



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 05 SEPTEMBER 2012

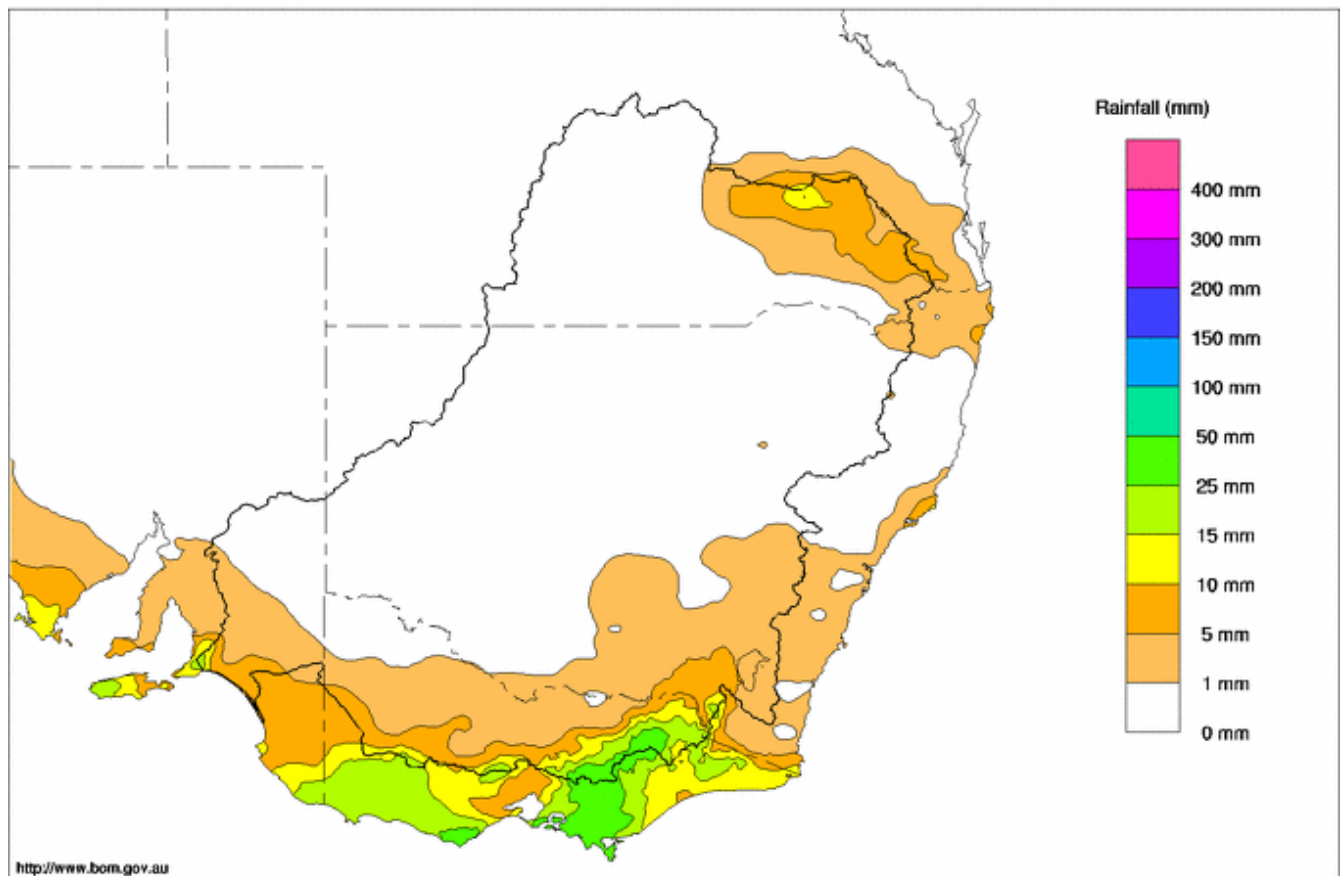
Trim Ref: D12/38667

## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was mainly confined to southern areas of the Murray-Darling Basin this week (Map 1). A series of cold fronts produced rain early in the week followed by a strong high pressure ridge which resulted in little or no rainfall for the remainder of the week. Precipitation was heaviest over the southeast ranges. Highest weekly totals include 62 mm at Falls Creek and 28 mm at Mount Buller. Lighter falls were recorded elsewhere including 17 mm at Drillham in the west Darling Downs in Queensland (QLD).

