



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

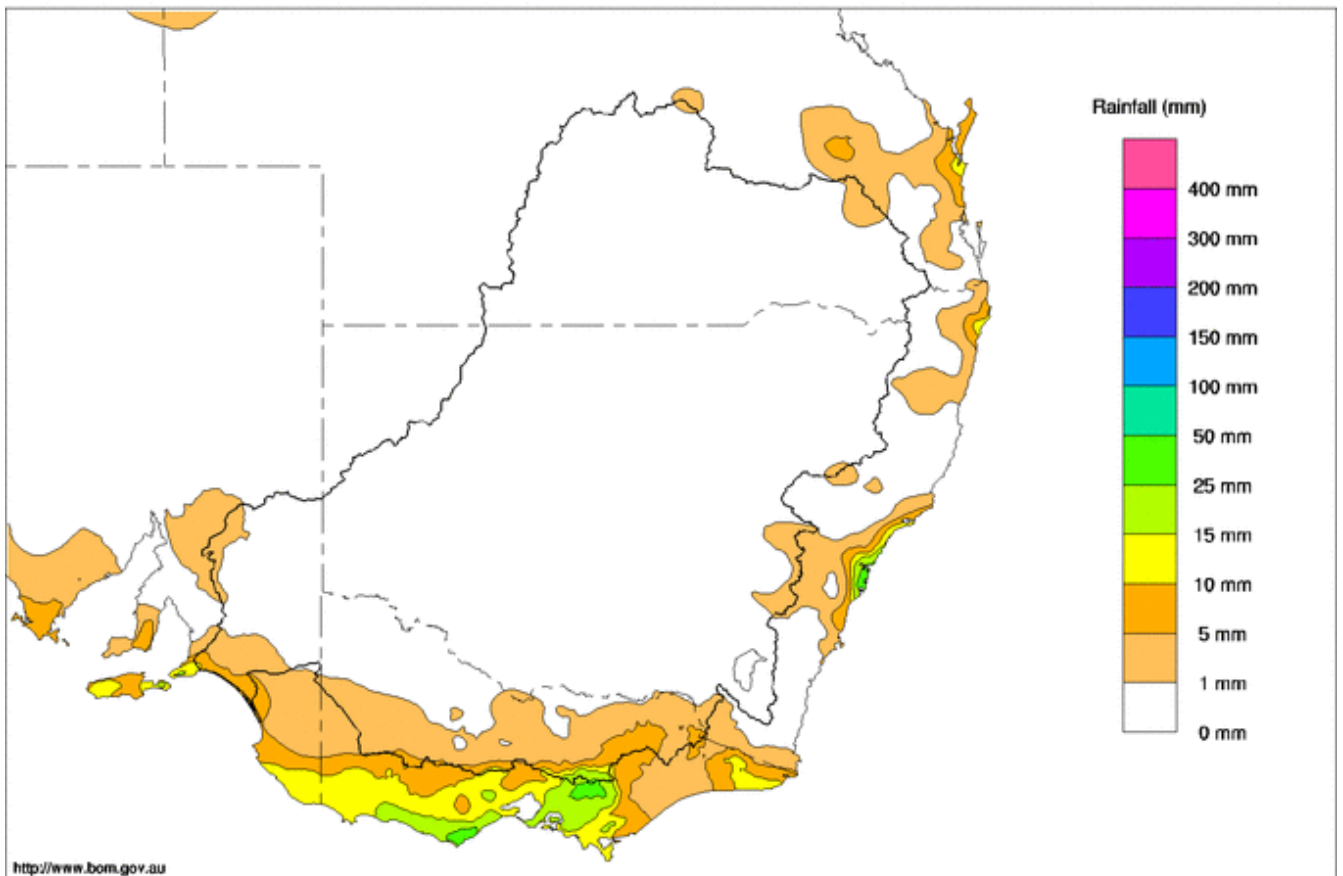
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2014

Trim Ref: D14/30930

Rainfall and Inflows

There was very little rainfall across the Basin this week, due to a slow moving high-pressure system that generated clear, calm weather across most regions. Highest rainfall totals were recorded in Victoria, including 23 mm at Woods Point, 12 mm at Mt Buller, and 17 mm at Mount William located in the Grampians in the southern tip of the Wimmera River catchment. In South Australia, 13 mm was recorded at Mount William and 9 mm at Hindmarsh Island.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 13th August 2014
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1- Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 6 August 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries continued receding this week. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie reduced from 1,400 ML/day to 1,000 ML/day, whilst the Murray River at Biggara decreased from 1,500 ML/day to 1,200 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta fell from 7,400 ML/day to 5,400 ML/day.



