



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 2012

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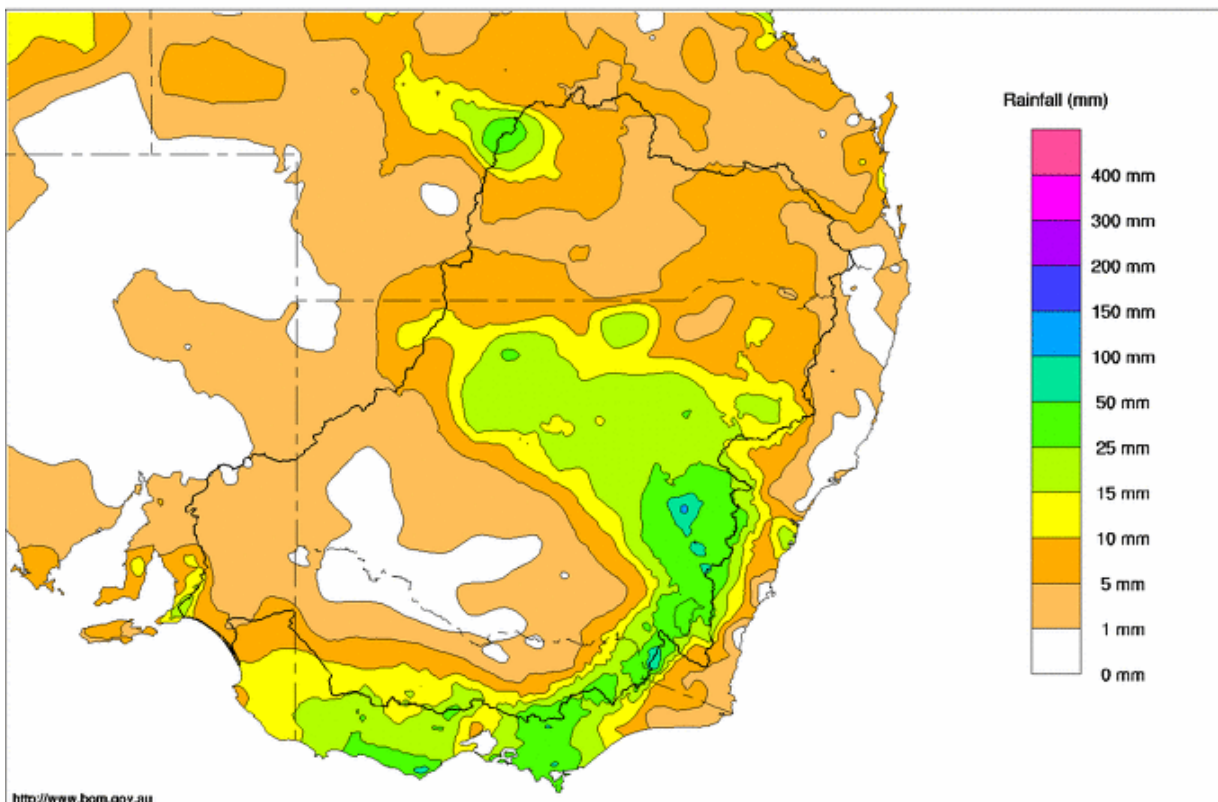
Rainfall and Inflows

A cold front and band of rain crossed the Murray-Darling Basin this week bringing rainfall recorded on 29th and 30th September before clearing for the start of October. Highest totals fell in an arc over the upper south-east and eastern catchments, with heavy falls over the higher alpine areas of NSW, and totals up to around 50 mm over the NSW central tablelands and ranges. Elsewhere, totals were lighter, while little or no rain was recorded over much of the NSW Riverina and northern Victoria (Map 1).

The heaviest rain fell over the NSW Snowy Mountains with around 100 mm recorded along the Main Range. At Mt Ginini there was 53 mm, while elsewhere in NSW there was 49 mm at Tuena, 48 mm at Orange Airport, 40 mm at Crookwell, 39 mm at Cowra and 38 mm at Mudgee Airport. In Victoria, there was 47 mm at Rocky Valley, 46 mm at Mt Hotham, 44 mm at Woods Point and 34 mm at Joker Creek.