Flows in the upper Murray tributaries have generally receded over the week. Upstream of Dartmouth Dam, Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River has fallen from 1,600 ML/day to 1,400 ML/day. On the Murray River upstream of Hume Dam, the flow at Biggara reduced from 3,600 ML/day to 2,700 ML/day while the flow at Jingellic remained relatively steady averaging around 14,000 ML/day. Downstream of Hume Dam, the Ovens River at Wangaratta has fallen from 10,800 ML/day to 8,100 ML/day. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting more rain over south-eastern catchments in the days ahead with renewed stream rises expected.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 5th September 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 06/09/2012

Map 1 – Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 5 September 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

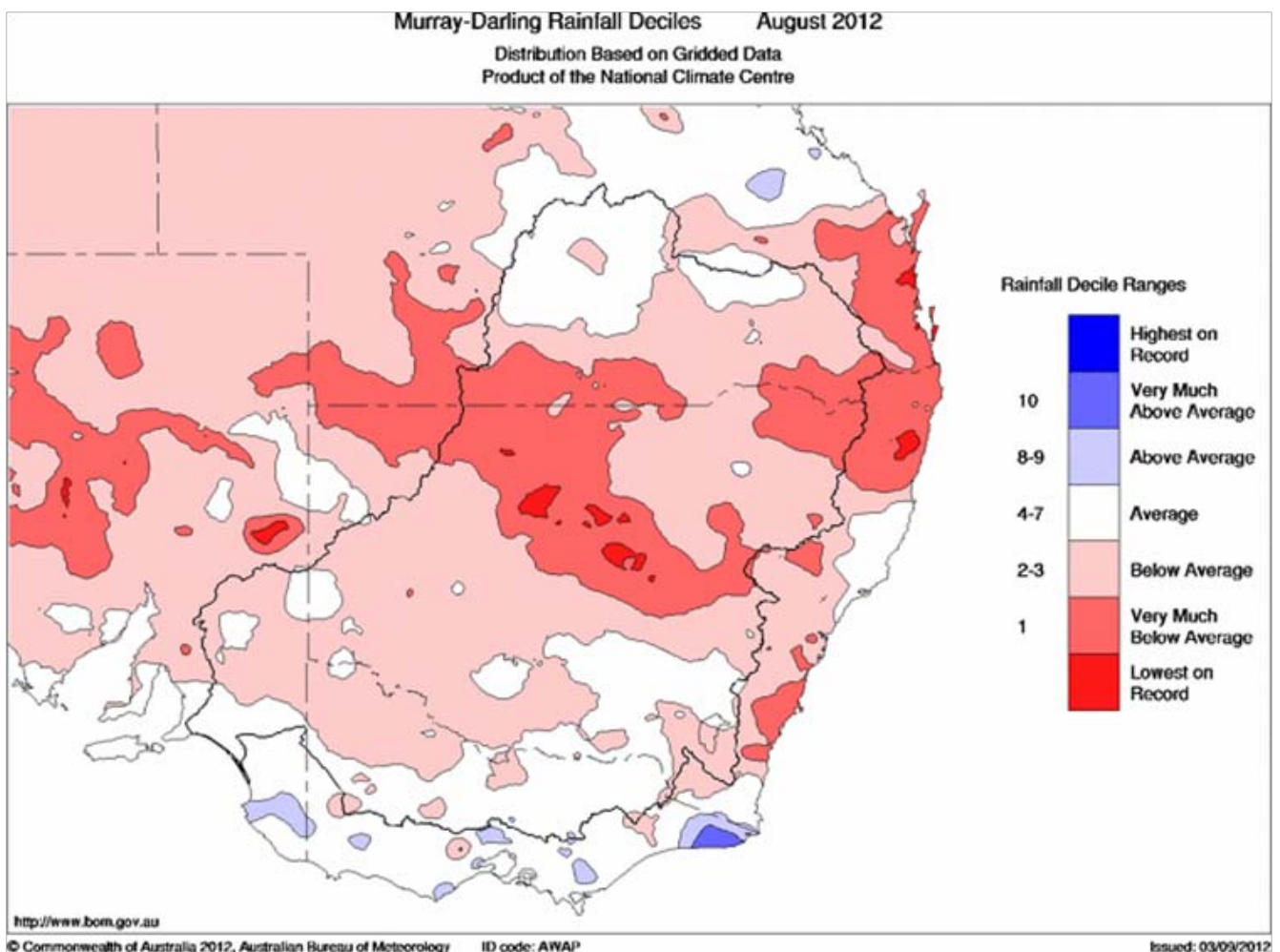


## August Summary

August was generally a dry month across much of the Murray-Darling Basin, with rainfall mostly below average (Map 2). According to the Bureau of Meteorology, August rainfall averaged across the entire Basin was 17 mm which is 56% below the historical average and ranks the 16th driest August of 113 years of record. Parts of central and northern New South Wales (NSW) and southern Queensland received well below average rainfall and isolated parts of central NSW received lowest rainfall on record. Northeast Victoria and southeast NSW received average rainfall.

August daytime temperatures were near average for southeast South Australia, Victoria and south and central NSW and were above average for much of western NSW and southern Queensland. The Alpine region in northeast Victoria and adjacent NSW was the only area to record below average daytime temperatures.

August inflows to the River Murray system (excluding Darling River and Snowy inflows) totalled about 1,830 GL. This is above the long-term average of around 1,540 GL and highlights the current wet condition and responsive nature of the upper catchments.



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

## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 64 GL this week and is currently 8,446 GL, which is 98% capacity. Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found on the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.



