



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2012

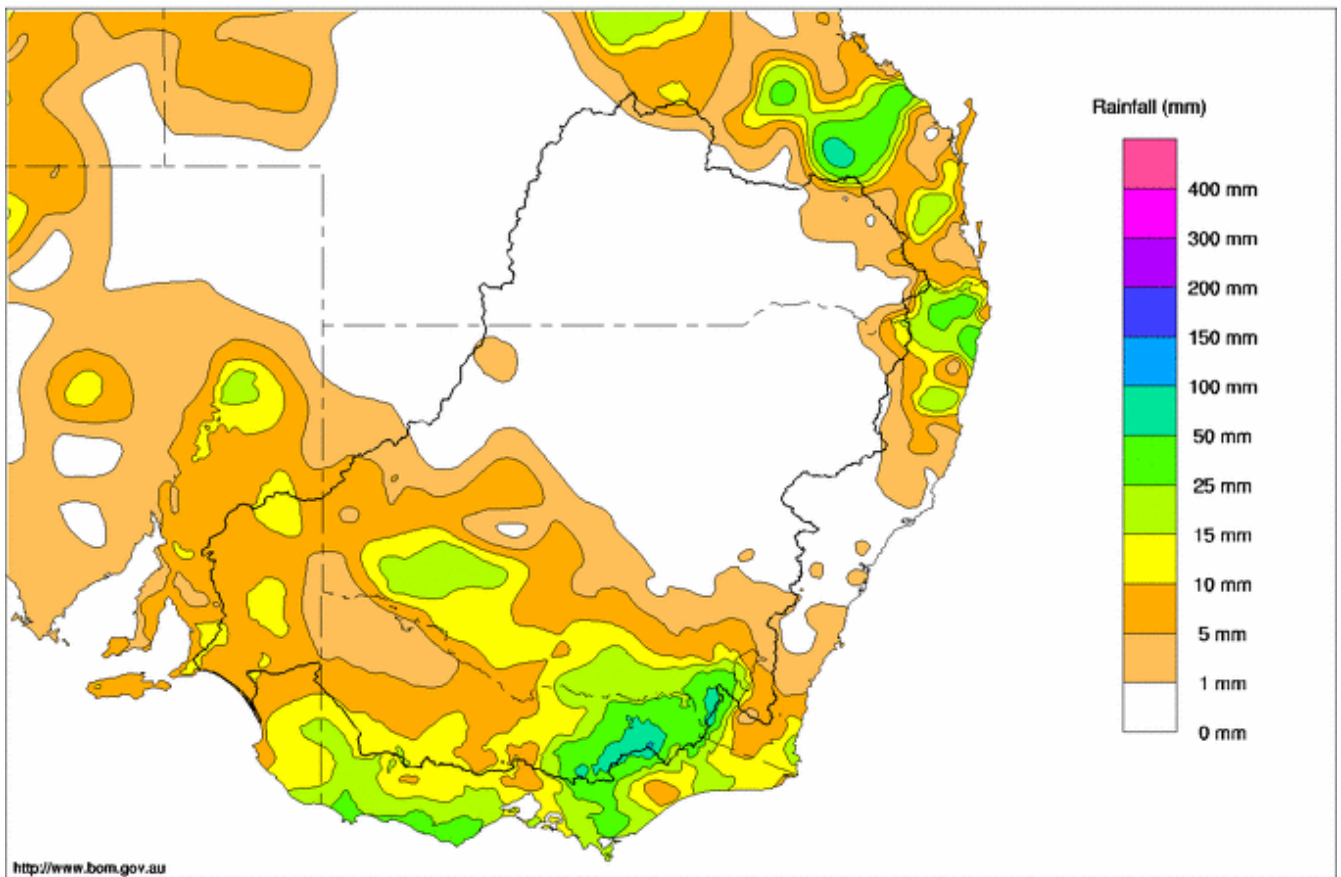
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Rainfall and Inflows

A trough system that crossed the Murray-Darling Basin over the weekend brought rain and storms to southern districts with the heaviest rainfall totals over the Victorian Alps and the NSW Snowy Mountains. Most parts of the northern Basin remained dry apart from the far north-eastern fringe, which caught the edge of thunderstorms late in the week that mostly affected areas east of the Basin along the northern NSW and Queensland coast (Map 1).

