



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2012

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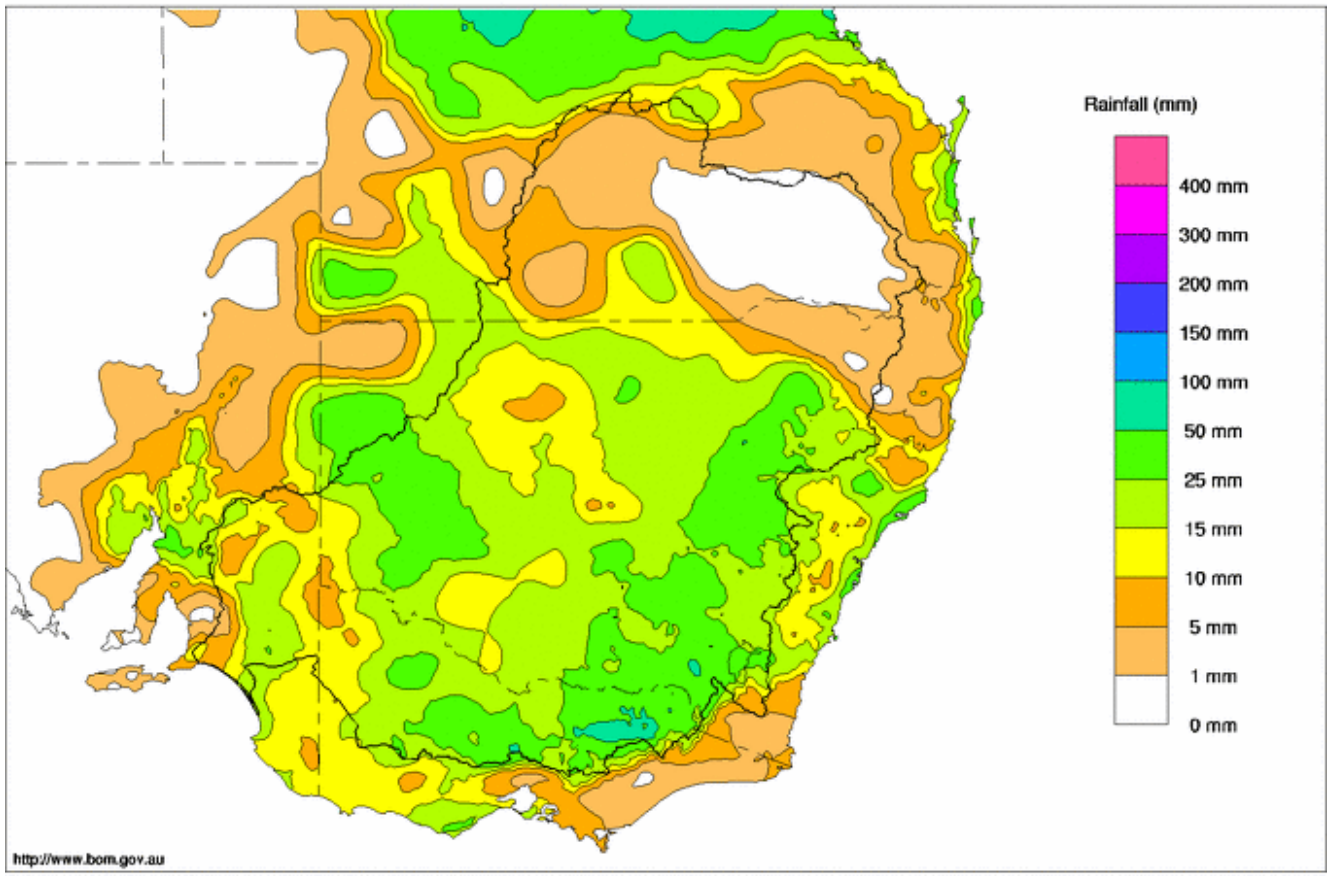
## Rainfall and Inflows

There were fine, dry days and cold clear nights over the Murray-Darling Basin for much of the week until a slow moving trough brought cloud and renewed rainfall over the last few days. The system delivered widespread rain across the southern two thirds of the Basin (Map 1). Highest totals were recorded in the south-east ranges, although there were also good falls further inland including the Riverina and much of western NSW. In north-east Victoria there was 86 mm at Whitlands, 76 mm at Lake William-Hovell, 71 mm at Moroka Park and 67 mm at Cheshunt. Totals in NSW included 39 mm at Gundagai and Mt Ginini and 36 mm at Burrinjuck Dam, Tumbarumba, Gilgandra and Wellington. Out west, there was 33 mm at Menindee and on the NSW-Queensland border there was 49 mm at Hungerford. The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast further rain for the region in the days ahead.