At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 33 GL to 3,634 GL (94% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, reduced from 800 ML/day at the start of the week, back to the normal minimum of 200 ML/day as AGL Hydro ceased releases for electricity generation.

Inflows to Hume Reservoir, fell away gradually over the week. In order to keep the storage level at Hume relatively stable, releases were also gradually reduced. Storage in Hume Reservoir is currently 2,911 GL (97% capacity), 2 GL less than last week. A few more showers are forecast in the coming week, however with warmer and drier conditions being forecast during mid September, it is most likely that MDBA will gradually increase the storage volume in Hume over the coming week to maximise water availability prior to any significant increases in the demand for water. Should wetter conditions return then the storage volume in Hume Reservoir may be reduced yet again.

At Yarrawonga Weir the demand for water increased this week. Below average rainfall and warm and windy weather in the irrigation areas contributed to diversions at Mulwala Canal increasing from around 3,000 ML/day to 5,600 ML/day, while Yarrawonga Main Canal increased from 500 ML/day to 1,100 ML/day. The weir pool level is currently 124.73 m AHD. The release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 41,000 ML/day to 29,000 ML/day over the week.

On the Edward River system, the flow at Toonalook, peaked late in the week at 10,400 ML/day and the flow on the Bullatale Creek peaked at 4,000 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the gates have been removed from the water. The flow measured at Deniliquin is currently 14,900 ML/day, close to the peak. Diversions at the Wakool Main Canal have increased from 700 ML/day to 1,200 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 10,400 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow is just starting to rise on the Edward River at Liewah and the Wakool River at Coonamit Bridge.

Inflow from the Goulburn River has held relatively steady over the last few days. The flow at McCoys Bridge is currently around 12,900 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate for a few more days before falling away. At Torrumbarry Weir on the River Murray, the gates have been returned to the water. Diversions at the National Channel are currently 3,500 ML/day. The flow downstream of the Weir is 30,400 ML/day and falling.

