



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

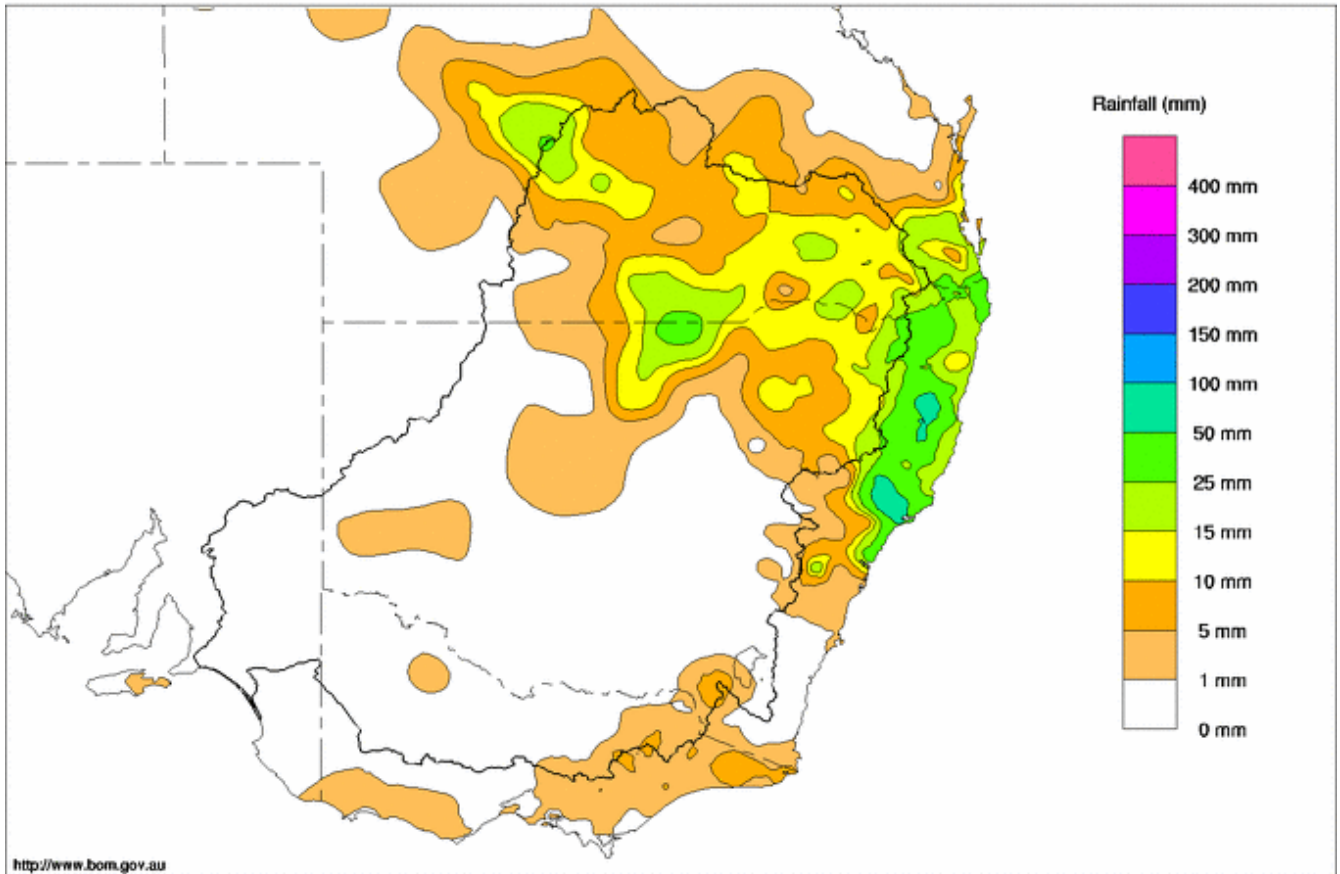
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2012

Trim Ref: D12/50800

Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions remained mostly dry across the Murray-Darling Basin this week. However, there were modest rainfalls in north-eastern areas, and along the New England ranges up to the NSW-Queensland border, where rain associated with moist easterly winds resulted in totals up to around 40 mm later in the week (Map 1). Best totals included 35 mm at Dalveen, 33 mm at Glen Innes Airport, and 30 mm at Wallangarra. In north-western NSW there were isolated totals of 32 mm at Lightning Ridge and 31 mm at Louth, whilst in Victoria, only Mt Buller reached double figures with 10 mm.

