



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY 2015

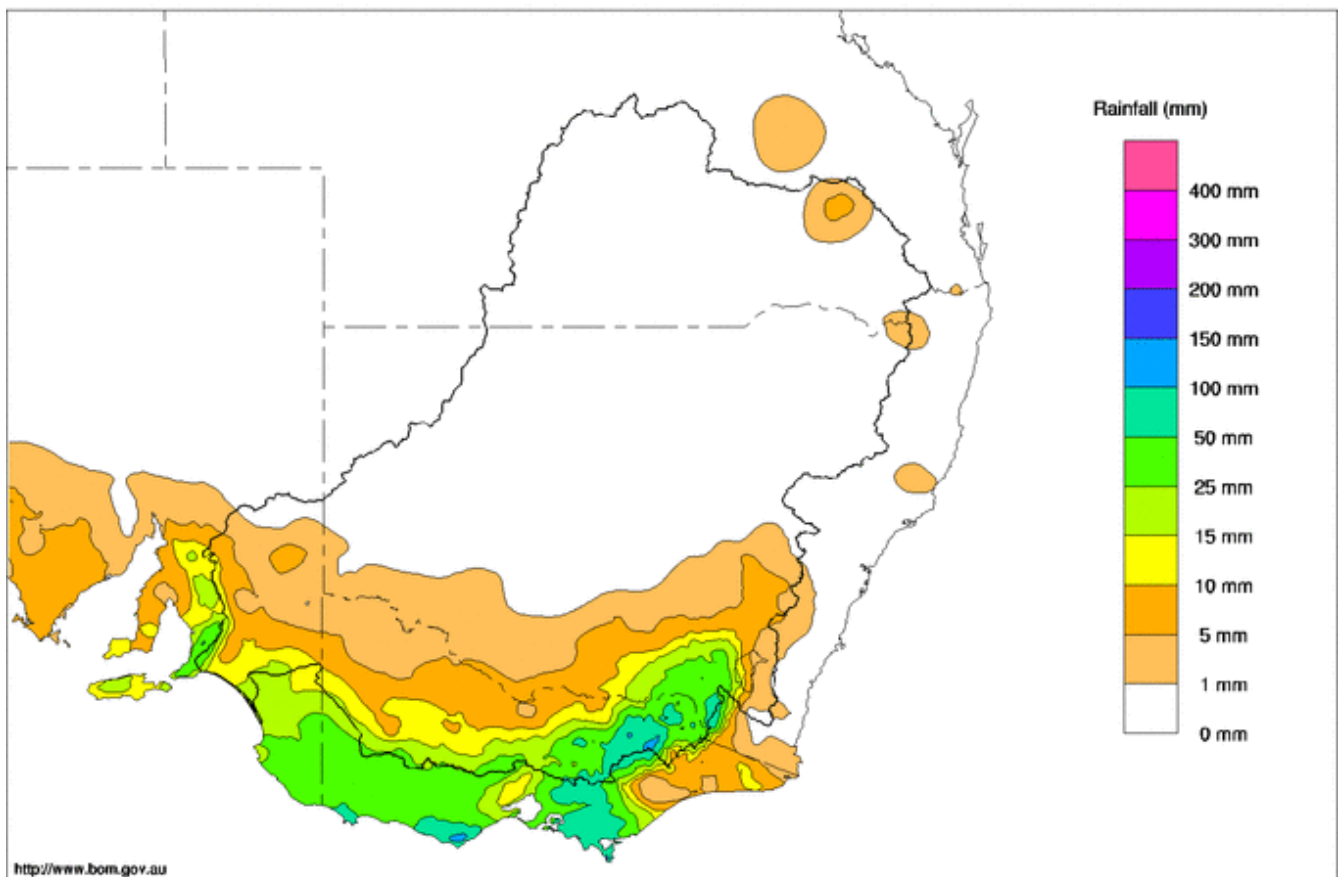
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Rainfall and Inflows

During the week, a series of cold fronts brought rain to the southern Murray-Darling basin, with the highest totals over the south-east ranges (Map 1). Across the northern Basin, conditions were mostly dry.

The highest weekly rain totals were recorded over the Victorian Alps and included 174 mm at Mt Buller AWS, 163 mm at Mt Buffalo, 161 mm at Rocky Valley and 150 mm at Mt Hotham AWS.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 13th May 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Issued: 13/05/2015

Map 1 - Murray Darling Basin rainfall week ending 13th May 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flow responses in the upper tributaries were modest following the rain, yet many sites recorded their highest flows of the year so far. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge peaked at around 4,900 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara reached around 2,000 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Mongans Bridge peaked at 3,800 ML/day and on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point reached 3,600 ML/day.



