



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2013

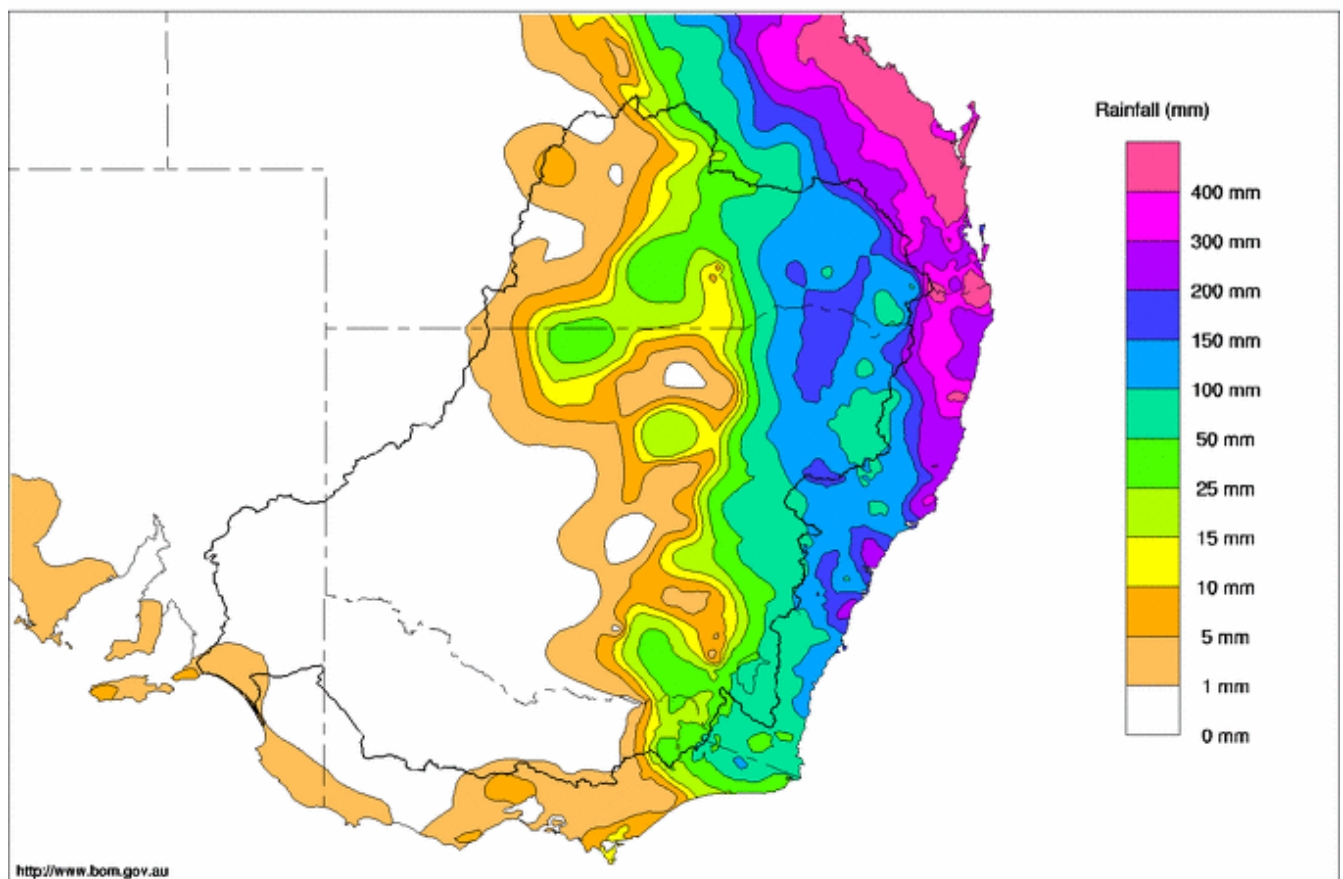
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Rainfall and Inflows

There was humid weather and heavy rain across eastern Australia this week as a major depression formed from the remnants of Tropical Cyclone Oswald and moved slowly southward through Queensland and NSW. The most extreme rainfall and flooding generated by this system stayed mostly to the east of the Great Divide; however some very heavy rain did cross into the north-eastern Murray-Darling Basin affecting the upper Condamine, Moonie, Border, Gwydir and Namoi River catchments.

