



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2013

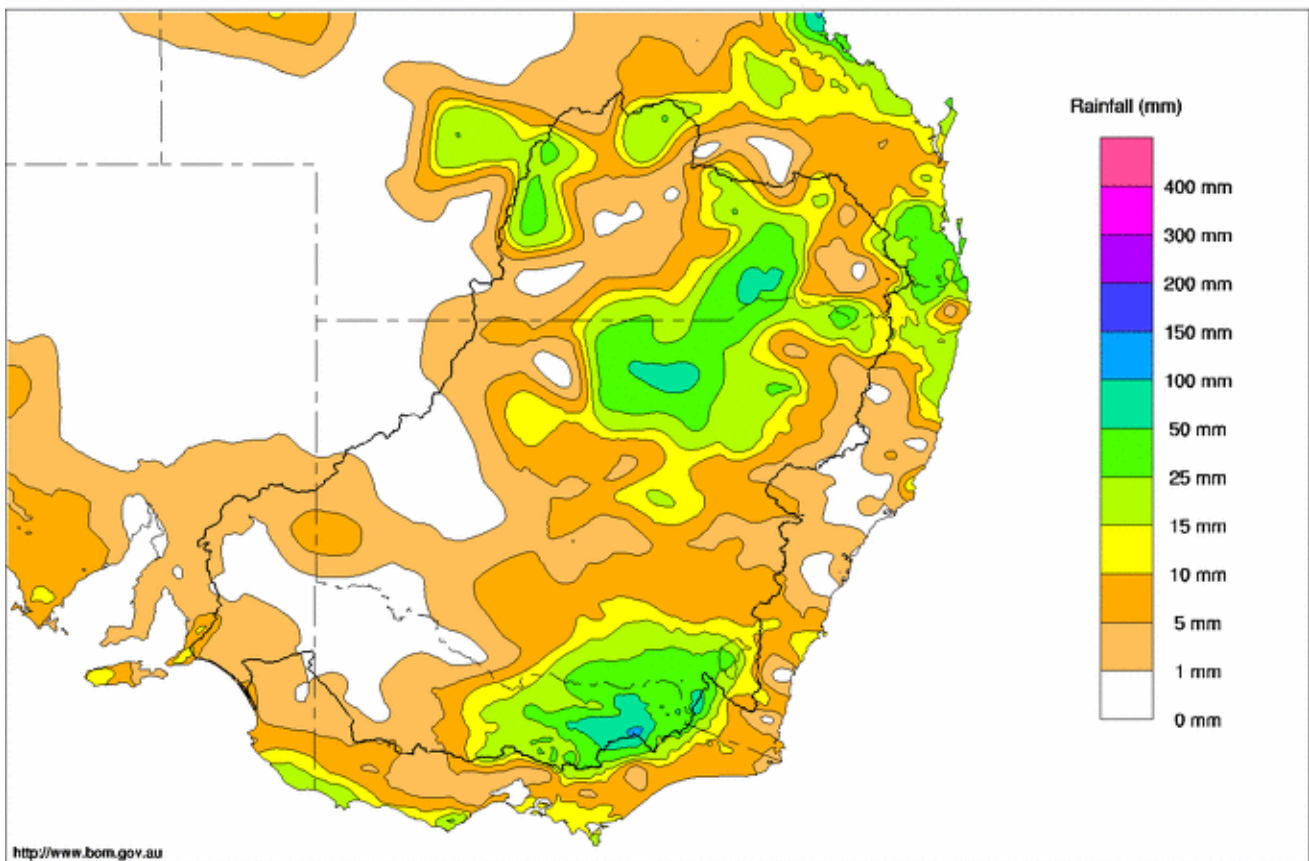
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## Rainfall and Inflows

There were some quite high rainfall totals in parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with light rain falling in most other areas. A strong trough and frontal system that crossed early in the week brought heavy rainfall to the south-east with associated severe storms and high winds resulting in infrastructure damage to some communities along the River Murray between Barmah and Albury. The system subsequently brought rain to parts of the northern Basin before clearing the region (Map 1).

