



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

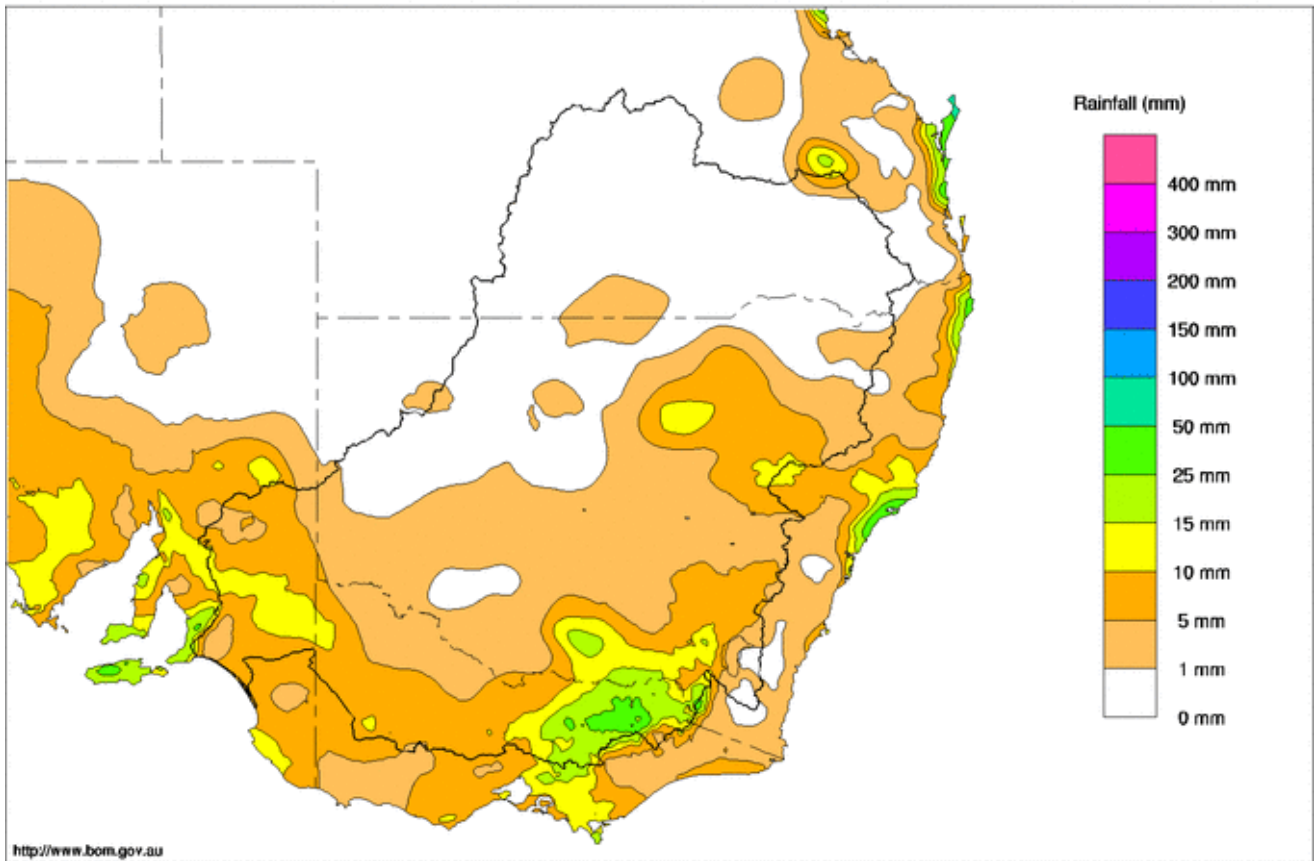
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2014

Trim Ref: D14/15661

Rainfall and Inflows

Rain this week fell mostly across the south of the Murray-Darling Basin, with the highest totals over the south-east ranges in association with a cold front that moved through the region over the weekend. Across the northern Basin, conditions remained mostly dry (Map 1). Notable weekly rainfall totals in Victoria included 50 mm at Mt Buffalo, 42 mm at Rocky Valley, 35 mm at Mt Hotham and 30 mm at Harris Lane. In NSW, there were totals up to around 30 mm over the Snowy Mountains.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 14th May 2014
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 14/05/2014

