



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2012

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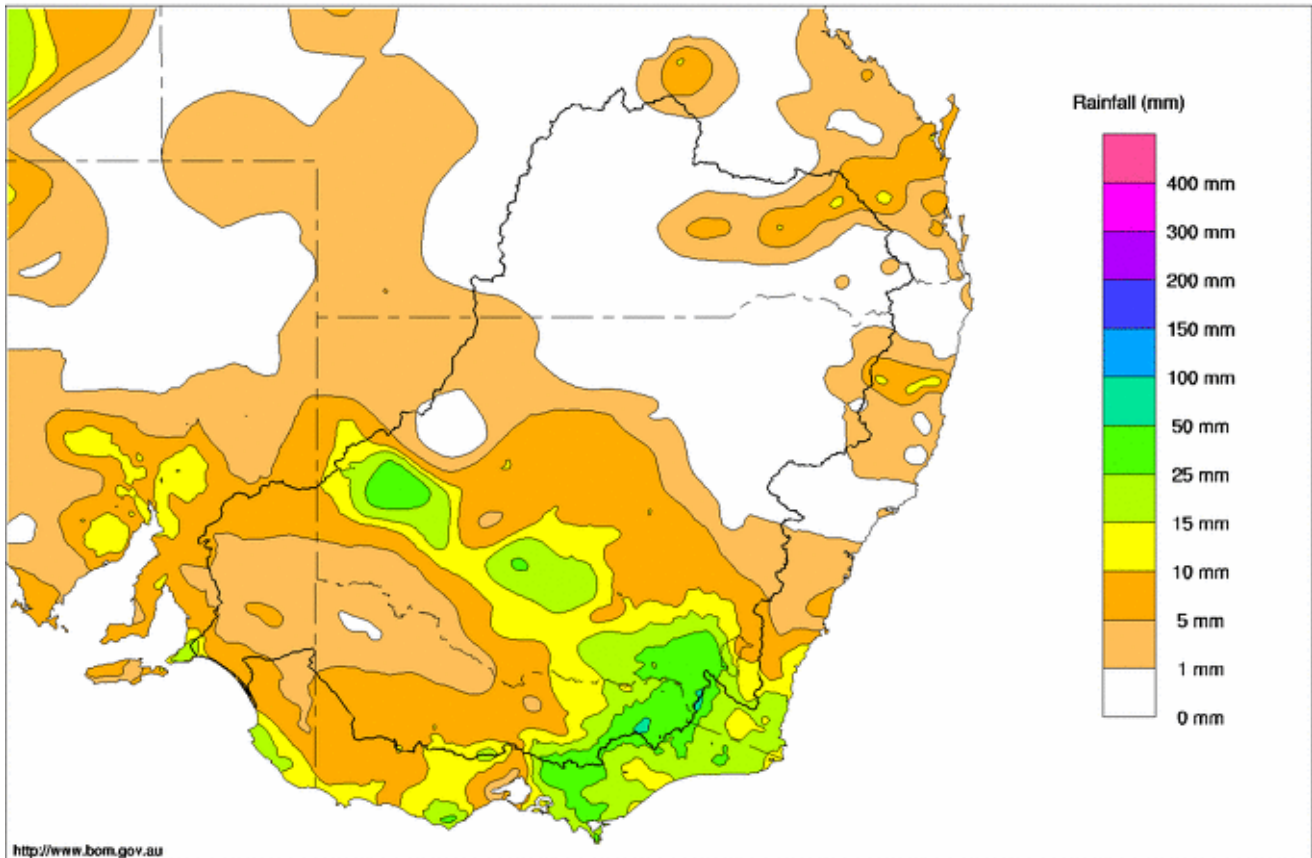
## Rainfall and Inflows

Only light rain was recorded around the Murray-Darling Basin's eastern and southern fringes this week until a developing trough system brought heavier rain and thunderstorms to parts of the southern Basin over the last couple of days (Map 1). Highest totals fell across the upper River Murray system catchments, although isolated heavy falls occurred elsewhere. In north-eastern Victoria, there was 59 mm at Rocky Valley, 56 mm at Falls Creek, 55 mm at Mt Hotham and 46 mm at both Mt Buffalo and Mt Buller. In NSW, there were falls in excess of 50 mm across the Snowy Mountains, 42 mm at Jingellic and totals between 10 and 30 mm in the eastern Riverina. In the far west, heavy rain associated with thunderstorms resulted in 45 mm at Menindee and 32 mm at Broken Hill. Heavy rain was continuing through the southern Basin during 7 and 8 November with a very heavy storm and almost 100 mm reported over those two days at Griffith.

