



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

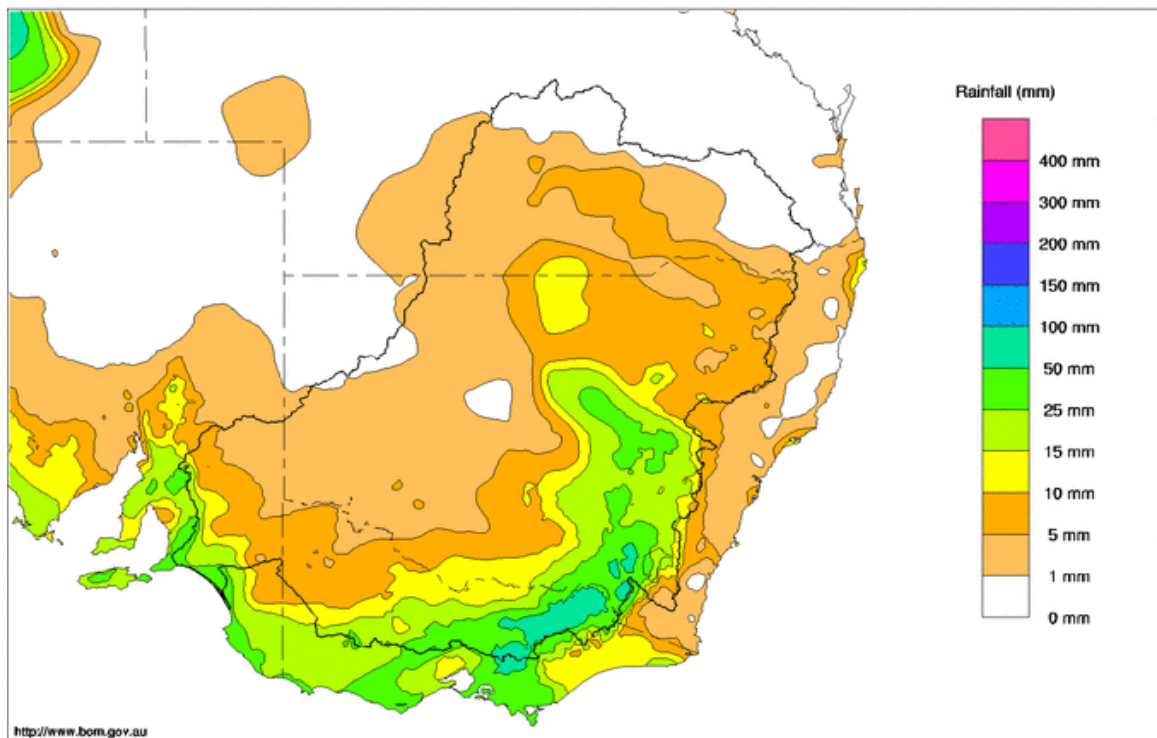
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2014

Trim Ref: D14/25494

Rainfall and Inflows

Rain this week was once again associated with the passage of cold frontal systems across southern Australia. The highest rainfall totals were recorded in the Victorian Alps and the NSW Snowy Mountains (Map 1). Widespread totals of around 25 to 50 mm were recorded in NSW on the southern and central western slopes, along the central Victorian highlands and the South Australian Mt Lofty Ranges and coastal region near the Lower Lakes. The highest weekly totals within the Basin included 119 mm at Mt Buffalo, 106 mm at Rocky Valley and 95 mm at Archerton in north eastern Victoria; 54 mm at Echunga Golf Course in the Mount Lofty Ranges and 40 mm at Meningie in the Lower Lakes in South Australia; and 43 mm at Dubbo Airport AWS in the central western slopes of New South Wales.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th July 2014
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 16 July 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries have responded to the continuing rainfall during the week. On the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, the flow has remained above 1,000 ML/day and is around 1,600 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara has averaged above 2,000 ML/day over the past week and has risen above 2,700 ML/day (as at 17 July). On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point has remained above 9,000 ML/day and is expected to peak above 13,000 ML/day.

River Operations

- Lock 15 - Euston weir pool level to rise up to 40 cm above Full Supply Level;
- Lock 11 – Mildura weir pool drawdown to commence on Monday 21 July;
- Lock 8 – Wangumma weir pool level to vary between 30 cm below and 80 cm above FSL.



