



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

Trim Ref: D13/34448

## Rainfall and Inflows

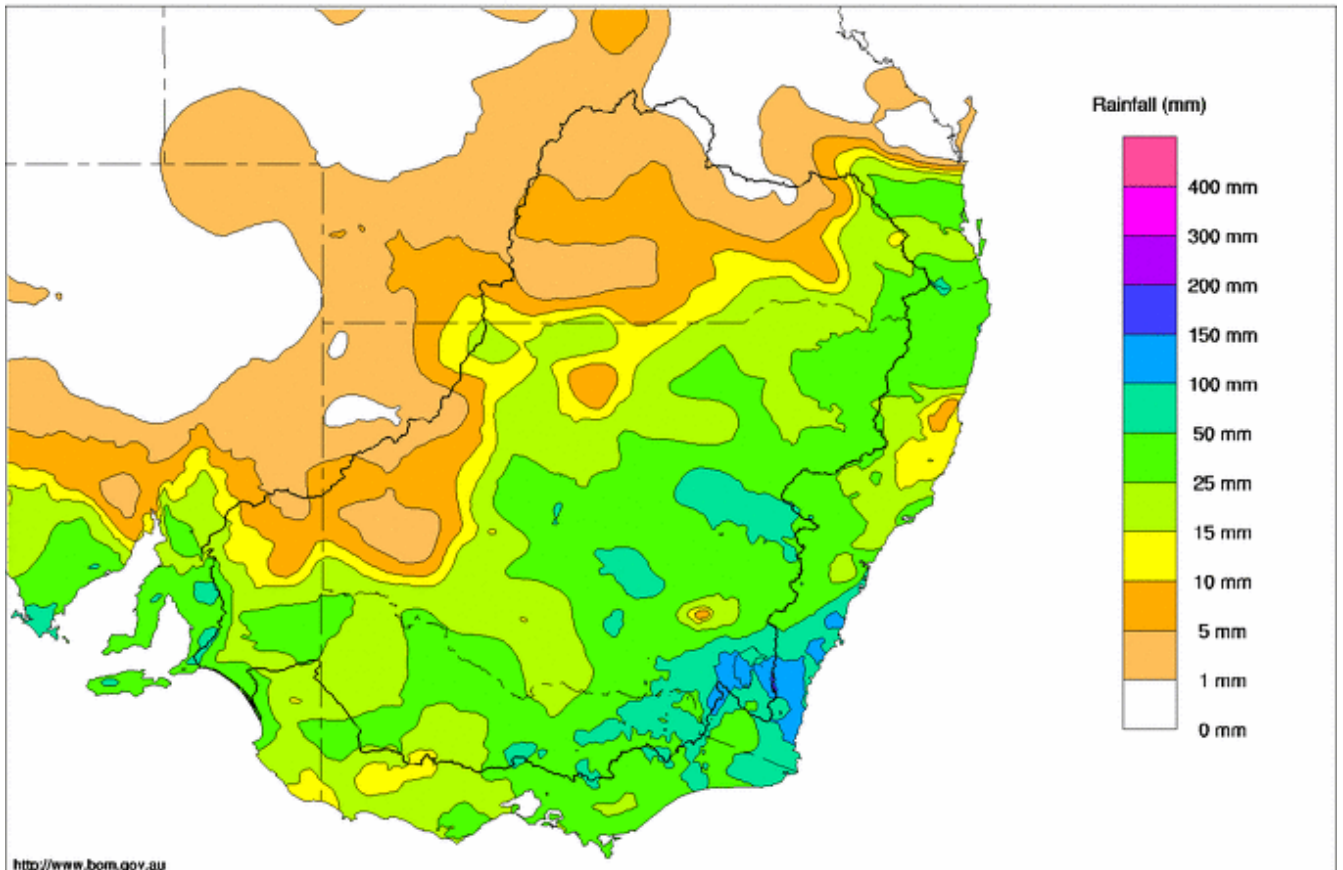
Wetter conditions returned to the Murray-Darling Basin this week with rainfall recorded throughout almost the entire basin. Most of this rain fell during 17-18 September. Weekly rainfall totals were highest in southern NSW and the ACT, mostly in the Murrumbidgee River catchment, with 130 mm recorded at Mt Ginini and 105 mm at Tuggeranong. There were also high totals in central NSW, with 83 mm recorded at Dubbo in the Macquarie River catchment. In Victoria, the highest rainfalls included 69 mm at Lima East in the Broken River catchment, 64 mm at Yackandandah in the Ovens River catchment, 60 mm at Myrree in the King River catchment, and 60 mm at Hunters Hill in the upper River Murray catchment.

