



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2012

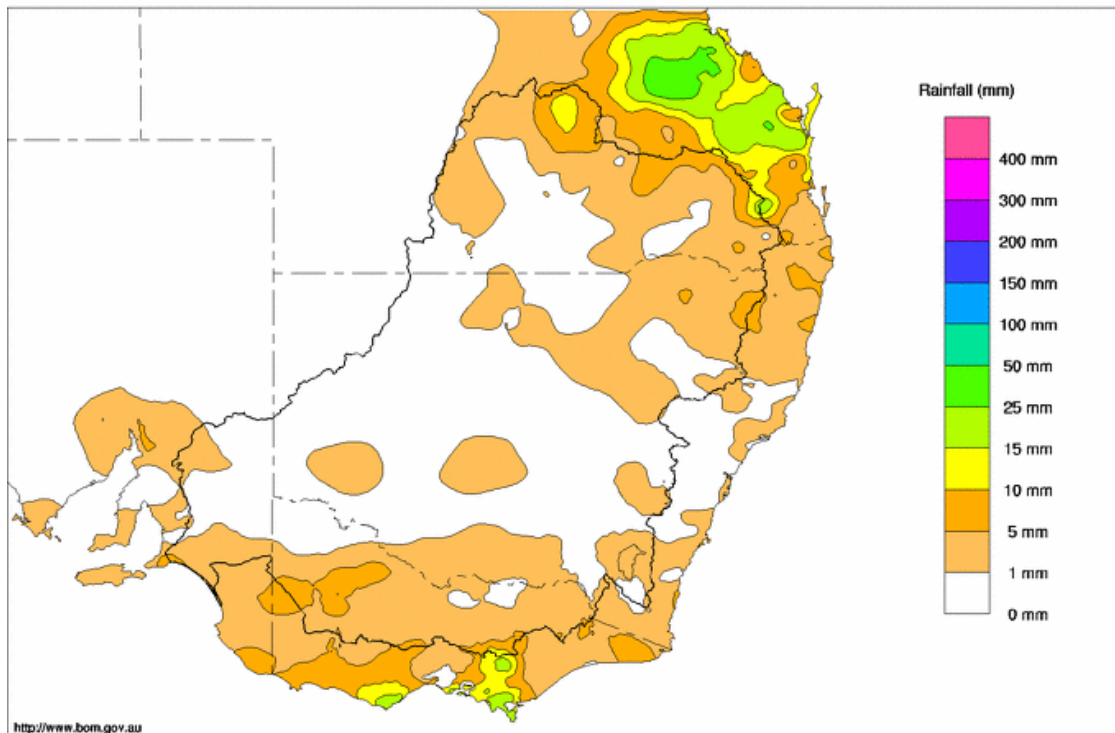
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were mostly fine, mild and dry across the Murray-Darling Basin this week under the influence of a high pressure system. Patchy rainfall was recorded, particularly in the far north and south of the Basin. Highest precipitation totals were recorded in the Darling Downs with 17 mm at Cambooya and 15 mm at Toowoomba Airport. Other modest totals were 11 mm at Havelock in the Maranoa catchment, 9 mm at Gowan Brae in the New South Wales northern tablelands, 10 mm at Apsley and Mount Williams in the Wimmera and 11 mm at Woods Point in north east Victoria. The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast rainfall for the upper Murray catchments in the days ahead with totals of around 30 to 50 mm expected and possibly higher falls on the ranges.

Most tributaries in the upper Murray catchments continued to slowly recede this week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 2,600 ML/day to 2,200 ML/day; while downstream at Jingellic the flow averaged around 10,000 ML/day (influenced by releases from Snowy Hydro), compared with an average of 11,200 ML/day last week. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 6,100 ML/day to 4,400 ML/day.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 26th September 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 26 September 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 51 GL this week which brings the total storage volume to 8,686 GL (101% capacity). While the storages at Dartmouth Reservoir, Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria are all just under full supply level, Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at 116% which accounts for the total capacity of more than 100%. 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>.



Dartmouth Reservoir is currently storing 3,724 GL (97% capacity), which is a gain of 26 GL during the week. Note that as the water level nears the full supply level, inflows will be passed through the high level outlet works. Significant flows over the spillway are only likely if inflows exceed the flow capacity of the high level outlet. At Colemans, the flow has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day during the week.

At Hume Reservoir, the release has been increased in the last few days, ahead of rain forecast for later in the week. The release is expected to be targeting a flow of 27,000 ML/day at Doctors Point by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. This release is higher than inflows, and is creating some additional air-space to assist in managing potential high inflows from forecast rainfall. The storage volume was 2,964 GL (98.6% capacity) on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> but expected to be about 2,944 GL (98% capacity) by the time the rain starts on Friday. If there is significant rainfall in the next few days, readers downstream of Hume Reservoir are encouraged to consult the Bureau of Meteorology's warnings information at <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/>.