Highest rain totals in Victoria included 123 mm at Mt Hotham, 92 mm at Rocky Valley, 58 mm at Rocky Point, 47 mm at Yackandandah and 31 mm at Yarrowonga. In NSW there were totals above 100 mm over the Snowy Mountains, 50 mm at Cabramurra, 40 mm at Henty and 28 mm at Mt Ginini.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th December 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 19/12/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 19th December 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Rainfall responses in the upper Murray catchments were sharp, with most tributaries falling back quickly to the levels observed prior to the rain. On the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge peaked at 1,300 ML/day but has now receded to 450 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 850 to 1,950 ML/day and is now flowing at 900 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow increased from 500 to 2,000 ML/day and is now flowing at 800 ML/day.



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 136 GL this week and is currently 7,818 GL, or 91% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage rose 5 GL to 3,822 GL (99% capacity). Release, measured at Colemans, increased early in the week and is expected to be around 600 ML/day in the coming week. A 'pulsed' release reaching around 2,600 ML/day is scheduled to commence on Saturday 29 December 2012. This release aims to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River. Release will be reduced over the New Year to between 600–1,000 ML/day (see attached flow advice for details).

At Hume Reservoir, the volume in storage fell by 71 GL to 2,574 GL (86% capacity). The storage has reduced by around 410 GL since the volume peaked in mid-October 2012. The release was reduced this week from 15,700 ML/day to 11,500 ML/day in response to the rain.

At Yarrowonga Weir, total diversions at the irrigation offtakes ranged between 10,000 ML/day and around 8,000 ML/day over the week. Total diversions have been relatively stable since mid-November, averaging around 60 GL/week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.79 m AHD. Release briefly increased to 10,000 ML/day during the week in response to this week's rain, and is currently 9,000 ML/day. The release is expected to be reduced to 7,500 ML/day in the coming week.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes averaged 1,500 ML/day and 500 ML/day respectively. Diversions to Wakool River and Yallakool Creek were around the normal seasonal minimums of 100 ML/day and 270 ML/day respectively. The diversion to Colligen Creek reduced this week as delivery of an environmental pulse to stimulate fish breeding was completed. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir will be reduced to 600 ML/day in the coming week.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, flow averaged 2,650 ML/day as delivery of water traded from the Goulburn to the Murray continues. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion to National Channel was steady at around 2,200 ML/day with release from the weir averaging about 6,000 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged 2,700 ML/day, and is expected to start receding toward 1,500 ML/day late next week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston the flow receded to 9,000 ML/day and is expected to remain around this level next week.

At Mildura Weir, the temporary closure of the lock on 18 and 19 December allowed access for a crane to successfully install a coffer dam around the fishway construction site. The lock is open again and will remain operational when construction of the fishway re-commences in mid-January 2013.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes fell to 1,499 GL (87% capacity) with release (measured at Weir 32) averaging 7,000 ML/day. This will be reduced to 6,000 ML/day on Thursday 3 January 2013 (see attached flow advice for details). On the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy slowly receded to 6,200 ML/day with Murray flows at Wentworth receding from 19,000 ML/day to 15,400 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria the volume reduced by 15 GL to 597 GL (88% capacity) and is expected to continue decreasing over the coming weeks. The flow to South Australia averaged 18,500 ML/day this week and will recede toward 10,000 ML/day over the next two weeks. The flow at Lock 1 averaged 15,200 ML/day and at the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina was 0.78 m AHD.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.

Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued during the week ending 26 December 2012. The next report will cover the two week period ending 2nd January 2013.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 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	485.48	3 822	99%	71	3 751	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	189.76	2 574	86%	23	2 551	-71
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.33	597	88%	100	497	-15
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 499	87%	(480 #)	1 019	-54
Total		9 269		8 492	92%	--	7 818	-136
Total Active MDBA Storage							91% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	684	67%	3	681	-34
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 468	90%	24	1 444	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 125	94%	100	3 025	-14

* 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 18 Dec 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 347	-18	Snowy-Murray	+0	496
Snowy-Murray Component	983	+14	Tooma-Tumut	+1	195
Target Storage	1 510		Net Diversion	-1	300
			Murray 1 Release	+4	741

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)	47.4	703	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.3	158
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.9	15	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.3	199
Western Murray Irrigation	1.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4	54
Licensed Pumps	5.8	110	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.7	20
Lower Darling	3.8	41	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	118
TOTAL	61.1	881	TOTAL	37.8	549

* 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	129.8	(18 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	353.2	
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	90	90	120
Euston	130	120	120
Red Cliffs	140	140	120
Merbein	150	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	500	510	440
Lock 9	310	300	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	340	370	230
Waikerie	330	300	260
Morgan	320	310	250
Mannum	330	350	250
Murray Bridge	340	360	280
Milang (Lake Alex.)	480	510	400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	320	320	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 410	3 380	3 430
Goolwa Barrages	570	630	1 690