River Operations

- Bureau of Meteorology announces El Niño;
- Releases from Hume Dam at minimums;
- Lake Mulwala to fall around 3.5 metres below normal operating level.

This week the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) advised that the tropical Pacific is in the early stages of El Niño and that tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures are likely to remain above El Niño thresholds through the coming southern winter and at least into spring. El Niño is often associated with below-average winter and spring rainfall over eastern Australia, and above-average daytime temperatures over the southern half of the country. However, BoM’s current May to July outlook suggests much of the Basin is likely to be wetter than average. This is because a warmer-than-average Indian Ocean is dominating this outlook. BoM have advised that El Niño is expected to become the dominant influence on the climate during the second half of the year (see <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>).

MDBA total storage increased by 26 GL this week. The active storage is currently 3,591 GL (43% capacity) which is about ¾ of the long-term average active storage for this time of year and in a similar position to this time in 2002 (see Figure 1).

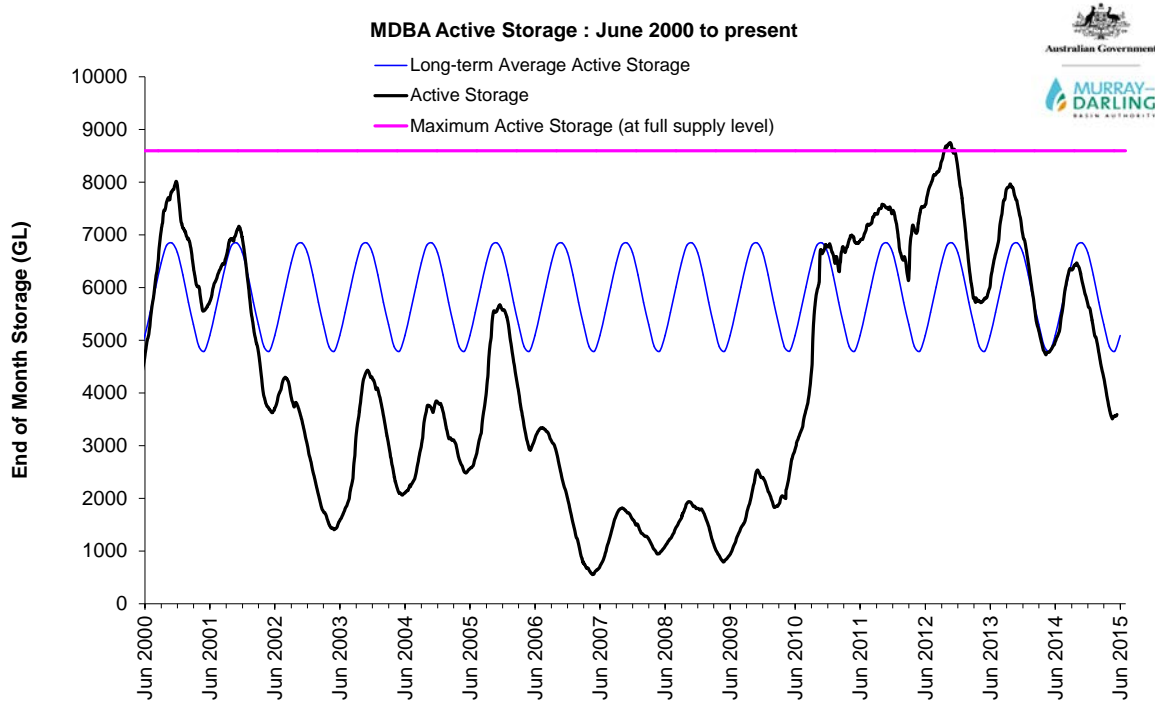


Figure 1 - River Murray System active storage.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, storage increased by 14 GL to 2,912 GL (76% capacity). Releases, measured at Colemans gauge, are currently 800 ML/day. The release will be increased to 5,500 ML/day this weekend as water is transferred downstream to Hume Reservoir in preparation for the coming season. Transferring water to Hume now will reduce the likelihood of bulk transfers having to be made at channel capacity rates for prolonged periods later in the year (see [Mitta Mitta flow advice](#)).

