



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 AUGUST 2013

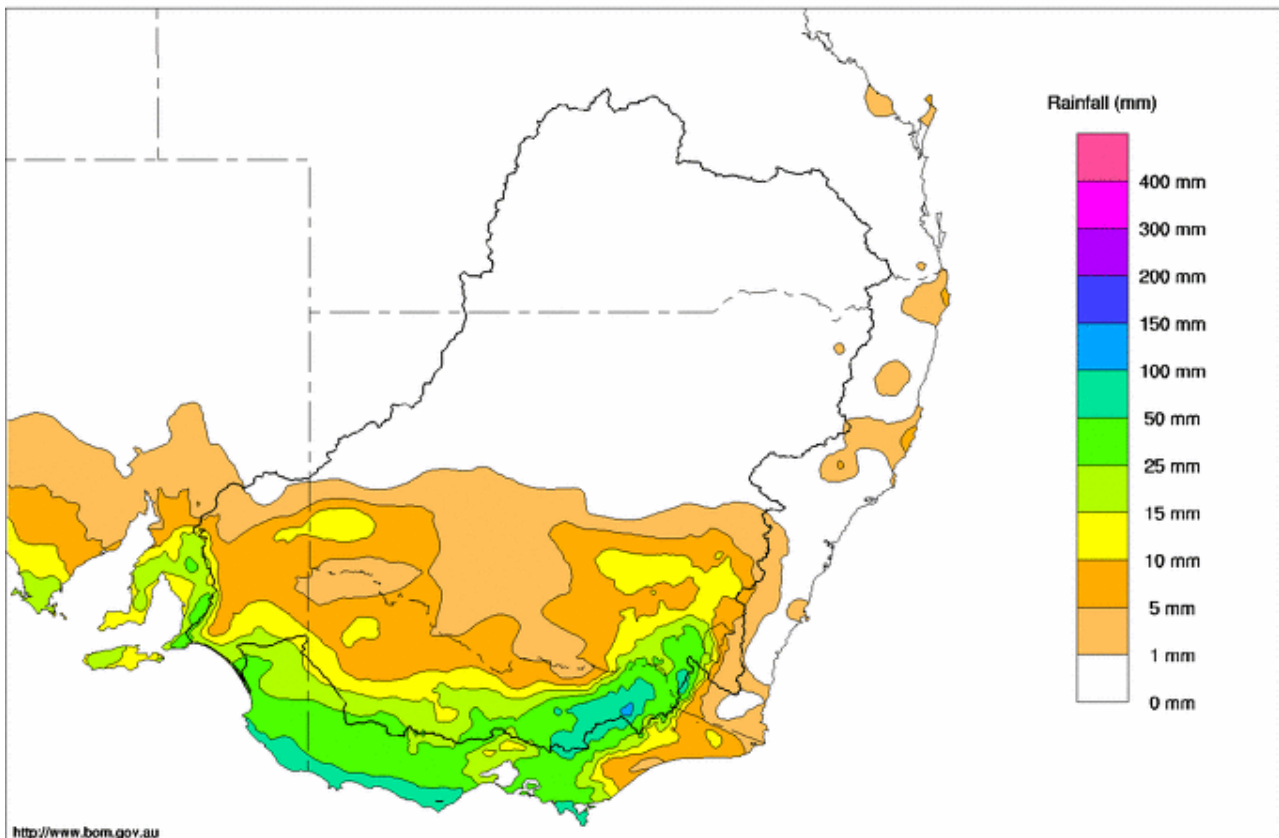
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Rainfall and Inflows

There was a typical late winter rainfall pattern across the Murray-Darling Basin this week. In the northern Basin, the weather stayed dry under the influence of a high pressure ridge. In the south, a series of three cold fronts and a persistent westerly airflow resulted in widespread showers and alpine snow. Quite high precipitation totals were recorded over the south-eastern ranges and southern divide, with lower totals over the plains of northern Victoria and southern NSW (Map 1).

