



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2014

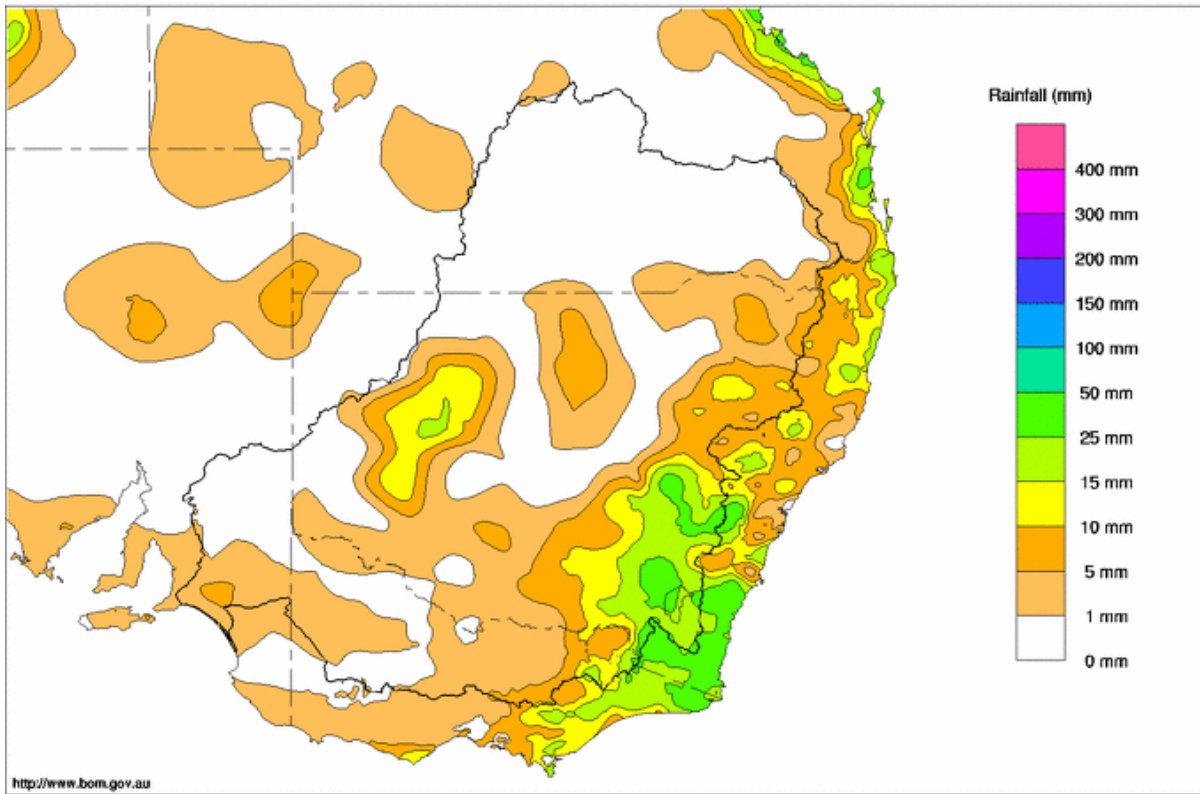
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Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were considerably drier this week, with rainfall predominantly along the eastern ranges of the Murray-Darling Basin and in far western New South Wales. NSW received the highest totals while most of Queensland remained dry (Map 1).

Some of the highest weekly rainfall totals in NSW included 71mm at Thredbo, 34mm at Cooma and 33mm at Canberra airport AWS in the southern tablelands, 32mm at Orange airport AWS and 28mm at Blayney in the central tablelands, 28mm at Forbes airport AWS in the central western slopes and 25mm at Wilcannia in the upper west. Highest weekly totals in Victoria included 19mm at Mt Hotham and 12mm at Falls Creek in the upper northeast.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 12th March 2014
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 12 March 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

There were no significant changes in flow along the upper Murray tributaries this week. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara averaged around 400 ML/day. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge averaged around 120 ML/day and the Ovens River at Wangaratta averaged 200 ML/day.

River Operations

This week, MDBA active storage decreased by 103 GL and is currently 5,017 GL or 59% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 9 GL to 3,480 GL (90% capacity). The Dartmouth release measured at Colemans gauge, remained steady at 1,500 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 95 GL to 1,266 GL (42% capacity). The average release from Hume this week was 15,300 ML/day, up 500 ML/day from last week.