In south-eastern districts, increasing moisture and an active trough brought intense thunderstorms to some locations over the weekend, while for the south-western third of the Basin, conditions remained stubbornly dry (Map 1).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 30th January 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 30 January 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

The heaviest rainfall totals fell along the crest of the Great Divide in southern Queensland and northern NSW, with high totals also recorded over the Darling Downs and along the northern, central and southern tablelands of NSW. At The Head, south of Toowoomba, there was 611 mm for the week with a remarkable 425 mm recorded during the 24 hours to 9 am on 28 January.



Other heavy totals in Queensland included 381 mm at Maryvale, 328 mm at Toowoomba, 214 mm at Goondiwindi, and 179 mm at Dalveen. In NSW, there was 188 mm at Pallamallawa, 179 mm at Bellata, 142 mm at Moree, 132 mm at Narrabri Airport, 108 mm at Glen Innes, 104 mm at Jingellic, 103 mm at Armidale Airport, 95 mm at Cooma, 76 mm at Coonabarabran Airport and, in the ACT, 80 mm at Tuggeranong.

Stream flow responses to the rain in the north-eastern Basin have been significant; although generally far lower than most of the large floods the region has experienced in recent years. The highest flows have been observed in the upper Condamine, Moonie, Border, Gwydir and Namoi Rivers, with peak flows of between 30,000 and 80,000 ML/day at many gauges.

There has been minor flooding at sites along the Gwydir River and minor to major flooding along the Moonie, Border and Condamine Rivers. For information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

Downstream on the Barwon-Darling River, flows are expected to increase to some degree over the coming weeks and months as the current high flows in the upstream tributaries progress down the system; however at this stage it is too early to estimate the volume and exact timing of these rises. Updates will be provided in future Weekly Reports.

In the upper Murray catchments, localised thunderstorms resulted in only very small responses along the upper Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers. For example, on the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from 550 to 700 ML/day; and on the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge, the flow increased from around 100 to 250 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 241 GL during the week to 6,486 GL (75% capacity).

“Harmony” transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Lake Hume commenced this week. One of the benefits of these transfers is the provision of additional flood mitigation capacity at Dartmouth Reservoir for the coming winter and spring without impinging upon the security of supply to downstream water users.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 9 GL to 3,780 GL (98% capacity). The flow at Colemans gauge is currently targeting 2,500 ML/day (31 January 2013). On Monday morning, 4 February, the flow will be further increased to 7,000 ML/day (2.45 m gauge height) and this flow will be maintained for 3 days before being gradually reduced. For further information, see the flow advice of 22 January 2013 (http://www.mdba.gov.au/media_centre/media_releases), which was also included in last week’s Weekly Report.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume fell by 120 GL to 1,889 GL (63% capacity) as releases remained high to supply downstream demand. At Doctors Point, the flow averaged 20,200 ML/day during the week.

Lake Mulwala level remained above 124.75 m AHD during the week and is currently 124.81 m AHD. Demand at the irrigation offtakes eased slightly again this week, totalling around 74 GL compared with 81 GL last week. The release downstream of Yarrawonga is now 9,600 ML/day and expected to remain at about this rate for the next week.

On the Edward River at Stevens Weir, the flow is 830 ML/day and is expected to remain fairly steady during the coming week. On the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing, the flow is currently 260 ML/day and is likely to increase towards 300 ML/day during the week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is 1,400 ML/day and slowly receding. At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level remains 86.05 m AHD. The flow downstream of the weir is currently 4,900 ML/day and receding. Diversions through National Channel are now about 3,150 ML/day but are expected to increase to about 4,000 ML/day in the next week or so.