The highest weekly totals were again in the alpine areas and included 204 mm at Rocky Valley, 128 mm at Mt Buffalo, 106 mm at Mt Buller, 105 mm at Harris Lane and totals of around 100 mm over the NSW Snowy Mountains. Outside the Alps, there was 45 mm at Lake Eildon, 35 mm at Daylesford and totals in excess of 25 mm over South Australia's eastern Mt Lofty Ranges.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 7th August 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 07/08/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 7 August 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Further catchment wetting has meant that the upper River Murray tributaries remain responsive to any further rainfall. The largest flow increases this week were on the Ovens River where the flow at Rocky Point rose from around 8,000 ML/day at the start of the week to a peak in excess of 20,000 ML/day. Downstream at Wangaratta, the flow as of 8 August was in excess of 26,000 ML/day and rising towards a peak. Flows have also increased along the Mitta Mitta, upper Murray and Kiewa Rivers and the Bureau of Meteorology has reported minor flooding at several locations. Warnings for



minor to moderate flooding remain in place and with additional rainfall expected over the coming week, further stream flow rises are likely to occur. For information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

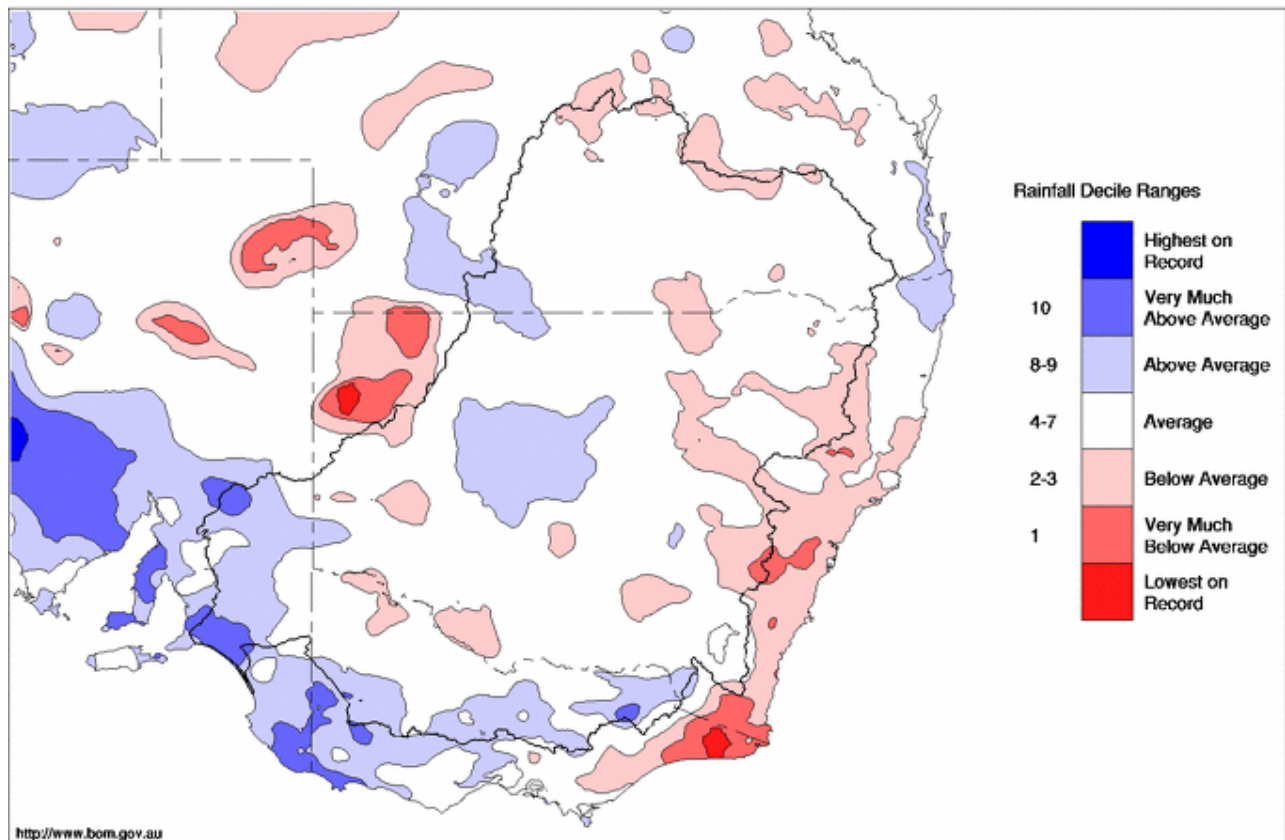
July 2013 Summary

July 2013 was a fairly average month for rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin. The Bureau of Meteorology reported that rainfall was just 18% below the long-term mean with an area-average total of 32.7 mm. Conditions were somewhat wetter across the far south and south-west of the Basin and notably, it was also wet over the south-eastern ranges where a large portion of the River Murray System's inflows are typically generated. There were relatively few areas where rainfall was appreciably below average and they were mostly over the far northern Basin and the eastern ranges of NSW (Map 2).

Temperatures during July were well above average, with the Bureau of Meteorology stating that both maximum and minimum temperatures were between 1 and 3 degrees Celsius above average across nearly the entire Basin. The unusually warm weather continues the sequence of above-average conditions for the broader region during the last 12 months that, according to the Bureau, has led to Australia's highest August to July mean temperature on record.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles July 2013

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for July 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Murray System inflows for July 2013 (excluding Snowy and Darling inflows) totalled around 830 GL. The main boost to inflows resulted from a rain event over the south-eastern ranges in the latter part of the month that increased flows along the upper Murray tributaries. There were only minimal additions to tributary inflows resulting from environmental releases from the Goulburn River.



