



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2014

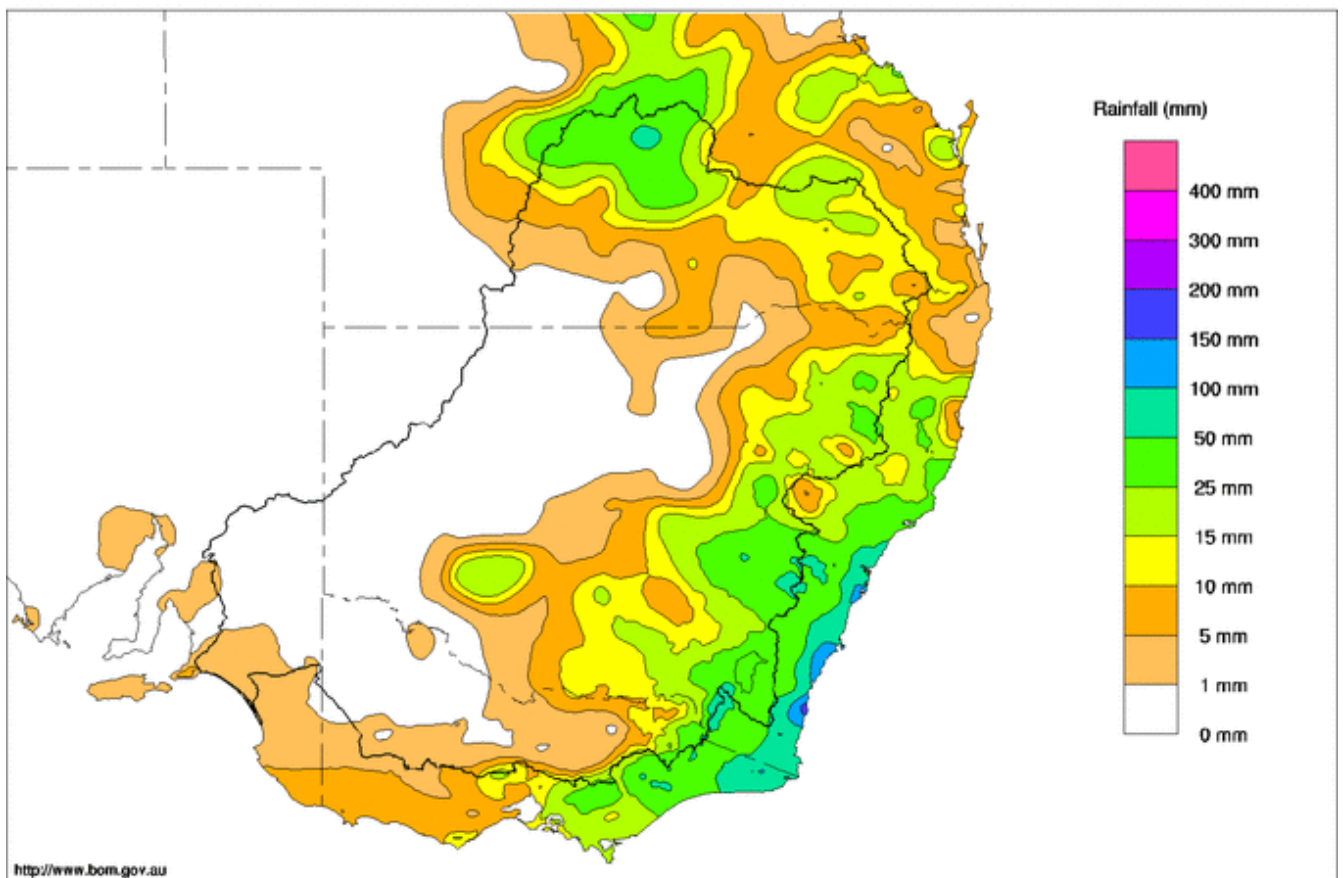
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Rainfall and Inflows

The weather was relatively warm across much of the Murray-Darling Basin at the beginning of the week before a trough system moved into the region from the north-west as the week progressed. The system brought rain to the far north of the Basin before interaction with a strong cold front resulted in thunderstorms and rainfall across eastern and south-eastern areas with moderate to heavy falls in some districts (Map 1).