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



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

Tributaries in the upper Murray catchment have continued to steadily recede this week with conditions remaining quite dry over the south-east ranges. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from around 400 to 330 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 1,000 to around 870 ML/day, while at Bringenbrong flows receded from 1,500 to 1,200 ML/day. On the Kiewa River the flow at Bandiana decreased from 1,050 to 800 ML/day and on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point decreased from 700 to 550 ML/day.



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 182 GL this week and is currently 7,953 GL, or 93% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume held relatively steady and is 3,817 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, was briefly increased during the week to around 2,400 ML/day. This 'pulse' aims to manage downstream water quality in the Mitta Mitta River. The release is currently at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day, but will return to between 350 and 450 ML/day late on Thursday 13 December.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 89 GL to 2,645 GL (88% capacity). The release this week averaged around 15,000 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, total diversions at the irrigation offtakes ranged between 8,600 ML/day and the current rate of 10,000 ML/day. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.8 m AHD. The downstream release is currently 8,000 ML/day.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has been fairly steady, averaging 1,500 ML/day and 500 ML/day respectively. Inflow through the Edward Escape was relatively high, averaging 2,100 ML/day this week, while diversions to the Wakool Main Canal averaged 1,500 ML/day. Diversions to Yallakool Creek returned to the normal seasonal minimum of 270 ML/day late this week after several months of higher flows, which included the delivery of Commonwealth Environmental Water. These higher flows helped maintain water levels to inundate Murray Cod nests in the Wakool System, promoting the hatching and drift of Cod larvae. A second environmental pulse to stimulate breeding is currently under way in the Colligen Creek. The diversion to Colligen Creek increased this week from 230 ML/day to the current flow of 650 ML/day. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged around 1,500 ML/day during the week and is currently 1,200 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, flows were around 2,500 ML/day, down from the peak of 5,600 ML/day during the release of environmental water two weeks ago, but well above the normal minimum of 350 ML/day. This current higher flow includes the delivery of water traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley and, in co-operation with Goulburn Murray Catchment Management Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water, is being released in a pattern that will provide some benefit to the Goulburn riverine environment. The delivery of traded water is expected to continue into January 2013. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel was steady at around 2,200 ML/day. Downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the flow receded over the week from 8,600 ML/day to 6,100 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged 3,100 ML/day. The flow is expected to start receding toward 1,500 ML/day late next week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston the flow peaked at 13,900 ML/day at the start of the week and is currently 11,900 ML/day.

The Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has lifted its precautionary red alert for blue-green algae between Red Cliffs and Mildura Weir. Recent sampling results indicate a decline in potentially toxic blue-green algae, to numbers well below the high alert levels. See the attached algal alert bulletin for more details. At Mildura Weir the Lock will be closed for two days on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 December 2012 to allow access for a crane to the fishway construction site. See the attached media release for more details.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 85 GL this week to 1,553 GL (90% capacity). The release (measured at Weir 32) remained close to 9,000 ML/day in the first half of the week before receding to the current rate of 7,300 ML/day. A release at Weir 32 of around 7,000 ML/day will be targeted for the remainder of December. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy peaked at 7,400 ML/day. On the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow remained steady at 19,000 ML/day and will recede over the coming weeks.

At Lake Victoria the volume reduced by 8 GL to 612 GL (90% capacity) and is expected to continue decreasing over the coming weeks. The flow to South Australia averaged 18,500 ML/day and should remain around this rate next week. About 9,000 ML/day of this flow is environmental water held by



Commonwealth and State governments. The flow at Lock 1 was relatively steady averaging 15,000 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina was 0.79 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 12 Dec 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	485.41	3 817	99%	71	3 746	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.14	2 645	88%	23	2 622	-89
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.46	612	90%	100	512	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 553	90%	(480 #)	1 073	-85
Total		9 269		8 627	93%	--	7 953	-182
Total Active MDBA Storage							93% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	718	70%	3	715	-32
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 502	92%	24	1 478	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 139	94%	100	3 039	-32

* 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 Dec 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 364	-25	Snowy-Murray	+0	496
Snowy-Murray Component	969	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+0	194
Target Storage	1 510		Net Diversion	0	301
			Murray 1 Release	+1	736

