



River Murray Weekly Report

For the week ending Wednesday, 14 April 2021

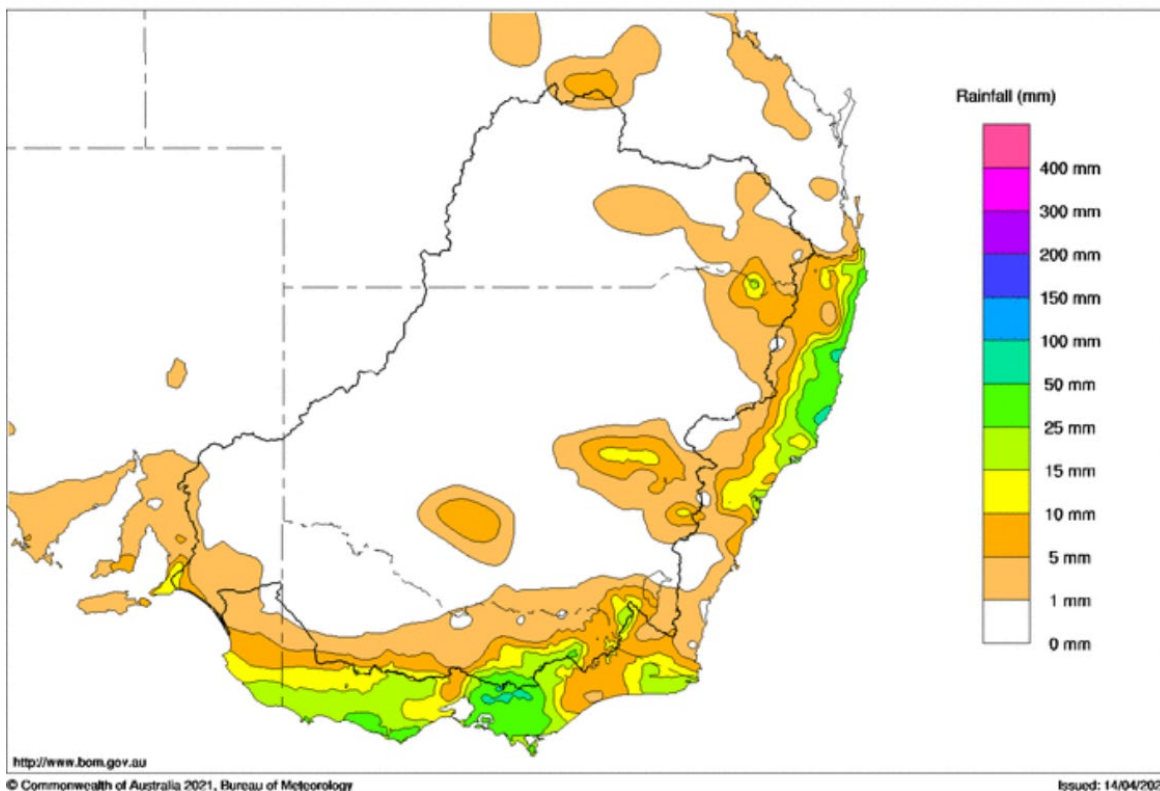
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Rainfall and inflows

There was little rainfall observed across the Murray Darling Basin this week (Map 1). Specific information about flows at key locations can be found at the MDBA's [River Murray data](#) webpage. Dry conditions are forecast to persist across most of the Basin throughout the coming week.

Up-to-date river data for sites in the upper Murray can also be found on BoM's [website](#) and in the Murray River Basin Daily River Report at the Water NSW [website](#).

Weekly rainfall totals for Murray-Darling Basin 08/04/2021 – 14/04/2021



Map 1: Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 April 2021. Source: Bureau of Meteorology.



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River operations

- Significant flows in the northern Basin are arriving at Bourke.
- River users and houseboat owners should be aware that river levels will vary over the coming weeks
- Red alert levels continue for blue-green algae from Wentworth region to Euston

River Levels

Over the last few weeks, demands have oscillated as warm conditions were followed by mild autumn weather. Releases, and water levels, along the Murray have varied in response.

Depending on the location along the system, flows may be falling, steady or rising during the school holiday period. River users can monitor River Murray levels and flow forecasts at key locations on the MDBA's [River Murray data](#) webpage to assist in planning any river activities.

Recreational activities that require deeper water such as boating can take advantage of many weir pools along the river which will remain near normal levels over the coming week.