Total diversions to the major irrigation offtakes at Yarrawonga increased by 7 GL this week to 42 GL. The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently 124.71m AHD. Rain is forecast for the coming weekend, and depending on the amount, may impact on irrigation diversions and the Lake Mulwala pool level in the coming week. Yarrawonga releases were around 9,000 ML for most of the week, but are now being gradually reduced to around 7,500 ML/day over the coming days. Flow rates downstream of Yarrawonga are likely to remain around this rate or lower during the remainder of March and April due to reduced downstream requirements and the availability of inter-valley trade (IVT) water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Valleys to meet those requirements.

On the Edward River, flow through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes averaged 1,570 ML/day and 330 ML/day respectively. Diversions to the Wakool Main Canal averaged 800 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir reduced from 1,700 ML/day to approximately 600 ML/day. The flow at Moulamein was relatively stable this week averaging around 1,300 ML/day, but is expected to reduce to around 800 ML/day over the coming week. The flow in the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing has been slowly receding and is currently 600 ML/day.

The Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge was steady at around 900 ML/day this week. This flow rate is above the normal minimum of 350 ML/day due to delivery of IVT water. The delivery of IVT water will cease in the coming week, however the delivery of environmental water is expected to keep flows above the minimum over the coming weeks. This delivery will include a pulse reaching around 4,000 ML/day later in March. Diversion to National Channel averaged 3,000 ML/day and will increase to 3,500 ML/day in the coming week. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir is currently 4,700 ML/day and is expected to continue to recede to around 3,000 ML/day over the coming week before rising again later in March.

The flow in the Murrumbidgee at Balranald is currently around 700 ML/day and is expected to rise to around 1,200 ML/day in the coming week. This flow rate is above the normal minimum of 180 ML/day due to delivery of IVT water and is expected to continue for another week. The flow downstream of Euston Weir is currently 7,600 ML/day and is expected to recede further over the coming week.

At Mildura Weir, MDBA and Goulburn-Murray Water have announced that there will be a full drawdown of the weir pool this winter when new trestles with mechanised gates are installed at the weir. The works will be carried out over three weeks starting mid-July. See the attached media release for more details.

The Menindee Lakes storage volume decreased by 17 GL over the last week to 421 GL (24% capacity). The release from the lakes is targeting 350 ML/day on the Darling River at Weir 32. The flow at Burtundy is steady at around 300 ML/day. Further downstream on the River Murray, the flow at Wentworth is currently 8,900 ML/day and is expected to recede in the coming week.

The Lake Victoria storage volume remained steady at 465 GL (69% capacity) this week and is expected to start falling over the coming week. The flow to South Australia averaged 8,300 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.61 m AHD and around 600 ML/day is currently being released through the barrages.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 12 Mar 2014

| 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 | 480.08 | 3 480 | 90% | 71 | 3 409 | -9 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 005 | 181.12 | 1 266 | 42% | 23 | 1 243 | -95 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 25.16 | 465 | 69% | 100 | 365 | +0 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731* | | 421 | 24% | (- -) # | 0 | -17 |
| Total | | 9 269 | | 5 632 | 61% | - - | 5 017 | -120 |
| Total Active MDBA Storage | | | | | | | 59% ^ | |

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 461 | 45% | 3 | 458 | +3 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 855 | 52% | 24 | 831 | -35 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 334 | 2 456 | 74% | 100 | 2 356 | -41 |

* 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 11 Mar 2014

| Storage | Active Storage (GL) | Weekly Change (GL) | Diversions (GL) | This Week | From 1 May 2013 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 500 | n/a | Snowy-Murray | +0 | 651 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 695 | n/a | Tooma-Tumut | +1 | 235 |
| Target Storage | 1 410 | | Net Diversion | -1 | 415 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +1 | 939 |

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) | 30.5 | 970 | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | 12.8 | 272 |
| Wakool Sys Allowance | 2.3 | 34 | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 16.2 | 421 |
| Western Murray Irrigation | 0.6 | 24 | Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 2.1 | 103 |
| Licensed Pumps | 6.9 | 196 | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 2.2 | 155 |
| Lower Darling | 3.6 | 194 | Licensed pumps - LMW | 4.3 | 255 |
| TOTAL | 43.9 | 1418 | TOTAL | 37.6 | 1206 |

* 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 delivery of additional environmental water.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 186.0 * | |
| Flow this week | 58.4 | (8 300 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 94.6 | |
| Flow last month | 201.7 | |

