



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

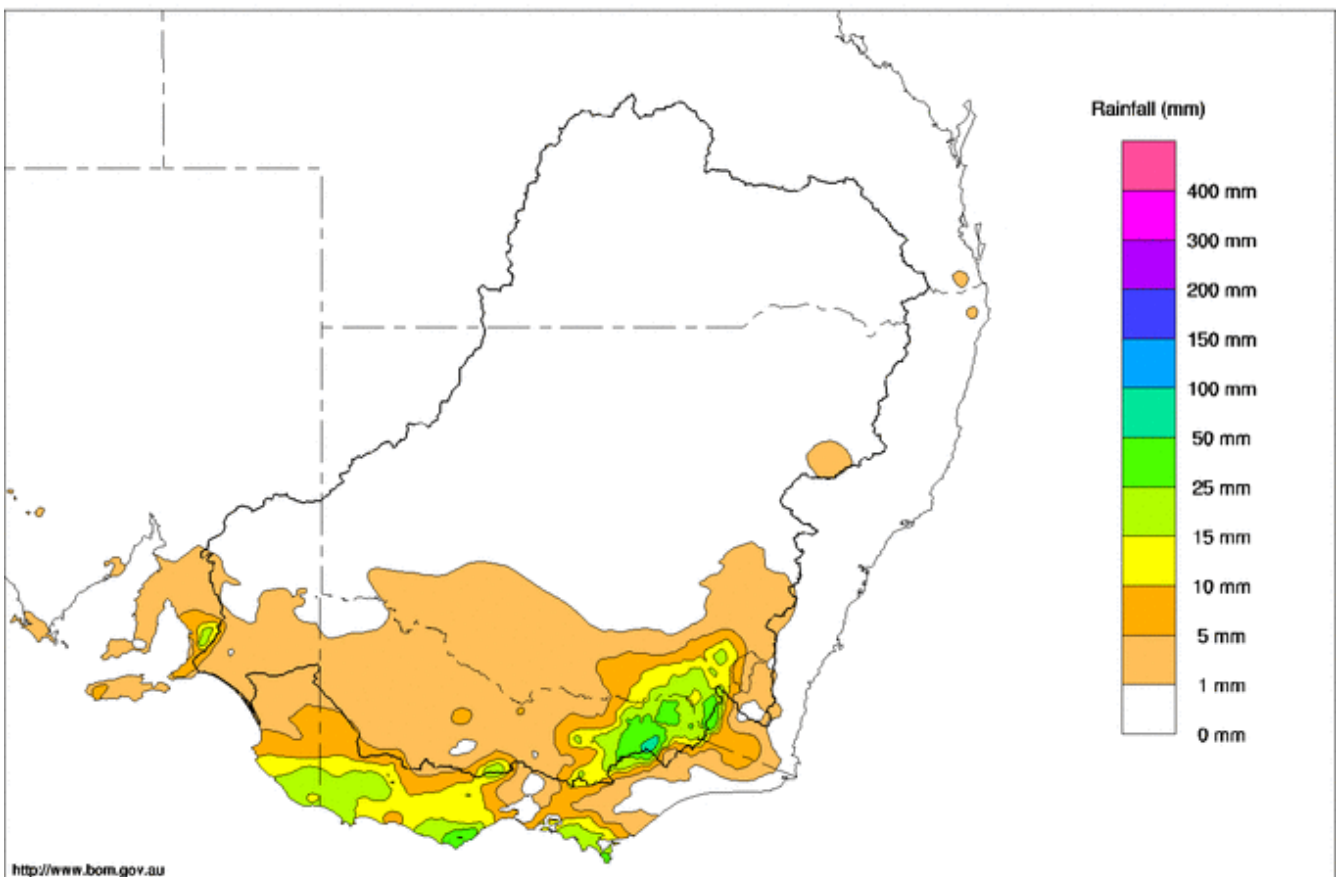
Trim Ref: D16/17491

## Rainfall and inflows

A sequence of cold fronts brushed Australia's southern fringe this week, bringing several bursts of shower activity to southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin. Northern areas remained dry under the influence of a ridge of high pressure.

