



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 01 AUGUST 2012

Trim Ref: D12/32013

Rainfall and Inflows

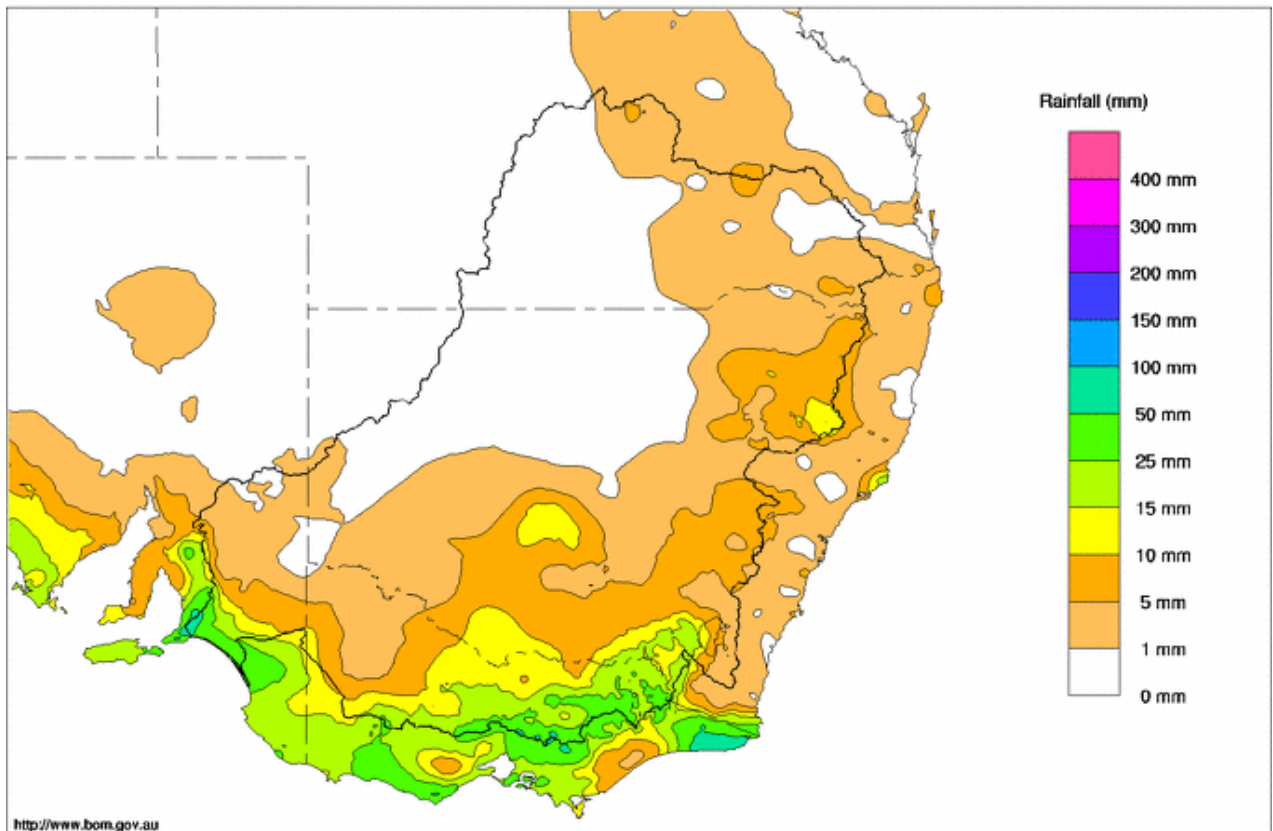
A trough and associated cold fronts crossed the southern Murray-Darling Basin early in the week bringing cool southerly winds and precipitation focussed over the Mt Lofty Ranges and the Murray Mouth in South Australia, as well as over Victoria's central highlands and north-eastern ranges (Map 1). In South Australia 53 mm fell at Mt Barker and 34 mm at Meningie. Highest Victorian totals included 52 mm at Warrenbayne, 45 mm at Lake William Hovell and 45 mm at Daylesford. Across alpine areas in Victoria and NSW, light snow falls have added to a moderate winter snow pack at higher elevations, with the snow depth increasing to over 1 metre on the NSW Main Range (Figure 1).