Initial stream flow responses were small after several weeks of catchment drying; however as the rain continued through Wednesday 7 and into Thursday 8 November, further rises were continuing. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 800 to 1,000 ML/day, before reaching 2,900 ML/day on 8 November. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 1,300 to around 3,000 ML/day, while downstream at Jingellic, the flow has reached 15,000 ML/day with further rises expected. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Mongans Bridge increased from 800 to 1,900 ML/day.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 7th November 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 07/11/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 7 November 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



## October 2012 Summary

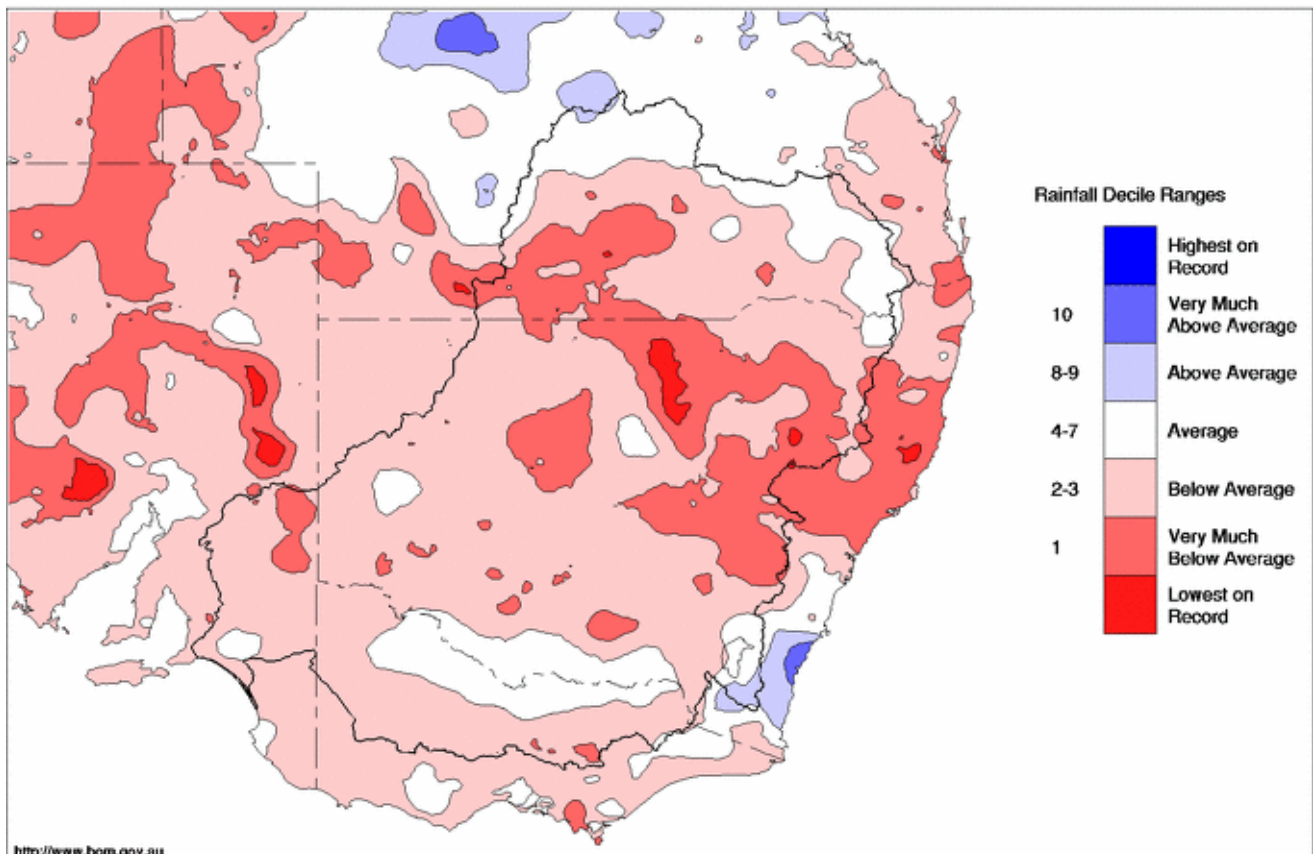
Below average rainfall for the Murray-Darling Basin persisted during October, following relatively dry conditions during August and September. Area-averaged across the Basin, the Bureau of Meteorology reports that October was the 10<sup>th</sup> driest in 113 years of records with a total of only 15.4 mm (62% below the mean) and for many places it was the driest October since the very dry spring of 2006. The only areas to receive close to average rain were in the far south-eastern Basin over the upper Murrumbidgee catchment, along the mid Murray valley and in the far north. Across northern and north-eastern NSW, large areas recorded 'very much below average' rain with some places receiving 'lowest on record' rainfall for October (Map 2).