At Swan Hill, the flow is 22,000 ML/day and is expected to remain above 20,000 ML/day for the next week or two. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald is 12,400 ML/day and is expected to continue around this rate for the next couple of weeks. Further downstream on the River Murray at Euston the flow has slowly receded over the week from the peak of 48,000 ML/day to 46,500 ML/day. This flow is expected to recede to around 45,000 ML/day and remain near this rate for the next two weeks.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes fell by 22 GL over the week to 2,011 GL (116% capacity). The release from the lakes is now being reduced back to minimums over the next few weeks. The release to the Darling River, measured at Weir 32, is currently 6,300 ML/day, while the release to the Great Darling Anabranch via Cawndilla Outlet is currently 1,650 ML/day. In the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy is continuing to rise slowly and is currently 6,150 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria the volume increased by 55 GL during the week and is now 564 GL (83% capacity). The lake is capturing up to 9 GL water per day, to maintain the flow to South Australia at around 45,000 ML/day while environmental construction works continue downstream at Chowilla. At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.73 m AHD. This lake level is planned to be lowered in the coming week as conditions are expected to be favourable for higher releases through the barrages.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 05 Sep 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	482.56	3 634	94%	71	3 563	+33
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.53	2 911	97%	23	2 888	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.05	564	83%	100	464	+55
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 011	116%	(480 #)	1 531	-22
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 120</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 446</b>	<b>+64</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							98% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 010	98%	3	1 007	-11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 581	97%	24	1 557	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 215	96%	100	3 115	+23

\* 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 04 Sep 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 188	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+10	449
Snowy-Murray Component	744	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+7	108
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	3	341
			Murray 1 Release	+20	545

**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)	34.2	119	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.2	3
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.4	62
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	4
Licensed Pumps	4.7	14	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	1
Lower Darling	13.2	68	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>83</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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	312.4	(44 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	224.3	
Flow last month	1,249.6	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	170	170	120
Euston	130	110	110
Red Cliffs	110	100	110
Merbein	130	120	120
Burtundy (Darling)	440	490	450
Lock 9	150	150	120
Lake Victoria	230	250	260
Berri	210	200	190
Waikerie	200	200	210
Morgan	200	200	210
Mannum	190	190	200
Murray Bridge	220	220	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	490	500	440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	280	300	330
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 280	3 300	3 510
Goolwa Barrages	740	1 690	1 690



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 05 Sep 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	-	-	-	5 460	F	4 770	4 970
Jingellic	4.0	2.64	209.16	13 190	R	13 950	19 050
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.98	218.87	1 950	F	2 550	3 090
Heywoods	5.5	3.06	156.69	15 810	F	19 970	26 910
Doctors Point	5.5	3.31	151.78	18 460	F	23 100	30 070
Albury	4.3	2.35	149.79	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	4.24	130.26	23 460	F	27 180	30 000
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.67	118.71	28 950	F	36 350	40 580
Tocumwal	6.4	4.86	108.70	35 930	F	39 570	39 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.78	85.32	30 440	F	32 630	31 790
Swan Hill	4.5	3.67	66.59	22 030	S	21 920	21 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.70	56.82	35 530	F	36 540	39 830
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.70	47.54	46 480	F	47 380	47 400
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	47 620	F	47 640	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.99	30.75	56 000	S	56 000	53 360
Rufus Junction	-	6.75	23.68	45 020	F	44 620	42 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.66	-	38 500	F	39 070	38 190
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.32	155.55	2 690	F	3 050	3 730
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.23	147.91	8 150	F	9 720	11 990
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.57	97.99	12 910	R	13 800	17 840
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.13	84.90	10 390	S	9 750	6 860
Edward at Liewah	-	4.08	59.46	4 580	R	4 560	5 260
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.51	58.00	10 360	S	10 830	13 540
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.94	61.90	12 420	F	12 470	12 070
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	S	20	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.68	-	4 880	R	5 420	6 750
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	6 150	S	6 120	5 620

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 990	26 640
---	-------	--------

**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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.58	+4.46
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.71	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+2.59
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.66	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+2.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.89	+2.71	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.20	+3.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+3.35	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+2.71
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.12	+2.45	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.20	+2.90
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.76	+3.20	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+1.91