River Operations

- Mid-Murray returns to regulated conditions as tributary inflows recede.
- Environmental watering commences in Koondrook-Perricoota forest utilising new works.

Receding tributary inflows have brought on the return of regulated conditions in the mid-Murray region this week. Unregulated flows continue to be available in the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee Junction through to South Australia, however without further rainfall these too are forecast to conclude in the coming fortnight.

MDBA total storage rose by 96 GL this week, with the active storage now 6,260 GL (74% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 10 GL to 3,642 GL (94% capacity). Releases from Dartmouth have been briefly increased from 200 ML/day up to 3,000 ML/day at Colemans gauge to provide a pulse to benefit water quality and the environment along the Mitta Mitta River (see attached flow advice). Starting Friday, the release will be gradually reduced to 1,200 ML/day, and then held at this level as AGL draws on its entitlement for the purposes of electricity generation.

Inflows into **Hume** Reservoir over the past week averaged around 9,500 ML/day, increasing the storage by 65 GL to 2,207 GL (73% capacity). The release remains at the minimum rate of 600 ML/day. Inflows from the Kiewa River downstream of Hume maintained the flow in the Murray at Doctors Point at an average of 3,000 ML/day.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the major irrigation offtakes are continuing to divert water to fill their channels ahead of the coming irrigation season. Mulwala Canal is currently diverting 2,300 ML/day, whilst Yarrawonga Main Channel is taking 300 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga Weir was lowered from 11,000 ML/day to 7,000 ML/day this week as inflows from the Ovens recede. The release is now below the channel capacity of the Barmah Choke (around 10,600 ML/day), and consequently regulators that had been diverting water into Barmah-Millewa Forest have now been closed.

In the **Edward-Wakool** system, flows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are 1,800 ML/day and 650 ML/day respectively. Flow through these offtakes is planned to be gradually reduced over the coming week to retain sufficient flow in the main Murray channel. Good returns are still exiting Barmah-Millewa Forest into the Edward River upstream of Toonalook, where the flow averaged 3,700 ML/day for the week. Downstream at Stevens Weir the release is 2,100 ML/day.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has fallen from 7,500 ML/day to 2,500 ML/day as upstream tributaries recede. The flow at McCoys is forecast to remain around 2,600 ML/day for the coming week.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel are currently 2,000 ML/day. Of this volume around 800 ML/day is being diverted into **Gunbower** Forest. Environmental water also began being diverted into **Koondrook-Perricoota** Forest this week, utilising new environmental works which draw water from the Torrumbarry weir pool (Figure 1). Around 500 ML/day of environmental water is planned to be delivered to Koondrook-Perricoota Forest for the next 40 days to replenish the forest's extensive network of creeks and semi-permanent wetlands.

On the **Murrumbidgee River**, the flow at Balranald reduced this week from 3,800 ML/day to 1,400 ML/day. The flow at Balranald is forecast to continue receding to a seasonal minimum flow of 1,100 ML/day in the coming week. Back on the Murray at **Euston**, the weir pool is currently 38 cm above the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 47.6 m AHD. The pool will be gradually lowered over the coming fortnight to 20 cm above FSL.

Downstream at **Mildura** Weir, the pool level has been returned to a FSL of 34.4 m AHD following the successful completion of trestle upgrade works. At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume has decreased by 6 GL to 357 GL (21% capacity). The release at Weir 32 is steady at 200 ML/day.



Figure 1 – Water flowing through the new inlet regulator into Koondrook-Perricoota Forest. Around 500 ML/day is passing through the inlet, spread across five gates and two fishways (not visible in photo) (Source: Graeme Hind, State Water Corporation).