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 9 GL this week with total storage now at 607 GL (20% capacity). The release was steadily reduced to minimums as downstream demands reduced. The storage volume is expected to rise over the coming weeks, however if drier conditions do eventuate over winter and spring, then reduced natural inflows and increased releases to supply downstream demand may keep Hume storage relatively low this filling season.



At **Yarrawonga** Weir, irrigation diversions through the major irrigation offtakes have all but ceased. The demand at Mulwala Canal reached 1,700 ML/day before diversions ceased on 11 May, while rainfall has reduced demand at Yarrawonga Main Canal from 1,000 ML/day to around 200 ML/day for the last few days of the irrigation season. The pool level is currently 124.32 m AHD and will continue to fall to around 121.2 m AHD by early June (see [Lake Mulwala media release](#)). The downstream release has increased to 9,500 ML/day and will reach around 10,000 ML/day in the coming week.

On the **Edward** River system, flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes reduced as demand declined, but will increase again in the coming week in response to higher flows in the Murray at Picnic Point. Diversions at the Wakool Main Canal have ceased and Murray Irrigation limited (MIL) has commenced draining their irrigation supply system via Edward Escape (release currently 1,400 ML/day). At **Stevens** Weir, the pool level is expected to fall over the coming weeks as Water NSW draws the pool down over winter. The downstream release is currently 1,900 ML/day and expected to be around 2,000 ML/day over the coming week.

On the **Goulburn** River, flows at McCoys Bridge remain steady at 1,000 ML/day. On the Murray at **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel have decreased in response to rainfall and cooler temperatures to 1,500 ML/day and will cease on Friday 15 May. As diversions have reduced, the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has increased and is currently 6,000 ML/day.

On the lower **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald has been around the normal end-of-system minimum flow target of 300 ML/day. Downstream on the Murray at **Euston** Weir, the flow is continuing to recede and is currently 7,350 ML/day.

On the Murray at **Mildura** Weir the flow is currently 7,700 ML/day and falling. River users in Sunraysia are reminded that the Mildura weir pool level will start to be lowered and the Lock will be closed next Wednesday 20 May.

At **Menindee** Lakes the storage volume decreased by 2 GL and is now 63 GL (4% capacity). NSW has ceased releases from the lakes as part of water conservation requirements during periods of low storage and inflow. Upstream of Menindee, flows have recently recommenced at Wilcannia reaching around 1,000 ML/day. These flows originated from tributary inflows following rains in the upper Darling catchments in early April, and are expected to provide a small inflow to the Menindee Lakes during the next few weeks.

On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at **Wentworth** Weir is currently 8,300 ML/day. Flows will recede over the coming week.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume has increased by 24 GL to 266 GL (39% capacity). The flow to South Australia averaged 4,800 ML/day with similar flows targeted for the coming week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, rough weather conditions have continued to impact operations. All barrage gates remain closed to limit sea water ingress due to strong winds and very large swells that are causing high water levels in the Coorong. Barrage releases will re-commence once conditions abate. The 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina remains at 0.57 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 13 May 2015

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	470.36	2 912	76%	71	2 841	+14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	174.79	607	20%	23	584	-9
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.21	266	39%	100	166	+24
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		63	4%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 269		3 848	42%	--	3 591	+26
Total Active MDBA Storage							43% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	420	41%	3	417	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	424	26%	24	400	-11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 885	57%	100	1 785	+11

* 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 May 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 147	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	2
Snowy-Murray Component	1 001	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	7
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	-2	-5
			Murray 1 Release	+4	6

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)	4.5	852	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.1	301
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.0	82	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.6	624
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	104
Licensed Pumps	2.0	276	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	6.4	72
Lower Darling	0.1	61	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.7	283
TOTAL	7.8	1294	TOTAL	31.6	1384

* 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	93.0 *	
Flow this week	33.6	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	62.1	
Flow last month	183.0	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	100	90	120
Merbein	100	100	120
Burtundy (Darling)	920	920	820
Lock 9	100	100	130
Lake Victoria	220	220	210
Berri	230	220	220
Waikerie	370	380	290
Morgan	280	280	280
Mannum	300	300	320
Murray Bridge	320	320	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	720	750	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	800	670	630
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 320	2 430
Goolwa Barrages	3 980	3 810	1 400