The monthly inflow total remains below the long-term average for July (1,250 GL) and well below the inflows recorded during July 2012 of around 1,900 GL. However, the total is above the July average for the last 10 years of around 650 GL (see the graph on page 6).

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 138 GL this week and is now 7,443 GL (87% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 16 GL to 3,742 GL (97% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, averaged 4,000 ML/day. The continuing higher releases are 'harmony transfers' from Dartmouth to Hume reservoir to help balance the risk of spill and flood protection at both Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs.

Inflows to Hume Reservoir averaged around 20,000 ML/day this week with storage increasing by 136 GL to 2,536 GL (84% capacity). The release remains at the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day, however it is expected to be increased next week to help preserve airspace in Hume Reservoir to mitigate any potential future flood events. More information on this will be provided next week.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.68 m AHD, which is close to the normal operating target. The release was relatively steady during the week averaging 12,700 ML/day. The release will increase above 20,000 ML/day over the coming week to pass renewed inflows from the Ovens River. Small volumes were diverted at Mulwala Canal and the Yarrawonga Main Channel as refilling of the irrigation channel systems continued.

On the Edward-Wakool system, a total of about 2,400 ML/day is flowing through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes, which remain fully open. At Stevens Weir, the pool level has been raised to 4.5 m on the local gauge and diversions through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes increased to around 100 ML/day, 500 ML/day and 500 ML/day respectively. The release downstream is currently 3,700 ML/day and water is flowing into the Werai forest. Further downstream, inflows from the Billabong Creek have increased to around 800 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys averaged 1,070 ML/day and is forecast to rise to around 3,000 ML/day in the coming week. Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, diversions at National Channel reduced from 2,500 ML/day to 840 ML/day and the release from the weir increased to 9,500 ML/day. On the Murrumbidgee River, flows at Balranald have increased to a peak of around 4,000 ML/day.

At Euston Weir, the pool level was reduced to a low of 47.0 m AHD (60 cm below FSL) to manage the impact of higher inflows on maintenance works on the navigable pass. The pool level will rise to around 47.3 m AHD over the coming week as inflows continue to rise. The release from Euston Weir is currently 8,900 ML/day, and expected to rise above 13,000 ML/day over the coming weeks.

