



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

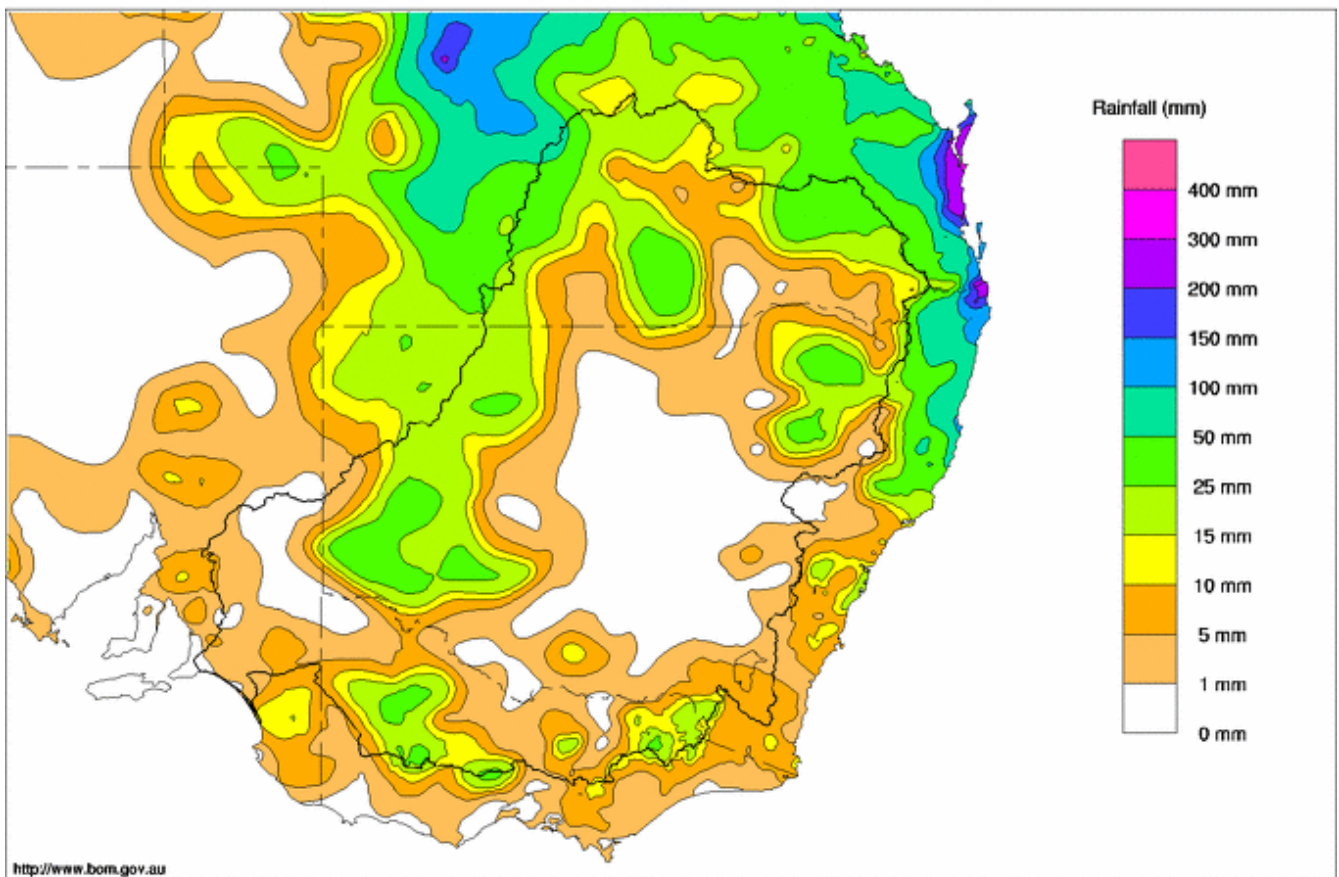
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2013

Trim Ref: D13/7685

Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall in the Murray-Darling Basin was patchy during the last week, with falls of 25 mm or more occurring at several locations (Map 1). In southern Queensland, there was 27 mm at Charleville in the Warrego catchment, while Drillham in the Balonne catchment, recorded 51 mm. In northern NSW, there was 45 mm near Gunnedah and 49 mm at Warialda, while in western NSW, Menindee recorded 25 mm. Victoria's highest weekly total was recorded at Birchip (50 mm) in western Victoria. In South Australia, Monarto recorded the highest rainfall of 42 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th February 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 20th February 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology). Issued: 20/02/2013

