RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

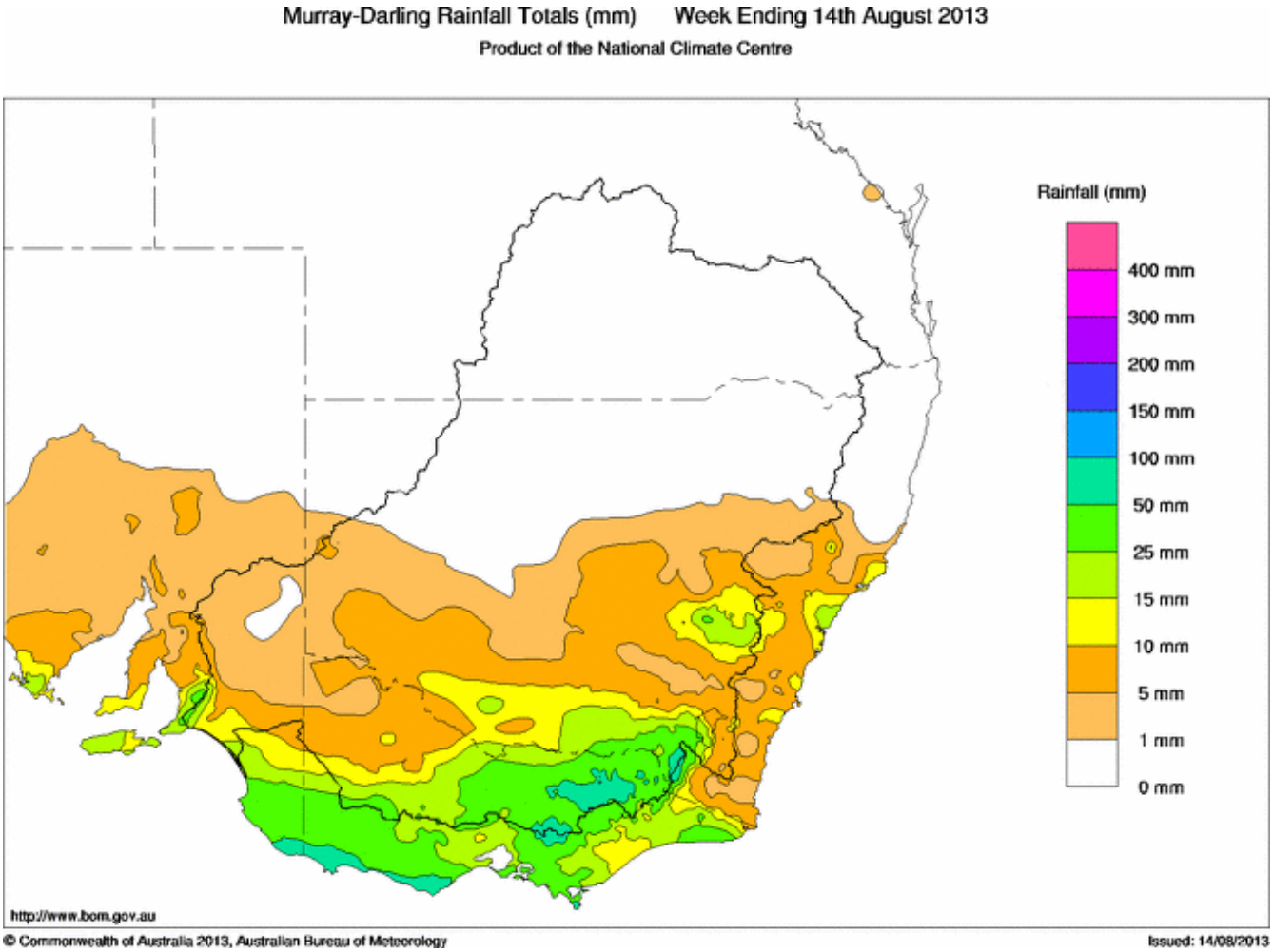
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2013

Trim Ref: D13/29338

Rainfall and Inflows

Cold fronts continue to pass across the southern Murray-Darling Basin bringing further bursts of precipitation. However, with the end of winter approaching, the past week was also interspersed with drier spells and a few warmer days. Conditions in the northern half of the Basin remained rain-free. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting the passage of further cold fronts over southern Australia during the next few days, with rain predicted for the coming weekend likely to generate renewed stream flow rises.

