



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

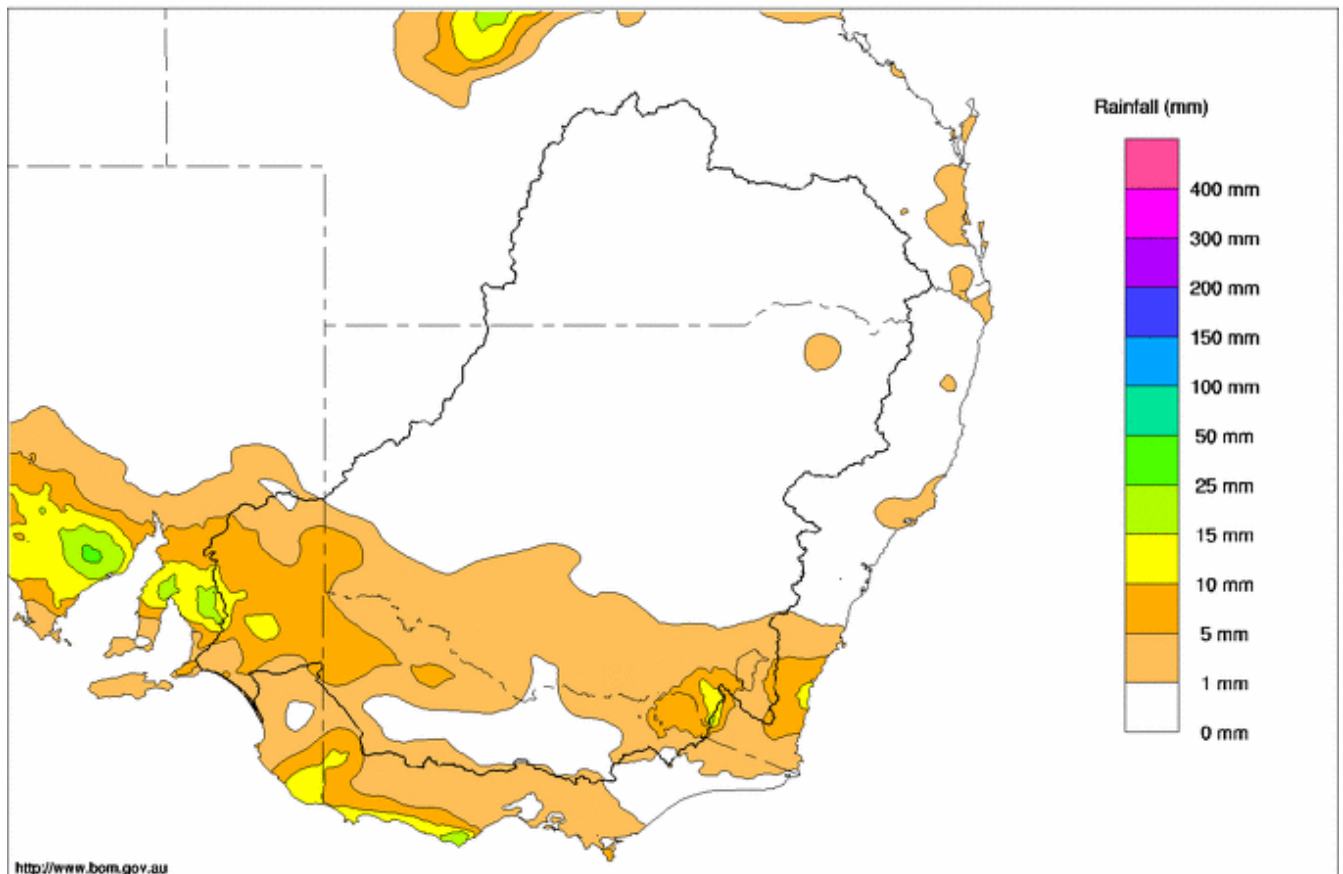
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2013

Trim Ref: D13/15661

Rainfall and Inflows

The dry conditions of recent weeks continued across most of the Murray-Darling Basin with only light rain recorded in the south. The majority of the rain resulted from a passing trough and fell in a band from South Australia across the NSW Riverina to the south-eastern ranges. Rainfall totals, however, were small with around 10 mm recorded in the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and around 10-15 mm across the NSW Snowy Mountains (Map 1).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 1st May 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

Stream flows across the upper Murray catchments remained fairly steady this week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara remained above 500 ML/day; while the average flow downstream at Jingellic was 5,400 ML/day with the bulk of the flow resulting from Snowy Hydro releases. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded from 750 to 400 ML/day; while flows at Wangaratta averaged around 750 ML/day for the week.