MDBA total storage increased this week by 161 GL. Active storage is now at 5,687 GL (67% capacity). The continuing increase in stored water has allowed the States to increase Murray Valley water allocations (see allocation details on Page 5).

Total storage in **Dartmouth** Reservoir increased by 26 GL to 3,561 GL (92% capacity). The flow at Colemans is steady at 200 ML/day. Inflows to **Hume** Reservoir averaged around 16,600 ML/day with the storage rising 117 GL to 1,819 GL (61% capacity). Release remains at the minimum flow of 600 ML/day. Inflows from the Kiewa River downstream of Hume maintained the flow at Doctors Point at an average of around 4,100 ML/day.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the pool level is currently 124.73 m AHD. Due to peak inflows from the **Ovens** River of around 15,000 ML/day, the release at **Yarrowonga** Weir increased late in the week to 17,700 ML/day. Further increases to the release, up to around 19,000 ML/day, are likely over the next few days. Further downstream, most regulators into the Barmah-Millewa Forest are open as flows are well above the channel capacity of the **Barmah Choke**.

On the **Edward-Wakool** system, flow through the Edward River offtake, which remains fully open, is varying in response to the water level on the River Murray and is currently 1,870 ML/day. Flow through the Gulpa Creek offtake is currently 350 ML/day, however this will increase over the coming week as the offtake is fully opened. Downstream of the offtakes at Toonalook, the flow has eased back to 4,600 ML/day after reaching a peak of 4,700 ML/day, but will remain high due to inflows from the River Murray via the Millewa forest. At Stevens Weir, the flow downstream is currently being maintained at around 4,000 ML/day.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 5,700 ML/day and is expected to reach around 6,000 ML/day in the coming days. Downstream at **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel have been steady at 700 ML/day, as environmental watering of the Gunbower Forest continues. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir averaged around 11,400 ML/day and is expected to rise above 14,000 ML/day during the coming week.

On the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald is currently 2,900 ML/day and is expected to reach around 3,100 ML/day early in the coming week. At **Euston** Weir, the pool level is currently 8 cm below the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 47.6 m AHD. The level at Euston will increase over the coming week toward around 40 cm above FSL (see attached flow advice for more details). The flow downstream of Euston Weir is currently 13,800 ML/day, and is forecast to continue rising to 14,500 ML/day over the coming week.

At **Mildura** Weir, the drawdown of the weir pool for trestle maintenance works will commence on Monday, 21 July (see attached media release for more details). Storage in **Menindee Lakes** remains fairly steady, with a decrease this week of just 4 GL to 372 GL (21% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently around 200 ML/day.

At Weir and **Lock 8**, the level is currently 5 cm below FSL. The level is expected to fall to up to 30 cm below FSL over the coming week, before rising again by up to 80 cm above FSL in two weeks' time.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased this week by 23 GL to 501 GL (74% capacity, 25.49 m AHD). Inflow to Lake Victoria is currently 6,900 ML/day and will reach the maximum inlet capacity of 8,000 ML/day early in the coming week. When this occurs, the flow to South Australia will rise above entitlement flow and become unregulated.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently 0.74 m AHD. The barrages were closed for most of the week due to high tides and swell, but were reopened later in the week and are estimated to be currently releasing around 4,000 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 16 Jul 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	481.39	3 561	92%	71	3 490	+26
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.22	1 819	61%	23	1 796	+117
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.49	501	74%	100	401	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		372	21%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 269		6 253	67%	--	5 687	+161
Total Active MDBA Storage							67% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	703	69%	3	700	+17
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 088	67%	24	1 064	+35
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 578	77%	100	2 478	+84

* 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 15 Jul 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 610	+46	Snowy-Murray	+5	119
Snowy-Murray Component	859	+6	Tooma-Tumut	+10	75
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversions	-4	44
			Murray 1 Release	+15	186

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)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.2	2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3	5
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	1
Licensed Pumps	0.3	1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	2
TOTAL	0.7	3	TOTAL	4.3	8

* 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 entitlement water.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *
Flow this week	31.7
Flow so far this month	67.2
Flow last month	103.6