Precipitation was once again heaviest over south-eastern areas with weekly totals above 25 mm for most of northern and north-eastern Victoria and the western slopes and ranges in southern NSW (Map 1). The highest totals again fell across the alpine areas, with 109 mm at Rocky Valley, 87 mm at Mt Buffalo and around 100 mm across the Snowy Mountains where there was further significant snowfalls reported. Elsewhere, there were good totals over the lower to mid Ovens, King, Broken and Goulburn River catchments, including 73 mm at Harris Lane, 71 mm at Upper Buckland, 67 mm at Myrrhee, 57 mm at Tatong, 55 mm at Benalla and 40 mm at Lake Eildon. There was also worthwhile rain along the central and western Victorian divide including 69 mm at Mt William, 34 mm at Daylesford and 28 mm at Drung Drung.



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 August 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Upper Murray system tributaries are responding quickly to rain due to the very wet state of the catchments. Upstream of Hume Reservoir, the River Murray at Jingellic averaged 17,000 ML/day; while on the Tooma River, the flow peaked at almost 4,500 ML/day from rain late in the week. On the Ovens River, the heavier rain fell earlier in the week and the flow at Wangaratta peaked at 28,500 ML/day and now is flowing at around 17,500 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 189 GL this week and is now 7,631 GL (89% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage volume increased by 23 GL to 3,765 GL (98% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, averaged over 5,000 ML/day. The release, when combined with downstream tributary inflows, is targeting 9,000 ML/day at the Tallandoon gauge. As of 15 August, this target was increased to 10,000 ML/day in order to protect airspace in Dartmouth Reservoir. With responsive catchments and a continuing high storage level, the MDBA will closely monitoring inflows over the coming weeks (see media release attached).

Inflows to Hume Reservoir averaged around 29,000 ML/day this week with the storage increasing by 168 GL to 2,704 GL (90% capacity). The rate of release at Hume was increased over several days during the week to actively manage airspace in the storage for increased flood protection ahead of any potential future significant rain event. The release as at 16 August is targeting a flow of 32,000 ML/day at Doctors Point downstream of the Kiewa River junction.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.72 m AHD. The release reached a peak of 31,000 ML/day mid-week as high inflows arrived from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. Further expected rises in tributary inflows combined with increased releases now in transit from Hume Dam mean that releases above 50,000 ML/day are very likely during the coming week.

On the Edward-Wakool system, combined inflows through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes eased to around 2,400 ML/day during the week but are now beginning to increase again. At Stevens Weir, the pool level has been fairly steady at around 4.6 m on the local gauge and diversions are continuing through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes. The release downstream is currently 2,900 ML/day and is expected to increase steadily over the coming weeks as higher flows from upstream continue moving into the system.

In the Barmah-Millewa forest, flows into the forest wetlands are continuing and regulators remain open. At the Barmah gauge, flows eased slightly during the week but are now beginning to increase with a flow above 10,000 ML/day likely within the next few days.

On the Goulburn River, good responses to rain along tributaries downstream of Eildon Dam resulted in increased flows at the McCoys gauge with a peak of around 9,000 ML/day recorded on 13 August. Eildon Reservoir, while relatively full at 79% capacity, remains some way off any potential spill. Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, diversions at National Channel remain steady at around 840 ML/day and the release has increased to 13,700 ML/day. The release will remain fairly steady at around 14,000 ML/day during the coming days before further increases begin. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald decreased from 4,000 to 2,300 ML/day.

At Euston Weir, the pool level is currently at 47.34 m AHD (26 cm below FSL) and maintenance works are continuing on the navigable pass. The release from Euston Weir is currently 14,400 ML/day, and continues to fluctuate as a result of the works activities.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes decreased by 3 GL this week to 1,244 GL (72% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 200 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume is currently at 592 GL (87% capacity), which is the same volume as one week ago. The flow to South Australia continues unregulated, with the target flow now increased to 15,000 ML/day to delay the filling of the lake until later in spring.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina remains at 0.75 m AHD. With inflows from the Murray now increasing, additional barrage gates have been opened to manage the Lower Lakes level with a total of 36 gates now passing water when tide and weather conditions permit.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 Aug 2013

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	484.61	3 765	98%	71	3 694	+23
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.46	2 704	90%	23	2 681	+168
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.29	592	87%	100	492	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 244	72%	(480 #)	764	-3
Total		**9 269**		**8 305**	**90%**	**- -**	**7 631**	**+189**
Total Active MDBA Storage							89% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		495	48%	3	492	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 361	83%	24	1 337	+28
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 622	79%	100	2 522	+70