Water demand

The MDBA has been actively monitoring shortfall risks over the irrigation season. A shortfall occurs when water cannot be delivered to users when and where it is needed. A delivery shortfall occurs when actual water use is higher than it was forecast to be when river water was released from storages, weeks earlier, to meet the forecast needs for irrigation and environmental water. A system shortfall occurs when the combined capacity of the system is unable to supply all downstream requirements over the full season. More information about shortfalls can be found at [Water demand \(shortfalls\) | Murray-Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#).

The risk of a **delivery shortfall** in the River Murray between Wakool Junction and the SA border over the coming week is negligible. The MDBA is continuing to monitor weather conditions and forecast demands and will actively manage the risk of delivery shortfall across the high demand summer-autumn period as conditions evolve.

The risk of a **system shortfall** is negligible. The MDBA, Basin state governments and their agencies have different roles and responsibilities in managing shortfalls. Read more information on [delivery shortfall risks for Victorian water licence holders](#).

Water quality impacts

The Murray and Lower Darling Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has continued to declare a number of red and amber alerts for **blue-green algae** in the River Murray System. Currently, **red alert** warnings are in place on the River Murray between Euston and Wentworth. **Amber alerts** are in place at a number of sites on the River Murray and along the Edward-Wakool River system. The locations of these sites are available on the [WaterNSW](#) website. It is important that water users regularly keep up to date with algal alerts, notices, and health warnings. This information is available through [Goulburn-Murray Water](#) and [WaterNSW](#).

River operations

Total **active storage** reduced by 40 GL over the last week to 3,833 GL (45% capacity).

At **Dartmouth Reservoir**, the [storage](#) decreased by 2 GL to 2,454 GL (64% capacity) and the release, measured at Colemans, targeted around 250 ML/day this week.

Over the past week the **Hume Reservoir** [storage](#) decreased by 62 GL to 1,369 GL (46% capacity). The Hume release increased to around 16,500 ML/day before decreasing to 9,000 ML/day as demands reduced during the week.

The **Lake Mulwala** level is currently near 124.9 m AHD, within the normal operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD), and similar levels are expected over the coming days. Diversions to Mulwala Canal have ranged from 2,100 ML/day to 3,600 ML/day. On the Victorian side, diversion to Yarrowonga Main Channel has ranged from a low of around 1,100 ML/day to 1,700 ML/day. The release from **Yarrowonga Weir** has averaged 8,800 ML/day this week.

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Photo 1: Ludlows Reserve at Lake Hume (Photo Courtesy: D Jacobs, MDBA)

The gates of the **Edward River Offtake** have been lifted clear of the water, meaning flows will now vary with Murray levels. The flow through the offtake is around 1,550 ML/day and is forecast to remain steady in the coming days. Flow through **Gulpa Creek Offtake** has averaged around 270 ML/day this week.

Downstream on the **Edward River**, the release from Edward Escape temporarily increased from around 700 ML/day to near 1,000 ML/day to help meet Edward-Wakool demands. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is around 900 ML/day and flows are expected to reduce over the coming week. Flow through the Wakool River and Yallakool Creek offtakes averaged near 70 and 400 ML/day, respectively, with higher flows expected over the coming weeks as part of an autumn environmental pulse to support native fish. Flow through the Colligen Creek offtake has averaged 200 ML/day this week.

On the **Goulburn River**, the flow measured at [McCoys Bridge](#) eased towards 1,400 ML/day. Towards the end of next week, water for the environment will be used to boost the flow in the Goulburn River. The planned pulse of up to 7,000 ML/day is to [benefit the recovery of native vegetation](#) along the banks of the lower Goulburn River.

In addition to the Goulburn River, the delivery of water from the Goulburn IVT account to the Murray is continuing from the Campaspe River with a combined Goulburn IVT delivery of around 40 GL planned for April. For more information see the [Goulburn-Murray Water website](#). Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray Valleys is available at the Victorian water register [website](#).

[Diversions](#) to **National Channel** averaged around 2,200 ML/day. The release from **Torrumbarry Weir** is currently around 4,700 ML/day and will increase throughout the week to near 5,400 ML/day.

Inflow from the **Murrumbidgee River**, measured at [Balranald](#), decreased from around 2,800 to 1,800 ML/day. Flows are expected to decrease further over the coming week as the balance of the 45 GL of IVT is delivered from the Murrumbidgee system in April. The [Murrumbidgee IVT balance](#) is open for trade from the Murray to the Murrumbidgee (100 GL), but remains closed for trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray.

At **Euston Weir**, the [weir pool level](#) remains near full supply level (FSL). The [downstream release](#) decreased from 7,700 ML/day last week to the current flow of 6,200 ML/day. The release will gradually reduce over the coming week to near 5,300 ML/day.