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

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2013 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 110 | 110 | 90 |
| Euston | 150 | 120 | 100 |
| Red Cliffs | 120 | 130 | 110 |
| Merbein | 140 | 140 | 120 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 510 | 490 | 510 |
| Lock 9 | 150 | 160 | 180 |
| Lake Victoria | 230 | 220 | 250 |
| Berri | 350 | 380 | 270 |
| Waikerie | 420 | 380 | 310 |
| Morgan | 370 | 380 | 310 |
| Mannum | 390 | 360 | 330 |
| Murray Bridge | 350 | 360 | 350 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 750 | 750 | 670 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 580 | 600 | 550 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 2 730 | 2 680 | 2 630 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 1 080 | 1 080 | 1 310 |



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 12 Mar 2014

| 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 | - | - | - | 430 | F | 430 | 450 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.11 | 207.63 | 530 | F | 550 | 590 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.82 | 218.71 | 1 560 | R | 1 560 | 2 100 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 3.26 | 156.89 | 15 570 | R | 15 270 | 14 780 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 3.09 | 151.56 | 15 880 | R | 15 740 | 15 390 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 2.12 | 149.56 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 3.8 | 3.20 | 129.22 | 15 420 | R | 15 100 | 14 960 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.46 | 116.50 | 8 560 | F | 9 030 | 9 330 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 2.14 | 105.98 | 8 700 | S | 8 790 | 9 120 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 1.71 | 80.26 | 4 680 | R | 4 930 | 5 910 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.10 | 64.02 | 4 980 | S | 5 380 | 6 060 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.80 | 51.92 | 6 730 | F | 7 520 | 8 360 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.58 | 43.42 | 7 630 | F | 9 020 | 8 960 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.08 | 27.84 | 8 940 | S | 8 890 | 8 070 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.75 | 20.68 | 8 110 | R | 7 650 | 5 830 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | 0.76 | - | 7 120 | R | 5 380 | 3 950 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.66 | 153.89 | 160 | F | 200 | 210 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.77 | 145.45 | 200 | R | 200 | 250 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.47 | 92.89 | 920 | S | 910 | 1 010 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.87 | 80.64 | 630 | S | 940 | 1 210 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 1.96 | 57.34 | 1 290 | F | 1 440 | 1 720 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 1.50 | 54.99 | 610 | S | 660 | 860 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 1.07 | 57.03 | 690 | F | 1 180 | 2 390 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.13 | - | 10 | F | 40 | 60 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.07 | - | 220 | R | 130 | 200 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.81 | - | 300 | S | 310 | 400 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Natural Inflow to Hume | 670 | 730 |
|------------------------|-----|-----|

(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

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 | -0.19 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.01 | +1.43 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.01 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.08 | +0.27 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.02 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.12 | +0.34 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.06 | +0.31 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.09 | +0.95 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.10 | +0.44 | No. 3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.15 | +0.53 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.03 | -0.32 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.19 | +0.42 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | -0.41 | +0.24 | No. 1 Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.18 | +0.01 |

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | |
|--|------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD) | 0.61 |
|--|------|