There has been a good stream flow response across the upper Murray tributaries with inflows now on the rise. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic has increased to 14,700 ML/day and is expected to continue rising towards 20,000 ML/day in the next day or two. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from 3,500 to 8,300 ML/day with further rises expected, while downstream at Wangaratta, the flow has increased to over 5,000 ML/day but could exceed 20,000 ML/day in the days ahead. There was also a good response in the Kiewa River following heavy rain in the lower catchment. The flow at Bandiana increased from 1,700 to 4,800 ML/day with minor flooding.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 11th July 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 11 July 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 61 GL during the week to 8,046 GL (94% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 17 GL to 3,382 GL, which is 88% capacity. Information on State shares within each storage can be found linked from the MDBA water accounting page at: <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>, which is updated around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 27 GL to 2,910 GL (97% capacity) and with inflows now rising, the release has been increased to match inflows. With Hume Reservoir effectively full, inflows to the storage over the coming week will be passed downstream in order to maintain airspace (currently 94 GL) to assist in managing larger inflow events should they occur. It is likely that these spills from Hume will result in overbank flows in excess of 25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point over the coming week.

Downstream at Yarrawonga, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.69 m AHD. Diversions through Mulwala Canal have commenced during the week for channel filling ahead of the up-coming irrigation season. The current diversion rate is 500 ML/day with rates up to 1,500 ML/day expected this week. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has remained quite steady at around 20,000 ML/day during the week, however higher inflows are in transit upstream, meaning a steady increase in releases will take place in the days ahead. At this stage, the release is expected to rise well above 30,000 ML/day in the next 4-6 days.