Yarrowonga Weir is currently releasing about 16,000 ML/day, which is slightly lower than last week. However, the release is expected to rise again soon as higher flows from Hume Reservoir arrive, boosted by expected higher flows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. The weir pool level has remained about 124.7–124.8 m AHD during the week.

On the Edward River system, the flow at Stevens Weir has been receding over the last couple of weeks and is now about 4,500 ML/day. The flow is expected to continue receding until at least the weekend. Further downstream, the flow in the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing is also receding and is currently 13,600 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 4,350 ML/day. Downstream on the River Murray, the Torrumbarry Weir pool remains slightly lower than the full supply level at 85.85 m AHD. The flow past the weir is now 18,300 ML/day and this flow is expected to continue receding for the next week, before higher flows from upstream arrive.

At Balranald, the slow recession of flow in the Murrumbidgee River has continued this week, with the current flow being 10,800 ML/day. At Euston on the River Murray, the flow is close to its peak at 48,850 ML/day, with flows expected to recede after the weekend.

The Menindee Lakes gained 4 GL in storage volume during the week, bringing their combined volume to 2,010 GL (116% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 has continued to decline slowly and is currently 850 ML/day. Further downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has receded to 3,000 ML/day.

At Wentworth Weir, the flow is currently 52,800 ML/day and the flow is expected to remain at about this level until after the weekend, when a recession should commence.

Lake Victoria is close to full with a stored volume of 662 GL (98% capacity). High levels are likely to be maintained in Lake Victoria for at least the next 1–2 weeks as the flow into South Australia is managed to help protect construction works at Chowilla. The flow into South Australia is currently 49,300 ML/day and it is not expected to increase significantly above this rate in the near future.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.63 m AHD and rising slowly.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 26 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	483.96	3 724	97%	71	3 653	+26
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.79	2 964	99%	23	2 941	+7
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.88	662	98%	100	562	+15
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 010	116%	(480 #)	1 530	+4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 360</b>	<b>101%</b>	- -	<b>8 686</b>	<b>+51</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							101% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 026	100%	3	1 023	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 554	95%	24	1 530	-15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 280	98%	100	3 180	+27

\* 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 25 Sep 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 275	+39	Snowy-Murray	+1	462
Snowy-Murray Component	741	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+11	139
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-9	323
			Murray 1 Release	+21	606

**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)	11.4	193	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.5	-1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.8	99
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	9
Licensed Pumps	4.6	35	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	3
Lower Darling	3.7	81	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>139</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	335.2	(47 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,186.3	
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	120	120	120
Euston	120	120	110
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	180	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	390	380	420
Lock 9	130	130	130
Lake Victoria	230	230	250
Berri	210	220	200
Waikerie	240	240	220
Morgan	230	230	210
Mannum	210	210	200
Murray Bridge	240	230	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	-	470	430
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	210	200	290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 290	3 240	3 390
Goolwa Barrages	920	1 210	3 250





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 26 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	-	-	-	6 070	F	4 530	4 160
Jingellic	4.0	2.40	208.92	11 000	R	9 840	11 250
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.77	218.66	1 300	F	1 400	1 690
Heywoods	5.5	3.39	157.02	18 550	R	11 340	11 510
Doctors Point	5.5	3.62	152.09	22 480	R	14 170	14 430
Albury	4.3	2.64	150.08	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.98	129.00	13 910	R	13 450	15 470
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.41	117.45	16 060	F	17 920	18 570
Tocumwal	6.4	3.30	107.14	17 940	F	18 830	19 410
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.19	83.73	18 290	F	21 530	25 450
Swan Hill	4.5	3.60	66.52	21 590	S	21 760	21 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.16	57.28	40 130	F	40 310	38 450
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.90	47.74	48 850	S	48 270	46 180
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	48 240	F	48 190	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.83	30.59	52 800	S	52 830	53 060
Rufus Junction	-	6.91	23.84	49 280	R	47 890	45 170
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.78	-	41 000	F	40 810	40 940
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.45	155.68	2 950	R	2 810	2 880
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.34	147.02	4 420	F	5 250	7 340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.36	94.78	4 350	R	4 930	8 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.25	83.02	4 460	S	5 110	7 280
Edward at Liewah	-	4.51	59.89	5 630	F	6 090	5 900
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	5.13	58.62	13 580	F	13 990	13 080
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.73	61.69	10 830	F	11 560	12 210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	R	0	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.37	-	2 040	R	2 180	3 180
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.00	-	3 000	F	3 590	4 960