Streamflow responses in the upper Murray were limited due to the relatively dry state of the catchments prior to the rain. Upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 1,400 to 4,000 ML/day, while upstream of Hume Reservoir, the flow at Biggara increased from 1,500 to 3,500 ML/day. At Bringenbrong on the River Murray, upstream of Hume Reservoir and downstream of the confluence with the Swampy Plain River, the flow has increased from 4,500 ML/day to about 13,500 ML/day, which includes releases from the Snowy Hydro scheme.

On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point has risen from 3,100 ML/day to a peak of 5,700 ML/day. Downstream at Wangaratta, the flow had receded to 4,100 ML/day prior to the rain, but is now expected to remain at its current flow of 8,200 ML/day, or higher, for the next few days.

Higher inflows to the River Murray from the Goulburn River are also expected due to the recent rain. The flow at McCoys Bridge is forecast to exceed 8,000 ML/day during the weekend.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th September 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 18 September 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 39 GL this week to 7,948 GL (92% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 12 GL to 3,802 GL (99% capacity) and the flow at Colemans has increased to 2,500 ML/day. With these increased releases and higher inflows, the volume in the reservoir is expected to slowly rise towards “effectively full” (about 3,820 GL which provides nearly 40 GL airspace at a level about 60 cm below the spillway crest). Once Dartmouth Reservoir reaches effective full supply volume, the release from the storage will be varied to approximately match the inflow to the reservoir, while aiming to hold the flow at Tallandoon below 10,000 ML/day, subject to further rain. These releases will enable about 40 GL of airspace to be maintained in the storage for the foreseeable future.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 2 GL with the volume currently 2,968 GL (99% capacity). In response to rising inflows to the storage, the release was increased to about 20,500 ML/day on 19 September which is expected to result in a flow at Doctors Point of about 25,000 ML/day, which is nominal channel capacity. At this stage, it is expected that the storage volume in Hume Reservoir will peak below 2,980 GL, maintaining at least 25 GL airspace. Relatively dry conditions are currently forecast for the next week.

At Yarrawonga, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.81 m AHD. Diversion at Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel decreased during the week due to the forecast rain, with the current total diversion about 1,000 ML/day. The downstream release was increased as higher inflows arrived and is currently at 25,700 ML/day with releases above 27,000 ML/day expected in the coming days.

On the Edward-Wakool system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes is steady at about 2,800 ML/day. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the flow continues to recede and is currently 6,800 ML/day. The flow at Moulamein is 4,200 ML/day and is expected to start rising slowly, while the flow at Liewah is 4,500 ML/day and forecast to start receding in the next few days. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing is close to a peak at 5,300 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is now 1,200 ML/day. The flow is expected to increase towards 8,000 ML/day in coming days. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is 18,500 ML/day and is expected to rise slightly over the next week.

At Swan Hill, the River Murray flow has been fairly steady at about 18,000–19,000 ML/day and flows are forecast to remain at about these rates for the next week or so. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is steady at about 1,300 ML/day.

At Euston Weir, the flow is now 25,000 ML/day and a broad, flat peak of about 26,000 ML/day is expected to persist until at least the end of September. The pool at Euston Weir is now 0.12 m above full supply level as the flow through the weir is constrained by ongoing construction works.