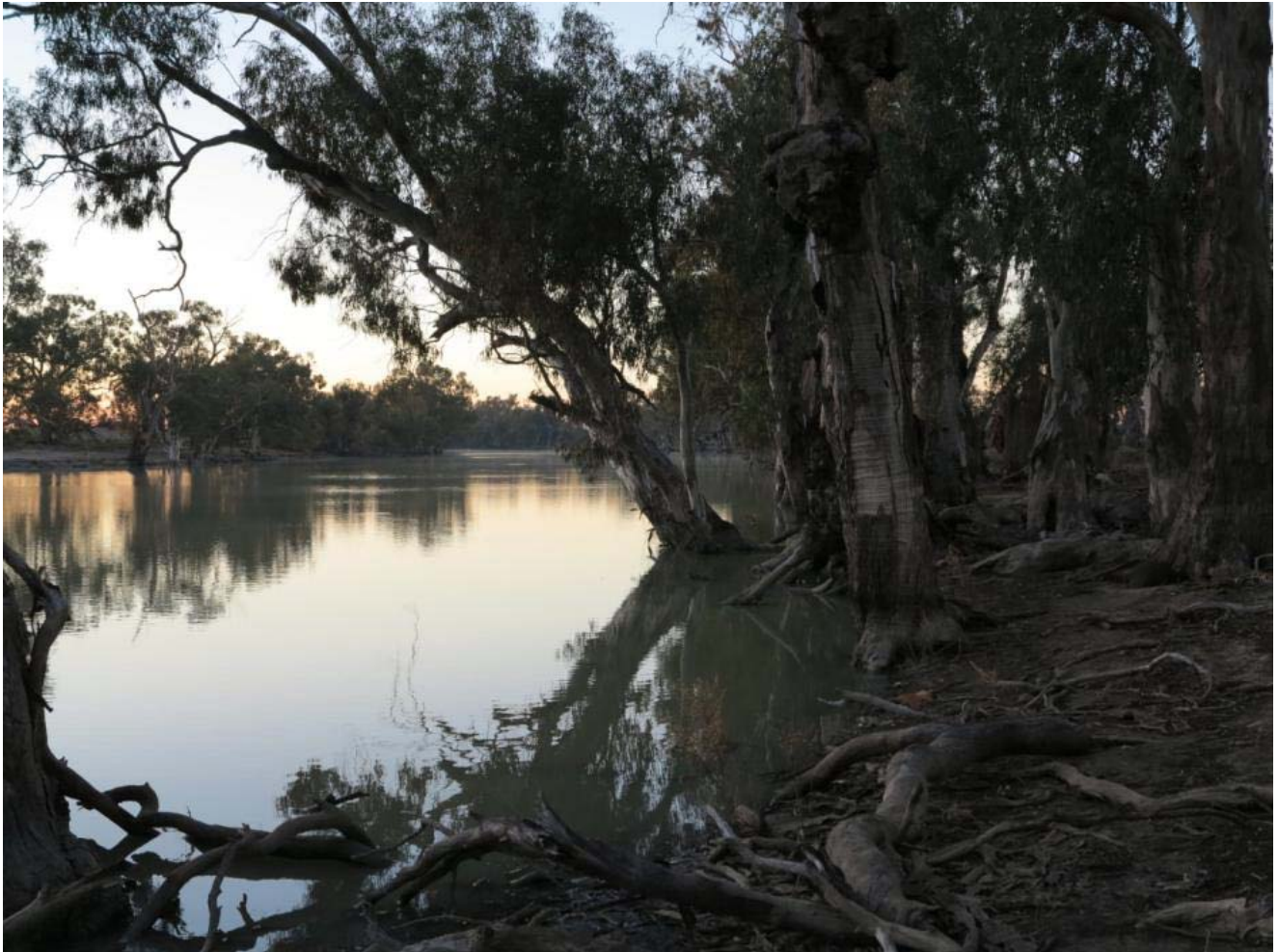
On the Edward-Wakool system, diversion through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has increased slightly to around 2,400 ML/day. Downstream at Toonalook the flow has increased to 6,200 ML/day and is expected to remain fairly steady in the days ahead, however flows will rise again once the higher releases expected through Yarrawonga Weir make their way through the Millewa forest in the next few weeks. At Stevens Weir, the pool level has increased by a further 24 cm to 4.66 m on the local gauge. This is still around 0.5 m below the full supply level. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been held steady at about 4,300 ML/day and high flows are now being diverted through the Wakool River, Yallakool Creek and Colligen Creek offtakes. Downstream on the Edward River higher flows have arrived at Moulamein with an increase from 600 to 2,500 ML/day during the week. Further downstream flows are also increasing at Liewah, while on the Niemur River, fresh rises have started with a steady increase in flows expected to continue for at least the next week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys has increased from 10,800 to 14,300 ML/day. Goulburn-Murray Water advises that the flow is expected to increase to around 16,000 ML/day in the next week, however with further rain forecast, the flow could continue rising beyond this level. At Torrumbarry Weir the pool has been raised again following a temporary lowering during the week. This operation was undertaken to buffer increasing flows to assist downstream works. The pool level is now at 86.04 m AHD (1cm below Full Supply Level). The flow downstream of Torrumbarry is 22,300 ML/day and is expected to rise steadily beyond 25,000 ML/day over the coming week. Flows above 30,000 ML/day may occur if Goulburn River inflows continue to increase with further rain.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has continued rising slowly and is now at 9,900 ML/day. Sustained high flows along the lower Murrumbidgee are expected for at least the next few weeks. At Euston Weir, the flow has increased to 24,900 ML/day and is expected to exceed 30,000 ML/day in around a week's time. The pool level at Euston is currently 47.34 m AHD, which is 26 cm below the normal operating target of 47.60 m AHD.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage increased by 21 GL, with extra inflow resulting from heavy local rain on the surcharged lakes. The lakes are currently storing 1,948 GL (113% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 350 ML/day and continues to be varied around the current average release target of 500 ML/day to help maintain water quality along the lower Darling River. Downstream on the Great Darling Anabranch, flows continue draining into the River Murray upstream of Lock 9 (Figure 1). This water represents the final stages of the flow of floodwaters that originated in the upper Darling system following the major rain events of last summer.