The recent trend of above average maximum temperatures also continued during October, with averages between 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above the long-term mean reported in most parts of the Basin. This occurred despite a cold outbreak during the middle of the month that resulted in very low temperatures for several days and widespread snow along the NSW ranges. In contrast with maximum temperatures, overnight minimum temperatures remained cool during October. Most of the Basin recorded average minima between 1 and 3 degrees Celsius below the monthly average.

Inflows to the River Murray system (excluding Darling River and Snowy inflows) continued to recede during October, with a monthly total of about 775 GL. This is well below the long-term average of nearly 1,400 GL, although still slightly above the average for the past 10 years, and fairly similar to the inflow total recorded in October 2011.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles October 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 03/11/2012

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



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 51 GL this week and is currently 8,552 GL, or 99% 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 volume decreased by 3 GL to 3,814 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, is currently 3,000 ML/day and combined with tributary inflows is expected to result in flows downstream at Tallandoon close to 5,000 ML/day. See the attached flow advice for more details.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by just 13 GL to 2,865 GL (95% capacity). The release decreased over the week from 16,000 to 6,500 ML/day due to reduced demands. A higher release may be required in the coming week depending on downstream tributary inflows and demand responses to the current rainfall. Inflows to Hume Reservoir have increased, however as at Thursday 8 November, the storage is not expected to fill.

At Yarrawonga Weir, a release of 11,000 ML/day was maintained for much of the week but has now been decreased to 9,500 ML/day. Total diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel have decreased considerably and are currently around 5,500 ML/day. The current pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.80 m AHD (10 cm below FSL) and is expected to decrease slightly during the next few days.

On the Edward River system, inflow through the Edward offtake has increased slightly following higher releases from Yarrawonga during the week and is currently at 1,600 ML/day. Inflow through the Gulpa offtake is being held at around 500 ML/day using the regulator gates. This flow rate is enabling water to enter Reed Bed Swamp where a bird breeding event is currently taking place. At Stevens Weir, the flow has averaged around 1,300 ML/day and similar flows are expected in the coming week. The current pool level of 5.14 m on the local gauge is just 6 cm below FSL.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has remained close to 1,000 ML/day throughout the week and is expected to continue around this level during the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion through National Channel has increased to 3,200 ML/day and the flow downstream along the River Murray has remained fairly steady between 5,500 and 6,000 ML/day. Similar flows are expected in the coming week.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has receded only slightly and is currently at 4,700 ML/day. A steady recession continues downstream on the Murray at Euston, where the flow is now at 15,100 ML/day and the pool level is 47.63 m AHD or 3 cm above FSL.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 36 GL this week to 1,878 GL (108% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) has been decreased slowly (currently 2,700 ML/day). Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy peaked at 4,000 ML/day during the week and is currently at 3,900 ML/day.

At Wentworth Weir, the flow increased to 21,000 ML/day on 3 November and is now at 19,500 ML/day. The flow is expected to recede slightly more this week. At Lake Victoria the volume increased by 1 GL to 669 GL (99% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 18,600 ML/day after rising to a peak of 21,200 ML/day during the week.