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 13 May 2015

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	-	-	-	3 170	F	1 410	1 140
Jingellic	4.0	1.80	208.32	4 990	F	2 460	2 860
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.74	218.63	1 370	F	1 150	1 000
Heywoods	5.5	1.56	155.19	1 010	F	4 480	8 260
Doctors Point	5.5	1.83	150.30	3 050	F	5 600	9 310
Albury	4.3	0.98	148.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.38	127.40	4 560	F	7 170	9 010
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.47	116.51	8 700	R	7 710	8 020
Tocumwal	6.4	1.93	105.77	7 780	R	7 700	8 040
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.00	80.55	5 950	R	5 320	5 680
Swan Hill	4.5	1.00	63.92	4 690	F	4 930	6 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.75	51.87	6 890	F	7 400	9 610
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.48	43.32	7 350	F	8 090	10 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 730	F	8 760	10 960
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	8 270	S	9 170	11 040
Rufus Junction	-	3.13	20.06	4 350	R	3 980	3 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	S	3 610	4 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.90	155.13	1 890	F	1 150	820
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.64	146.32	2 230	F	1 130	400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.53	92.95	1 020	R	990	930
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.96	81.73	1 940	F	1 060	1 040
Edward at Liewah	-	2.11	57.49	1 440	F	1 630	2 200
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	-	-	570	F	590	670
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.67	56.63	340	R	320	390
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.66	-	1 300	R	720	490
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.16	-	640	F	850	1 460
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	6 250	2 840
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(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	-0.58	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.81
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.21	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.31	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	-0.27	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.29	+0.14	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.10	-9.75

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

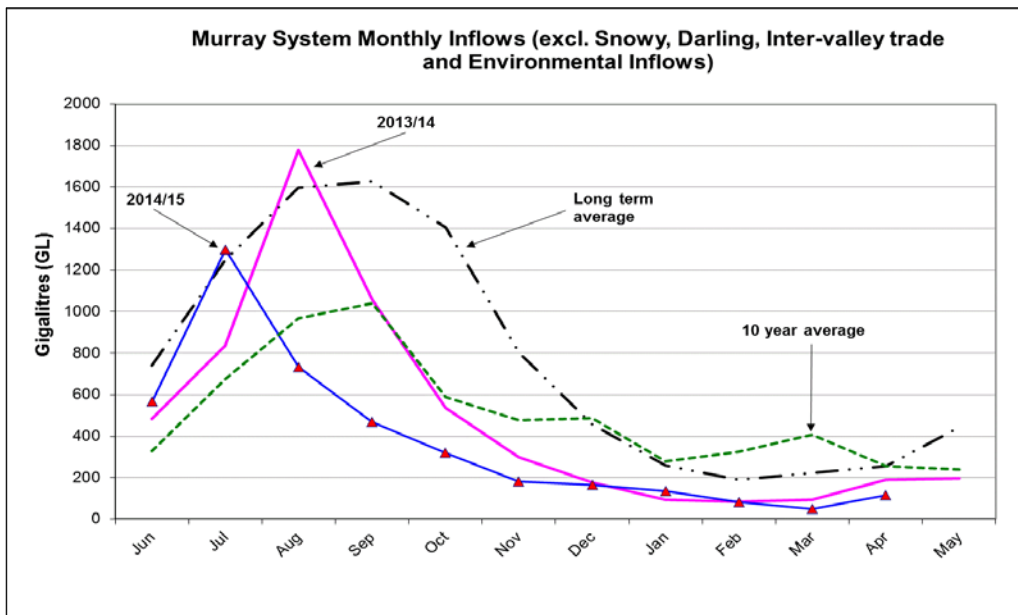
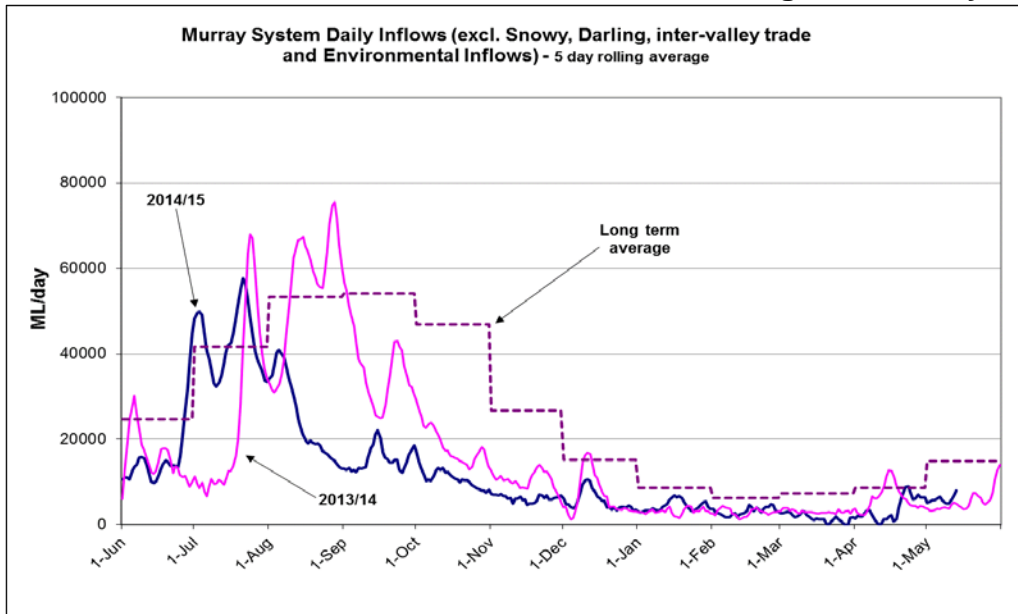
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.57
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.47	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.46	All closed	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 13 May 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	61%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	53%