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 380	19 280
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.71	+4.63
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.08	+2.65
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.79	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.08	+2.36
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-43.40	+2.74	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.22	+3.63
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.24	+3.19	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.14	+2.83
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.45	+2.38	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.35	+3.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.99	+3.12	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.20	+2.03

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

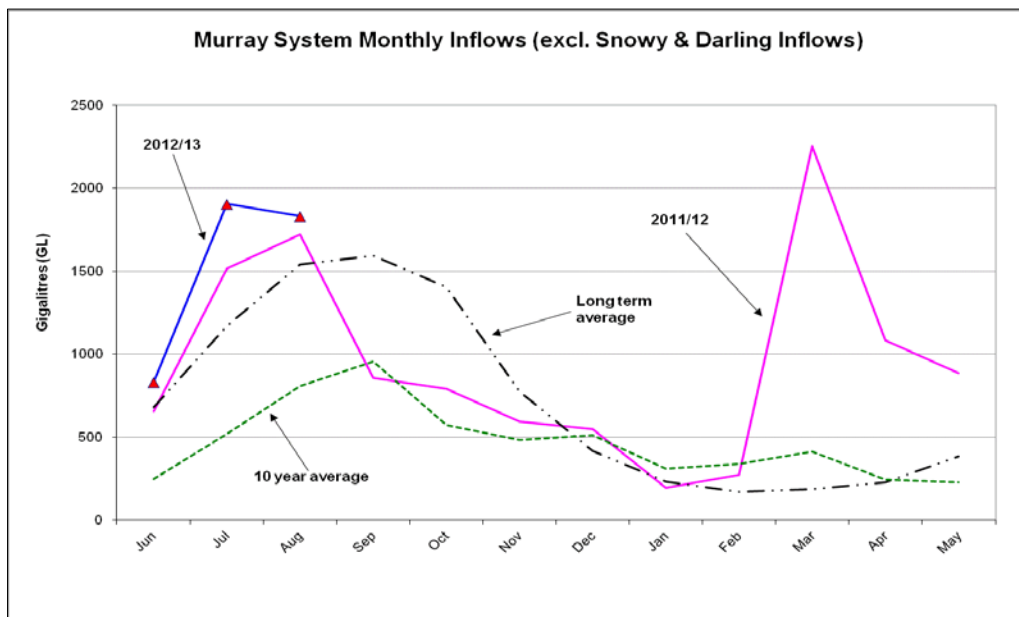
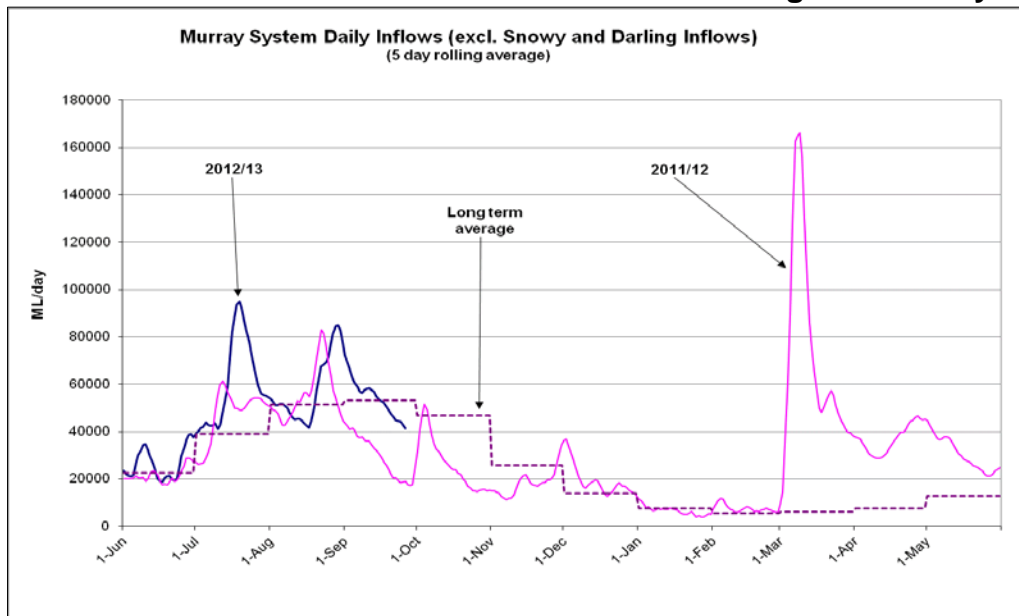
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.71	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.82	100	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 26 Sep 2012)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	75%
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%
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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/>