(4 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	100	130	100
Euston	130	180	110
Red Cliffs	230	210	130
Merbein	230	210	140
Burtundy (Darling)	n/a	620	510
Lock 9	180	180	180
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	390	390	290
Waikerie	450	460	340
Morgan	440	460	340
Mannum	380	400	360
Murray Bridge	430	430	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	820	720	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	680	570
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 240	2 250	2 590
Goolwa Barrages	1 700	4 140	1 560



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 16 Jul 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	-	-	-	4 770	F	4 250	3 140
Jingellic	4.0	2.58	209.10	12 330	R	11 460	10 700
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.96	218.85	2 070	R	1 860	1 380
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.90	150.37	3 550	F	4 070	3 570
Albury	4.3	0.97	148.41	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.34	127.36	4 740	F	4 650	4 590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.61	117.65	17 750	R	15 730	18 380
Tocumwal	6.4	3.12	106.96	16 240	R	14 670	17 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.80	82.35	12 390	R	11 440	10 910
Swan Hill	4.5	1.95	64.87	10 830	R	10 590	8 260
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.94	53.06	12 080	R	11 530	8 270
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.46	44.30	13 800	R	11 590	8 030
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	9 720	F	9 480	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.23	27.99	11 030	S	9 130	6 110
Rufus Junction	-	3.03	19.96	3 800	R	3 880	3 410
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.73	-	5 540	R	4 430	2 950
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.53	155.76	3 120	F	3 660	3 090
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.17	148.85	12 830	F	13 000	11 260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.84	95.26	5 660	R	3 720	4 230
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.10	82.87	4 080	F	3 620	1 440
Edward at Liewah	-	1.84	57.22	1 170	R	880	620
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.62	55.11	930	R	920	800
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.16	59.12	2 910	R	2 000	760
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	10	S	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	90	F	120	260
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.75	-	160	S	130	150

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	19 860	17 200
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.74
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.31	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.59	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.12	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.16	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+0.11	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.17	-0.03

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

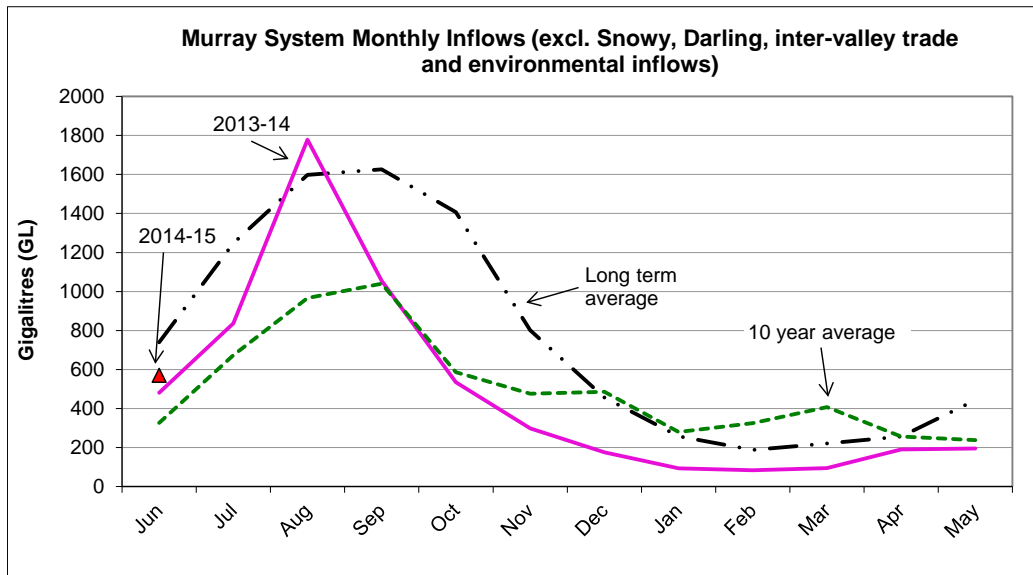
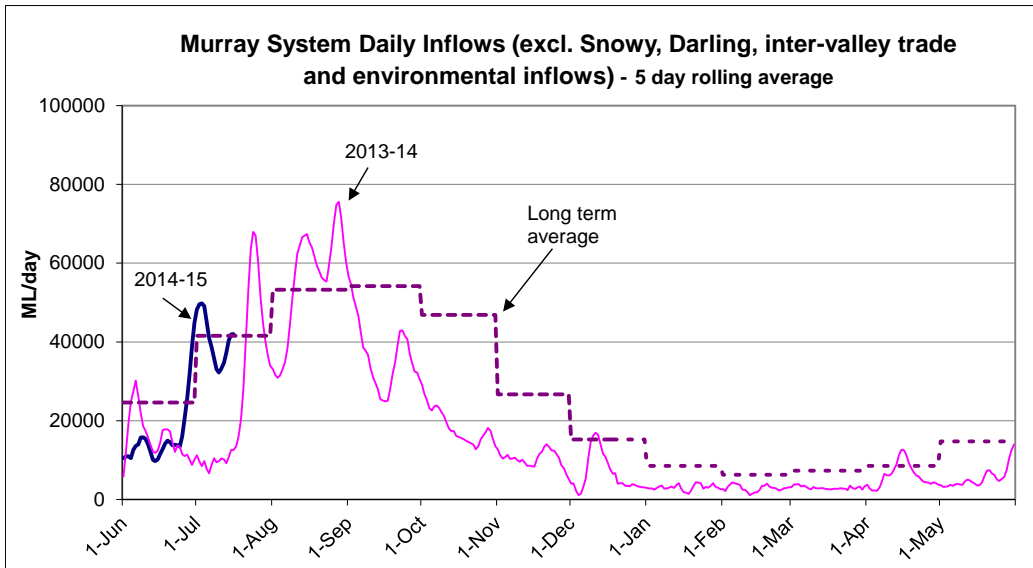
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.74
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.75	5	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 16 Jul 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	9%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	76%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	17%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	90%
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>