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 May 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Streamflow responses were relatively modest upstream of Hume Reservoir, with flow in the Murray at Biggara increasing only from around 350 to 450 ML/day before receding. Downstream at Jingellic, the flow rose above 7,000 ML/day for the first time since mid-April due to increased Snowy Hydro releases. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from around 400 ML/day to a peak of 800 ML/day, with the current flow at about 650 ML/day.

River Operations

River operations this week have continued to focus on maximising the amount of water available into the future within the major River Murray system storages. Releases from the major storages are close to minimums, as are flows along many reaches of the Murray. MDBA total storage has increased by 44 GL, with the active storage currently 4,856 GL or 58% capacity.



At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 4 GL to 3,432 GL (89% capacity). The flow at Colemans has remained at the minimum of 200 ML/day since mid-April. The Colemans flow is expected to remain close to the minimum for at least the next few weeks, unless higher flows are required for electricity generation.

Hume Reservoir's storage volume increased by 30 GL this week to 1,173 GL (39% capacity). The current release from Hume is the minimum of 600 ML/day; however this release may increase slightly over the coming week to ensure that the flow in the Murray at Doctors Point, downstream of the confluence with the Kiewa River, remains above its minimum target of 1,200 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.63 m AHD and this level is expected to remain steady during the coming week. Diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel ceased this week. If dry conditions continue, the pool may be drawn down below 124.6 m AHD during June to assist in maintaining downstream minimum river flows. A media release will be issued if any significant draw upon Lake Mulwala is necessary.

Flow into the Edward River system has been steady at 170 ML/day during the week, due to the low level of the River Murray at Picnic Point. Diversions through Wakool Main Canal have now ceased and the flow through the Edward Escape has increased to 1,040 ML/day as draining of Murray Irrigation Limited's channel system commenced. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been steady at 300 ML/day; however, higher releases from Stevens Weir are expected in the coming week as the weir pool level is gradually lowered.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been steady at 1,000 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, diversions through National Channel will cease on 15 May, and therefore flows downstream of the weir are expected to increase from 2,000 ML/day up to about 2,700 ML/day in the coming week. At Swan Hill, the flow is expected to rise to about 3,200 ML/day in the coming week due, in part, to return flows from the Torrumbarry irrigation area.

At Euston Weir, the pool level has been gradually increased to 47.73 m AHD and a pool level of 47.8 m AHD (20 cm above full supply level) is being targeted for the coming week. The release is currently 3,500 ML/day and expected to be in the range 3,000–3,500 ML/day during the coming week.

At Mildura Weir, further information on the planned drawdown of the weir pool in July is provided in the attached media release. The drawdown is planned to commence in mid-late July to allow new trestles with mechanised gates to be installed. Associated with this work, Lock 11 is expected to be closed for the last week of June and again for about 3 weeks from mid-late July.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume gained 5 GL during the week and is now 395 GL (23% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 is the minimum of 200 ML/day. The flow at Wentworth Weir is currently 4,700 ML/day but is expected to drop below 3,000 ML/day over the weekend. During late May, flows are expected to remain steady at about 3,000 ML/day.

The storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 4 GL to 445 GL (66% capacity, 24.97 m AHD). The flow to South Australia has averaged 3,800 ML/day during the last week but is expected to be slightly lower during the coming week. The flow to South Australia includes about 600 ML/day of environmental water being delivered from the Goulburn River. At the Lower Lakes, the five-day average level in Lake Alexandrina has been steady at 0.65 m AHD. The barrage openings have been steady during the week, and the combined release is estimated to be about 2,500 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 May 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	479.31	3 432	89%	71	3 361	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180.35	1 173	39%	23	1 150	+30
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.97	445	66%	100	345	+4
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		395	23%	(- -) #	0	+5
Total		9 269		5 445	59%	--	4 856	+44
Total Active MDBA Storage							58% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	569	55%	3	566	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	849	52%	24	825	+27
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 276	68%	100	2 176	-4