The highest totals were recorded over the NSW Snowy Mountains where heavy rain was followed by snow that blanketed the higher parts of the range and delivered precipitation totals up to around 80 mm across the peaks. Elsewhere in NSW, rain and storms affected much of the slopes and tablelands. Notable totals included 56 mm at Orange Airport, 54 mm at Oberon, 44 mm at Bathurst, 42 mm at Dunedoo, and 36 mm at Canberra Airport. Highest reported totals in Queensland were in the Warrego River catchment and included 58 mm at Lochinvar and 37 mm at Mungallala. Rainfall over the Victorian ranges was comparatively lighter, with 36 mm at Omeo and 24 mm at Woods Point.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 15th October 2014
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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

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Map 1- Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 15th October 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



There has been a limited response to stream flows in the upper Murray System tributaries with small rises observed along the streams draining the NSW Snowy Mountains and a gradual recession in flows continuing along most Victorian tributaries. For example, on the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from around 800 to 1,200 ML/day; while on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from around 900 to 1,100 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point is currently at about 1,200 ML/day, down from around 1,400 ML/day one week ago. Overall, upper system tributary flows remain at quite low levels relative to long-term averages for this time of year.

River Operations

- Releases from Hume Reservoir increase to meet higher downstream demands;
- First of two environmental flow pulses from the Goulburn River expected to reach the Murray in late October;
- Flow to SA increases as testing of the Chowilla Floodplain environmental works continues.

MDBA active storage has decreased to 6,354 GL (75% capacity), with a reduction in total storage this week of 67 GL.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, storage has decreased by 21 GL to 3,598 GL (93% capacity). The release at Colemans has been gradually reduced this week to 3,500 ML/day but is forecast to be increased to 5,500 ML/day on Friday 17 October. These bulk transfers of water from Dartmouth aim to ensure there is sufficient water in Hume Reservoir during summer and autumn to meet the demands of downstream users. For more information, please read the attached flow advice.

The storage volume at **Hume** Reservoir fell by 22 GL to 2,320 GL (77% capacity). Inflows averaged about 11,000 ML/day during the week while releases have now increased to 16,500 ML/day. Releases in the coming week are also expected to average around 16,500 ML/day.

At **Yarrowonga** Weir, the release has been steady at 10,000 ML/day since late September but has today been nudged up to 10,300 ML/day. Flows through both main offtakes have been relatively steady this week at around 5,000 ML/day through Mulwala Canal and 1,400 ML/day through Yarrowonga Main Channel. These diversions are expected to increase in the coming weeks with increasing downstream demand.

Flow into the **Edward** River system has been steady with around 350 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek offtake and 1,600 ML/day through the Edward River offtake. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently around 600 ML/day but is expected to increase towards 2,400 ML/day in the coming week with additional flow being contributed via the Edward Escape.

On the **Goulburn** River at McCoys Bridge, the flow has dipped to around 1,650 ML/day ahead of two environmental water pulses from Lake Eildon. The first pulse is expected to reach the River Murray upstream of Echuca in late October, with the flow at McCoys Bridge forecast to be at least 8,300 ML/day. The second pulse is planned to pass McCoys Bridge in late November. These pulses aim to benefit fish spawning and vegetation on the Goulburn River with additional environmental benefits expected downstream. The latest flow forecasts are available at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/river-flows>.

On the **Campaspe** River, the flow at Rochester is currently around 1,400 ML/day and forecast to remain steady for the next few days before receding in late October. A second pulse in the Campaspe River is planned for early November.



At **Torrumbarry Weir**, the diversion into National Channel is currently around 2,400 ML/day. The flow in the River Murray downstream of Torrumbarry is around 8,000 ML/day and forecast to increase to around 13,000 ML/day by late October with the pulse from the Goulburn River.

Downstream at **Euston Weir**, the pool level remains around 20 cm above full supply level. The flow is expected to remain steady for the next week or so at around 8,500 ML/day.

At the **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume has decreased by 10 GL this week to 296 GL (17% capacity) and the flow at Weir 32 has remained at approximately 160 ML/day.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage fell by 14 GL to 630 GL (93% capacity). The flow to South Australia has recently increased to 9,500 ML/day and is expected to remain steady for at least the next two weeks. This flow includes entitlement flow, environmental water traded from the Goulburn system and additional environmental water which is being used to test the new works on the Chowilla Floodplain.