MEDIA RELEASE



14 July 2014

Mildura lock closed for weir works

The community and river users around Mildura are reminded that Lock 11 will close tomorrow (Tuesday, 15 July) as a four-week maintenance program begins at the Mildura weir.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the lock would close to allow materials, including a new trestle, to be moved to Lock Island.

“Based on advice from the local tourism industry, we have scheduled the lock closure to allow houseboats and other river craft time to make their way through the lock after the school holiday period,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Next week, as part of the works program, we’ll be removing the weir’s trestles. This will drop the weir pool level to about 3.0 metres below the full level, depending on river flows.

“These works have been carefully scheduled to start before the irrigation season begins. The weir pool will be raised back to full supply level and the lock reopened by mid-August.

“We appreciate everyone’s understanding while we do this upgrade, which is a necessary part of managing the river properly and reliably to support surrounding industries.

“This is part of the major task of installing mechanised gates, which also involves repairing the support structure on the riverbed. The final phase of this infrastructure program is expected to be completed over two to three months next winter,” Mr Dreverman said.

The MDBA and Goulburn–Murray Water will issue further advice in the coming weeks.

ENDS

Flow advice



17 JULY 2014

Raising of Euston Weir Pool

River Murray water users and landholders are advised that the Euston weir pool will be raised to 0.4 metres above its normal full supply level over coming weeks. This is 0.2 metres higher than the level reached on 2 July 2014. The effects will extend beyond the weir pool into the surrounding lakes and creeks, possibly as far as Lake Caringay.

Water users and landholders should make arrangements to respond to this water level increase.

Starting Friday 18 July, Euston weir pool will be gradually raised from its current level of 0.1 metres below full supply level (47.50 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD)) to about 0.4 metres above full supply level (48.0 metres AHD).

The pool will be held at this level before returning to full supply level (47.60 metres AHD) in August.

The pool is being temporarily filled to help manage the volume of downstream flow in the River Murray while works are taking place on the Lake Victoria outlet regulator.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority will continue to monitor river levels and manage weir pools over the coming weeks. This operation has been made possible due to upgrade works completed in 2013, which now enable Euston weir pool to be operated at higher levels.

Mitigation of this flow pulse will have no material effect on state water shares for New South Wales and Victoria as the flow to South Australia is currently unregulated (in excess of entitlement plus any trades).

Further updates will be provided as required through the media and the MDBA's river operations weekly report, which can be found at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report.

ENDS

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on media@mdba.gov.au or **02 6279 0141**.

For other information contact MDBA at inquiries@mdba.gov.au or **02 6279 0100**.

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