Flows along upper Murray system tributaries are generally lower than a week ago with rises in the upper Murray the result of Snowy Hydro releases for electricity generation. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic has averaged around 13,500 ML/day with the current flow at 14,300 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point decreased from 6,300 to 4,700 ML/day; and at Wangaratta the flow increased mid week to a peak of 9,400 ML/day and is now flowing at 7,300 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Walgett peaked at 11,600 ML/day on 31 July, while downstream at Bourke the flow has increased slightly faster than expected. The current flow is 12,700 ML/day and a peak close to 15,000 ML/day is expected during the next 5-10 days.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 1st August 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 01/08/2012

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

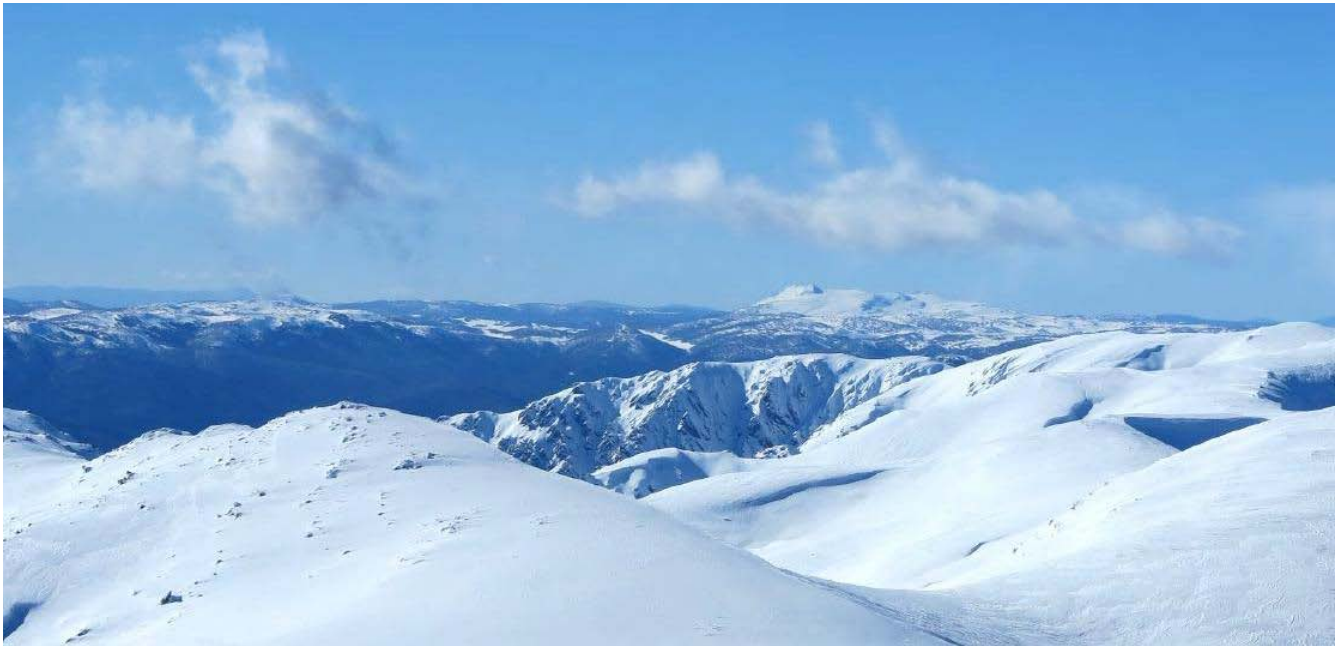


Figure 1 - Top of the Basin. View north from Mt Kosciuszko, with the Basin to the left.
Photo: Hugo Bowman, MDBA, 30 July 2012.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 13 GL this week to 8,156 GL (95% of capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir inflows averaged around 4,000 ML/day and the total storage continues to rise. The current storage volume is 3,496 GL (91% capacity), a rise of 22 GL. Release from Dartmouth continues above minimums, with a flow of around 1,000 ML/day (measured at Colemans) throughout the week due to entitlement releases by AGL Hydro for electricity generation.

Inflow to Hume Reservoir remained fairly steady this week, averaging around 17,000 ML/day. Release is currently 13,500 ML/day and with a relatively dry rain outlook for the next week, the storage level is being slowly increased. Total storage is now 2,915 GL (97% capacity), 1 GL less than last week. Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found via the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.

At Yarrowonga, the release decreased from 41,000 to 29,500 ML/day with reductions to continue over the coming days. The release is not expected to fall below 20,000 ML/day until at least the middle of next week. The pool level has been held quite steady in recent days and is currently 124.73 m AHD. Water is now being diverted at both Mulwala Canal and Yarrowonga Main Channel with a combined diversion of around 1,000 ML/day over the last few days.