Highest rainfalls were in north-east Victoria including 140 mm at Mt Buffalo, 111 mm at Whitlands, 103 mm at Mt Hotham, 102 mm at Harrietville and 101 mm at Lake William Hovell. Other Victorian totals included 73 mm at Granite Flat and 57 mm at Rutherglen. Across southern NSW, there was up to 90 mm recorded over the Snowy Mountains, 52 mm at Crookwell, 45 mm at Batlow; while further north there was 71 mm at Walgett and 47 mm at Coonamble. In Queensland, Chinchilla recorded 63 mm and Nindigully 39 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 27th March 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 – Murray-Darling Basin Rainfall for the week ending 27 March 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flow responses in the upper Murray catchments were modest following the rain. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 1,300 ML/day and is now flowing at 550 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased to a peak of 1,850 ML/day and has since receded to 460 ML/day.



On the Darling River system, the flow in the Barwon River at Mungindi has receded to 6,000 ML/day. On the Culgoa River, peak flows resulting from the late February rain event are now reaching NSW, with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a peak at Brenda in a few days' time with minor flooding. For more information on flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Downstream on the Darling River, the flow at Bourke has increased to 17,200 ML/day and is expected to continue rising into early April.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage remained steady during the week at 5,749 GL (67% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by just 1 GL to 3,623 GL (94% capacity) as inflows during the week from the recent rain approximately balanced the outflows, which averaged 1,230 ML/day at Colemans. Further increases to the release are planned this week with the flow at Colemans rising from 2,600 to 8,000 ML/day on Wednesday 3 April. For more information, see the flow advice attached to last week's Weekly Report which is also available at: [http://www.mdba.gov.au/media\\_centre/media\\_releases](http://www.mdba.gov.au/media_centre/media_releases).

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 53 GL to 1,496 GL (50% capacity). The release from Hume has varied between 10,000–14,400 ML/day during the week, depending on rainfall and demand forecasts. This release is expected to continue declining during autumn as conditions cool and demands reduce.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.81 m AHD and is expected to remain above 124.75 m AHD during the Easter period. The downstream release has been 9,000 ML/day since Tuesday 26 March and is expected to remain between 9,000–10,000 during Easter. By Friday 5 April, releases are expected to decrease to about 7,000 ML/day.

On the Edward-Wakool system, the flow through the Edward River offtake remains at about 1,300 ML/day with 350 ML/day passing through the Gulpa Creek offtake. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir peaked during the week at 1,400 ML/day but has since reduced to 680 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has reduced from 2,260 to 1,650 ML/day during the week, with the flow expected to level out at about 900 ML/day in early April. Since February 2013, the flow in excess of 350 ML/day at McCoys has been environmental water which is being delivered to South Australia.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool remains close to Full Supply Level and the downstream release is about 4,850 ML/day. Slightly higher releases are expected during Easter but after that, the flow may reduce to about 3,000 ML/day by mid-April. On the Wakool River at Kyalite, the flow is about 1,180 ML/day and expected to rise slightly in the coming week.

At Swan Hill, the flow is about 4,400 ML/day (1.01 m local gauge height) and expected to remain steady over the weekend. At Euston Weir, the pool level is 5 cm below Full Supply Level and the flow is receding, with a flow of about 4,500 ML/day expected on Monday 1 April. At Mildura Weir, the pool level is currently 34.45 m AHD and will remain close to the Full Supply Level of 34.4 m AHD over the Easter period. The flow downstream of the weir is currently 6,200 ML/day and falling.

The total storage at Menindee Lakes increased by 59 GL to 1,092 GL (63% capacity) this week as inflows continued to rise. High inflows into the Menindee Lakes are expected for several more weeks as the second high flow peak in the Darling River is still upstream of Wilcannia. These high inflows have enabled releases from the Menindee Lakes to be increased from Tuesday 2 April without jeopardising future water security in Lakes Pamamaroo and Wetherell. For more information, please see the attached flow advice.

On the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow has been steady for the last week or so at about 8,100 ML/day. In the coming week, however, the flow is expected to recede before increasing again in mid-April as the higher flows from the lower Darling arrive.

The storage volume at Lake Victoria decreased by 7 GL to 212 GL (22.6 m AHD or 31% capacity) during the week. The lake level is expected to continue declining for at least the next week or two.



The flow into South Australia is currently about 8,900 ML/day and expected to reduce to about 7,800 ML/day in early April.