The peak flow in the Barwon-Darling River system as a result of the rain event in the northern basin in late January, has passed Walgett, causing minor flooding. The peak is expected to arrive at Brewarrina on 1 March at below the minor flood level, with minor flooding expected at Bourke in early March. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au. Increased flows are expected to reach the Menindee Lakes in early-mid March, with the highest inflows occurring in late March. The inflow volume to Menindee Lakes is expected to be in excess of 250 GL.

In the upper Murray catchment, inflows remained quite low. On the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow briefly reached 400 ML/day during the week but is now 120 ML/day. At Jingellic, the flow has averaged 6,900 ML/day but most of this water was due to releases by Snowy Hydro through Khancoban Pondage.



River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 5,942 GL (69% capacity), which is a decrease of 154 GL since last week. The total storage at Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 28 GL during the week and is now 3,693 GL (96% capacity). Harmony transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir continued this week, with an average flow at Colemans of 4,000 ML/day. The flow at Colemans is now being gradually reduced and will be targeting about 800 ML/day by 22 March 2013 (see attached flow advice).

At Hume Reservoir, the total volume is currently 1,691 GL (56% capacity), which is a decrease of 48 GL since last week. The flow past Doctors Point is now about 15,500 ML/day and expected to remain steady for the next few days at least.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level has remained slightly higher than 124.7 m AHD during the week. Diversions at the irrigation offtakes remained relatively low at 52 GL, but higher demands are expected in the next few weeks. The release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 8,400 ML/day.

On the Edward River, the flow at the offtake remains at about 1,300 ML/day and the flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged 620 ML/day this week. The environmental flow through Yallakool Creek is now about 380 ML/day, aimed at benefitting native fish.

Environmental water is also boosting the flow in the Goulburn River. At McCoys Bridge, the flow is currently 1,460 ML/day and rising. Upstream of Torrumbarry Weir, diversions through National Channel were reduced by 500 ML/day to target 2,700 ML/day, and the flow downstream of the weir is now 4,700 ML/day.

On the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite is steady at about 1,150 ML/day, while on the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald, the flow has receded to 330 ML/day. Downstream on the River Murray, the flow at Euston has been about 5,300 ML/day for the last few days. This flow is expected to remain in the range 4,500–5,500 ML/day during the remainder of February.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 43 GL during the week to 938 GL (54% capacity). On 18 February, the release from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo was increased to 500 ML/day to improve the water quality in the town weir pool (see attached flow advice). With the continuing release from Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla, via the Menindee outlet, the flow at Weir 32 is currently 3,700 ML/day. This flow is expected to remain above 3,000 ML/day until at least late March. Inflows from the Darling River are expected to arrive in early to mid-March and this will boost the levels of the Menindee Lakes.

Downstream on the Murray at Wentworth, the flow has been slowly rising and is expected to remain above 6,000 ML/day for the next week.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 23.5 m AHD (294 GL, 43% capacity) and is expected to continue declining for at least the next few weeks. The flow into South Australia is currently 8,500 ML/day, which includes some environmental water traded from the Goulburn River.

At the Lower Lakes, the water level is 0.63 m AHD, with continuing small flows through the barrages.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

TONY MORSE

Acting Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 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	483.48	3 693	96%	71	3 622	-28
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	184.34	1 691	56%	23	1 668	-48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.50	294	43%	100	194	-36
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		938	54%	(480 #)	458	-43
Total		9 269		6 616	71%	--	5 942	-154
Total Active MDBA Storage							69% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	371	36%	3	368	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 071	66%	24	1 047	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 681	80%	100	2 581	-59

* 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 19 Feb 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 083	-48	Snowy-Murray	+38	628
Snowy-Murray Component	864	-39	Tooma-Tumut	+0	207
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	38	422
			Murray 1 Release	+44	885

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)	37.2	1216	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.7	271
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.4	45	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.6	375
Western Murray Irrigation	0.9	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	101
Licensed Pumps	6.8	186	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	38
Lower Darling	4.9	82	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	240
TOTAL	53.2	1553	TOTAL	47.1	1025