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Several of the upstream tributaries of the **Barwon-Darling** have experienced flooding following heavy rain in late March, including moderate to major flooding in the Barwon and Warrego Rivers. Flow in the Darling River at Bourke and Wilcannia is around 27,000 and 11,000 ML/day, respectively, and rising. For updates on flow forecasting in the northern Basin please see the [Water NSW](#) website.

Menindee Lakes total [storage](#) has increased 22GL to 327 GL (19% capacity) this week. The release from Weir 32 is currently around 300 ML/day. Water NSW has [estimated](#) that 450-650 GL of inflow may reach Menindee Lakes as a result of flow in the Darling River. This estimate will be revised in coming weeks as flows move towards Menindee Lakes.

At **Wentworth Weir**, the weir pool level continues to be managed around FSL. The downstream flow reduced during the week from 7,200ML/day to 5,400 ML/day last week. Downstream flows are expected to reduce throughout the coming week to 4,000 ML/day.

Downstream at **Lock 9** the weir pool continues to vary just below FSL. The **Lock 8** weir pool is currently around 40 cm below FSL, while **Lock 7** is near FSL. In the second half of April, the Lock 7 weir pool will gradually increase to around 55 cm above FSL to facilitate increased flows into Lindsay River that enable pumping into Lake Wallawalla during May and June for environmental outcomes.

The [storage](#) at **Lake Victoria** increased by 1 GL to 204 GL (30% capacity) this week. During April and May, the storage will increase as water from upstream is captured to meet the end of May target of 350 GL.

The [flow](#) to **South Australia** averaged 5,400 ML/day for the week and is forecast to remain around this rate over the coming days. The flow includes South Australia's normal monthly Entitlement flow, small volumes of consumptive trade and water for the environment.

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is 0.59 m AHD. Barrage releases will continue to be made, when conditions allow, to push fresh water into the Coorong and to support Black Bream spawning over the coming months. For information on barrage releases and South Australia's Entitlement flow, see the South Australian Department for Environment and Water Weekly [River Murray Flow Report](#).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

ANDREW REYNOLDS
Executive Director, River Management



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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 Apr 2021

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	461.63	2 454	64%	71	2 383	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.95	1 369	46%	23	1 346	-62
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.54	204	30%	100	104	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		327	19%	(- -) #	0	+22
Total		9 269		4 354	47%	- -	3 833	-40
Total Active MDBA Storage							45% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	897	87%	3	894	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 275	78%	24	1 251	+10
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 986	60%	100	1 886	-17

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 13 Apr 2021

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2020
Lake Eucumbene - Total	959	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+20	863
Snowy-Murray Component	415	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	242
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	19	621
			Murray 1 Release	+23	1 155

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2020	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2020
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	19.9	557	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9	180
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.2	95	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.9	300
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	100
Licensed Pumps	n/a	230	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.6	26
Lower Darling	0.1	2	Licensed pumps - LMW	8	405
TOTAL	22.5	907	TOTAL	36	1011

* Figures are derived from actual and estimates where data is unavailable. 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 environmental flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	37.8	(5 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	75.8	
Flow last month	196.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2020
Swan Hill	90	80	90
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	100	100	130
Merbein	100	110	130
Burtundy (Darling)	460	500	400
Lock 9	120	120	130
Lake Victoria	130	140	120
Berri	170	170	160
Waikerie	240	250	210
Morgan	270	260	210
Mannum	260	260	230
Murray Bridge	290	280	250
Milang (Lake Alex.)	720	730	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	330	570	1 060
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 780	1 770	1 640
Goolwa Barrages	2 050	1 430	1 220



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Apr 2021

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 240	F	3 370	4 490
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	208.19	4 400	F	5 320	6 130
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	218.28	570	F	560	570
Heywoods	5.5	2.75	156.38	8 910	F	13 610	10 040
Doctors Point	5.5	2.56	151.03	9 980	F	14 200	10 900
Albury	4.3	1.61	149.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	2.68	128.70	12 630	F	14 480	9 780
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.49	116.53	9 060	R	8 810	7 360
Tocumwal	6.4	1.99	105.83	8 540	F	8 570	7 020
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.75	80.30	4 660	R	3 890	3 620
Swan Hill	4.5	0.80	63.72	3 270	R	3 110	4 570
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.01	51.13	4 040	R	4 380	7 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.21	43.05	6 200	R	6 910	8 650
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 180	F	6 770	8 020
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	5 390	F	6 340	7 420
Rufus Junction	-	3.17	20.10	4 820	F	4 960	5 010
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.60	-	2 900	F	3 100	3 740
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	0.92	154.15	380	R	440	530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.95	145.63	490	R	480	620
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.71	93.13	1 350	R	1 030	970
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.13	80.90	840	F	900	720
Edward at Liewah	-	1.69	57.07	1 020	R	1 000	1 570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.30	54.79	250	F	320	420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.15	58.11	1 780	F	2 510	2 410
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	4.53	-	3 600	F	10 760	9 050
Darling at Bourke	9.0	8.54	-	26 170	R	22 380	10 960
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	210	F	220	230