Responses in the upper Murray tributaries were varied, with quite sharp rises observed in some catchments. On the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie rose from 1,900 to 6,400 ML/day before receding to 2,000 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 2,100 to almost 7,000 ML/day but fell back quickly to 2,400 ML/day; while downstream at Bringenbrong, there was a brief peak of almost 27,000 ML/day for a few hours before the flow dropped back to below 10,000 ML/day. On the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, responses were only small following lighter rainfall. On the Ovens River at Wangaratta, the flow increased from 4,000 to 4,200 ML/day and is currently at 3,500 ML/day.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 3rd October 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 3 October 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



September 2012 Summary

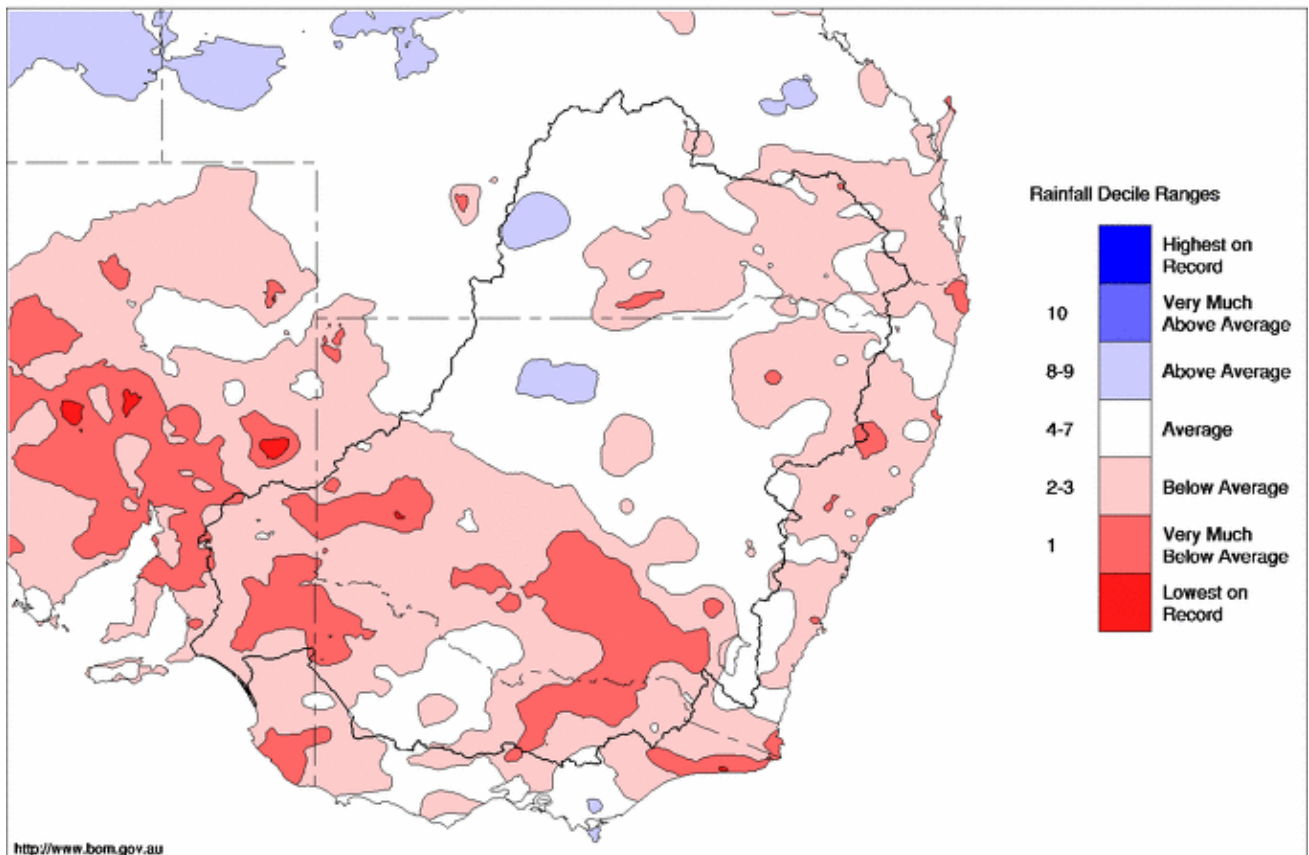
Despite the recent rain, September was quite a dry month across the Murray-Darling Basin. Averaged across the Basin, the Bureau of Meteorology reports that September was the 20th driest in 113 years of records with a total of only 15.9 mm (53% below the mean). In relative terms the driest areas were in the south and in the north-east, with broad areas of 'very much below average' rainfall for parts of the NSW Riverina, northern Victoria and in the far west (Map 2). Looking over the last 6 months, there has been a similar pattern of dry conditions. Since April 2012, most of the southern Basin away from the southern Great Dividing Range has received below average rainfall, with lowest totals recorded across the NSW Riverina and the Sunraysia regions.