* 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	194.0 *
Flow this week	58.3
Flow so far this month	178.2
Flow last month	329.4

(8 300 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	100	100
Euston	150	130	120
Red Cliffs	170	170	130
Merbein	210	200	150
Burtundy (Darling)	510	500	450
Lock 9	410	400	230
Lake Victoria	270	290	240
Berri	430	430	280
Waikerie	430	420	300
Morgan	430	420	290
Mannum	480	470	300
Murray Bridge	430	420	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	480	460	410
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	470	490	320
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 600	3 570	3 440
Goolwa Barrages	810	850	1 400



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 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	-	-	-	6 820	F	6 800	4 120
Jingellic	4.0	2.12	208.64	8 350	F	6 910	6 040
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.57	219.46	4 800	R	4 280	5 300
Heywoods	5.5	3.09	156.72	14 960	F	15 690	16 020
Doctors Point	5.5	3.07	151.54	15 520	R	16 080	16 380
Albury	4.3	2.06	149.50	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.28	129.30	15 970	F	15 950	16 520
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.44	116.48	8 400	S	8 490	8 780
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	8 240	S	8 300	8 670
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.73	80.27	4 720	F	5 210	5 070
Swan Hill	4.5	1.17	64.09	5 350	F	5 240	4 530
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.61	51.73	6 400	R	6 010	5 320
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.16	43.00	5 300	S	5 160	4 000
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 140	F	3 490	2 840
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	27.72	6 290	R	5 810	5 090
Rufus Junction	-	3.78	20.71	7 860	F	7 670	8 480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	4 790	R	4 890	6 300
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.96	154.19	510	R	320	210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.77	145.45	360	F	360	320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.81	93.23	1 460	S	1 560	1 770
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.87	80.64	630	F	620	700
Edward at Liewah	-	1.31	56.69	700	F	750	760
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	430	R	400	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.61	56.57	330	F	520	430
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	200	F	7 480	23 500
Darling at Bourke	-	4.81	-	6 170	R	4 880	110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	3 280	F	3 380	3 440

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	790	240
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.46
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.29
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.83
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.32	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.12	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.26
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+0.06	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.05

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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Barrages