At **Wentworth Weir**, the downstream flow is steady at 21,500 ML/day. This flow is forecast to reduce to around 19,000 ML/day over the coming week. At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased by 27 GL to 605 GL (89% capacity). Inflows into Lake Victoria are currently around 5,500 ML/day, with MDBA planning to fill the storage just prior to the conclusion of unregulated flows. Flow to South Australia is currently 17,000 ML/day and forecast to reduce to around 14,000 ML/day over the coming week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.85 m AHD. The release from the barrages has been increased this week to around 12,000 ML/day. The objective of this increased release is to reduce the water level of the Lower Lakes to around 0.7 m AHD, before returning it to normal FSL of around 0.75 m AHD. ‘Cycling’ the water levels of the lakes in this manner aims to export a proportion of the saline water in Lake Albert and replace it with fresh water from River Murray flows.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 13 Aug 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	482.68	3 642	94%	71	3 571	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	187.67	2 207	73%	23	2 184	+65
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.40	605	89%	100	505	+27
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		357	21%	(- -) #	0	-6
Total		9 269		6 811	73%	--	6 260	+96
Total Active MDBA Storage							74% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	763	74%	3	760	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 155	71%	24	1 131	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 834	85%	100	2 734	+44

* 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 12 Aug 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 776	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+12	172
Snowy-Murray Component	838	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+7	110
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	5	62
			Murray 1 Release	+17	266

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.6	31	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.1	2
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	16.2	53
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.1	3
Licensed Pumps	1.4	5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.2	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	6
TOTAL	19.4	40	TOTAL	19.6	64

* 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 unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	119.3	(17 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	213.7	
Flow last month	214.5	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	110	90	90
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	110	110	110
Merbein	110	110	120
Burtundy (Darling)	-	850	800
Lock 9	120	130	140
Lake Victoria	230	230	230
Berri	210	250	250
Waikerie	390	350	370
Morgan	280	300	350
Mannum	420	480	470
Murray Bridge	550	520	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	730	730	720
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	710	650	640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 260	2 220	2 180
Goolwa Barrages	860	1 460	2 960



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 13 Aug 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	-	-	-	4 100	F	3 400	5 750
Jingellic	4.0	2.08	208.60	7 330	R	7 300	10 670
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.28	219.17	3 350	R	1 460	1 400
Heywoods	5.5	1.30	154.93	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.75	150.22	2 540	F	3 030	3 970
Albury	4.3	0.87	148.31	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.01	127.03	3 240	F	3 900	4 060
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.27	116.31	7 060	F	9 550	11 180
Tocumwal	6.4	2.09	105.93	8 370	F	10 020	10 980
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.62	82.17	11 680	F	14 030	16 250
Swan Hill	4.5	2.53	65.45	14 720	F	15 820	16 720
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.31	54.43	19 590	F	20 450	20 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.43	45.27	22 280	F	23 510	22 610
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.02	28.78	21 440	S	21 370	18 830
Rufus Junction	-	4.82	21.75	16 070	R	16 060	14 560
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.29	-	16 160	F	16 270	14 230
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.97	155.20	2 000	F	2 490	3 530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.61	147.29	5 360	F	6 320	8 890
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.35	93.77	2 570	F	5 070	6 820
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.12	81.89	2 180	F	2 120	4 040
Edward at Liewah	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 570	2 640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.03	55.52	2 470	F	2 710	2 560
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.80	57.76	1 350	F	2 420	4 470
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.10	-	-	-	-	-
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	30	S	30	50
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	110	S	120	120

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 340	17 110
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+2.50
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	+0.83
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.38	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.77
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+1.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	-18.80
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+1.38	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.99
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.18	+0.83	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.16	+1.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.40	+1.00	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.24	+0.54

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.85
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Barrages