Downstream at the Barmah-Millewa forest, water levels have risen further, however flows are now reaching a peak. Flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes remained steady for 3 days at 2,200 and 955 ML/day but are now beginning to fall; while on Bullatale Creek, the Bullatale gauge peaked at 4,600 ML/day. Downstream at Stevens Weir the flow has risen to around 11,900 ML/day and is expected to increase for a few more days to a peak above 12,000 ML/day. The upstream level at Stevens Weir has continued rising as peak flows approach, with the height now 5.56 m on the local gauge (36 cm above Full Supply). Diversions through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes have also increased with a current total diversion close to 5,800 ML/day. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite has increased to 8,500 ML/day and latest predictions indicate a peak close to 20,000 ML/day will pass Kyalite around the middle of August.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow decreased to 15,500 ML/day on 30 July but flows are now increasing again with Goulburn-Murray Water forecasting a further peak of about 17,000 ML/day in the next few days following rain in the mid-river catchments. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is edging up towards a peak expected during the next week that will likely exceed 35,000 ML/day. The



current flow is 33,300 ML/day and the gates have once again been lifted to pass debris and manage the upstream pool level, which is now around 0.5 to 1 metre above normal pool level in the upstream reaches due to the high flows. Just upstream of the weir, the pool level was increased during the week towards Full Supply Level following the recent gate lifting, but will now decrease slightly as free flow conditions are established again.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is now 10,600 ML/day and will continue flowing strongly while demands remain low and inflows are being passed through the main headwater storages at Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams. At Euston Weir the flow is now above 35,000 ML/day with flows above 40,000 ML/day expected during the middle of August.

At Menindee Lakes, increasing flows along the Darling River are now approaching. Total storage is 1,974 GL (114% capacity), an increase of just 1 GL from last week. The release at Menindee (measured at Weir 32) has been increased to 1,100 ML/day, and the NSW Office of Water advises that the release will be lifted further with a target of 4,000 ML/day expected in the next 2-4 days (see attached media release). This increase has been made to pass the expected higher inflows that were generated from recent rain in the Gwydir and Namoi catchments. Downstream at Burtundy, the flow has remained fairly steady during the last few days, averaging around 1,700-1,800 ML/day. The flow will start to increase at Burtundy in about 7-10 days as higher releases arrive from Menindee Lakes.

At Lake Victoria, the level decreased by 9 GL this week and is now at 445 GL (66% capacity). The flow to South Australia remains well above entitlement at 36,500 ML/day, with 'unregulated' flows expected to continue well into the spring.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina has increased to 0.83 m AHD following further local rain and high tides. The level is expected to remain quite high for the next few days as forecast tide and swell conditions will require barrage gates to be closed to restrict reverse flows. The current operating strategy is to lower the level to below 0.75 m AHD (Full Supply) over the next few weeks to assist in the outflow of higher salinity water from Lake Albert.

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.

End of an era...

The MDBA's Senior Director Operations, Trevor Jacobs will be retiring at the end of this week. Trevor began working at the former River Murray Commission in 1982 and has been an integral part of River Murray system operations over the ensuing 30 years.

Trevor has been operating or directing operations of the River Murray system during periods of flood, extended drought and through on-going changes to water policy and governance. The *River Murray Weekly Report* has been published continuously throughout Trevor's time with the organisation - a written legacy of more than 1,500 editions documenting and reporting on the River Murray system. We thank Trevor for his enduring contribution and wish him well with his future endeavours.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management

Dear Weekly Report Readers,

I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to "run" the River Murray for the last 30 years because of both the nature of the river system itself and the people involved. It has been a great pleasure to have served in this role and I wish you all the very best for the future.