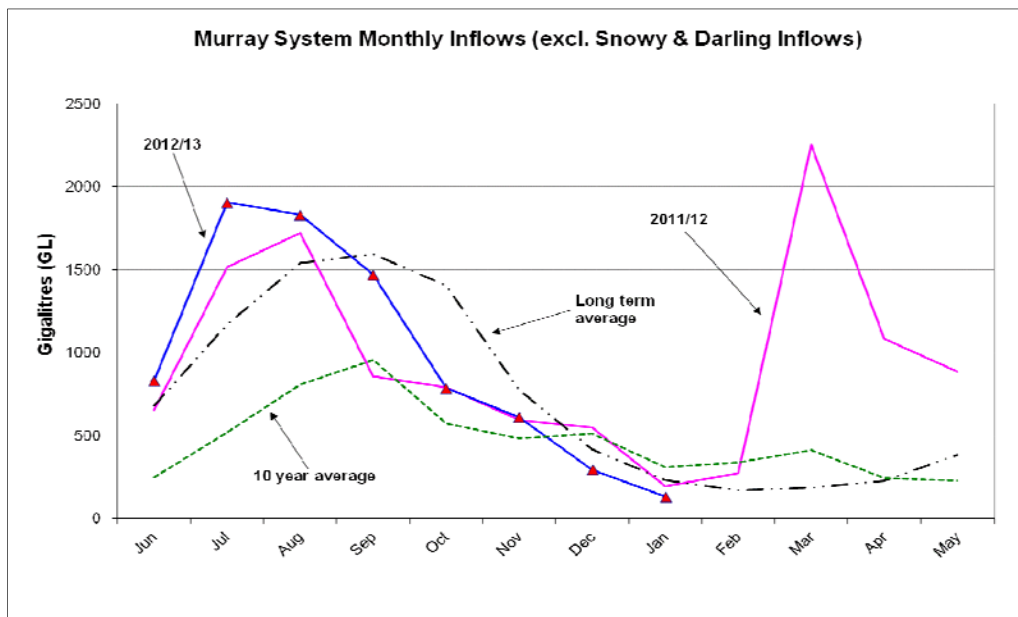
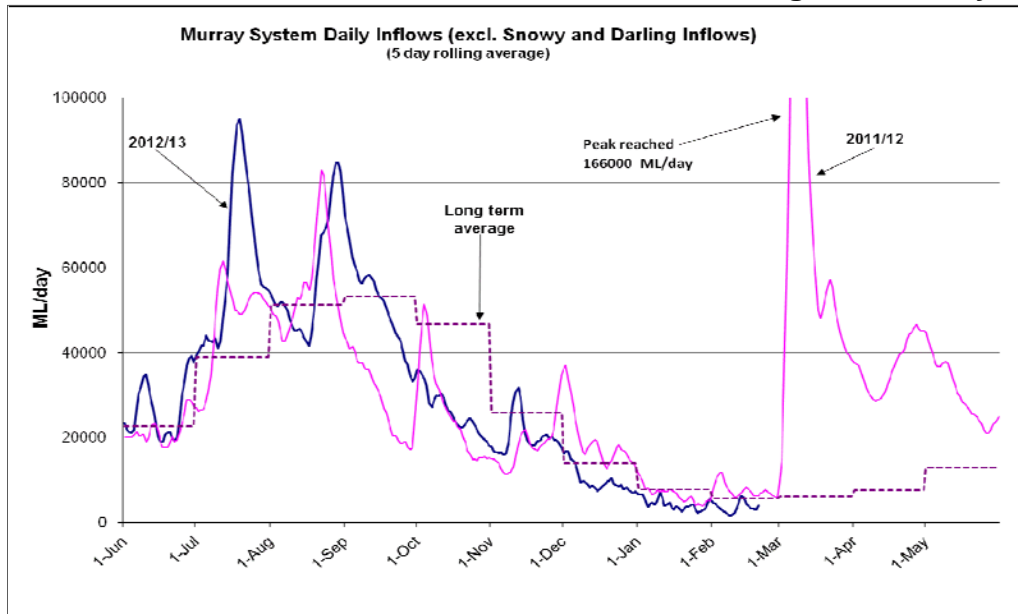
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.64	2	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 2013



State Allocations (as at 20 Feb 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/>

Mitta Mitta River Flow advice



21 February 2013

'Harmony' transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Lake Hume are expected to continue for at least the next 4 weeks due to continued hot, dry conditions and a high demand on water held in Hume Reservoir.

The flow rates over the coming weeks will be varied as described below (see Figure 1), if conditions remain dry.