Rain totals were generally light apart from the upper catchments in the Basin's south-east, where most gauges recorded weekly totals between 15 and 50 mm. Totals between 50 and 100 mm were recorded across the alpine peaks (Map 1). Notable totals in Victoria included 92 mm at Mt Hotham, 90 mm at Mt Buller, 87 mm at Rocky Valley and 50 mm at Hunters Hill. In NSW, totals of around 50 mm were reported from the higher parts of the Snowy Mountains.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th May 2016  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



© Commonwealth of Australia 2016, Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall week ending 18th May 2016 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology) Issued: 18/05/2016

Flows along the upper System tributaries have mostly receded this week following the heavy rain and resultant flow peaks recorded during the preceding week. However, the on-going showers over the upper tributary catchments have helped slow the rate of recession at the key gauges. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 2,400 to 600 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana peaked at around 3,600 ML/day but has since receded to 1,600 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 4,500 to 1,800 ML/day.



## River operations

- Red alerts continuing for blue-green algae between Yarrowonga and the SA border
- Tributary flows receding following recent boost due to rain
- Stevens Weir pool level reduction beginning

Red alerts for blue-green algae remain in place along the Murray from Yarrowonga Weir downstream to Lock 9. The alerts apply to the main channel of the river as well as many anabranches and connected lakes and wetlands. Non-toxic blue-green algae has also been detected in South Australian reaches of the Murray. More information is available from [NSW DPI](#), [Goulburn Murray Water](#), [SA DEWNR](#) and the [MDBA website](#).

Total MDBA storage increased 117 GL this week, with the active storage now 2,421 GL (29% capacity).

At **Dartmouth Reservoir**, the storage volume increased 19 GL to 1,699 GL (44% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, remains at the minimum rate of 200 ML/day.

At **Hume Reservoir**, the storage volume increased 76 GL to 662 GL (22% capacity). Storage at Hume has so far increased by 110 GL since the beginning of May. Releases remain at the minimum rate of 600 ML/day.

At **Lake Mulwala** the pool level is currently at 124.79 m AHD, which is close to the normal operating target. Releases downstream of Yarrowonga were stepped up over the weekend as higher inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers arrived. The peak release was held for two days at 7,200 ML/day before being reduced. The current release is 5,400 ML/day and further reductions are expected over the coming days.

Downstream at Picnic Point, river levels have risen with the arrival of higher flows from Yarrowonga Weir. Inflows to the **Edward-Wakool** system have also increased with the gates at both Edward River and Gulpa Creek Offtake remaining clear of the water. Flow into the Edward River has increased from 600 to 1,300 ML/day and flow into Gulpa Creek has increased from 190 to 300 ML/day. Flows through both offtakes are expected to increase slightly more during the next couple of days before receding. At **Stevens Weir**, Water NSW has begun the routine winter lowering of the weir pool. The level has so far decreased by 31 cm to the current level of 4.26 m on the local gauge. The level will continue to decrease during the coming week or two.

On the **Goulburn River**, the flow at McCoys Bridge has increased very slightly following the recent rain and flow increases along unregulated creeks in the lower Goulburn catchment. The flow has reached 970 ML/day with similar flows expected over the coming days.

At **Torrumbarry Weir**, the pool level continues to be reduced and is now at 85.89 m AHD or 16 cm below the full supply level (FSL). The pool level will continue to be gradually lowered until it reaches around 40 cm below FSL at the end of May. Diversions to National Channel were ceased earlier in the week. However, a small diversion of around 300 ML/day is expected to commence towards the end of the month to provide base flows in Gunbower Creek through winter. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir fell away slightly at the beginning of the week, but has since risen to around 4,900 ML/day. A further rise towards 6,000 ML/day is expected in the next few days with the arrival of higher flows from upstream.

Further downstream, inflows to the Murray from the **Murrumbidgee River** at Balranald are being boosted slightly as Water NSW lowers Redbank Weir to undertake [essential maintenance works](#). The flow is currently around 700 ML/day.

Downstream at **Euston Weir**, the flow peaked at about 8,100 ML/day on 12 May and has since receded. The flow is currently 7,200 ML/day but is expected to increase again later in the coming week. The pool level continues to be maintained around 30 cm below FSL as part of the on-going [weir pool level variability trial](#).



On the Darling River system, heavy local rainfall last week has generated a temporary pulse along the Darling River downstream of Bourke. However, very little if any of this water would be expected to flow into the **Menindee Lakes**, where the storage volume remains at just 49 GL (3% capacity), [see latest NSW DPI management update](#).