TREVOR JACOBS



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 01 Aug 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	480.35	3 496	91%	71	3 425	+22
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.55	2 915	97%	23	2 892	-1
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.97	445	66%	100	345	-9
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 974	114%	(480 #)	1 494	+2
Total		9 269		8 830	95%	- -	8 156	+13
Total Active MDBA Storage							95% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	996	97%	3	993	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 596	98%	24	1 572	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 059	92%	100	2 959	-16

* 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 31 Jul 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 297	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+33	321
Snowy-Murray Component	832	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+13	72
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	20	248
			Murray 1 Release	+42	390

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)	5.5	25	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.3	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.5	17
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	1
Licensed Pumps	0.6	3	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	1.5	3	Licensed pumps - LMW	1	5
TOTAL	7.7	31	TOTAL	8	23

* 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	124.0 *
Flow this week	253.6
Flow so far this month	36.7
Flow last month	911.4

(36 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	110	120	110
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	110	120	110
Merbein	110	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	390	390	-
Lock 9	100	110	100
Lake Victoria	270	260	270
Berri	210	210	210
Waikerie	220	220	220
Morgan	230	220	230
Mannum	290	300	290
Murray Bridge	310	300	310
Milang (Lake Alex.)	500	480	500
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	390	380	390
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 810	3 780	3 810
Goolwa Barrages	740	7 290	740



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 01 Aug 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	-	-	-	9 750	F	7 800	5 930
Jingellic	4.0	2.75	209.27	14 340	R	13 490	15 320
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.06	218.95	2 290	F	2 550	2 620
Heywoods	5.5	2.98	156.61	14 420	F	17 630	22 000
Doctors Point	5.5	3.21	151.68	17 200	F	21 050	26 200
Albury	4.3	2.24	149.68	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.93	129.95	20 690	F	23 190	31 080
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.83	118.87	30 840	F	34 990	50 950
Tocumwal	6.4	4.73	108.57	34 460	F	41 540	47 390
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.97	85.51	33 270	R	32 360	29 570
Swan Hill	4.5	3.56	66.48	21 300	R	21 080	20 420
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.73	55.85	27 420	R	26 510	24 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.69	46.53	35 120	R	34 250	32 130
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	34 190	F	34 090	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.00	29.76	37 200	R	35 490	32 840
Rufus Junction	-	6.38	23.31	36 530	R	36 210	34 400
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.45	-	35 600	R	34 330	31 860
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.20	155.43	2 470	F	2 940	3 730
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.05	147.73	7 320	F	8 400	15 920
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.58	99.00	16 670	R	16 490	20 000
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.46	85.23	11 890	F	10 470	6 050
Edward at Liewah	-	3.72	59.10	3 790	R	3 480	3 190
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.30	56.79	5 380	R	4 670	3 270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.68	61.64	10 600	R	10 510	10 360
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.55	-	1 050	F	1 440	640
Darling at Bourke	-	5.78	-	12 800	R	9 450	3 350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	1 760	R	1 780	1 720

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 940	21 750
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.18	+4.04
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.13	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+2.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.28	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+1.90
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+1.93	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+2.96
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+2.36	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+2.42
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+1.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+2.54
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.20	+2.25	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+1.70