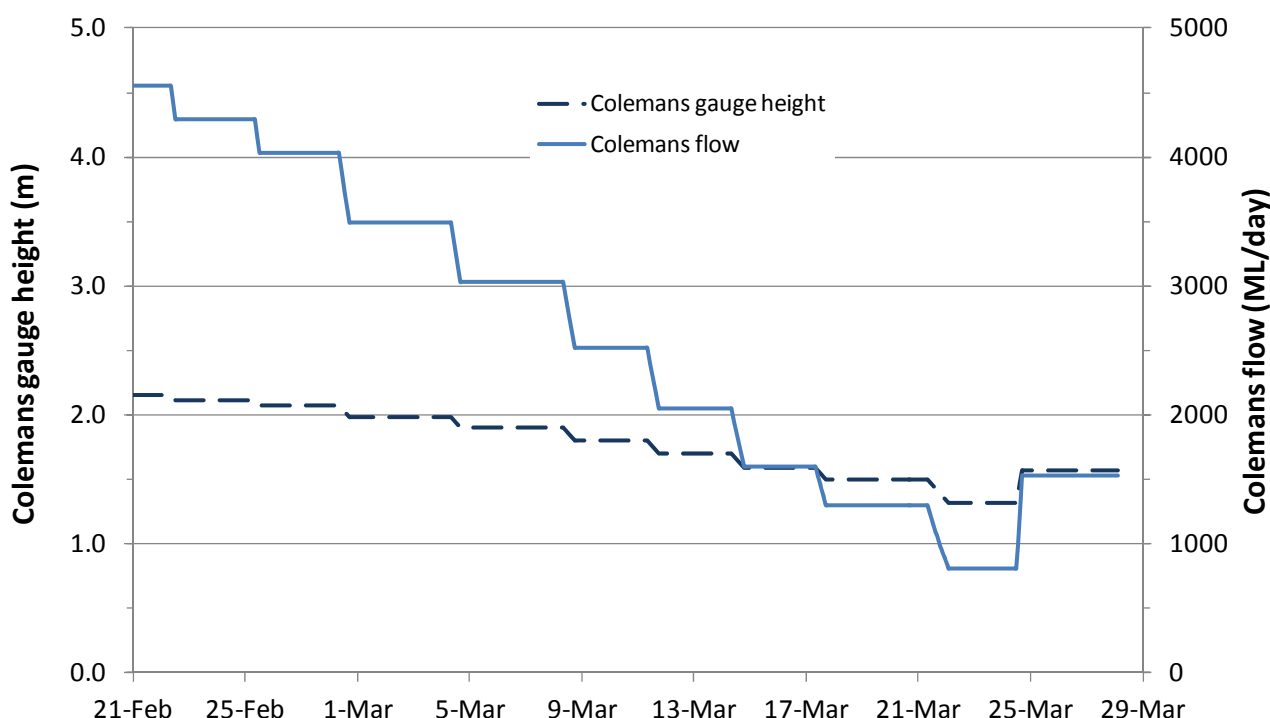


Figure 1. Proposed flow and river depth at Colemans gauge.

The flow in the Mitta Mitta River will be gradually reduced at Colemans from the current flow of about 4,700 ML/day (2.2 m gauge height) to about 800 ML/day (1.3 m gauge height) by 22 March 2013. If inflows from Snowy Creek remain low, the flow at Tallandoon is expected to decrease from the current flow of about 4,500 ML/day (2.5 m gauge height) to about 900 ML/day (1.6 m gauge height).

It is currently planned to increase the flow again at Colemans, after midday on Sunday 24 March, to about 1,500 ML/day (1.55 m gauge height). However, another flow advice will be issued prior to this date with further information.

Rates of rise in the river at Colemans will follow operational guidelines, with the rate of fall being about 10 mm/hour.

These continuing harmony transfers aim to provide additional flood mitigation capacity at Dartmouth Reservoir for the coming winter and spring without impinging upon the security of supply to downstream water users. Harmony transfers benefit the operations of the Dartmouth power station, reduce the rate of fall of Hume Reservoir and provide higher in-channel flows in the Mitta Mitta River.

The transfers will also reduce the need for very large volumes to be transferred in 2013-14 should dry conditions be seen next season. This in turn will reduce the risks of channel erosion from prolonged high flow rates in the Mitta Mitta River.

If there is substantial rainfall during the next 4 weeks, it is possible that this planned release may be reduced or cancelled. A further flow advice will be issued if these plans are significantly changed.

The transfer of significant volumes of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir is likely to continue during the next few months if conditions remain dry. The flow rates will aim to benefit the local communities and 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.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take in to account the changing 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 February 2013

Release from Menindee Lakes increased on 18 February 2013

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that the release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River was increased today to about 3,600 ML/day (2.3 m) at Weir 32. Previously, the flow at Weir 32 was about 3,100 ML/day (2.25 m).

The extra release, totalling about 500 ML/day, is being sourced from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo and is aimed to improve the water quality in the Menindee town weir pool where fish deaths have been recently reported. The release will also continue from Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla, via the Menindee outlet, at close to the maximum outlet capacity.

Flows at Weir 32 are expected to remain above 3,000 ML/day until at least late March.

Inflows from the Darling River are expected to arrive in early to mid-March and this will boost the levels of the Menindee Lakes. However, prior to these flows arriving, the water level in Lake Wetherell will be temporarily reduced, by about 30 cm, to allow for essential maintenance works. The reduction in Lake Wetherell's water level is being achieved through a combination of a small release and transfer of water to Lake Pamamaroo.

It is planned to raise the levels in both Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo towards full supply level once the maintenance work is complete and higher inflows arrive.

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 3,200 ML/day (2.1 m) and slowly receding. The flow is expected to increase slightly from the end of February. As the higher flows from Menindee arrive, the flow at Burtundy is expected to reach up to 3,500 ML/day (2.35 m) by early March.

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).

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements. A further flow advice will be issued if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

ENDS

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