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)	44.2	656	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.1	150
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.0	12	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.8	261
Western Murray Irrigation	1.2	10	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.9	49
Licensed Pumps	5.7	103	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.4	16
Lower Darling	3.8	37	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	111
TOTAL	57.9	818	TOTAL	42.7	587

* 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	217.0 *	
Flow this week	129.5	(18 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	223.4	
Flow last month	491.4	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	100	120
Euston	120	130	120
Red Cliffs	150	150	120
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	510	490	440
Lock 9	280	270	160
Lake Victoria	210	210	240
Berri	370	340	220
Waikerie	300	300	260
Morgan	300	300	240
Mannum	340	330	240
Murray Bridge	350	330	270
Milang (Lake Alex.)	500	480	390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	330	340	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 380	3 390	3 430
Goolwa Barrages	580	680	1 740



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 12 Dec 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	-	-	-	490	F	490	2 670
Jingellic	4.0	1.29	207.81	2 200	F	2 530	5 020
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.65	218.54	1 000	S	1 420	780
Heywoods	5.5	3.13	156.76	15 530	R	14 860	13 810
Doctors Point	5.5	3.18	151.65	16 960	R	16 360	15 690
Albury	4.3	2.18	149.62	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.30	129.32	16 040	F	16 340	15 940
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.39	116.43	8 010	S	8 020	8 670
Tocumwal	6.4	2.04	105.88	8 050	S	8 180	8 660
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.13	80.67	6 060	F	6 760	9 190
Swan Hill	4.5	1.41	64.33	6 820	F	8 070	9 060
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.39	52.51	9 390	F	10 310	10 660
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.19	44.03	11 920	R	12 820	12 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	11 830	F	12 430	11 140
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.76	28.52	18 980	S	18 950	15 930
Rufus Junction	-	4.98	21.91	17 440	F	17 470	16 800
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.32	-	14 910	S	14 970	13 960
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.18	154.41	800	F	920	1 350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.03	145.71	810	F	880	1 050
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.44	93.86	2 600	R	2 460	4 670
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.43	81.20	1 220	F	1 480	980
Edward at Liewah	-	1.64	57.02	970	R	1 000	1 270
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.53	55.02	660	F	730	850
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.15	59.11	3 180	R	3 130	3 950
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.01	-	0	F	30	0
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	540	S	610	730
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.18	-	7 360	S	7 200	6 100

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 760	3 710
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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	+0.18	+2.68
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+0.90
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+0.85
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.36	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+1.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+1.12	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.95
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.71	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.97
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+1.06	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.57

