



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

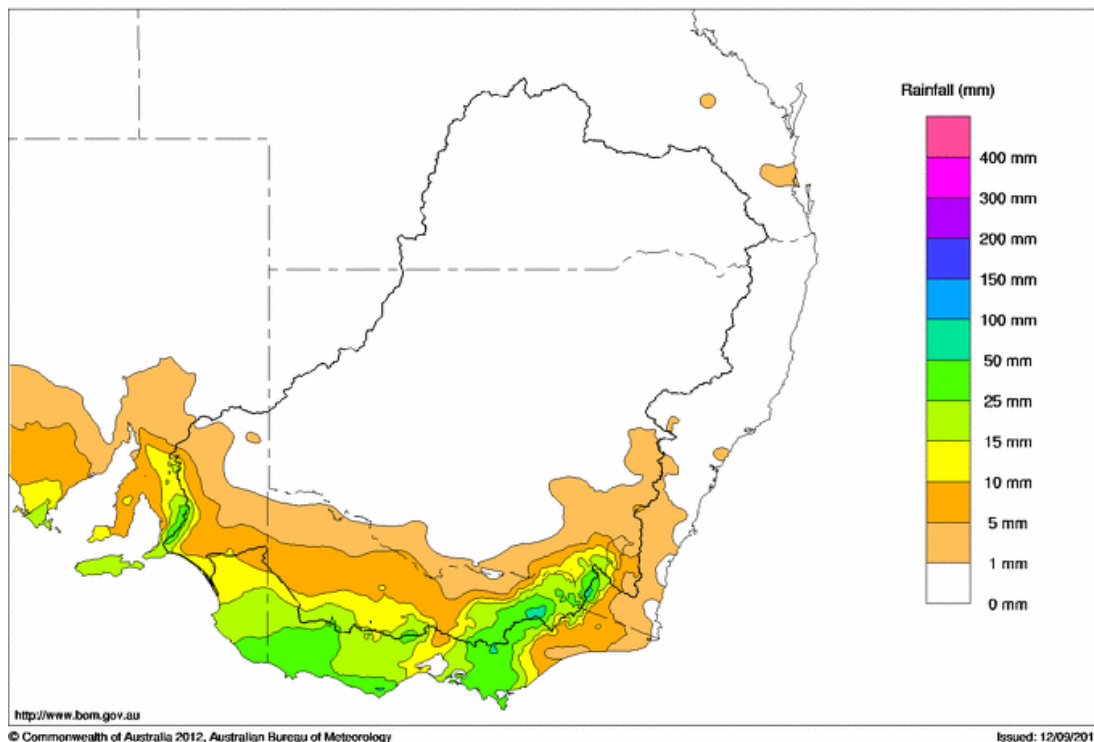
Trim Ref: D12/39540

Rainfall and Inflows

Strong winds affected the Murray-Darling Basin this week as a vigorous cold front crossed the region. There was precipitation over southern areas but the weather remained dry through central and northern parts of the Basin (Map 1). Heaviest totals were recorded across the alpine areas in the south-east with further snow reported over the Victorian Alps and NSW Snowy Mountains. Notable totals included 118 mm at Rocky Valley, 86 mm at Mt Buller and 78 mm at Falls Creek. Elsewhere there was 48 mm at Woods Point in the upper Goulburn catchment and 56 mm at Mt William in the Grampian Ranges. Totals in excess of 20 mm were recorded over South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges.

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries increased slightly during the week following the rain. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 3,800 ML/day and has since receded to 3,100 ML/day. On the Ovens River the flow at Rocky Point increased from 6,000 to 7,500 ML/day and is now flowing at 6,400 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana averaged about 3,200 ML/day with a peak of 3,600 ML/day on 9 September.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 12th September 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 12 September 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 108 GL this week and is currently 8,555 GL, which is 100% of capacity. Active storage has reached this level (despite Lake Victoria, Hume and Dartmouth being slightly below full supply) because of the high surcharge level in Menindee Lakes. The last time there was 100% MDBA active storage was in October 1996. 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 35 GL to 3,669 GL (95% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows averaged about 16,000 ML/day and have remained fairly steady in recent days. Release from Hume has been reduced in order to steer the storage level towards full supply. The current rain outlook is relatively dry for catchments upstream of Hume, however if further rain is forecast over the coming weeks, the release could once again be increased to create additional airspace ahead of any rise in inflows that may result. Storage in Hume Reservoir is currently 2,934 GL (98% capacity), an increase of 23 GL.

At Yarrawonga Weir, diversions have averaged 4,200 ML/day at Mulwala Canal and have increased to an average of 2,100 ML/day at the Yarrawonga Main Channel. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.72 m AHD and the release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has decreased from 29,000 to 19,000 ML/day.