At the Lower Lakes, inflows continue to recede and only a small number of Barrage gates remain open as operations aim to raise the lake levels towards 0.8 m AHD prior to summer. The 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina increased by 1 cm to 0.76 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 07 Nov 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	485.36	3 814	99%	71	3 743	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.29	2 865	95%	23	2 842	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.94	669	99%	100	569	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 878	108%	(480 #)	1 398	-36
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 226</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 552</b>	<b>-51</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							99% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	877	85%	3	874	-46
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 501	92%	24	1 477	+12
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 313	99%	100	3 213	+1

\* 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 06 Nov 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 439	+12	Snowy-Murray	+2	476
Snowy-Murray Component	944	+19	Tooma-Tumut	+7	176
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	-5	300
			Murray 1 Release	+7	705

**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)	38.5	447	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.3	90
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.3	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.5	178
Western Murray Irrigation	0.9	5	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.1	26
Licensed Pumps	5.1	71	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	6
Lower Darling	2.8	101	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.5	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>364</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	180.0 *	
Flow this week	140.7	(20 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	140.7	
Flow last month	1,071.9	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	130	130	120
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	110
Merbein	210	180	140
Burtundy (Darling)	430	440	430
Lock 9	200	170	130
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	220	220	200
Waikerie	280	300	250
Morgan	250	300	230
Mannum	490	400	220
Murray Bridge	370	320	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	290	320	400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	230	260
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 480	3 450	3 430
Goolwa Barrages	460	460	2 170



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 07 Nov 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	-	-	-	3 140	F	2 650	3 410
Jingellic	4.0	1.97	208.49	7 050	R	5 770	6 400
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.25	219.14	3 180	R	3 070	1 740
Heywoods	5.5	2.24	155.87	6 540	F	9 880	17 690
Doctors Point	5.5	2.39	150.86	7 870	F	11 310	19 890
Albury	4.3	1.39	148.83	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.44	128.46	10 340	F	14 850	18 980
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.58	116.62	9 520	S	10 620	9 340
Tocumwal	6.4	2.37	106.21	10 220	F	10 760	9 360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.99	80.54	5 590	R	5 710	8 370
Swan Hill	4.5	1.32	64.24	6 270	F	6 940	10 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.56	52.68	10 010	F	11 790	15 600
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.59	44.43	15 120	F	16 940	20 610
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	16 170	F	18 190	20 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.91	28.67	19 450	F	20 170	19 860
Rufus Junction	-	4.99	21.92	17 540	F	18 900	18 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.38	-	17 800	R	19 250	21 430
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.43	154.66	1 180	R	1 230	1 830
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.36	146.04	1 560	R	1 430	1 650
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.58	93.00	1 020	R	1 020	1 330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.42	81.19	1 220	F	1 340	1 580
Edward at Liewah	-	2.43	57.81	1 820	R	1 820	2 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.70	55.19	1 020	F	1 260	1 980
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.86	59.82	4 740	F	4 980	5 540
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	0	F	20	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.13	-	500	S	500	550
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.60	-	3 940	F	3 880	1 610

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 360	9 000
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+2.70
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.02	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+1.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+1.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.68	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.15	+1.88
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+1.27	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+1.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.64	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.15	+1.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+1.05	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.63

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.76
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**Barrages**