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.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

Flow advice



15 May 2015

Dartmouth releases to increase

Starting tomorrow, the MDBA will be increasing the releases from Dartmouth Dam into the Mitta Mitta River as part of the process of bulk transfer to Hume Dam. However, works at Dartmouth Dam will require a temporary reduction in releases later in May.

From 8.00 am on Saturday 16 May, flows will gradually increase from 1400 megalitres per day (ML/day) or 1.33 metres gauge height at Colemans, to 5500 ML/day or 2.29m gauge height.

Starting at 8.00 am on 20 May, flows will then gradually reduce until they reach 1000 ML/day on 26 May for works to be undertaken at Dartmouth Dam.

As a result of these changes, flows at Tallandoon are expected to rise to approximately 5700 ML/day or 2.74m gauge height. Further variations may occur as a result of local rainfall.

A further flow advice will be issued when there is a significant change to releases.

The actual releases from Dartmouth Dam may vary from those forecast.

Landholders and river users on the Mitta Mitta are advised to regularly check the MDBA [current flows and forecasts](#) webpage for the most up to date information on releases from Dartmouth Dam. Information on [current flows and forecasts](#) are regularly updated on the website and summary information is available in the MDBA's [weekly report](#).

Current flows and forecasts can be found at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes>

River Murray weekly report can be found at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report>

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141

12 May 2015

Steady lowering of Lake Mulwala continues

Communities around Lake Mulwala are reminded that water levels in Lake Mulwala will continue to fall steadily over the next couple of weeks, in preparation for structural works at Yarrawonga weir and the lake foreshore, and to manage the aquatic weed *Egeria densa*.

Lake users, including pumpers, boat operators and recreational users, should consider adjusting their activities for changing water levels until the lake is reinstated to normal operating level in late July.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the major irrigation offtake orders will continue to be met from Lake Mulwala until the end of the irrigation season on Friday 15 May.

“The level of Lake Mulwala will fall by an average of 15 centimetres a day, until it reaches 3.5 metres below the normal operating level by around 1 June,” Mr Dreverman said.

“It will remain at this level until mid-July for works to be completed at the weir and foreshore and to allow the aquatic weed to dry out.

“Depending on the volume of water flowing in from the Ovens and Kiewa rivers, we expect the lake to be back at its normal height in late July, ready for the new irrigation season.”

Mr Dreverman said the needs of the local community around Lake Mulwala were an important consideration in timing the draw-down.

“By discussing this work with local tourism operators, council and industry, we’ve sought to limit any disruption these activities might cause and appreciate the community’s cooperation.

“It’s essential that we maintain river infrastructure for local use and to support the industries and environment that rely on the efficient management of the river.”

The structural works will include routine testing of the weir’s anchors and erosion control on the lake foreshore. Lowering the lake by 3.5 metres will also dry out the aquatic weed *Egeria densa*, which will help to stop it spreading in the lake.

Lake users are advised to consult NSW Department of Primary Industries and Roads and Maritime Services information for fishing and boating advice during the drawdown. More information on the drawdown will be provided in the MDBA’s River Operations Weekly Report on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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