**Figure 1 – The Great Darling Anabranch below 10 Mile Bridge, 29 May 2012.  
Photo: Hugo Bowman, MDBA.**

At Lake Victoria, the storage decreased by 4 GL to 480 GL (71% capacity). The storage is now being decreased by around 2,000 ML/day as higher inflows in the upper catchments mean there is sufficient water in transit to fill Lake Victoria at a later date. Decreasing the storage level also provides benefits to foreshore vegetation in line with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy.

The flow to South Australia has increased to 26,100 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 30,000 ML/day in the days ahead. The 5-day average level at the Lower Lakes has risen to 0.71 m AHD (0.4 cm below FSL). The lake levels are expected to continue rising slowly over the coming week.

Plots showing short term forecast flows and levels for selected key sites are updated each week and are available on the MDBA website at: [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/river\\_flows](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/river_flows).

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 11 Jul 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	478.48	3 382	88%	71	3 311	+17
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.52	2 910	97%	23	2 887	+27
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.30	480	71%	100	380	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 948	113%	(480 #)	1 468	+21
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 720</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 046</b>	<b>+61</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							94% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	985	96%	3	982	+17
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 540	94%	24	1 516	-7
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 010	90%	100	2 910	+3

\* 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 10 Jul 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 342	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+40	240
Snowy-Murray Component	886	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	43
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	35	197
			Murray 1 Release	+42	286

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.6	2	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.1	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	1
Licensed Pumps	0.6	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3</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 this month due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *
Flow this week	161.1
Flow so far this month	243.2
Flow last month	642.1

(23 000 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	100	100	120
Euston	120	140	140
Red Cliffs	370	370	170
Merbein	150	160	140
Burtundy (Darling)	370	380	350
Lock 9	140	160	190
Lake Victoria	270	280	230
Berri	270	270	260
Waikerie	350	360	290
Morgan	310	330	290
Mannum	400	430	300
Murray Bridge	430	440	310
Milang (Lake Alex.)	490	470	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	420	370	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 890	3 970	4 830
Goolwa Barrages	890	2 580	1 960



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 11 Jul 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	-	-	-	9 290	F	7 570	6 390
Jingellic	4.0	2.77	209.29	14 650	R	11 840	10 850
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.11	219.00	2 510	R	1 990	2 200
Heywoods	5.5	3.30	156.93	17 630	R	11 890	10 670
Doctors Point	5.5	3.55	152.02	21 600	R	14 570	13 050
Albury	4.3	2.63	150.07	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.01	129.03	14 120	R	12 970	13 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.80	117.84	19 680	R	19 760	21 250
Tocumwal	6.4	3.48	107.32	19 590	R	19 590	21 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.89	84.43	22 310	R	20 580	16 280
Swan Hill	4.5	3.11	66.03	18 020	R	17 050	11 380
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.31	54.43	18 700	R	17 190	11 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.73	45.57	24 920	R	22 830	17 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	24 470	F	21 720	17 420
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.36	29.12	22 560	R	19 340	17 050
Rufus Junction	-	5.66	22.59	24 540	R	21 540	18 250
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.66	-	22 040	R	20 890	20 240
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.70	155.93	3 640	R	2 630	2 590
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.61	147.29	5 480	R	5 600	6 640
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.00	98.42	14 260	S	13 160	10 850
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.20	82.97	4 310	F	4 120	1 530
Edward at Liewah	-	2.11	57.49	1 450	R	860	760
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.41	54.91	370	R	290	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.56	61.52	9 930	R	9 660	9 400
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	80	R	50	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.40	-	2 300	R	2 270	2 630
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.54	-	2 270	R	2 260	2 870

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 920	13 850
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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	-0.21	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.66	+3.37
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+1.46
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.26	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+1.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+1.26	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+2.14
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+1.72	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.05	+1.62
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.78	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+1.55
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+1.47	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.06	+0.91