Barrages

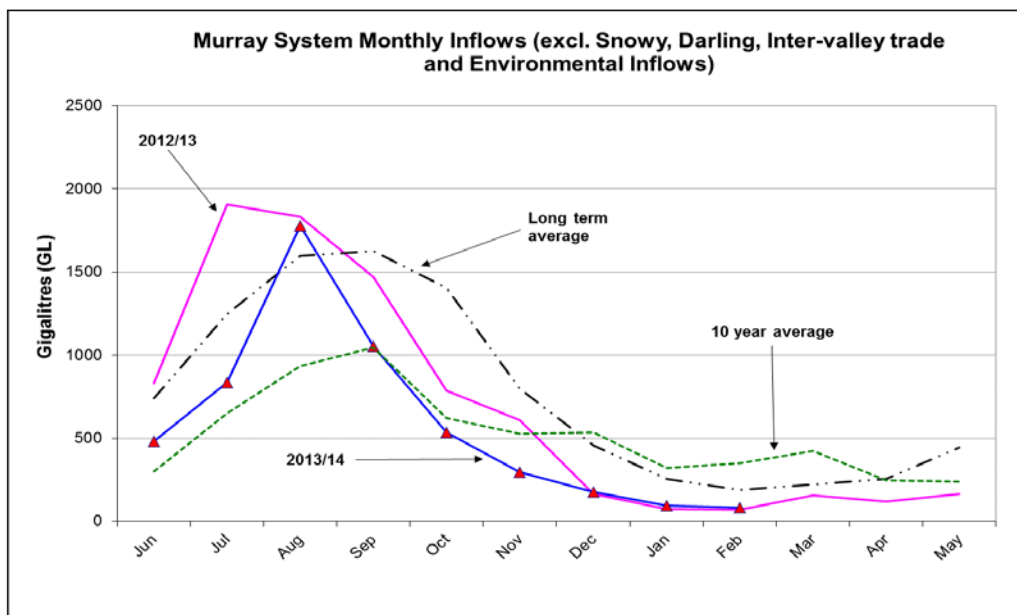
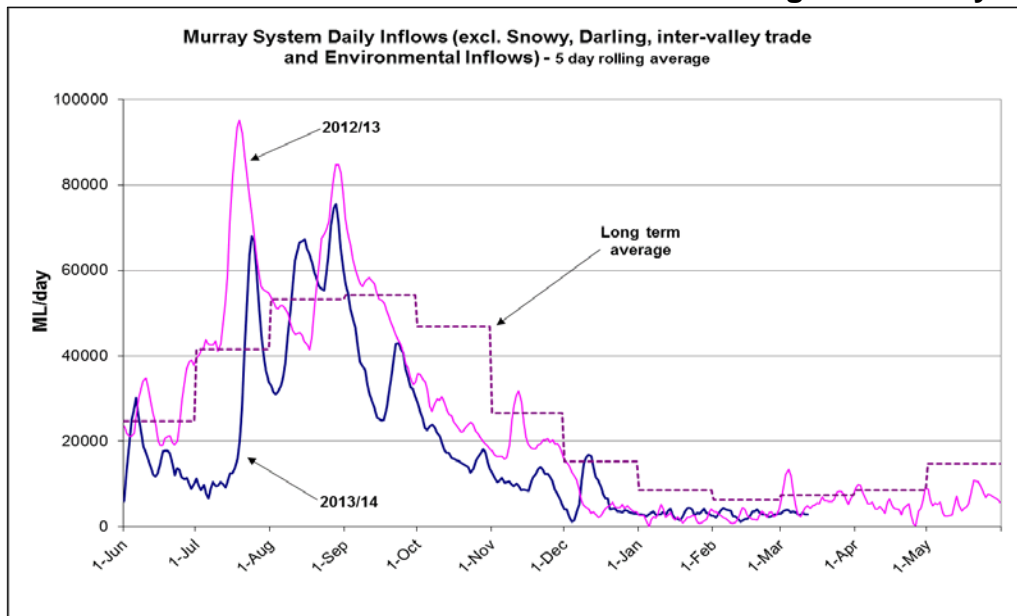
Fishways at Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | No. Open | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.58 | 1 | - | Open |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.60 | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | 0.1 | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.57 | 1 | Open | Open |

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



Week ending Wednesday 12 Mar 2014



State Allocations (as at 12 Mar 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High security | 100% |
| General security | 100% |

Victorian - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High reliability | 100% |
| Low reliability | 0% |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High security | 95% |
| General security | 59% |

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% |
|---------------|------|

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>

MEDIA RELEASE



12 March 2014

Mildura Weir pool to be lowered in July

Irrigators and other river users are being encouraged to prepare for the full drawdown of the Mildura Weir pool this winter, when new trestles with mechanised gates are installed at the weir.

The works will be carried out over three weeks starting mid-July. During this period, the river level will be lowered and Lock 11 closed to traffic.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the timing of the works was made after speaking with local community and industry groups.

“We’re very aware of the needs of the many river users so we’ve taken the advice of local tourism, industry, irrigation and other groups to do the works after the school holidays and before irrigation season has fully commenced,” Mr Dreverman said.

“The drawdown will take the water level in the Mildura Weir pool to about 3.6 metres below full supply level, depending on river flows.

“Mechanised gates will be a significant improvement to the existing method of adjusting the pool height and flow rates, which requires weir staff to manually install and remove large numbers of timber drop bars.”

Mr Dreverman said that once the trestles were replaced and the weir was reinstated, the weir pool would be raised back to full supply level in early August.

It is expected the weir will need to be drawn down again in winter 2015 for works that include repairing the concrete apron, which sits on the riverbed and supports the trestles.

The MDBA and Goulburn–Murray Water will issue further advice on this year’s works in the weeks to come.

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn–Murray Water on 1800 013 357.

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