September was also characterised by above average maximum temperatures. Many areas recorded their warmest September since 2006 and in NSW for example, average daily maximum temperatures were the 9th highest on record. By contrast, night time temperatures were relatively cool for September, with many clear nights resulting in slightly below average minimum temperatures at many locations.

September inflows to the River Murray system (excluding Darling River and Snowy inflows) totalled about 1,470 GL. This is slightly below the long-term average of around 1,600 GL but still well above the average over the last 10 years.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles September 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



http://www.bom.gov.au © Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology ID code: AWAP Issued: 03/10/2012

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



River Operations

MDBA active storage has remained steady this week and is currently 8,685 GL, or 101% 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 27 GL to 3,751 GL (97% capacity) with inflows increasing to around 6,000 ML/day over the weekend. At the current rate of rise, and without further rain in the short term, Dartmouth Reservoir is expected to reach 99% capacity during the first week of November. The release, measured at Colemans, has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day throughout the week.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows increased to a peak of nearly 22,000 ML/day on 1 October. The release from Hume was increased early in the week to manage airspace ahead of forecast rain that ended up being lower than anticipated across most of Hume's catchments apart from the higher alpine peaks. The release has since been cut back to 12,300 ML/day and the storage volume has levelled out at around 2,929 GL (97% capacity), a decrease of 34 GL over the week. Release over the coming week will most likely depend on downstream demands, which are expected to continue rising if weather conditions stay dry. Operations are changing from winter-spring 'spill mode' to demand-driven 'supply mode'.

At Yarrawonga Weir, total diversions have increased to almost 7,000 ML/day through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel and are expected to increase further in the days ahead. The pool level in Lake Mulwala has risen to 124.89 m AHD (1 cm below FSL) to partially re-regulate water released from Hume Reservoir earlier in the week. The current release downstream is 21,000 ML/day, but should decrease steadily in the coming days as inflows recede. A release below 10,000 ML/day is anticipated within a week's time.

On the Edward River system, combined inflows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes have increased slightly and are currently around 2,800 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the flow has decreased from 4,500 to around 4,000 ML/day and is expected to ease further in the coming days. Downstream at Moulamein the Edward River continues to recede, while further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite has fallen from a peak of around 20,500 ML/day on 23 September to the current flow of 15,700 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys has decreased to below 2,000 ML/day for the first time since June. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow on the River Murray has receded to 13,100 ML/day and is expected to decrease to around 11,000 ML/day in the coming days. At National Channel, diversion is currently at 2,000 ML/day and may increase to 3,000 ML/day this week.

At Swan Hill, a steady recession is now underway. The current flow is 18,000 ML/day and may be below 12,000 ML/day in a week's time. On the lower Murrumbidgee River, flows are also receding with the flow at Balranald now below 8,000 ML/day. At Euston Weir the flow peaked on 28 September at 48,900 ML/day and is now receding. A recession is expected to continue for several weeks.

At Mildura the River Murray is currently peaking and preparations are now underway to re-instate Mildura Weir following the period of high flows. The weir re-instatement is expected to commence on 9 October and should take around 3-5 days to complete.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes increased by 4 GL this week with the lakes now storing 2,013 GL (116% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) has decreased to minimums with a varied release pattern targeting an average minimum flow of 500 ML/day expected in the coming weeks. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has now fallen below 2,000 ML/day.