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 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	-	-	-	790	F	1 120	490
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	207.97	3 130	F	3 170	2 530
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.58	218.47	820	F	900	1 420
Heywoods	5.5	2.82	156.45	11 540	S	13 100	14 860
Doctors Point	5.5	2.90	151.37	13 470	F	14 870	16 360
Albury	4.3	1.88	149.32	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.07	129.09	14 550	F	15 970	16 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.52	116.56	9 030	F	8 760	8 020
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	9 610	R	8 550	8 180
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.22	80.77	6 420	F	6 260	6 760
Swan Hill	4.5	1.29	64.21	6 140	R	6 150	8 070
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.00	52.12	7 870	S	8 240	10 310
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.79	43.63	9 030	F	10 050	12 820
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	9 440	F	10 500	12 430
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.53	28.29	15 350	F	16 960	18 950
Rufus Junction	-	5.00	21.93	17 640	S	17 580	17 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.24	-	15 490	S	15 220	14 970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.37	154.60	1 080	F	1 070	920
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.24	145.92	1 270	F	1 130	880
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.33	93.75	2 400	F	2 640	2 460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.42	81.19	1 220	F	1 090	1 480
Edward at Liewah	-	2.05	57.43	1 380	R	1 220	1 000
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.51	55.00	630	F	630	730
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.80	58.76	2 610	F	2 730	3 130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.32	-	330	F	220	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	370	F	440	610
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.70	-	6 160	F	6 840	7 200

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5400	3 970
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+2.70
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.02	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.92
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.82
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.24	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.74
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.89	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+1.00
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.60	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.99
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.83	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.49

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

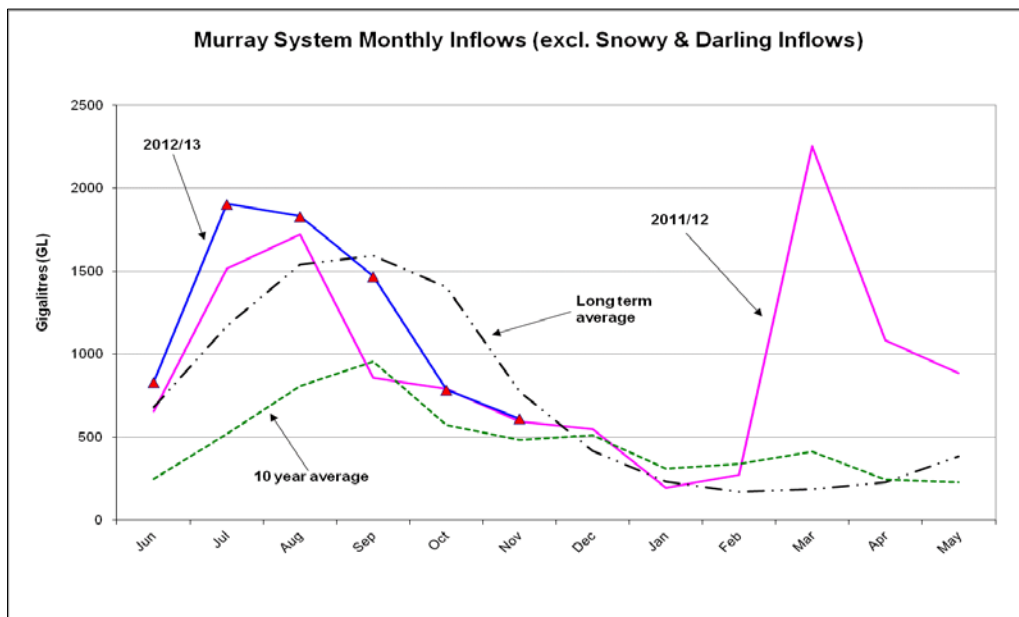
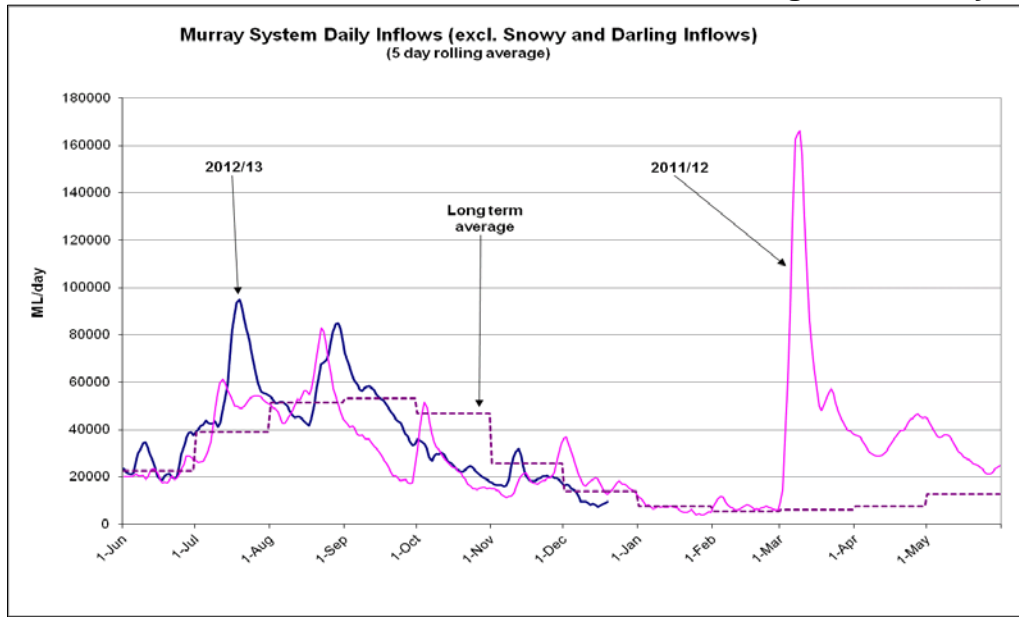
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.78
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.78	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.75	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	40	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 19 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/>