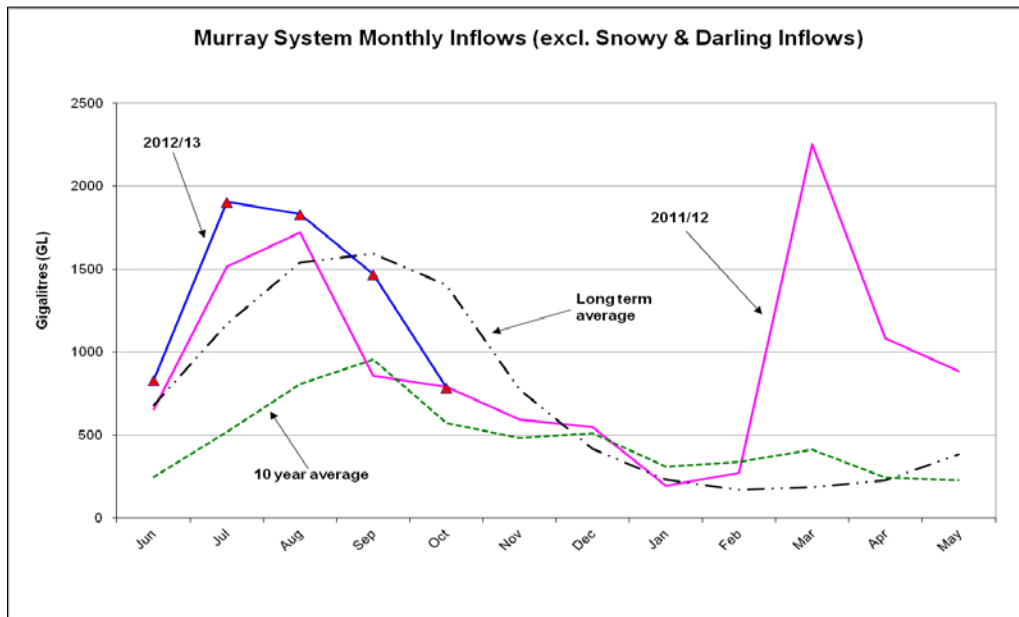
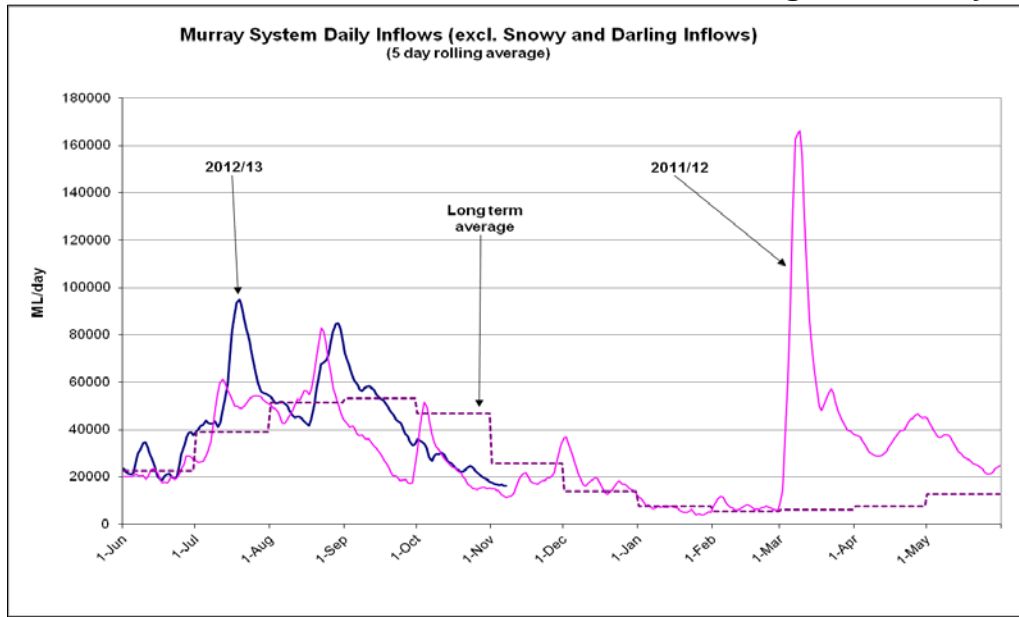
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	2	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.81	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 07 Nov 2012



### State Allocations (as at 07 Nov 2012)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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/>

# Mitta Mitta River

## Flow advice



6 November 2012

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## Higher flows possible in the Mitta Mitta River

Higher flows, exceeding 5,000 ML/day at Tallandoon, may occur in the Mitta Mitta River over the coming week in response to rainfall forecast for the next few days.

Release from Dartmouth Dam will increase on Wednesday 7 November to 3,000 ML/day, measured at Colemans gauge. Further increases are possible if there are high inflows to the Lake Dartmouth. At Tallandoon, the flow in the Mitta Mitta River may exceed 5,000 ML/day by late Wednesday, depending on inflows from Snowy Creek and whether higher releases are made from Dartmouth Dam.

Dartmouth Dam is currently at 99% capacity. At present, it is not expected that water will flow over the Dartmouth Dam spillway. Where possible, MDBA will pass inflows through the dam wall via the Power Station or outlet valves and maintain the storage below the level of the spillway.

At this stage the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has not issued a flood watch or flood warnings. Please check for updates on the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/>.

Downstream communities should be aware that there is uncertainty in the rainfall forecasts and of the subsequent stream responses. MDBA will continue to liaise closely with the BoM over the coming days and will provide further advice if the flow at Tallandoon is forecast to exceed 10,000 ML/day.

MDBA will continue to provide a flow forecast each Wednesday on the MDBA website at [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/storage\\_volumes](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/storage_volumes).

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take in to account the potential for increases flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

ENDS

**For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141.**  
For other information contact MDBA at [inquiries@mdba.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0100.

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