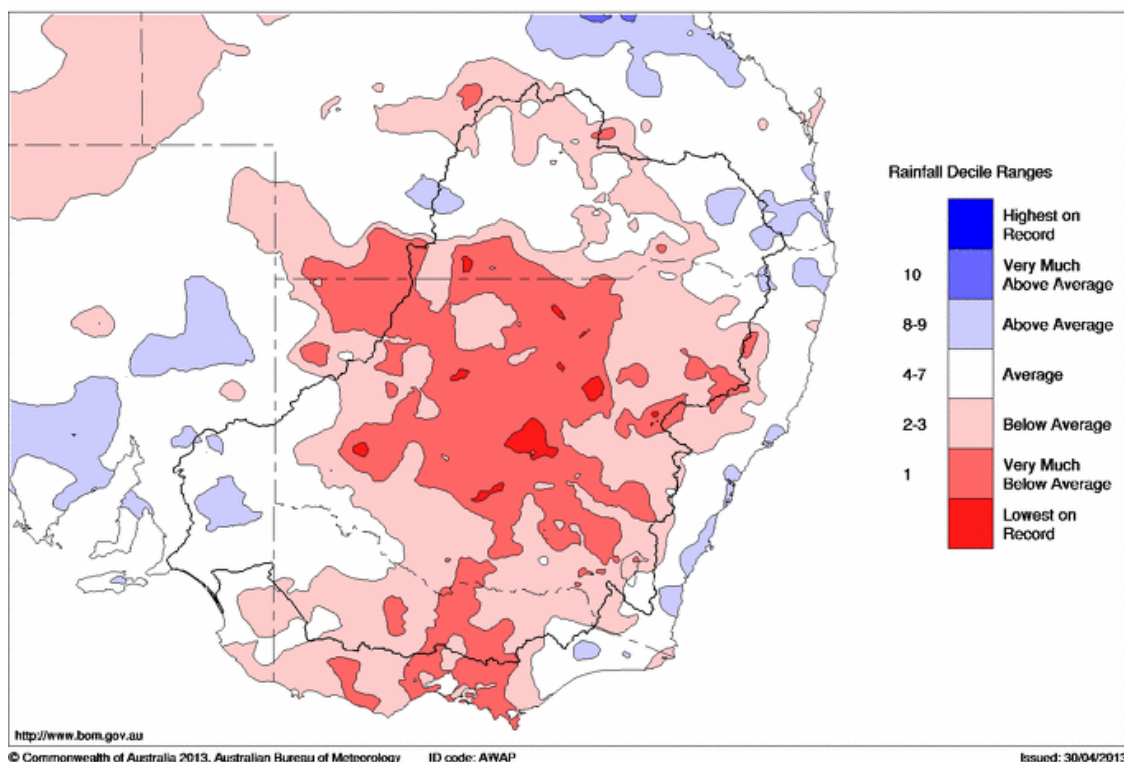


April 2013 Summary

Overall, April 2013 was a dry month for the Murray-Darling Basin and follows a similarly dry April in 2012. The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that April 2013 was the 13th driest in the historical record, with a total of only 9 mm averaged across all monitoring sites (77% below the mean). Most areas in the Basin received rainfall that was below or 'very much below' the long-term average, with some areas through the central and northern Basin recording 'lowest on record' rainfall (Map 2). Several sites in this region recorded no rain at all for the month.