On the Edward River system, flows along the Edward River at Toonalook and along Bullatale Creek have decreased following last week's peaks. At Stevens Weir, the flow peaked at 10,600 ML/day and has now decreased to 9,700 ML/day. Flows into the Wakool River, Yallakool Creek and Colligen Creek are gradually receding and diversions into the Wakool Main Canal have decreased to around 900 ML/day. Downstream at Moulamein the Edward River flow has increased to 5,900 ML/day and is expected to peak during the coming week.

Inflow from the Goulburn River has receded slowly throughout the week, with the flow at McCoys Bridge currently about 10,000 ML/day. The flow is expected to decrease further in the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, flow on the River Murray has receded to about 27,000 ML/day with the recession expected to continue this week. The pool level has increased to 85.79 m AHD, which is 26 cm below Full Supply. Diversions at the National Channel have been increased to 4,100 ML/day.

At Swan Hill, a slow recession has begun, with the flow easing from just over 22,000 ML/day to the current flow of 21,800 ML/day. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald remains at 12,400 ML/day and is expected to gradually recede over the next couple of weeks unless there is significant rainfall. Further downstream on the River Murray at Euston the flow is currently steady at a flow of 45,500 ML/day, but is expected to increase slightly over the coming week.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes remains at 2,011 GL (116% capacity), with the release being slowly reduced towards the normal minimum as inflows recede. The release to the Darling River (measured at Weir 32) is currently 4,000 ML/day, while the release to the Great Darling Anabranch via Cawndilla Outlet has been dropped back to 500 ML/day and is expected to cease during the coming week. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy peaked at around 6,200 ML/day and is now at 5,800 ML/day.

Downstream at Wentworth, flows above 50,000 ML/day continue in the Murray below the Darling River junction with a slow recession expected in the coming week. At Lake Victoria the volume increased by 51 GL to 615 GL (91% capacity) and the flow to South Australia averaged 44,400 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, barrage gates at Goolwa and Mundoo were closed once again over the weekend to provide protection against reverse flows while very strong winds impacted the region. The 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina increased to 0.78 m AHD; however the level is expected to fall again in the coming days as more favourable weather and swell conditions during the last few days have enabled gates to be re-opened.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 12 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	483.11	3 669	95%	71	3 598	+35
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.64	2 934	98%	23	2 911	+23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.49	615	91%	100	515	+51
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 011	116%	(480 #)	1 531	+0
Total		9 269		9 229	100%	--	8 555	+108
Total Active MDBA Storage							100% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 019	99%	3	1 016	+8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 577	97%	24	1 553	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 240	97%	100	3 140	+25

* 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 11 Sep 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 216	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+13	460
Snowy-Murray Component	749	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+10	118
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	3	342
			Murray 1 Release	+23	569

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)	36.0	155	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	2
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	27	66
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	6
Licensed Pumps	6.1	21	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	2
Lower Darling	5.8	74	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	19
TOTAL	48.2	251	TOTAL	36.9	95

* 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	310.6	(44 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	534.9	
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	130	150	120
Euston	130	130	110
Red Cliffs	140	130	110
Merbein	140	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	350	370	430
Lock 9	160	150	130
Lake Victoria	230	230	250
Berri	220	210	200
Waikerie	220	220	210
Morgan	220	200	210
Mannum	200	190	200
Murray Bridge	220	220	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	370	370	430
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	220	230	310
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 190	3 200	3 460
Goolwa Barrages	5 970	14 110	3 710



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 12 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	-	-	-	6 860	F	4 570	4 800
Jingellic	4.0	2.64	209.16	13 090	R	12 260	13 950
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.94	218.83	1 840	F	1 990	2 550
Heywoods	5.5	2.61	156.24	10 340	F	12 640	19 970
Doctors Point	5.5	2.93	151.40	13 820	F	16 060	23 100
Albury	4.3	1.93	149.37	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.36	129.38	16 460	F	18 170	27 180
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.73	117.77	18 990	F	22 700	36 350
Tocumwal	6.4	3.71	107.55	22 150	F	26 470	39 570
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.50	85.05	27 310	F	28 230	32 630
Swan Hill	4.5	3.64	66.56	21 810	S	21 980	21 920
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.86	56.98	37 000	R	36 090	36 540
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.62	47.46	45 540	S	45 780	47 380
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	45 810	F	45 850	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.84	30.60	54 200	F	55 290	56 000
Rufus Junction	-	6.72	23.65	44 260	R	44 370	44 620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.76	-	40 600	S	39 910	39 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.63	155.86	3 370	R	3 160	3 050
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.37	148.05	8 880	F	8 800	9 720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.60	97.02	10 150	F	11 640	13 800
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.96	84.73	9 730	S	10 360	9 750
Edward at Liewah	-	4.43	59.81	5 420	R	5 020	4 560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.85	58.34	12 040	R	11 130	10 830
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.92	61.88	12 340	S	12 350	12 470
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	180	S	120	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.57	-	3 810	F	4 340	5 420
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.53	-	5 770	F	6 030	6 120