On the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia has receded to less than 1,000 ML/day and the total storage in Menindee Lakes decreased by 9 GL to 1,214 GL (70% capacity). Higher releases have commenced from Lake Cawndilla, to provide about 50 GL of environmental water to the Darling Anabranche from mid-September to late November. Releases to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32), have been maintained at the normal seasonal minimum of about 200 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume increased by 38 GL to 638 GL (94% capacity). The level is expected to remain fairly steady for the next week or two. The current flow to South Australia is 20,600 ML/day and is expected to rise to 25,000 ML/day during the next few days.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is steady at 0.70 m AHD.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 Sep 2013**

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	485.17	3 802	99%	71	3 731	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.81	2 968	99%	23	2 945	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.68	638	94%	100	538	+38
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 214	70%	(480 #)	734	-9
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 622</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 948</b>	<b>+39</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							92% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	537	52%	3	534	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1436	88%	24	1412	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 047	91%	100	2 947	+35

\* 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 17 Sep 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1763	+60	Snowy-Murray	+5	483
Snowy-Murray Component	664	+29	Tooma-Tumut	+9	161
Target Storage	1240		Net Diversion	-4	322
			Murray 1 Release	+21	664

**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)	12.2	149	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.4	2
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.2	77
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	8
Licensed Pumps	6.9	22	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	3
Lower Darling	5.4	24	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>114</b>

\* 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 unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *
Flow this week	115.7
Flow so far this month	286.4
Flow last month	388.7

(16 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	70	100	110
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	100	100	140
Merbein	100	90	140
Burtundy (Darling)	460	460	450
Lock 9	100	120	140
Lake Victoria	310	250	310
Berri	240	260	360
Waikerie	300	320	450
Morgan	320	330	460
Mannum	450	440	540
Murray Bridge	490	440	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	630	660	620
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	620	690	700
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 670	2 670	2 630
Goolwa Barrages	760	830	2 440



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 Sep 2013**

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	-	-	-	5 030	F	3 870	5 970
Jingellic	4.0	2.91	209.43	15 970	R	9 970	11 010
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.42	219.31	3 950	F	3 470	5 560
Heywoods	5.5	3.13	156.76	16 530	R	16 520	18 250
Doctors Point	5.5	3.57	152.04	21 720	R	19 810	21 790
Albury	4.3	2.66	150.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.78	129.80	19 520	F	19 700	22 180
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.38	118.42	25 690	R	23 630	23 130
Tocumwal	6.4	3.89	107.73	24 280	S	22 950	25 600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.22	83.77	18 490	R	18 240	22 640
Swan Hill	4.5	3.17	66.09	18 520	F	18 750	17 900
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.41	55.53	25 180	R	24 190	21 450
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.86	45.71	24 970	R	23 930	20 970
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.29	29.05	25 500	R	23 750	20 080
Rufus Junction	-	5.20	22.13	19 600	R	15 690	14 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.30	-	17 560	R	15 190	13 810
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.88	156.11	5 170	R	3 540	4 040
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.30	147.98	8 240	R	5 060	6 500
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.65	93.07	1 180	R	1 260	4 950
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.09	83.86	6 800	F	7 090	9 150
Edward at Liewah	-	4.02	59.40	4 450	S	4 290	3 790
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.26	56.75	5 280	R	4 680	3 160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.80	57.76	1 340	S	1 350	1 230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	200	F	220	300
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	-	450	R	400	540
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.75	-	160	S	170	230

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15 040	17 980
---	--------	--------

**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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+2.86
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.95
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.12	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.79
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+1.33	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+1.69
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+1.65	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.05	+0.93
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.24	+1.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.07	+1.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.47	+1.11	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	+0.55