**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**

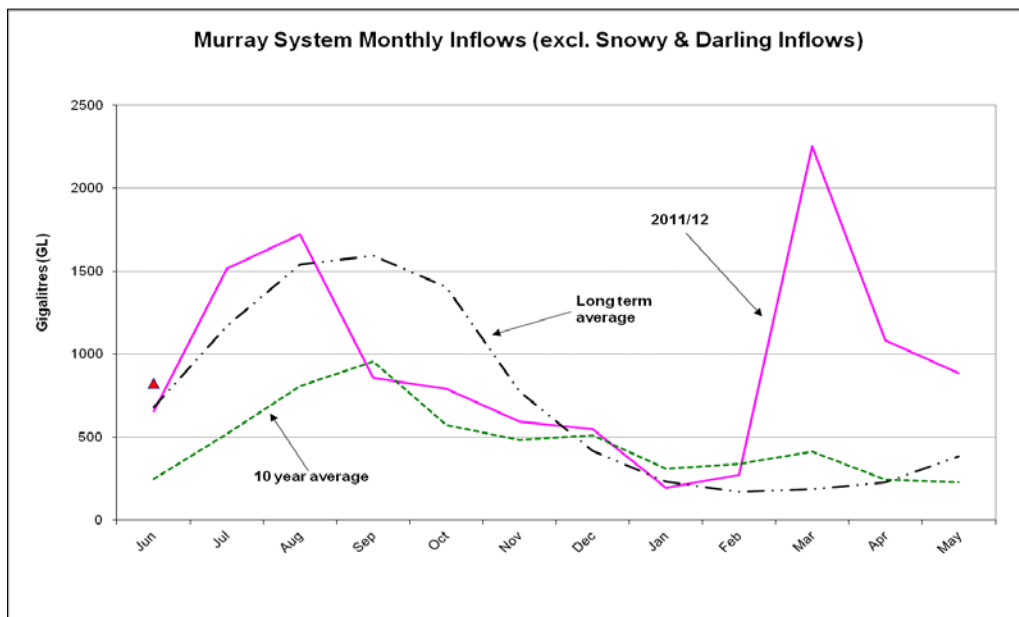
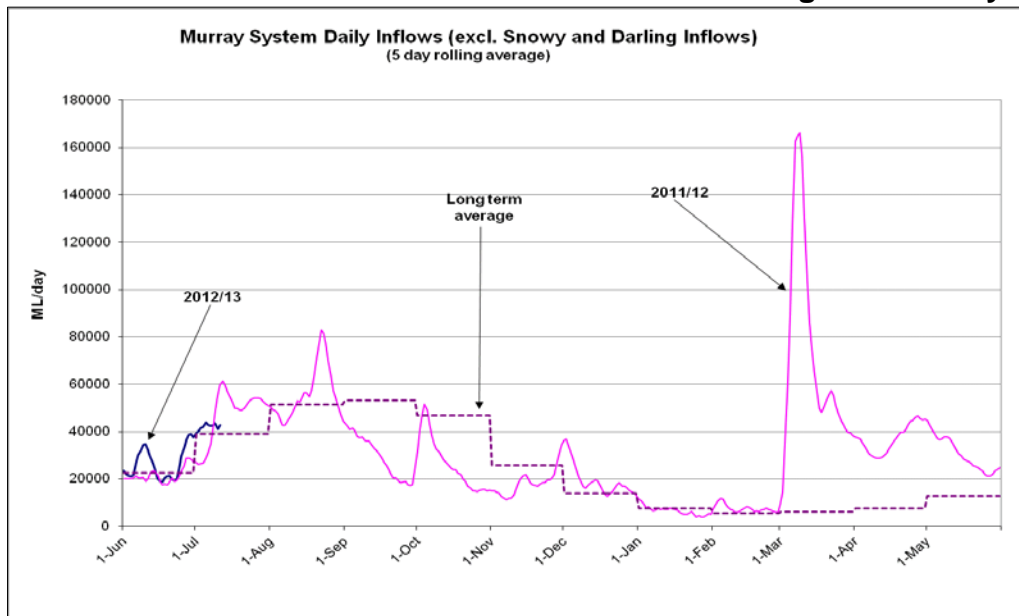
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	6	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	10	Open	Open

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





Week ending Wednesday 11 Jul 2012



State Allocations (as at 11 Jul 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	56%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	26%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	61%
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/>