Downstream on the River Murray at Euston Weir, the flow is currently 4,700 ML/day while at Mildura Weir, the flow is 3,000 ML/day. At both locations, flows are expected to recede during the week.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 65 GL to 1,083 GL (63% capacity). Releases from the Lakes during the week totalled 25 GL, measured at Weir 32, with evaporation losses during the same period estimated to total about 24 GL. At Burtundy, the flow has receded to 3,800 ML/day and will continue to steadily fall.

On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir is currently 5,800 ML/day. During the coming week, the flow is expected to fall below 5,000 ML/day—this will be the lowest flow at Wentworth since July 2010.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 24.62 m AHD (408 GL, 60% capacity), and the flow into South Australia averaged 10,900 ML/day during the week. This flow is expected to reduce to about 8,300 ML/day during early February. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level is currently 0.62 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

TONY MORSE
Acting Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 30 Jan 2013

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	484.84	3 780	98%	71	3 709	-9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.68	1 889	63%	23	1 866	-120
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.62	408	60%	100	308	-46
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 083	63%	(480 #)	603	-65
Total		9 269		7 160	77%	--	6 486	-241
Total Active MDBA Storage							75% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	401	39%	3	398	-31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 218	75%	24	1 194	-58
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 849	85%	100	2 749	-58

* 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 29 Jan 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 188	-9	Snowy-Murray	+9	559
Snowy-Murray Component	945	-14	Tooma-Tumut	+0	207
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	9	352
			Murray 1 Release	+7	805

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)	58.7	1079	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.3	235
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.8	34	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.9	312
Western Murray Irrigation	1.3	21	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.6	88
Licensed Pumps	8.0	162	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	30
Lower Darling	5.2	67	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	206
TOTAL	77.0	1363	TOTAL	55.7	871

* 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 normal entitlement for this month due to traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *	
Flow this week	76.1	(10 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	319.0	
Flow last month	528.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	80	80	110
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	180	180	130
Merbein	200	200	140
Burtundy (Darling)	490	480	450
Lock 9	400	410	210
Lake Victoria	240	280	240
Berri	390	370	260
Waikerie	430	430	290
Morgan	430	440	280
Mannum	440	440	280
Murray Bridge	430	420	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	460	450	400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	440	430	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 440	3 470	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	890	820	1 460



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 30 Jan 2013

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	-	-	-	2 160	F	1 440	1 900
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	5 130	R	2 750	2 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.04	218.93	2 330	F	2 200	1 640
Heywoods	5.5	3.32	156.95	18 270	F	19 830	18 080
Doctors Point	5.5	3.30	151.77	18 460	F	20 190	18 340
Albury	4.3	2.34	149.78	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.77	129.79	19 450	S	19 390	19 080
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.59	116.63	9 600	S	9 140	10 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.24	106.08	9 290	S	8 840	9 800
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.79	80.33	4 920	R	5 260	5 740
Swan Hill	4.5	1.09	64.01	4 920	F	5 160	4 840
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.42	51.54	5 730	F	5 780	5 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.05	42.89	4 740	R	4 580	4 550
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 980	F	2 640	2 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.05	27.81	5 830	R	5 750	6 010
Rufus Junction	-	4.07	21.00	9 940	F	10 180	9 740
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.78	-	7 130	R	6 590	6 870
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.74	153.97	260	F	280	310
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	350	F	370	400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.79	93.21	1 420	F	1 610	1 710
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.08	80.85	830	F	790	820
Edward at Liewah	-	1.24	56.62	650	F	640	580
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.32	54.81	260	R	240	220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.77	56.73	440	F	460	620
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.29	-	270	F	330	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	220	S	220	180
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.50	-	3 760	F	4 180	4 700

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 610	1 400
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.75
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.42
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.39
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+1.15
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.41	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.46
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+0.57	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.38
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.26	+0.08	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	+0.03