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

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

**Barrages**

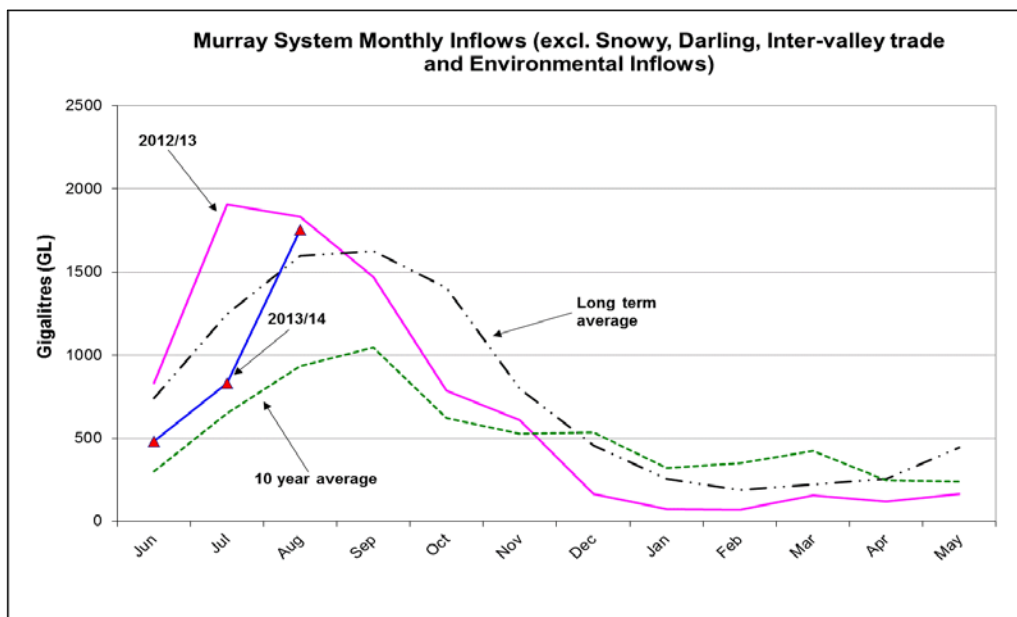
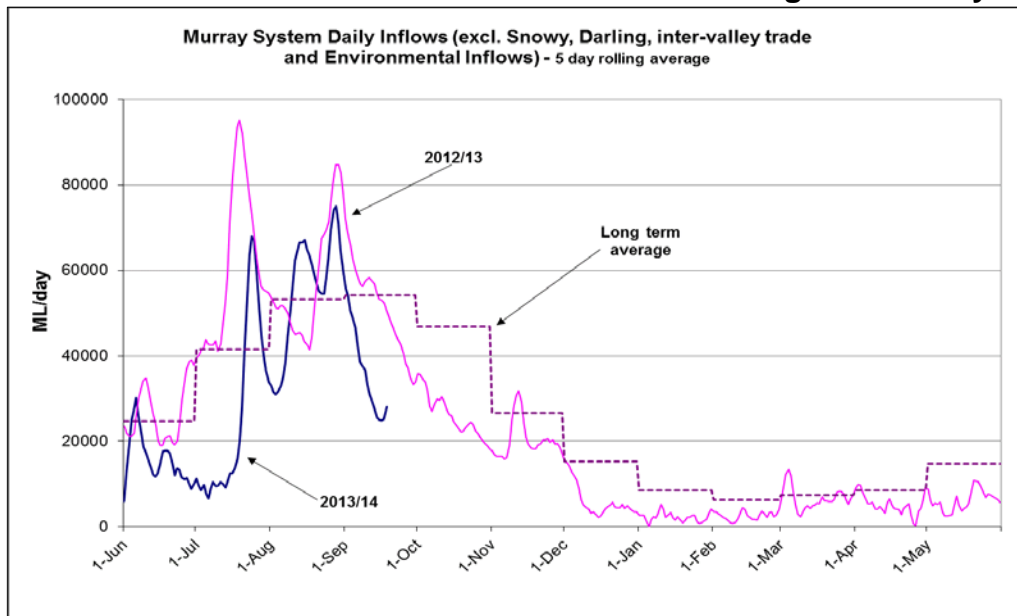
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.59	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.59	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	5	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.52	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 18 Sep 2013



**State Allocations (as at 18 Sep 2013)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	91%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	33%

**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%
---------------	------

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>