The flow at Lock 1 averaged 4,400 ML/day this week and, at the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.7 m AHD. The barrage releases continue to target 2,000 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	481.99	3 598	93%	71	3 527	-21
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.33	2 320	77%	23	2 297	-22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.61	630	93%	100	530	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		296	17%	(- -) #	0	-10
Total		9 269		6 844	74%	--	6 354	-67
Total Active MDBA Storage							75% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	815	79%	3	812	-25
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 056	65%	24	1 032	-43
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 884	87%	100	2 784	-25

* 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 14 Oct 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 140	+39	Snowy-Murray	+0	202
Snowy-Murray Component	990	+20	Tooma-Tumut	+3	165
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-3	37
			Murray 1 Release	+11	397

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)	33.5	204	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.0	62
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.7	11	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.4	226
Western Murray Irrigation	0.6	3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	16
Licensed Pumps	5.7	57	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	7
Lower Darling	0.3	15	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	43
TOTAL	41.8	290	TOTAL	31.1	354

* 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	170.0 *
Flow this week	64.5
Flow so far this month	125.0
Flow last month	184.0

(9 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	100	80	90
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	130	140	130
Merbein	140	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	620	660	790
Lock 9	170	160	140
Lake Victoria	210	210	200
Berri	270	260	210
Waikerie	290	290	290
Morgan	280	270	270
Mannum	290	300	340
Murray Bridge	350	350	400
Milang (Lake Alex.)	750	740	740
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	610	580	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 280	2 300	2 260
Goolwa Barrages	900	900	1 190

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 15 Oct 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	-	-	-	3 120	F	3 370	2 620
Jingellic	4.0	1.84	208.36	5 380	R	5 620	5 520
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.42	219.31	3 990	F	4 860	6 480
Heywoods	5.5	3.10	156.73	16 500	R	13 850	12 050
Doctors Point	5.5	3.19	151.66	17 080	R	14 830	12 730
Albury	4.3	2.22	149.66	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.24	129.26	15 700	R	14 020	12 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	S	10 020	10 040
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	9 610	S	9 550	9 520
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.67	81.22	8 030	F	8 050	7 930
Swan Hill	4.5	1.50	64.42	7 850	F	7 900	7 890
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.26	52.38	8 860	F	9 080	8 050
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.73	43.57	8 530	R	8 960	7 190
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	8 590	S	8 580	6 130
Rufus Junction	-	3.90	20.83	9 120	R	8 380	6 920
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.75	-	3 210	F	4 390	4 300
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	154.77	1 260	R	1 360	1 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.44	146.12	1 670	R	1 730	1 620
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.90	93.32	1 650	R	2 030	2 920
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	570	F	480	670
Edward at Liewah	-	1.43	56.81	800	F	1 000	860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.52	55.01	630	S	650	690
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.45	57.41	1 040	F	1 100	1 120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.94	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.91	-	0	F	10	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	50	R	40	60

Natural Inflow to Hume	7 130	9 210
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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	-0.28	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.55
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.42	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.20	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.12	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.30	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.58
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.50	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.80	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.32	+0.45
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.74	+0.24	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.35	+0.00

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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Barrages