At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.60 m AHD. The lake level is expected to rise slightly in the next week due to higher inflows and temporary closures of some of the barrages due to forecast high tides and swells.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



### Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 27 Mar 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	482.38	3 623	94%	71	3 552	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	182.93	1 496	50%	23	1 473	-53
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.62	212	31%	100	112	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 092	63%	(480 #)	612	+59
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 423</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 749</b>	<b>+0</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							67% ^	

#### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	389	38%	3	386	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	986	60%	24	962	+5
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 472	74%	100	2 372	-34

\* 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 26 Mar 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 921	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+13	769
Snowy-Murray Component	755	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+0	207
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	13	562
			Murray 1 Release	+15	1 027

### 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)	25.7	1357	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.6	325
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.7	61	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.2	461
Western Murray Irrigation	0.7	27	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	115
Licensed Pumps	6.6	224	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	49
Lower Darling	0.1	94	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.2	268
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>1849</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>1218</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 normal entitlement for this month due to traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	186.0 *
Flow this week	61.9
Flow so far this month	226.0
Flow last month	248.9

(8 800 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	110	100
Euston	110	110	130
Red Cliffs	150	160	140
Merbein	180	190	150
Burtundy (Darling)	710	620	470
Lock 9	350	350	250
Lake Victoria	310	300	250
Berri	400	410	300
Waikerie	490	480	320
Morgan	460	460	320
Mannum	500	480	320
Murray Bridge	480	480	340
Milang (Lake Alex.)	510	510	420
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	470	480	340
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 530	3 500	3 450
Goolwa Barrages	2 390	2 610	1 390



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 27 Mar 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	-	-	-	4 260	F	2 460	2 870
Jingellic	4.0	1.73	208.25	5 200	R	4 300	5 480
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.87	218.76	1 730	F	1 710	1 630
Heywoods	5.5	3.07	156.70	14 360	S	12 380	16 320
Doctors Point	5.5	2.99	151.46	14 660	F	12 940	16 840
Albury	4.3	1.99	149.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.90	128.92	13 350	R	13 240	16 600
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.53	116.57	9 110	R	9 150	8 100
Tocumwal	6.4	2.09	105.93	8 370	F	8 790	7 960
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.76	80.31	4 850	R	4 750	5 570
Swan Hill	4.5	1.01	63.93	4 380	R	4 600	5 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.36	51.48	5 480	F	6 090	6 670
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.11	42.95	5 040	F	5 620	5 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 160	F	5 370	5 670
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	8 320	R	8 090	8 140
Rufus Junction	-	3.82	20.75	8 140	F	8 210	8 420
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.65	-	6 590	F	7 320	6 280
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.87	154.10	390	F	500	400
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.98	145.66	720	F	840	390
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.90	93.32	1 650	R	1 870	2 590
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.92	80.69	680	F	880	720
Edward at Liewah	-	1.21	56.59	630	F	690	970
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.47	54.96	540	R	500	530
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.65	56.61	360	F	370	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.38	-	6 010	R	7 230	12 860
Darling at Bourke	-	6.69	-	17 240	R	15 220	9 440
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.51	-	3 790	S	3 750	3 660

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 330	1 880
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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	+1.49
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.31
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.32
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.98
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.39	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.36
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.30
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	+0.12	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.10

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.60
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**Barrages**