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

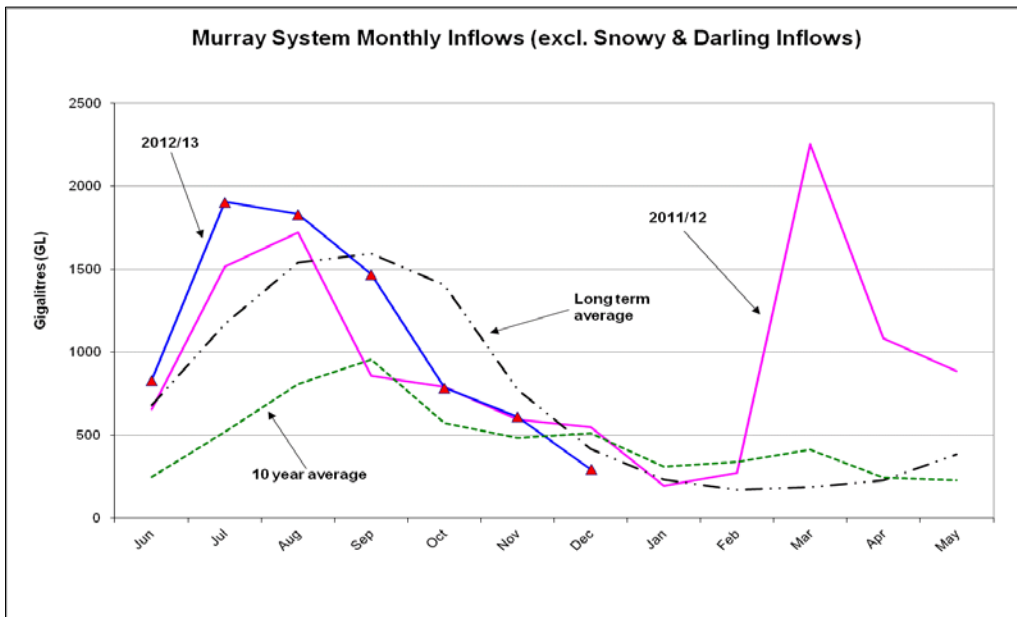
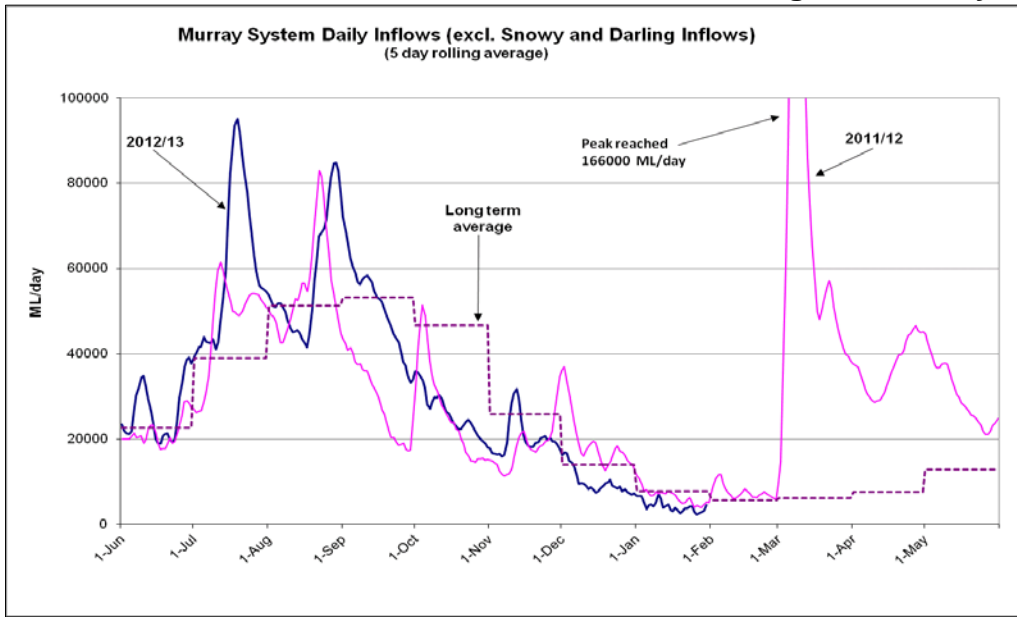
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.62
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	2	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 30 Jan 2013)

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/>