Storage in Menindee Lakes remains fairly steady, with a decrease this week of just 8 GL to 1,247 GL (72% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 200 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased this week by 7 GL to 592 GL (87% capacity). However, the storage volume began rising again late in the week. The flow to South Australia is currently unregulated, targeting 8,000 ML/day. The flow is expected to increase next week to around 15,000 ML/day to delay the filling of the lake to later in spring. Downstream at Blanchetown, the flow past Lock 1 was relatively steady averaging 6,500 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased from 0.72 to 0.74 m AHD. Barrages operations are currently targeting a level between 0.7 and 0.75 m AHD, and as inflows to the lower Lakes increase over the coming weeks higher flows will be passed to the Murray Mouth and Coorong via Goolwa and Tauwichee barrages when conditions are favourable.

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 07 Aug 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	484.25	3 742	97%	71	3 671	+16
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	189.55	2 536	84%	23	2 513	+136
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.29	592	87%	100	492	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 247	72%	(480 #)	767	-8
Total		9 269		8 117	88%	--	7 443	+138
Total Active MDBA Storage							87% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	485	47%	3	482	+9
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 333	82%	24	1 309	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 552	77%	100	2 452	+66

* 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 06 Aug 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 449	+18	Snowy-Murray	+16	452
Snowy-Murray Component	544	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+11	87
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	5	364
			Murray 1 Release	+27	540

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2013	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2013
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	7.8	13	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.9	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.1	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.8	25
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	1
Licensed Pumps	0.2	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	1
Lower Darling	2.5	3	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	5
TOTAL	10.5	17	TOTAL	10.4	33

* 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 the commencement of unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *
Flow this week	56.7
Flow so far this month	56.7
Flow last month	142.3

(8 100 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	340	170	170
Euston	140	160	160
Red Cliffs	170	160	160
Merbein	170	170	170
Burtundy (Darling)	760	740	740
Lock 9	130	150	150
Lake Victoria	350	350	350
Berri	440	470	470
Waikerie	560	580	580
Morgan	580	600	600
Mannum	540	540	540
Murray Bridge	560	580	580
Milang (Lake Alex.)	600	600	600
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	610	590	590
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 540	2 610	2 610
Goolwa Barrages	2 610	2 240	2 240



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 07 Aug 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	-	-	-	5 440	F	5 410	8 320
Jingellic	4.0	2.83	209.35	15 000	R	12 170	14 560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.91	219.80	6 640	R	5 750	5 540
Heywoods	5.5	1.25	154.88	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.02	150.49	4 470	R	4 680	4 630
Albury	4.3	1.05	148.49	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.39	127.41	4 920	F	5 050	6 050
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.03	117.07	12 930	S	12 690	21 260
Tocumwal	6.4	2.67	106.51	12 380	F	12 440	21 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.07	81.62	9 490	R	8 150	6 830
Swan Hill	4.5	1.50	64.42	7 490	R	6 700	4 620
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.19	52.31	7 690	R	6 980	4 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.85	43.69	8 900	R	8 390	5 940
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.13	27.89	8 530	R	7 480	6 920
Rufus Junction	-	3.65	20.58	7 460	R	7 450	6 750
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.81	-	6 730	R	6 530	5 820
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.80	156.03	4 150	R	4 220	4 000
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.47	149.15	14 760	R	9 890	10 260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.55	92.97	1 000	F	1 070	2 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.96	82.73	3 730	F	2 730	930
Edward at Liewah	-	1.94	57.32	1 270	R	1 080	710
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.28	54.77	190	R	180	190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.91	59.87	4 040	R	2 740	1 690
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.56	-	930	F	1 220	680
Darling at Bourke	-	4.23	-	970	F	1 020	1 060
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.84	-	380	S	370	400

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	19 970	19 060
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.32
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.20
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.51	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.27
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.30	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.90
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.49	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.34
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.15	+0.30	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.33
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.25	+0.19	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.06

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.74
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Barrages