On the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow has been holding fairly steady with the current flow of 52,600 ML/day down only 200 ML/day from one week ago. The rate of recession is expected to increase over the coming week as flows fall away faster upstream.



At Lake Victoria the volume remains close to Full Supply with a current storage of around 666 GL (98% capacity) an increase of 3 GL since last week. The flow to South Australia has averaged around 49,500 ML/day and should remain close to this flow during the coming days before a recession begins.

At the Lower Lakes, high inflows continue, with flows into the Coorong continuing through all five Barrages when tide and swell conditions permit. The 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.71 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 03 Oct 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	484.38	3 751	97%	71	3 680	+27
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.62	2 929	97%	23	2 906	-34
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.91	666	98%	100	566	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 013	116%	(480 #)	1 533	+4
Total		9 269		9359	101%	--	8 685	0
Total Active MDBA Storage							101% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 022	100%	3	1 019	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 536	94%	24	1 512	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 301	99%	100	3 201	+21

* 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 02 Oct 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 329	+55	Snowy-Murray	+4	466
Snowy-Murray Component	792	+51	Tooma-Tumut	+10	150
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-6	317
			Murray 1 Release	+28	633

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)	26.8	220	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	N/A	N/A
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.3	109
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.9	11
Licensed Pumps	3.6	39	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	4
Lower Darling	3.7	85	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	34
TOTAL	34.6	346	TOTAL	18	157

* 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	170.0 *	
Flow this week	346.6	(49 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	149.2	
Flow last month	1,383.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	120	110	120
Euston	140	130	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	140	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	400	390	420
Lock 9	130	130	130
Lake Victoria	240	230	250
Berri	180	190	200
Waikerie	220	230	220
Morgan	210	220	210
Mannum	210	210	200
Murray Bridge	240	240	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	-	-	430
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	210	210	280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 490	3 300	3 380
Goolwa Barrages	1 030	1 100	3 020



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 03 Oct 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	-	-	-	4 130	F	7 070	4 670
Jingellic	4.0	2.44	208.96	11 360	R	11 680	9 840
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.71	218.60	1 150	F	1 270	1 400
Heywoods	5.5	3.73	157.36	12 270	F	19 030	11 340
Doctors Point	5.5	2.96	151.43	14 300	F	21 710	14 170
Albury	4.3	1.96	149.40	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.96	129.98	20 930	F	22 160	13 450
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.93	117.97	20 980	F	20 340	17 920
Tocumwal	6.4	3.74	107.58	22 500	R	19 510	18 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.98	82.53	13 110	F	15 390	21 530
Swan Hill	4.5	3.10	66.02	18 020	F	20 080	21 760
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.62	56.74	34 660	F	37 620	40 310
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.91	47.75	48 850	S	48 800	48 270
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	48 600	F	46 000	41 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.82	30.58	52 600	S	52 600	52 830
Rufus Junction	-	6.93	23.86	49 830	S	49 510	47 890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.84	-	42 100	S	41 540	40 810
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.22	155.45	2 530	F	2 780	2 810
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.09	146.77	3 590	F	4 050	5 250
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.97	93.39	1 780	F	2 750	4 930
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.60	82.37	2 980	F	3 920	5 110
Edward at Liewah	-	3.83	59.21	4 050	F	4 730	6 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.35	57.84	9 590	F	11 580	14 000
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.84	60.80	7 310	F	8 870	11 560
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	10	F	30	0
Darling at Bourke	-	4.29	-	1 430	F	1 610	2 180
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	1 680	F	2 290	3 590

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 690	18 220
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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	-0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.66	+4.66
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+2.68
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.91	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+2.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-43.40	+2.76	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.39	+3.63
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.23	+3.18	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.20	+2.91
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.46	+2.38	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.42	+3.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.01	+3.14	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.24	+2.09