Mitta Mitta River Flow advice



19 December 2012

Higher flows downstream of Dartmouth Dam

Releases from Dartmouth Dam will be increased to 600 ML/day on the morning of Thursday 20 December 2012, due to recent inflows. As a result, the gauge height at Colemans will increase from about 1.1 m to about 1.25 m.

A 'pulsed' release of water from Dartmouth Dam is planned for late December 2012.

During the pulsed release, the flow at Colemans gauge will start to increase very early on Saturday 29 December, reaching about 2,600 ML/day (1.8 m gauge height) by 8am. This flow rate will be maintained until mid-afternoon on Monday 31 December 2012.

By mid-afternoon on Tuesday 1 January 2013, the flow will be reduced to between 600–1,000 ML/day (1.25–1.4 m gauge height at Colemans), depending on rainfall.

Rates of rise and fall in the river at Colemans will follow operational guidelines.

With the forecast inflow from Snowy Creek, the pulsed release in late December is expected to result in a flow at Tallandoon of less than 3,000 ML/day (less than 2.2 m local gauge height).

However, if there is substantial rainfall over the coming days, the river level at Tallandoon may temporarily rise above 3,000 ML/day from tributary inflows to the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir.

It is also possible that this planned pulsed release may be reduced, or cancelled, in response to higher natural flows.

Further pulsed releases are likely over summer. Pulsed releases aim to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.

MDBA provides a flow forecast each Wednesday for the following week on the MDBA website at http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/storage_volumes. Over the Christmas–New Year period, these forecasts will be updated by 5 pm on 21 December and 24 December 2012; and 2 January and 4 January 2013.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take in to account the increase 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 or 02 6279 0141. For other information contact MDBA at inquiries@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

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Lower Darling River Flow advice



18 December 2012

Release from Menindee Lakes reducing on 3 January 2013

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that the release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River is planned to reduce to a flow of about 6,000 ML/day (2.6 m) at Weir 32 commencing Thursday, 3 January, 2013. Until that date, the flow will be steady at about the current flow rate of 7,000 ML/day, with levels at Weir 32 varying between 2.65–2.75 m.

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 6,500 ML/day (3.8 m) and slowly falling. The flow is expected to continue receding for the next couple of days then remain steady at about 5,500–6,100 ML/day (3.4–3.7 m) until about 10 January 2013. Thereafter, flows are expected to recede further to about 5,300 ML/day (3.3 m).

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the changing flow rates along the lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

Forecast flows are also available on the MDBA website (see http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info and click on 'storage volumes & releases' for Menindee storage volume and Weir 32 flows or 'river flows & levels' for Burtundy flows). Over the Christmas–New Year period, these forecasts will be updated by 5 pm on 21 December and 24 December 2012; and 2 January and 4 January 2013.

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements. Another flow advice will be issued on Friday 11 January 2013, or earlier if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

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