April also continued the recent monthly trend of above-average maximum temperatures. Most of the Basin recorded a monthly average maximum about 1-2 degrees Celsius above the long-term mean.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles April 2013
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for April 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Murray system inflows for April 2013 (excluding Snowy and Darling inflows, as well as inter-valley trades and managed environmental inflows from the tributaries) totalled around 130 GL, which is half the long-term April average of 260 GL. The figure was also well below last year's April inflows of almost 1,100 GL, which resulted from record rainfall in February and March of 2012.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased during the week by 36 GL to 5,803 GL (68% capacity). A portion of this rise was due to a hydrographic correction of the water level at Lake Victoria. Routine checks of water monitoring sites and equipment across the River Murray System revealed that the actual level in the lake was higher than previously monitored.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume is currently 3,569 GL (93% capacity), which is a decrease of 6 GL since last week. The release, measured at Colemans gauge, was gradually reduced earlier in the week from 2,400 ML/day to 350 ML/day. The flow is expected to remain around this rate for the next two weeks.



At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 38 GL to 1,347 GL (45% capacity). Releases were relatively steady averaging around 11,600 ML/day during the week, but are expected to reduce over the coming week in response to reduced downstream demand as the 2012-13 watering season draws to a close.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.79 m AHD. Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that water levels at Lake Mulwala will be lowered during late May to July to help manage River Murray salinity levels while essential maintenance work is done downstream at Mildura Weir. See the attached media release for more details. Diversions from Lake Mulwala increased this week, averaging about 4,000 ML/day through Mulwala Canal and 1,400 ML/day through Yarrawonga Main Channel. The release remained steady at about 6,800 ML/day, but is expected to gradually recede over the coming week.

Flow into the Edward River system via the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes was steady at about 1,350 ML/day. Inflows from the Edward Escape averaged around 650 ML/day. Diversions to Wakool Main Canal increased this week, averaging around 900 ML/day. At Stevens Weir the release averaged around 460 ML/day.

Inflow from the Goulburn River has been steady at 900 ML/day while diversions through National Channel are also steady at about 2,150 ML/day. The release from Torrumbarry Weir this week averaged 4,000 ML/day, but is expected to be slightly lower in the coming week.

At Barham, the flow was relatively steady at around 3,750 ML/day. The flow is expected to hold at around 3,700 ML/day in the coming week, before falling away in the following week. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald is 300 ML/day while, in the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing, the flow is around 400 ML/day.

At Euston, the flow averaged 4,700 ML/day. Mildura flows averaged 5,000 ML/day and are expected to remain between 4,500 and 5,000 ML/day in the coming week. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is reminding river users and boat operators that Mildura Weir pool will be drawn down from Monday, 27 May 2013 so essential maintenance work can be done on the weir's underwater concrete base. See the attached media release for more details.

At Menindee Lakes, the inflows peaked at around 20,000 ML/day at the end of last week. The volume in storage increased this week by 31 GL to 1,296 GL (75% capacity) and is close to a peak for the current event. The volume in the Lakes is expected to start falling away next week. At Weir 32, the flow was steady at 9,000 ML/day. The flow will reduce back to normal minimums over May (see attached flow advice). At Burtundy, the flow continued to slowly increase and is currently 7,300 ML/day. On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir is currently 12,400 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate over the coming week.

The storage level at Lake Victoria continued to rise and is currently 23.19 m AHD (265 GL, 39% capacity). This is an apparent gain of 48 GL from last week. Note that the hydrographic correction (discussed at the beginning of this section) is responsible for about 20 GL of this increase. The flow into South Australia averaged around 6,600 ML/day this week and is expected to be around 5,200 ML/day during May.

At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level is 0.64 m AHD. The bays at Mundoo and Goolwa were closed for most of the week to minimise the reverse flow of sea water into Lake Alexandrina but a small number were reopened at the end of the week when conditions became favourable.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 01 May 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	481.52	3 569	93%	71	3 498	-6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.78	1 347	45%	23	1 324	-38
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.19	265	39%	100	165	+48
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 296	75%	(480 #)	816	+31
Total		9 269		6 477	70%	- -	5 803	+36
Total Active MDBA Storage							68% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	389	38%	3	386	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	970	59%	24	946	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 322	70%	100	2 222	-17

* 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 30 Apr 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 790	-11	Snowy-Murray	+15	
Snowy-Murray Component	655	-14	Tooma-Tumut	+3	
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversions	13	
			Murray 1 Release	+19	

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	30.0	1485	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.3	378
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.3	73	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	541
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	29	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1	122
Licensed Pumps	5.0	256	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	58
Lower Darling	0.7	96	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	282
TOTAL	37.3	2023	TOTAL	15.5	1381