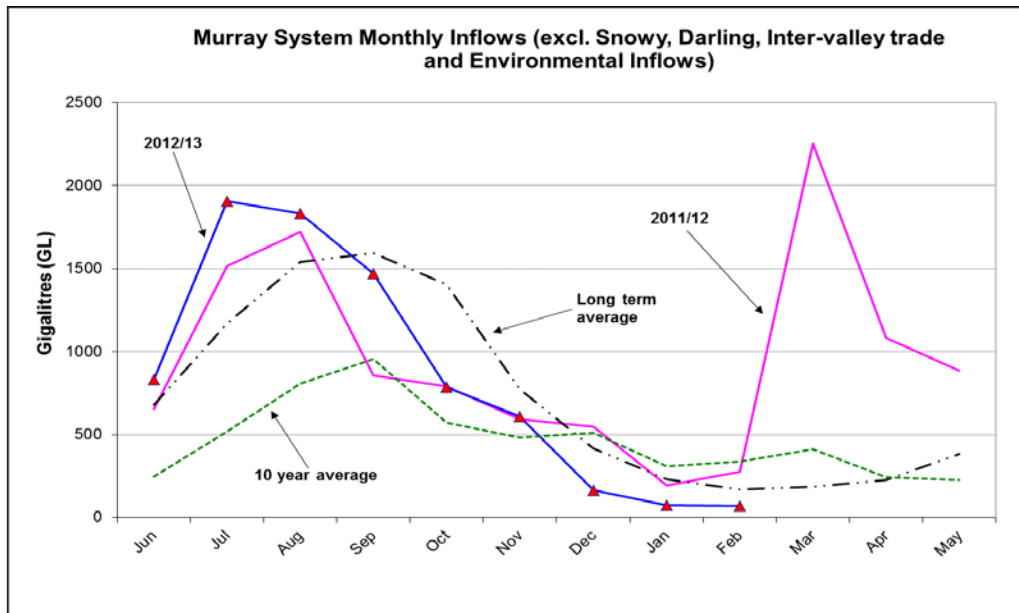
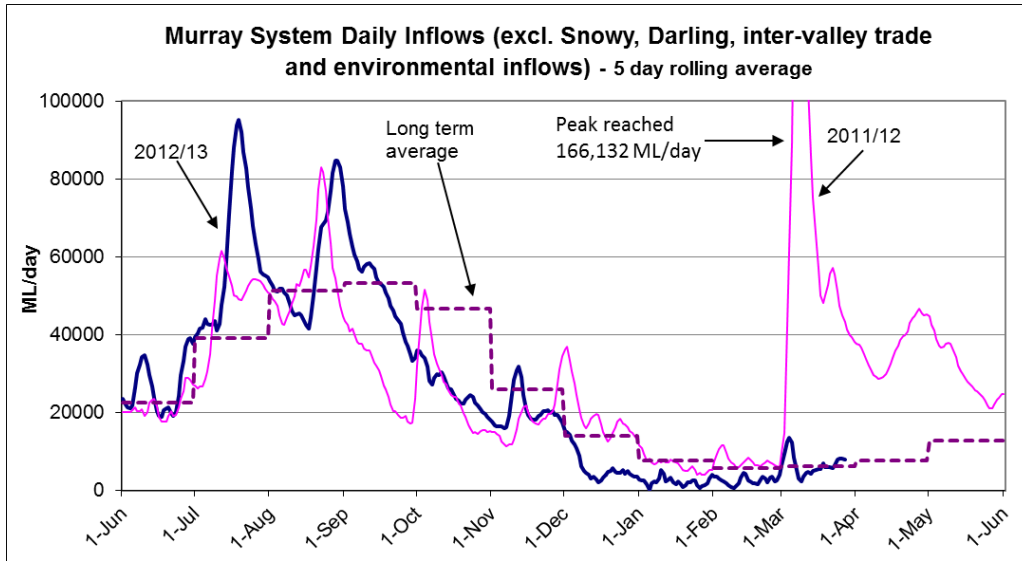
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.71	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.67	1	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 27 Mar 2013



State Allocations (as at 27 Mar 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.q-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>

# Lower Darling River Flow advice



26 March 2013

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## Release from Menindee Lakes to increase

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that the release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will begin increasing from Tuesday 2 April, 2013, rising to about 4,800 ML/day (2.5 m) at Weir 32 by Friday 5 April and then to about 8,000 ML/day (2.9 m) at Weir 32 by the afternoon of Tuesday 9 April.

Inflows from the Darling River since early March have boosted the storage in the Menindee Lakes by about 280 GL to date. High inflows are expected to continue until at least mid-April providing the opportunity to increase release from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo to meet downstream demands and to transfer water to Lake Victoria.

NSW Office of Water has indicated that the internal operation of the Menindee Lakes system will be managed to maximise the storage in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo over winter (see <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Flood-management/default.aspx#menindee>).

Previously, the flow at Weir 32 was about 4,000 ML/day (2.4 m). Flows at Weir 32 are expected to remain above 6,000 ML/day until at least late April, if conditions remain dry and high demands continue.

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 3,800 ML/day (2.5 m) and steady. The flow is expected to increase during mid-April to about 4,300 ML/day (2.8 m) with a further increase later in April to about 7,000 ML/day (4.0 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](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

**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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