* 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 May 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 556	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+19	32
Snowy-Murray Component	780	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+9	11
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	10	21
			Murray 1 Release	+25	39

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)	-1.9	1088	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.9	312
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.3	49	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	527
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	26	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	109
Licensed Pumps	0.6	236	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2	171
Lower Darling	0.1	197	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.7	284
TOTAL	-1.4	1596	TOTAL	8.8	1403

* 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	26.7	(3 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	53.1	
Flow last month	183.5	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	150	130	90
Euston	140	130	100
Red Cliffs	140	140	120
Merbein	160	170	130
Burtundy (Darling)	530	550	500
Lock 9	160	140	170
Lake Victoria	190	170	250
Berri	300	300	270
Waikerie	370	360	320
Morgan	360	360	320
Mannum	390	410	360
Murray Bridge	500	530	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	690	690	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	540	560	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 730	2 730	2 650
Goolwa Barrages	1 080	1 200	1 290



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 May 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	-	-	-	7 220	F	3 830	2 720
Jingellic	4.0	2.08	208.60	7 330	R	4 700	3 640
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.34	218.23	410	F	430	420
Heywoods	5.5	1.34	154.97	600	S	740	1 650
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 420	S	1 460	2 430
Albury	4.3	0.63	148.07	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.65	126.67	1 900	F	2 280	3 160
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.31	115.35	1 820	F	1 870	1 830
Tocumwal	6.4	0.92	104.76	2 090	S	2 080	2 250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.94	79.49	2 010	R	1 900	2 260
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	1 880	F	2 170	2 630
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.90	51.02	3 610	F	4 140	5 030
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.83	42.67	3 480	F	4 530	5 120
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 330	F	4 420	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	4 660	F	4 750	6 360
Rufus Junction	-	2.85	19.78	3 050	R	3 050	3 060
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.58	-	3 220	S	3 140	3 150
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.03	154.26	560	F	590	580
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.09	145.77	850	F	680	730
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.52	92.94	1 000	S	990	1 010
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.56	80.33	330	F	310	300
Edward at Liewah	-	1.15	56.53	590	F	640	1 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.46	54.95	510	F	610	800
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.58	56.54	250	F	320	410
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	80	R	80	120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	290	F	390	820
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.81	-	270	F	290	280

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 880	2 670
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.27	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.61
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.13	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.09	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.44
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.30	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.14	+0.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	+0.51	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.23	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.52	+0.14	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.16	-0.17

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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Barrages