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

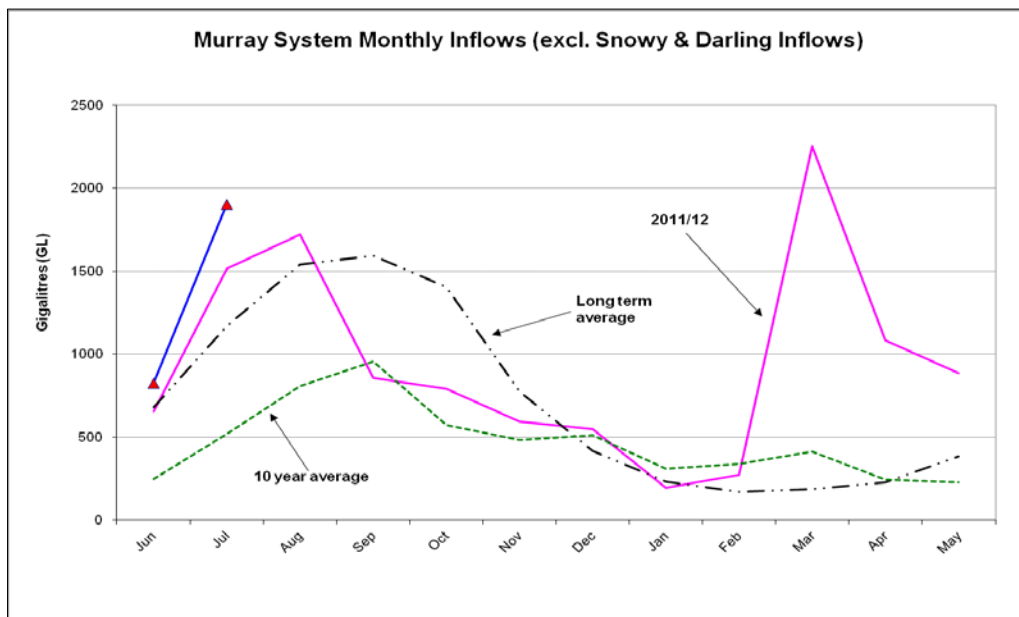
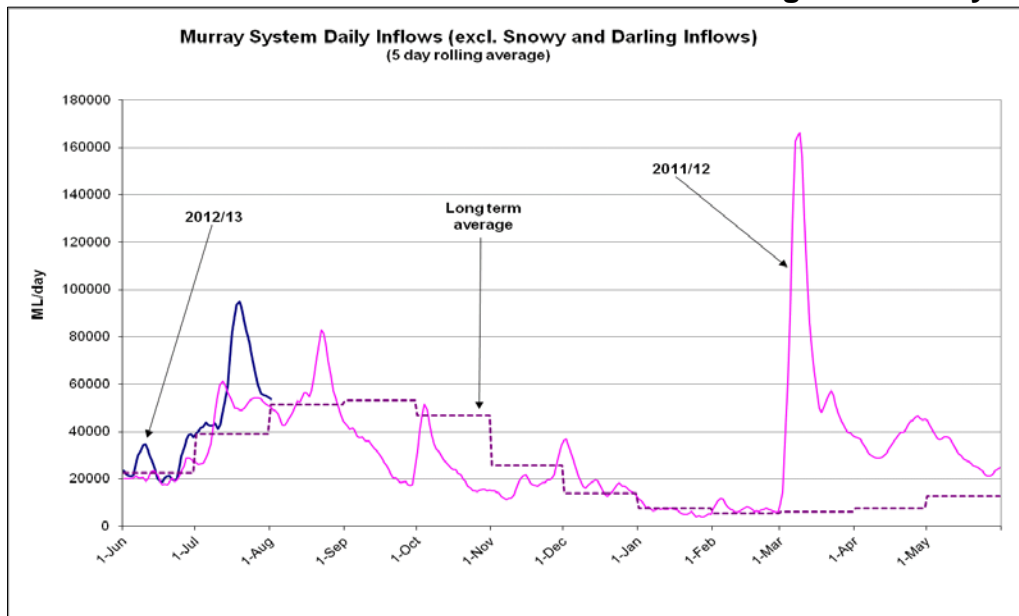
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.83
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	15	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	46	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 01 Aug 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	41%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	88%
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/>



Flow Advice for Lower Darling River

Changes to Weir 32 flows

The NSW Office of Water today advised landowners and communities in the Lower Darling River Valley, that release rates would be increased from the Menindee Lakes from next week.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss said that the lakes are nearly full from flooding earlier this year; therefore releases above seasonal minimums are necessary to manage expected additional inflows to the lakes in August.

“Releases above minimum rates will be mainly from Lake Wetherell to prepare for increased inflows in August, and to provide some foreshore drying after long periods of inundation,” he said.

Mr Harriss said that the approaching flows, emanating from the Gwydir and Namoi catchments, are minor – very much smaller than recent flood events.

“At this stage, forecast inflow volumes are significantly less than those experienced earlier in the year. However, with the Lakes well above full supply and approaching maximum surcharge capacity, precautionary releases are required to protect the banks.”

“The current plan is for State Water Corporation to begin increasing flows on Tuesday 31 July 2012 to target 4,000 megalitres per day in the Lower Darling at Weir 32 by the end of the week.

Up to 1,000 megalitres per day will also be released from Lake Cawndilla to produce flows in the Great Darling Anabranch.”

Mr Harriss said that the maximum releases for this event will be well within the channel capacity of the Lower Darling River, which is about 9,000 megalitres per day or 4.70 metres gauge height.

“The NSW Office of Water is monitoring river flows in northern NSW tributaries and further advice regarding expected flows will be issued by Tuesday 7 August 2012.”

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should note the changing flow rates along the Lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234



Expected River Levels and Flow Rates

Date	Estimated Weir 32 pool level (m)	Weir 32 flow (ML/day)
Tuesday 31 July	1.78	1,000
Wednesday 1 August	2.04	2,000
Thursday 2 August	2.23	3,000
Friday 3 August	2.38	4,000
Saturday 4 August	2.38	4,000
Sunday 5 August	2.38	4,000
Monday 6 August	2.38	4,000

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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