At the confluence of the Darling and Murray Rivers at **Wentworth**, the flow has remained steady for much of the past week at around 7,200 ML/day. Flows are expected to recede slightly during the coming week. The weir pool is currently at the full supply level of 30.80 m AHD.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased by 24 GL to 254 GL (38% capacity) and will continue to rise over the coming weeks.

The flow into **South Australia** remains at around 3,000 ML/day with a similar flow expected for the remainder of May. Downstream at Lock 1, the flow has averaged around 2,300 ML/day during the past week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina increased 1 cm to 0.57 m AHD. Bursts of strong winds and very large swells continue to affect operations at the **Barrages**. The barrage gates have mostly remained closed in recent weeks to prevent the reverse flow of seawater into the Lower Lakes. However, on a few occasions when conditions have allowed, a number of gates have been opened at Mundoo, Ewe Island and Tauwitchere barrages during the period around low tide to provide a short-lived flushing flow into the Coorong.

*MDBA is updating the distribution system used for the River Murray weekly report. From this week you'll receive an email with a link to the latest report.*

*If you currently get MDBA's Weekly Report via email you should continue to receive email notifications. However, should you stop receiving the report or you know of others who would like to subscribe, here is a link to the subscription page <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-information/weekly-reports>*

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 May 2016**

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	444.80	1 699	44%	71	1 628	+19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	175.41	662	22%	23	639	+76
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.07	254	38%	100	154	+24
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		49	3%	(- -) #	0	-1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>2 664</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 421</b>	<b>+117</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							29% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	342	33%	3	339	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	819	50%	24	795	+13
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 045	31%	100	945	+18

\* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

# NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 17 May 2016

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2016
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 395	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+12	30
Snowy-Murray Component	832	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	12
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	6	18
			Murray 1 Release	+18	44

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-9.9	444	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	247
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.2	87	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	502
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	105
Licensed Pumps	0.7	200	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	44
Lower Darling	0.1	10	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.4	291
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1189</b>

\* Figures are derived from actual and estimates where data is unavailable. 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 Lower than normal for this month due to SA entitlement deferral.

Entitlement this month	93.0 *
Flow this week	20.4
Flow so far this month	52.7
Flow last month	159.5

(2 900 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2015
Swan Hill	70	60	70
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	100	100	120
Burtundy (Darling)	1 710	1 710	1 310
Lock 9	120	120	120
Lake Victoria	200	200	210
Berri	240	240	210
Waikerie	270	270	270
Morgan	230	240	260
Mannum	280	280	310
Murray Bridge	280	290	330
Milang (Lake Alex.)	850	860	800
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	820	790	670
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 120	2 110	2 110
Goolwa Barrages	6 840	9 460	1 570



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 May 2016**

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	-	-	-	3 430	F	5 090	5 420
Jingellic	4.0	1.74	208.26	4 450	F	7 960	4 870
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.52	218.41	800	F	1 140	1 140
Heywoods	5.5	1.50	155.13	600	S	600	700
Doctors Point	5.5	1.71	150.18	2 360	F	3 330	2 000
Albury	4.3	0.87	148.31	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.01	127.03	2 940	F	3 590	2 320
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.06	116.10	5 720	F	5 690	3 740
Tocumwal	6.4	1.74	105.58	6 680	F	5 280	4 150
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.69	80.24	4 860	R	4 510	5 530
Swan Hill	4.5	1.06	63.98	5 110	R	5 280	6 290
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.62	51.74	6 450	F	7 120	7 120
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.48	43.32	7 170	F	7 710	7 120
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 610	F	7 520	6 160
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.97	27.73	7 210	S	7 180	5 970
Rufus Junction	-	2.83	19.76	2 710	R	2 620	2 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.48	-	2 340	R	2 330	2 350
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.75	154.98	1 620	F	2 740	1 110
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.51	146.19	1 830	F	3 000	1 180
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.51	92.93	970	R	850	790
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.20	80.97	1 010	F	1 270	670
Edward at Liewah	-	1.51	56.89	860	R	770	680
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.50	54.99	580	S	590	440
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.13	57.09	730	R	640	490
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.11	-	0	S	10	10
Darling at Bourke	9.0	3.76	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.59	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	10 680	7 790
------------------------	--------	-------

(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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+0.51
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.16	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.29	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.33	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.00
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.05	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.10	-0.27