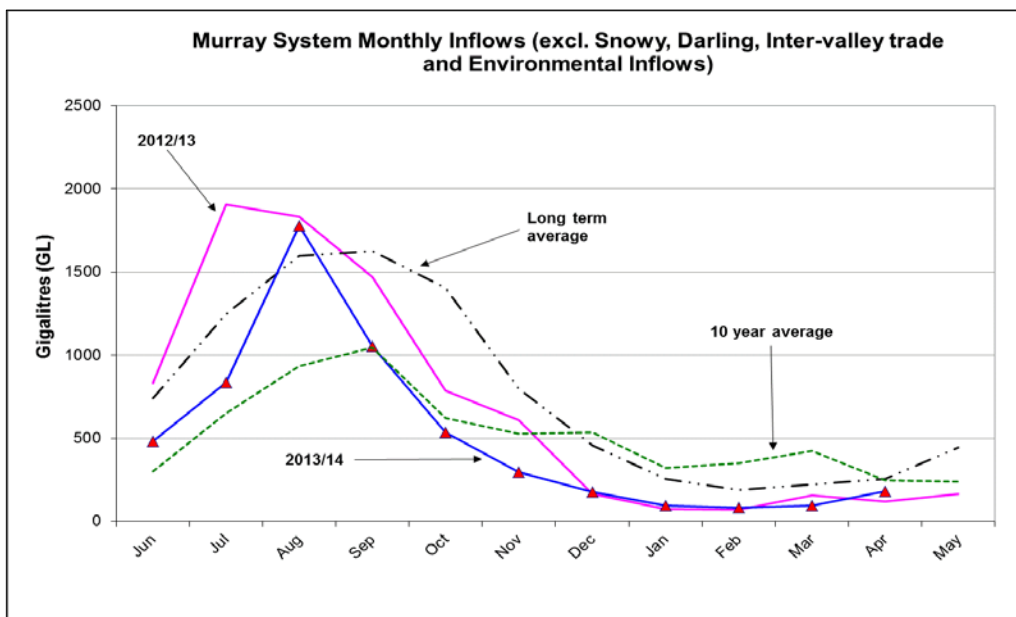
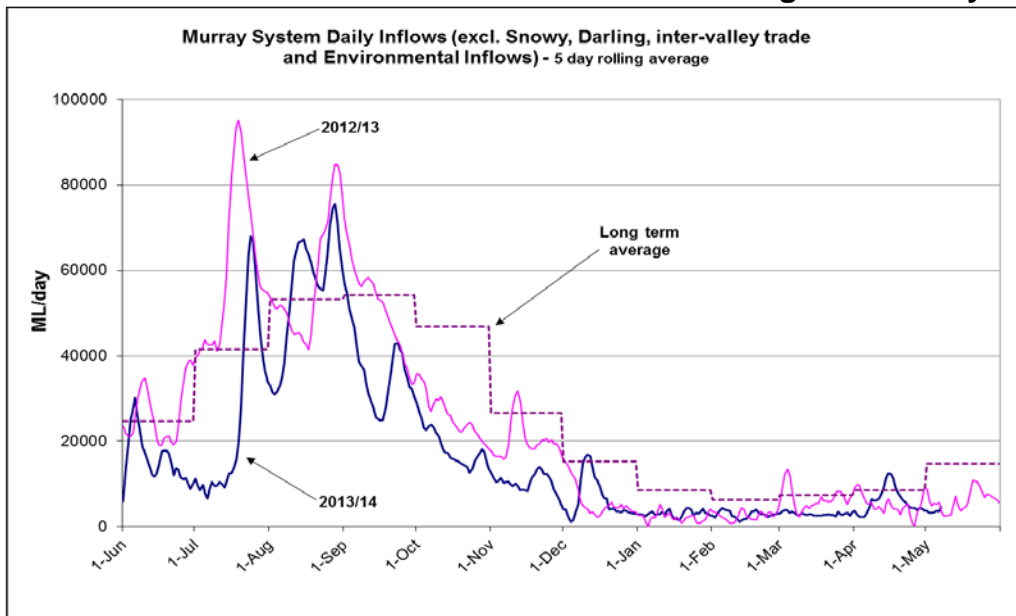
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.70	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 14 May 2014



State Allocations (as at 14 May 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	63%

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.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

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

15 May 2014

Mildura weir pool to drop this winter

Tourism operators, irrigators and other river users are reminded that the River Murray at Mildura is expected to drop to very low levels for about three weeks this winter, when work is carried out at the Mildura weir.

Starting around mid-July, the weir pool level will be lowered as the weir's trestles are removed and new trestles with mechanised gates installed.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the works had been scheduled to cause the least disruption to local river activity, based on advice from local tourism, industry, irrigation and other groups.

"We're very conscious of the community's needs, and have timed the works to start after the Victorian and New South Wales school holidays but before the main irrigation season," Mr Dreverman said.

"Removing the weir will drop the river height to about 3.6 metres below the level of a full weir pool, but the exact river height will depend on river flows."

Mr Dreverman said the works would also affect the operation of Lock 11.

"The lock will be closed for the three weeks that work is underway, but it is likely to be closed for the last week of June as well, as new trestles are transported over the lock to the weir."

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

"It's important that the weir is upgraded and maintained so the river can be properly managed and reliably support surrounding industries.

"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.

It is expected the weir will 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 in the coming weeks.

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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