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

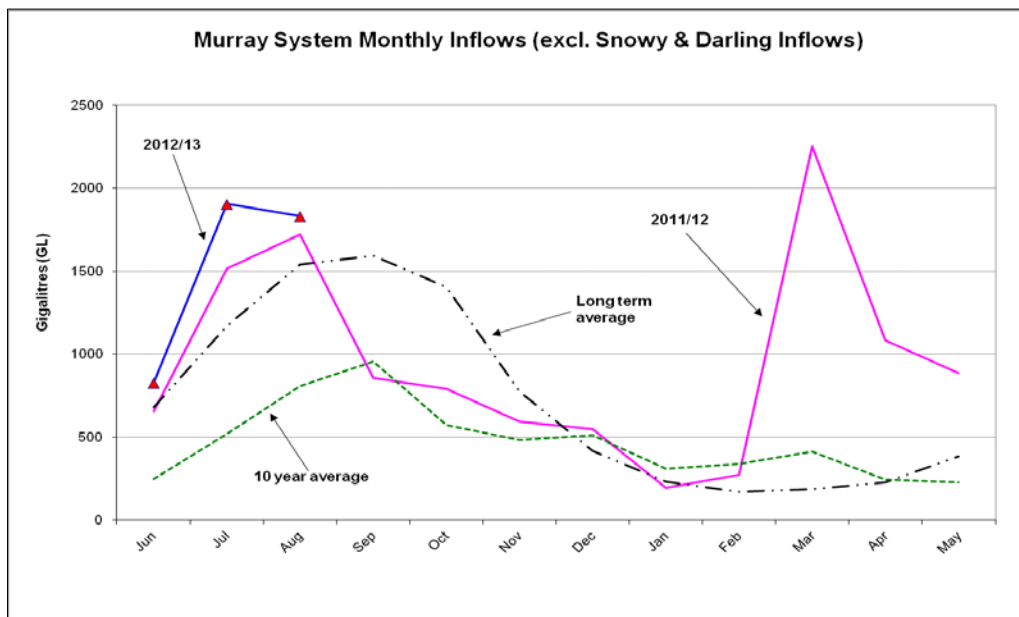
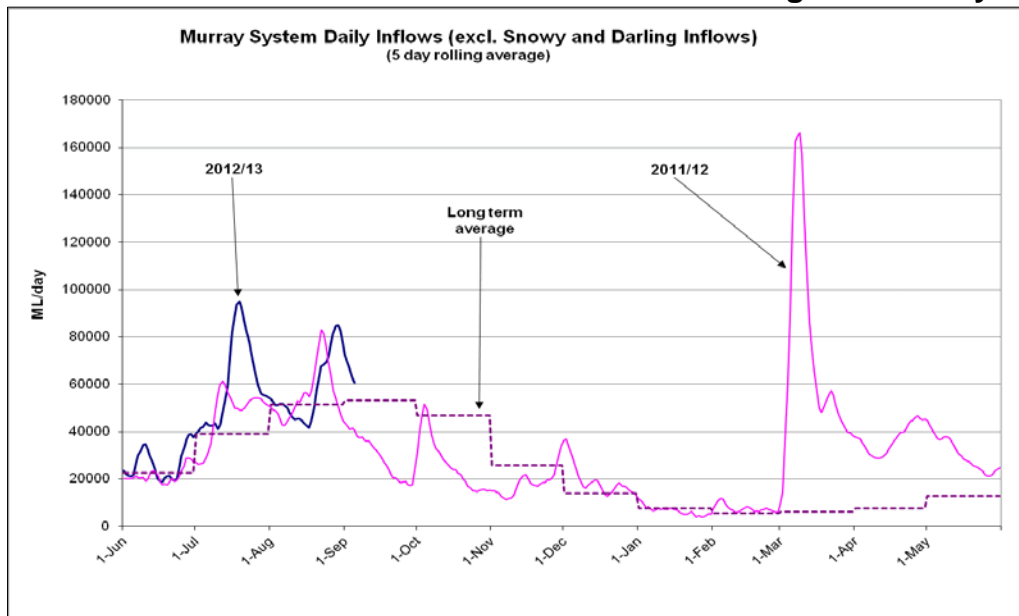
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.73
--	------

**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.47	119	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.51	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	163	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 05 Sep 2012)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	61%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

#### 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%
---------------	------

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/>