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	20 740	22 410
---	--------	--------

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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.98	+4.46
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.26	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+2.60
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.56	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+2.27
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.98	+2.62	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.23	+3.56
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+3.20	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.10	+2.79
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.43	+2.30	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.29	+2.98
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.89	+3.02	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.17	+2.01

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.78
--	------

Barrages

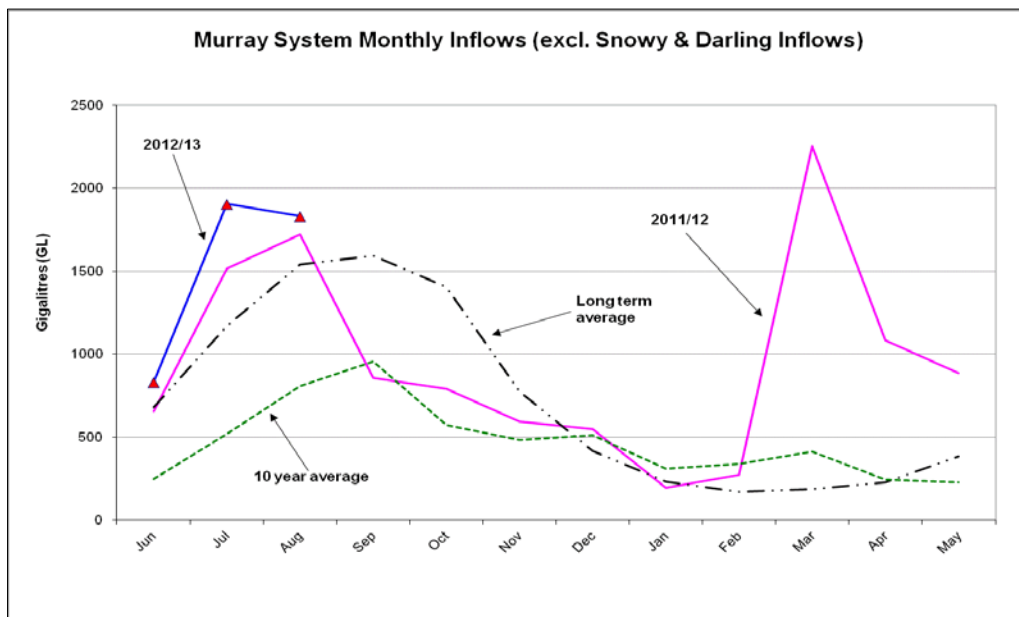
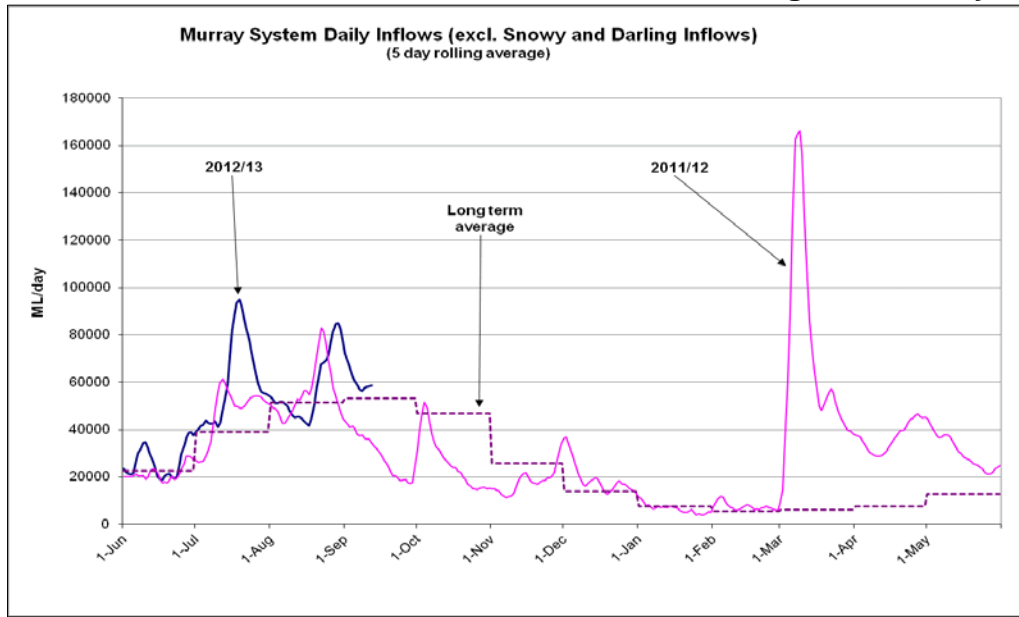
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	100	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	163	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 12 Sep 2012



State Allocations (as at 12 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/>