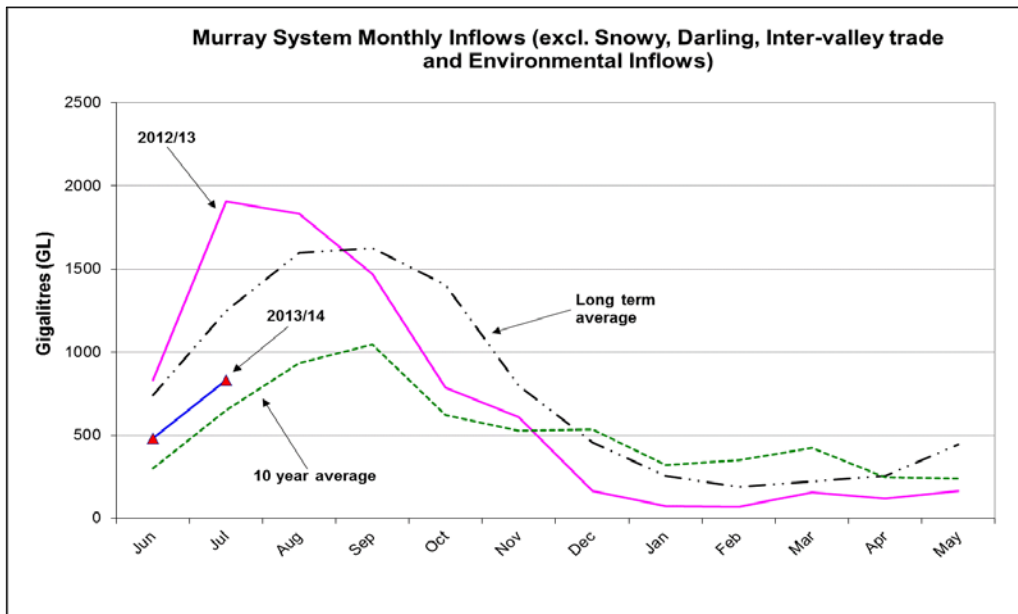
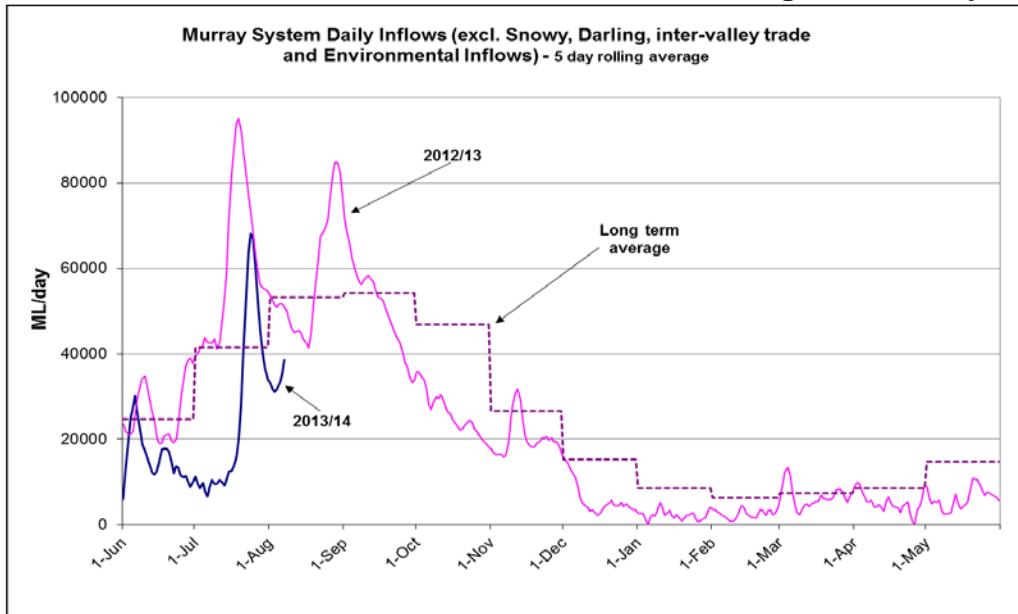
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.77	7	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.75	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.78	7	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 07 Aug 2013



State Allocations (as at 07 Aug 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	46%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	25%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	72%
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/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>