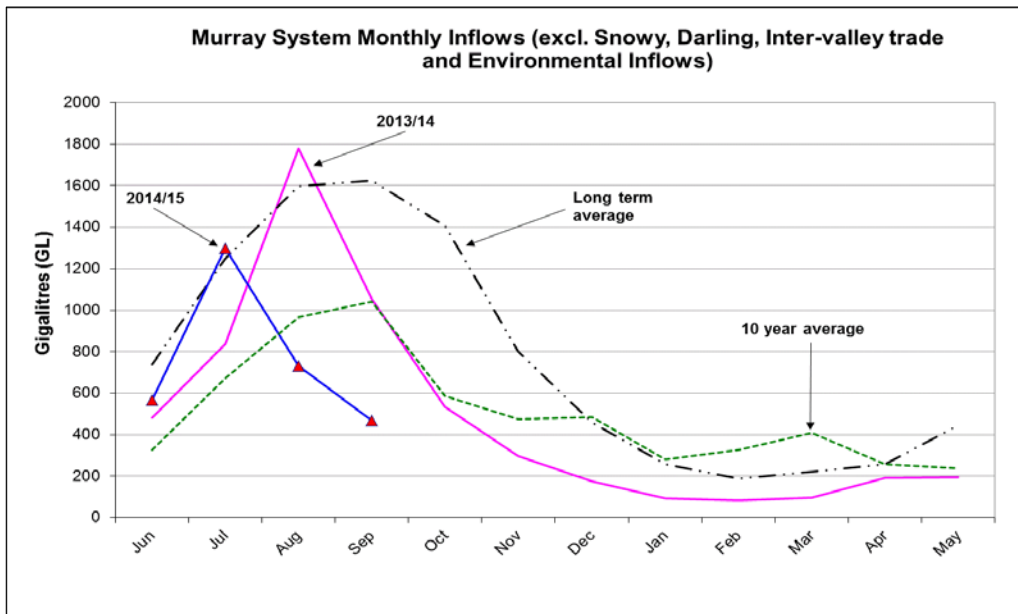
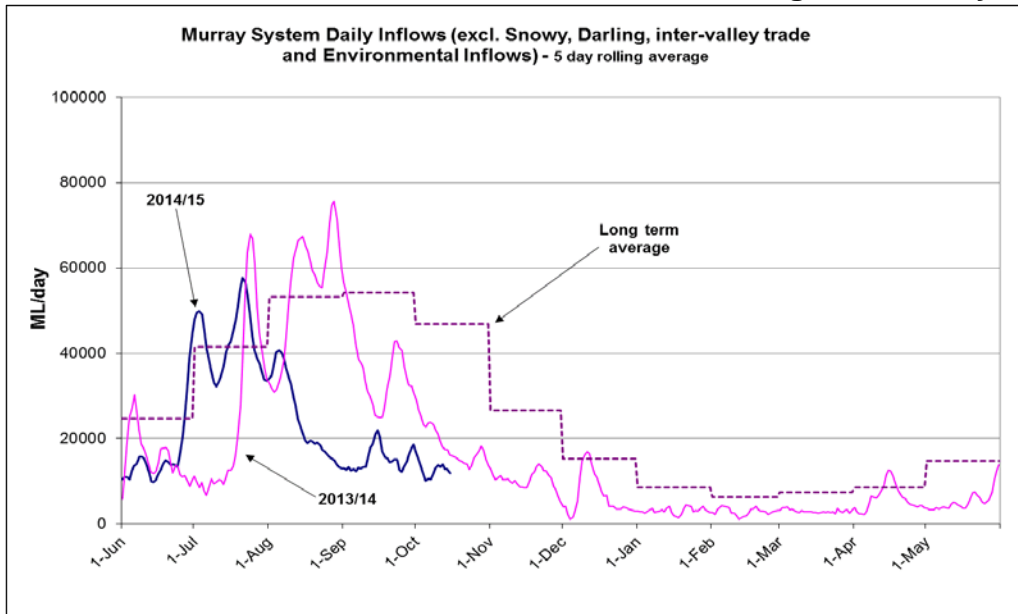
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.73	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	3	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 15 Oct 2014



State Allocations (as at 15 Oct 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	39%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	40%

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>

Mitta Mitta River

Flow advice



15 October 2014

Dartmouth flows to vary during spring

Landholders and river users on the Mitta Mitta River are advised to take into account variable flows from Dartmouth Reservoir for the remainder of spring, and make adjustments to their river activities as necessary.

Water is currently being transferred from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir to meet high water demand from downstream users following several dry months.

The release from Dartmouth is currently 3500 megalitres per day (ML/day) at Colemans gauge (gauge height 2.0 metres). Releases are planned to vary throughout the remainder of spring within the range of 2000 ML/day (1.7m) to 7000 ML/day (2.5m) at Colemans gauge.

The flow at Tallandoon is currently around 4500 ML/day (2.5m gauge height). Under dry conditions, the variable release from Dartmouth would result in flows at Tallandoon of between 2300 ML/day (2.0m) and 7500 ML/day (3.0m).

As at 14 October, Dartmouth Reservoir was at 93 per cent capacity (3602 GL) and Hume Reservoir was at 77 per cent capacity (2333 GL).

Bulk transfers of water from Dartmouth aim to ensure there is sufficient water in Hume Reservoir during summer and autumn to meet the demands of downstream users. If conditions remain dry, bulk transfers of water to Hume Reservoir are likely to continue throughout summer and autumn.

Where operationally possible, these transfers are managed for environmental and community benefit.

The MDBA routinely updates the flow forecasts each Wednesday on its website at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes. Readers can subscribe to receive notification of these MDBA flow forecasts by sending a subscription request to datarequests@mdba.gov.au.

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>