35	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 765	102%	(480 #)	1 285	+227	
Total		9 269		7 954	86%	- -	7 280	+200	
Total Active MDBA Storage							85% ^		

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	971	95%	3	968	+22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 554	95%	24	1 530	+28
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 879	86%	100	2 779	-50

* 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 24 Apr 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	n/a	n/a	Snowy-Murray	n/a	n/a
Snowy-Murray Component	n/a	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	n/a	n/a
Target Storage	n/a		Net Diversion	n/a	n/a
			Murray 1 Release	n/a	n/a

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)	11.7	1023	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-1	196
Wakool Sys Allowance	-2.1	23	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14	508
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	21	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	87
Licensed Pumps	4.2	178	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	52
Lower Darling	7.1	265	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.3	259
TOTAL	21.2	1510	TOTAL	18.8	1102

* 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	405.0	(57 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,473.5	
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	150	140	130
Euston	190	190	130
Red Cliffs	180	170	160
Merbein	160	160	140
Burtundy (Darling)	290	280	350
Lock 9	210	200	190
Lake Victoria	300	260	220
Berri	240	230	250
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	260	260	280
Mannum	220	250	420
Murray Bridge	310	330	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	680	710	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	300	310	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 680	4 710	5 030
Goolwa Barrages	2 700	1 140	1 510



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 25 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	-	-	-	2 090	F	2 030	1 810
Jingellic	4.0	1.82	208.34	5 360	R	4 810	3 750
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.58	218.47	850	S	820	750
Heywoods	5.5	2.09	155.72	4 950	R	6 900	10 170
Doctors Point	5.5	2.34	150.81	7 270	R	8 150	11 270
Albury	4.3	1.32	148.76	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.80	127.82	6 610	F	9 390	10 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.34	116.38	7 590	S	7 560	7 320
Tocumwal	6.4	1.98	105.82	7 680	S	7 680	7 520
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	81.57	9 730	R	8 750	9 150
Swan Hill	4.5	1.57	64.49	7 260	R	7 280	8 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.65	54.77	20 590	F	21 080	24 030
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.86	46.70	36 910	R	34 910	33 600
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.92	30.68	54 600	R	53 770	57 260
Rufus Junction	-	7.15	24.08	56 260	F	57 770	59 320
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.24	-	51 910	R	50 190	48 300
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.99	155.22	2 090	R	1 220	1 170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.46	146.14	1 780	F	1 620	1 670
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.38	94.80	4 380	F	4 330	3 630
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.29	82.06	2 450	F	2 500	2 420
Edward at Liewah	-	5.00	60.38	6 970	F	7 520	7 820
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.68	56.17	3 380	F	3 930	5 550
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.79	62.75	29 830	S	28 410	20 120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	80	F	140	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.95	-	7 340	F	8 570	10 390
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.37	-	19 720	S	19 610	19 260

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 560	5 550
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-31.10	+4.85
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.13	+3.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.17	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+2.81
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+1.93	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.69	+4.02
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+3.28	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.14	+3.50
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+2.79	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.88	+3.57
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.05	+3.52	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-12.20	+2.49

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.71
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Barrages

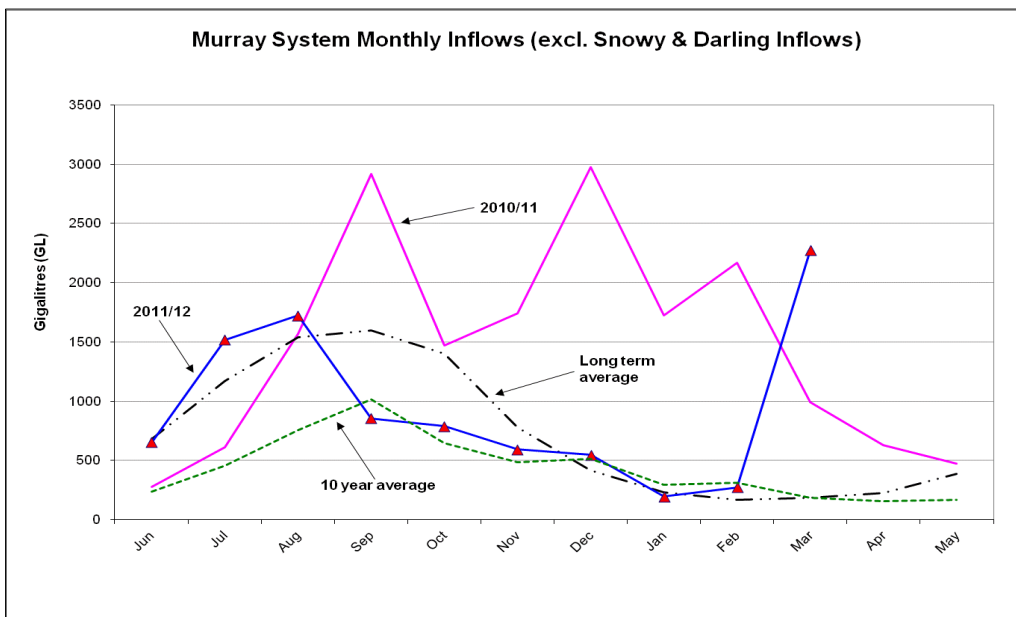
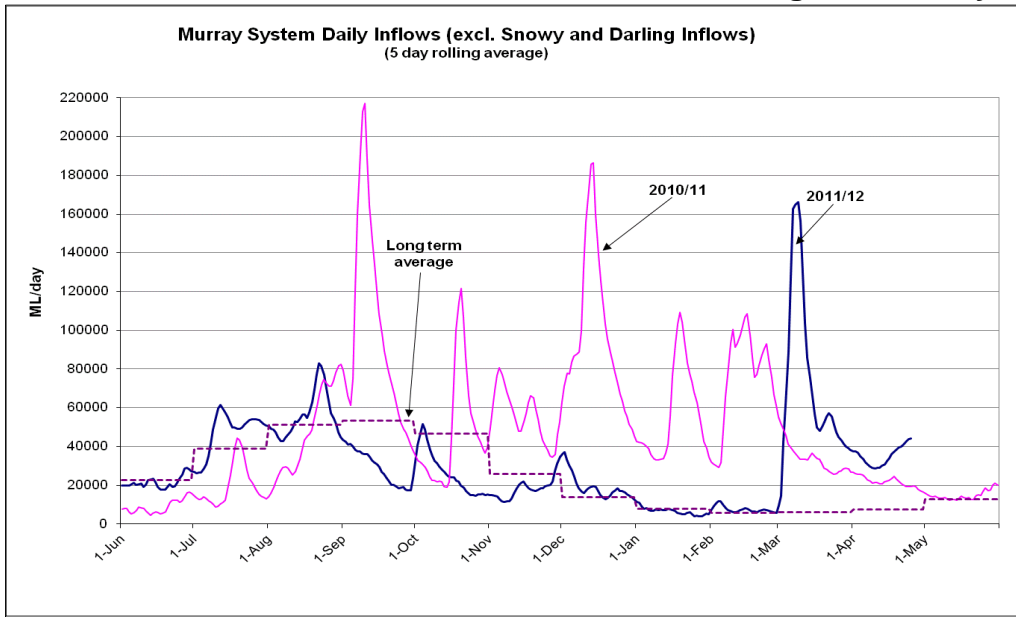
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.75	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	52	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	85	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 25 Apr 2012



State Allocations (as at 25 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/>