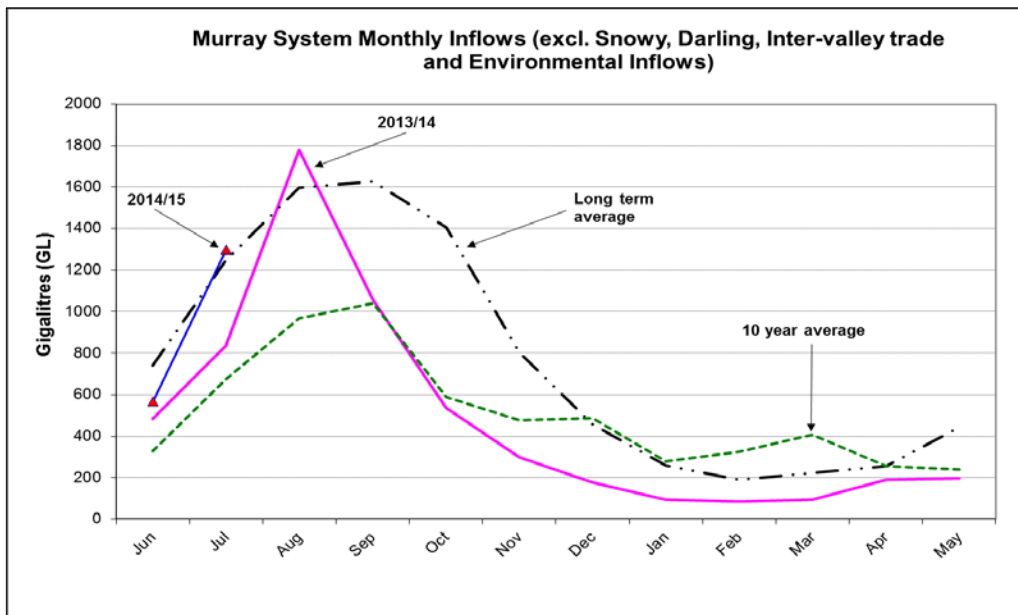
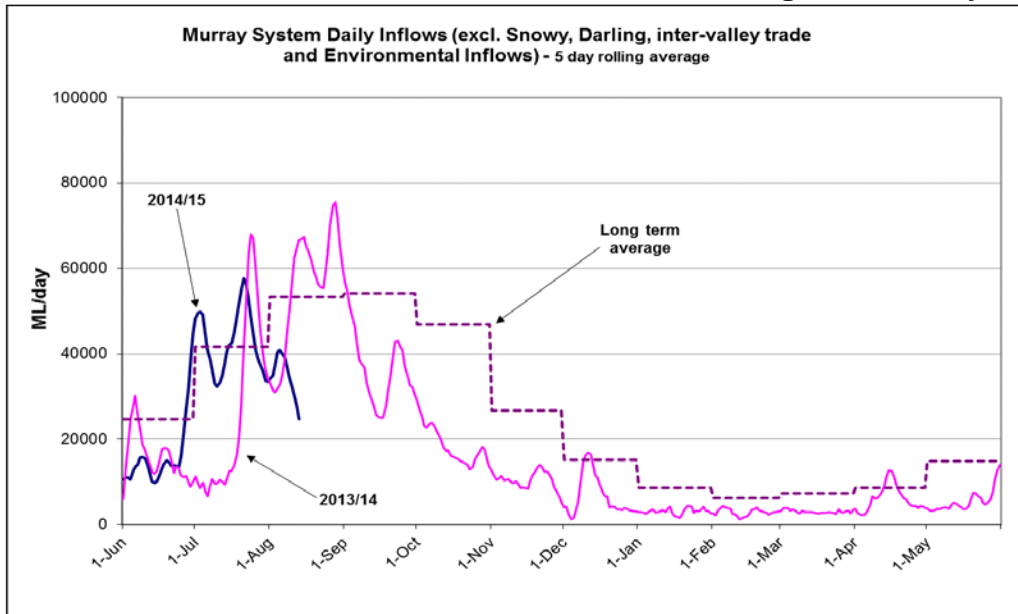
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.89	34	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.86	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.86	29	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 13 Aug 2014



State Allocations (as at 15 Aug 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	17%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	90%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	26%

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/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.nvrm.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>

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

Mitta Mitta River

Flow advice



8 August 2014

Water pulse from Dartmouth released next week

Landholders and river users on the Mitta Mitta River are advised to take into account a short, pulsed release of water from Dartmouth Dam early next week, and adjust their river activities as necessary.

The release will be increased early on Tuesday 12 August, from the minimum of 200 megalitres per day (ML/day) to 3000 ML/day and will remain at that flow rate for three days. This means the river height at Colemans gauge will increase from about 0.9 to 1.9 metres.

Starting on Friday morning, the flow at Colemans gauge is expected to be reduced back to minimum levels by Saturday evening.

In combination with the forecast inflow from Snowy Creek, this pulsed release is expected to result in a flow at Tallandoon of less than 4000 ML/day (less than 2.35 metres local gauge height).

However, if there is substantial rainfall over the coming days, the river level at Tallandoon may temporarily rise above 4000 ML/day due to tributary inflows to the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Dam.

Pulsed releases aim to benefit the water quality and environment along the Mitta Mitta River without significantly effecting river users. Further pulsed releases are likely over spring and summer.

The MDBA routinely updates the flow forecasts each Wednesday on its website at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes.

For more information on how the MDBA's river management takes account of communities' recreational needs, see the MDBA River Operations and Recreation page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/operations-and-recreation>

Another flow advice will be issued if there are significant changes to this planned release

ENDS

Media enquiries can be directed to the MDBA Media Office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

Public enquiries can be directed to engagement@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>