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

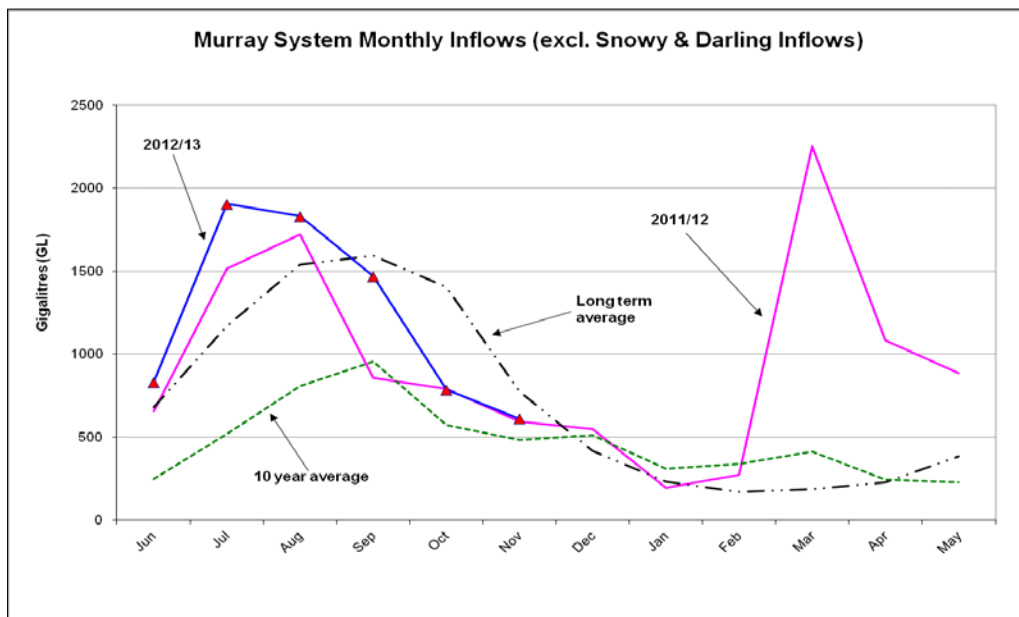
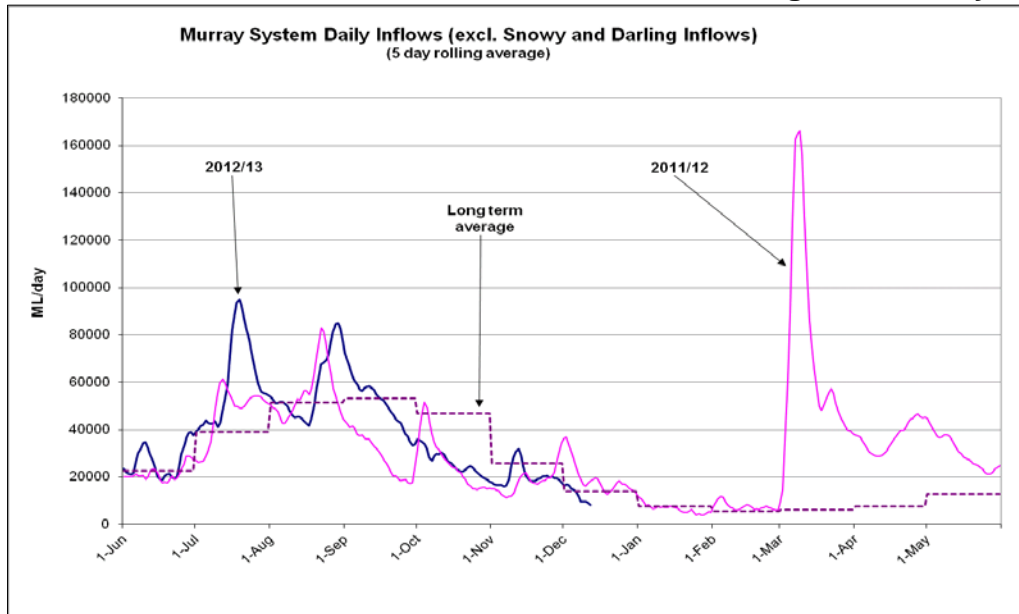
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.79
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.80	25	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 12 Dec 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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/>

Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

Thursday, 13 December 2012

Precautionary alert lifted for Mildura weir pool

Chair of the Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee, Owen Russell, today announced the lifting of the precautionary red alert for blue green algae in the Murray River at Mildura.

Recent results obtained by both Victorian and NSW Water Authorities, has shown a decline in the number of potentially toxic blue green algae, meaning that the initial threat has now passed.

“Our sampling regime indicates that the numbers of potentially toxic blue green algae are now well below that high alert levels,” said Mr Russell.

“The recent series of cool changes across the area would certainly have contributed to these results.”

The Mildura weir pool – that is the stretch of the Murray River that extends from Red Cliffs to the weir is now under an amber alert.

“This means that the water is safe for all recreational purposes, however we recommend that water for human consumption is taken only from private rain water tanks or the treated town water supply.”

Mr Russell said that that the Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating committee would continue to monitor for Blue green algae over the summer period.

Information on blue green algae can be found at www.water.nsw.gov.au or by phoning the free call algal information line on 1800 999457

MEDIA RELEASE



11 December 2012

Mildura Lock closure on 18 and 19 December 2012

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water today advised that Mildura Lock will be closed for two days on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 December 2012.

Navigation via the river will not be available during this period.

The last opportunity for boat passage through the Mildura Lock will be 4pm on Monday 17 December.

It is expected that boat passage will resume from 10am on Thursday 20 December.

The contractor and GMW staff will be working out-of-hours to minimise the disruption to the use of the lock.

Normal operations of the Mildura Weir pool are expected to continue while the lock is closed.

The temporary closure of the lock is essential to allow access for a crane to the fishway construction site at Mildura Weir. The crane will be used to install a steel coffer dam around the fishway site, prior to construction of the fishway re-commencing in mid-January 2013.

The MDBA and GMW will issue another media release if the dates of the lock closure are expected to change.

Boat operators and other river users are advised to take this lock closure into account when planning their activities on the river.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

 Follow the MDBA http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

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