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 890	2 570
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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	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	-28.25
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.14	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.09	-0.38	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.40	+0.04	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.15

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.59
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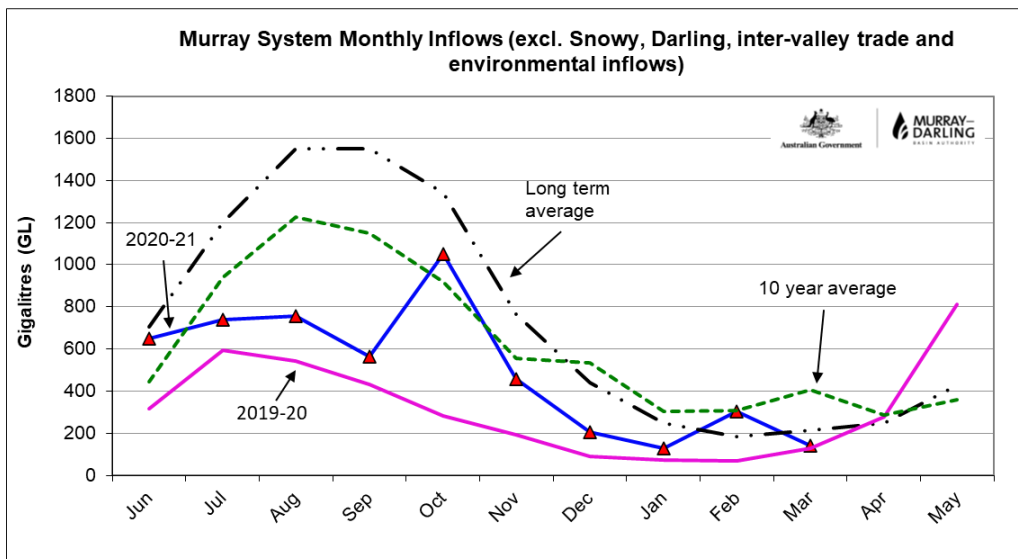
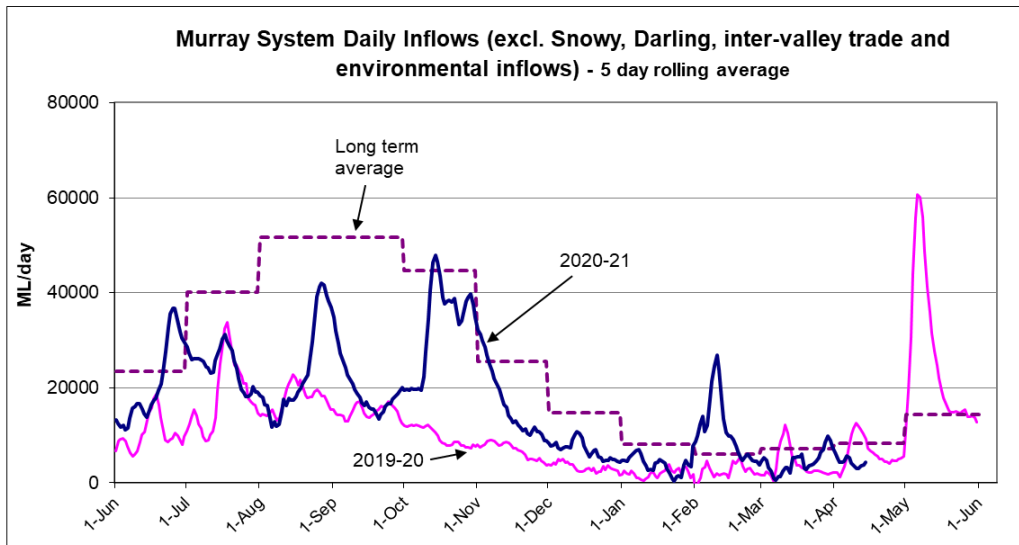
Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.55	1	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.50	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.58	1	Open	Open	Open	-

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





State Allocations (as at 14 Apr 2021)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	50%

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 : <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/summary>

VIC : <http://nvrn.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current>

SA : <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocations-and-announcements>