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

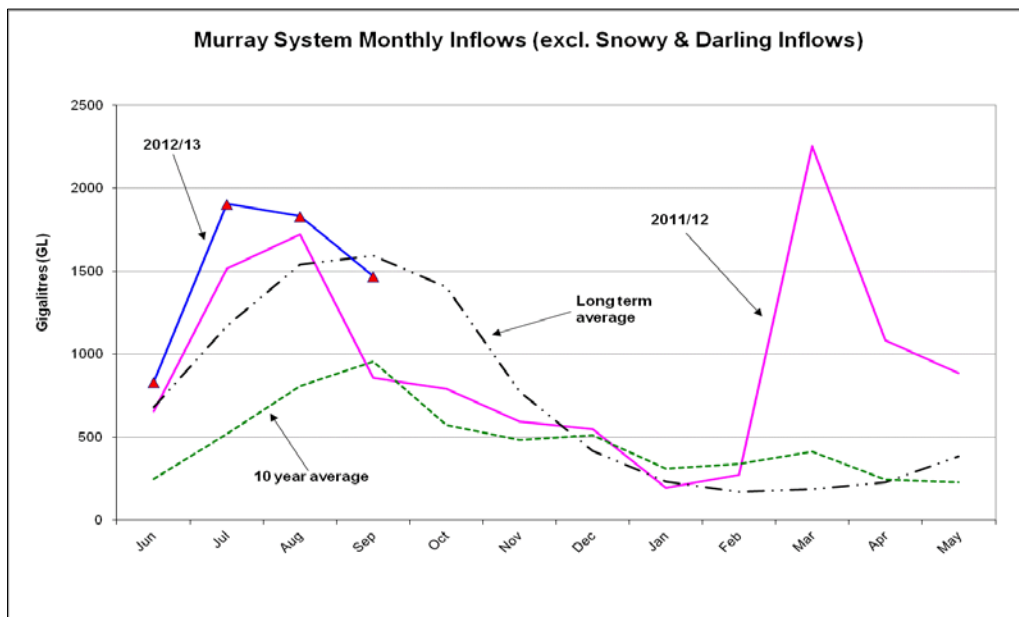
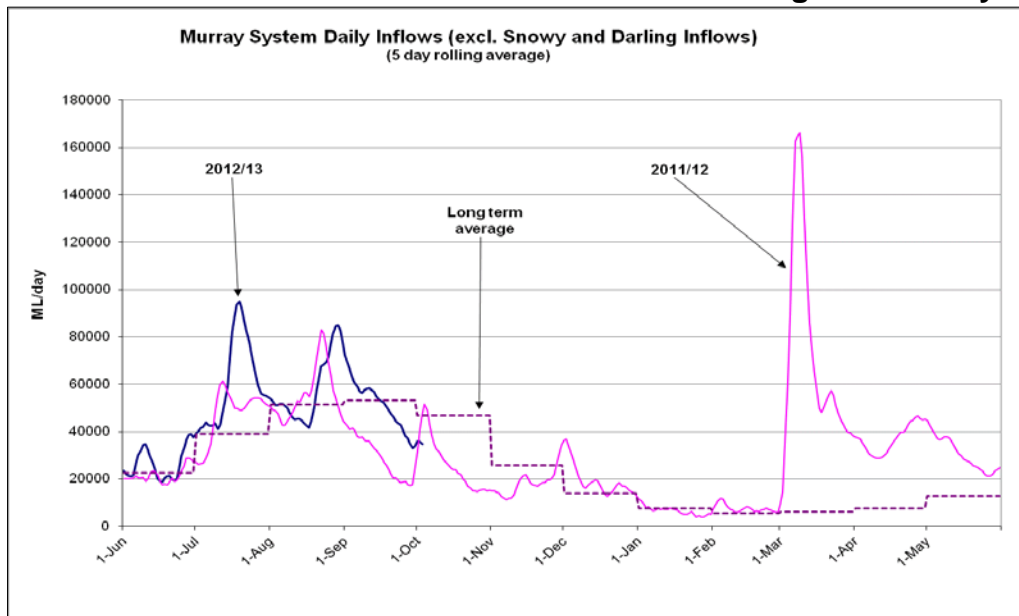
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.71
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.71	40	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	97	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 03 Oct 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	81%
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.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>

SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>