* 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 13 Aug 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 476	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+19	470
Snowy-Murray Component	545	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+11	99
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	7	372
			Murray 1 Release	+30	570

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)	12.6	26	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.5	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4	30
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	1
Licensed Pumps	0.5	3	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	1
Lower Darling	2.5	6	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	6
TOTAL	**15.7**	**34**	**TOTAL**	**5.9**	**39**

* 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	66.4
Flow so far this month	123.2
Flow last month	142.3

(9 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	80	140	160
Euston	190	160	160
Red Cliffs	140	160	160
Merbein	160	150	160
Burtundy (Darling)	410	150	380
Lock 9	140	130	140
Lake Victoria	350	330	340
Berri	400	400	440
Waikerie	560	570	570
Morgan	570	570	590
Mannum	600	580	560
Murray Bridge	590	580	580
Milang (Lake Alex.)	590	590	590
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	720	640	610
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 630	2 590	2 600
Goolwa Barrages	1 260	1 390	1 820

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Aug 2013

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge Height local (m)	Gauge Height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	6 260	F	6 570	5 730
Jingellic	4.0	3.20	209.72	19 520	R	17 070	12 170
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.17	220.06	8 280	R	7 880	5 750
Heywoods	5.5	3.03	156.66	13 590	R	4 440	600
Doctors Point	5.5	3.40	151.87	19 570	R	9 680	4 680
Albury	4.3	2.42	149.86	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.47	128.49	10 580	R	7 030	5 050
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.50	118.54	27 010	F	22 890	12 690
Tocumwal	6.4	4.25	108.09	28 640	R	18 890	12 440
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.13	82.68	13 710	R	10 330	8 150
Swan Hill	4.5	1.73	64.65	8 970	R	8 480	6 700
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.84	52.96	10 530	R	9 360	6 980
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.59	44.43	14 390	R	11 540	8 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.31	28.07	12 210	R	10 880	7 480
Rufus Junction	-	4.65	21.58	14 670	R	8 850	7 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.92	-	10 370	R	7 330	6 530
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.88	156.11	5 170	F	5 080	4 220
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.74	149.42	17 600	F	22 500	9 890
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.83	96.25	8 120	F	5 450	1 070
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.55	82.32	2 910	F	2 940	2 730
Edward at Liewah	-	3.00	58.38	2 580	R	1 870	1 080
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.61	55.10	900	R	460	180
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.66	58.62	2 280	F	3 040	2 740
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	410	F	520	1 220
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	910	S	940	1 020
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.81	-	300	S	340	370

Natural Inflow to Hume	30 430	20 840

(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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+2.29
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.47
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.26	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.44	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+1.25
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.67	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.48
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.06	+0.55
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.26	+0.27	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.17