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.57
--	------

**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

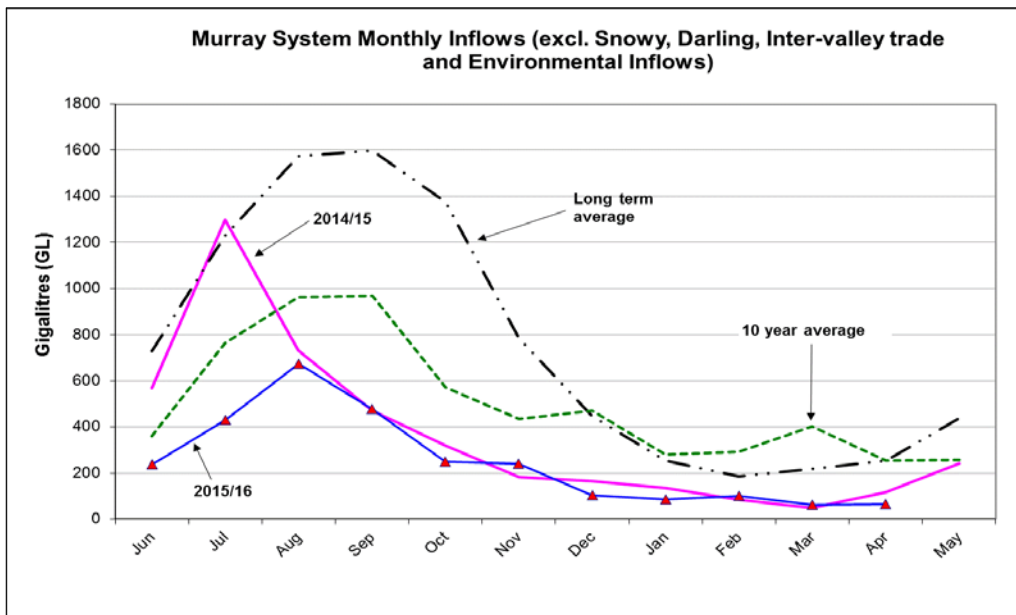
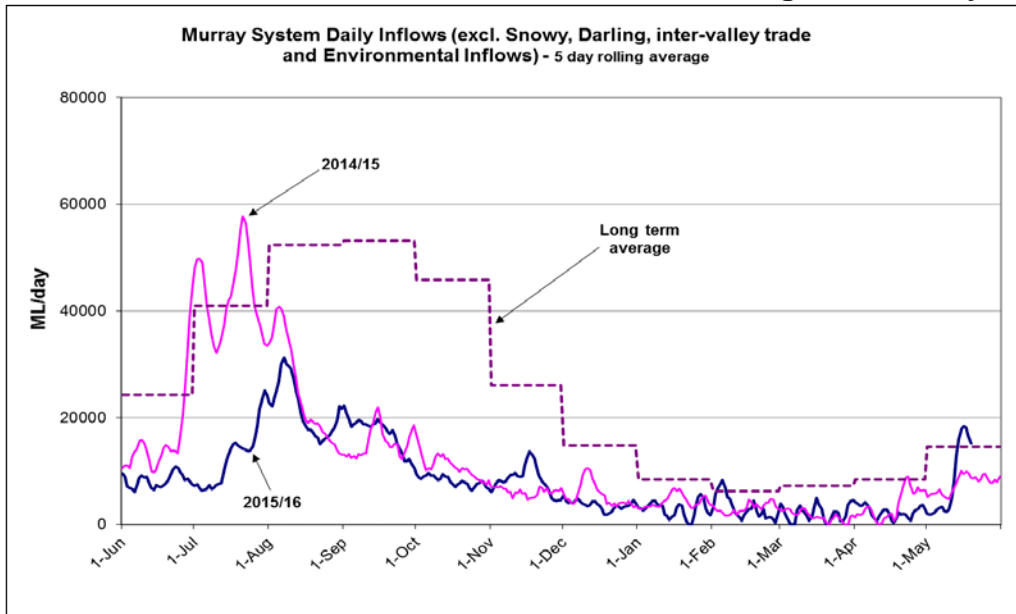
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.59	All closed	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.54	All closed	-	-	-	Closed
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.56	All closed	Open	Open	Open	-

\* Mundoo Barrage Dual vertical slots are currently under construction.

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



Week ending Wednesday 18 May 2016



**State Allocations (as at 18 May 2016)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	23%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	37%

**Victorian - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	90%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	80%
General security	0%

**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.nvrm.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>  
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>