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.75

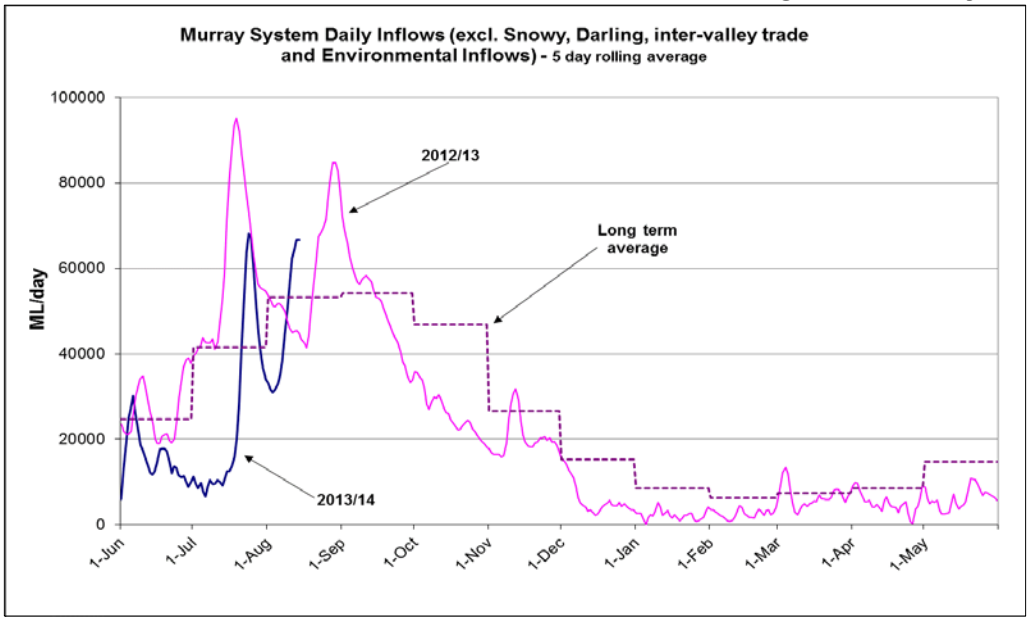
Barrages

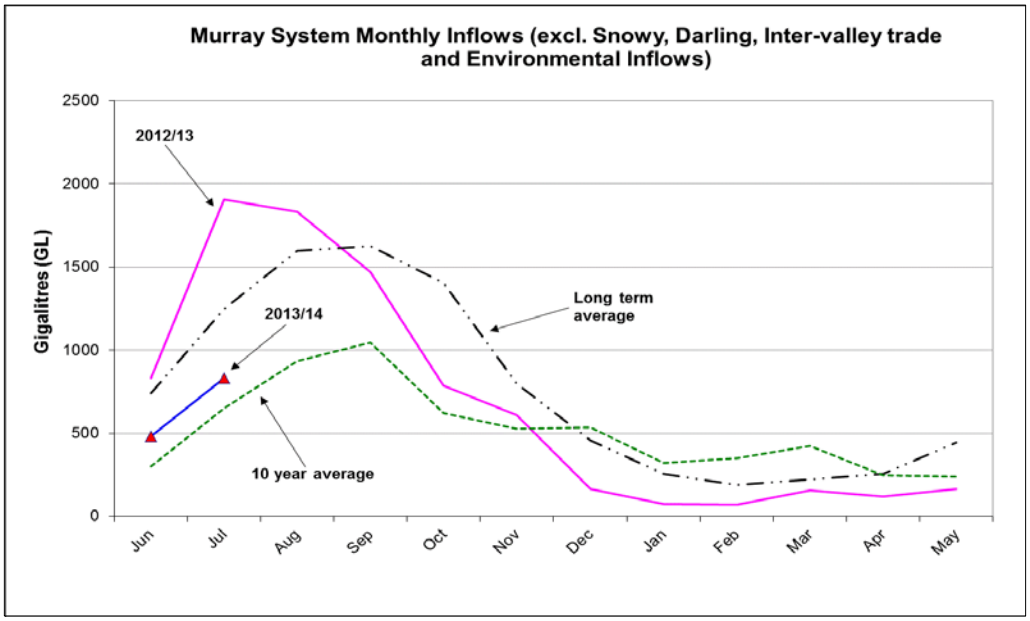
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	17	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.68	17	Open	Open

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

Week ending Wednesday 14 Aug 2013





State Allocations (as at 15 Aug 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	57%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	57%
Low reliability	0%

NSW – Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	28%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	95%
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

16 August 2013

Update on Hume and Dartmouth storages

River Murray operators have increased the releases of water from the Hume and Dartmouth dams this week to manage airspace and reduce the effects of potential spill.

MDBA River Management executive director, David Dreverman, said continuing rain across the upper Murray catchments had led to rising levels in the Dartmouth and Hume reservoirs, and further rain was forecast.

“River operators have been gradually releasing water from the dams over recent weeks due to the forecast wet conditions but the inflows are now exceeding the current controlled releases,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Essentially, we’re now moving from filling to spilling, which means we’re allowing most of the water to pass through the dams rather than go into storage.

“With the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting further rain for this weekend, it’s expected the storage levels will continue to rise over the coming week.

“The catchments are now very wet and, with the Bureau’s longer term outlook for increasingly wetter conditions, it’s highly likely that spills will occur.”

Mr Dreverman said the timing of any spill was uncertain and downstream communities should keep an eye out for any flood watches or flood warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

“We’re liaising very closely with the Bureau so they can issue timely and accurate warnings,” he said.

MDBA river operators have been meeting with landholders downstream of the storages to discuss the current status of the levels, explain how airspace is being managed and to ensure landholders are well prepared and know where to go for further information.

Information about the management of Hume Dam can be found at www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/dams-weirs/hume-dam/flood-management-at-hume-dam

The Bureau of Meteorology is responsible for issuing flood warnings to the general public. People can check www.bom.gov.au/australia/warnings for up-to-date flood warnings in their area.

To register with the NSW State Water Corporation’s Early Warning Network, go to www.statewater.com.au/EWN

ENDS