* 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 traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	93.0 *	
Flow this week	46.5	(6 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	5.5	
Flow last month	219.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	90	100	100
Euston	120	120	130
Red Cliffs	150	160	140
Merbein	180	170	160
Burtundy (Darling)	-	400	470
Lock 9	310	310	260
Lake Victoria	360	350	260
Berri	480	460	320
Waikerie	450	440	340
Morgan	440	430	330
Mannum	470	480	350
Murray Bridge	530	510	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	550	560	440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	510	500	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 260	3 360	3 450
Goolwa Barrages	2 770	3 910	1 580



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 01 May 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	-	-	-	5 540	F	3 500	4 930
Jingellic	4.0	1.94	208.46	6 800	R	5 380	6 590
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.41	218.30	520	F	1 120	1 010
Heywoods	5.5	2.84	156.47	11 300	S	11 600	10 280
Doctors Point	5.5	2.75	151.22	11 690	S	12 120	10 840
Albury	4.3	1.74	149.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.70	128.72	11 960	F	11 980	11 220
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.24	116.28	6 860	S	6 860	6 870
Tocumwal	6.4	1.85	105.69	6 820	S	6 820	6 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.48	80.02	3 890	F	3 990	4 150
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	63.80	3 560	S	3 590	3 450
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.15	51.27	4 770	F	4 920	4 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.96	42.80	4 290	F	4 710	4 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 150	F	5 010	4 980
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.24	28.00	12 440	R	11 960	10 770
Rufus Junction	-	3.21	20.14	4 630	F	5 860	6 580
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.71	-	6 150	F	6 350	5 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.85	154.08	380	S	410	410
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.00	145.68	760	R	750	930
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.50	92.92	890	F	890	890
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.68	80.46	440	S	460	470
Edward at Liewah	-	1.27	56.65	680	S	690	740
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.40	54.89	370	S	390	510
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.64	56.60	350	R	270	460
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	-	550	F	600	950
Darling at Bourke	-	4.38	-	2 120	R	2 290	5 080
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.18	-	7 330	S	7 100	6 140

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 190	1 120
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.95
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.82
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.60	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.34
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+0.19	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.04

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.64
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Barrages

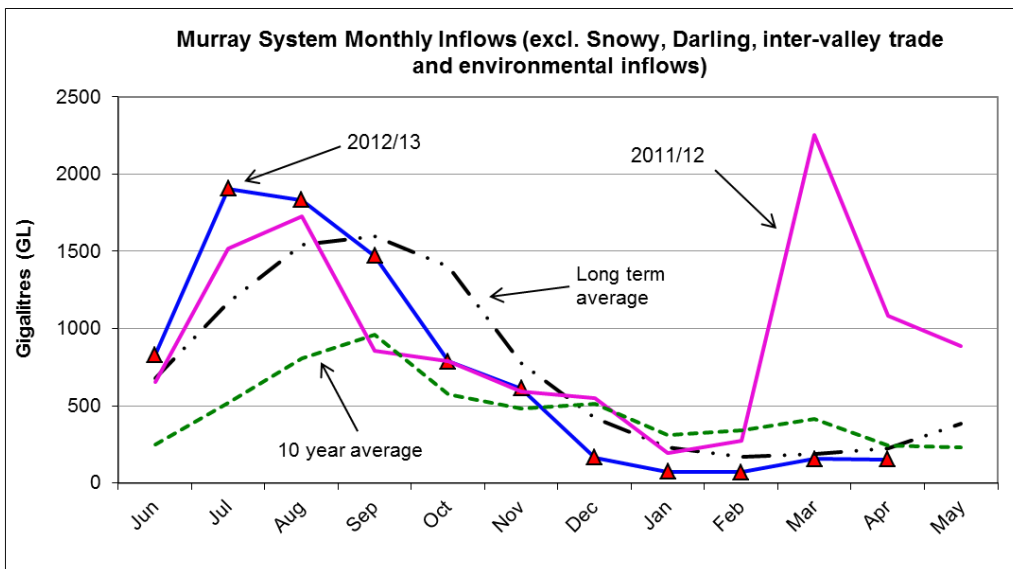
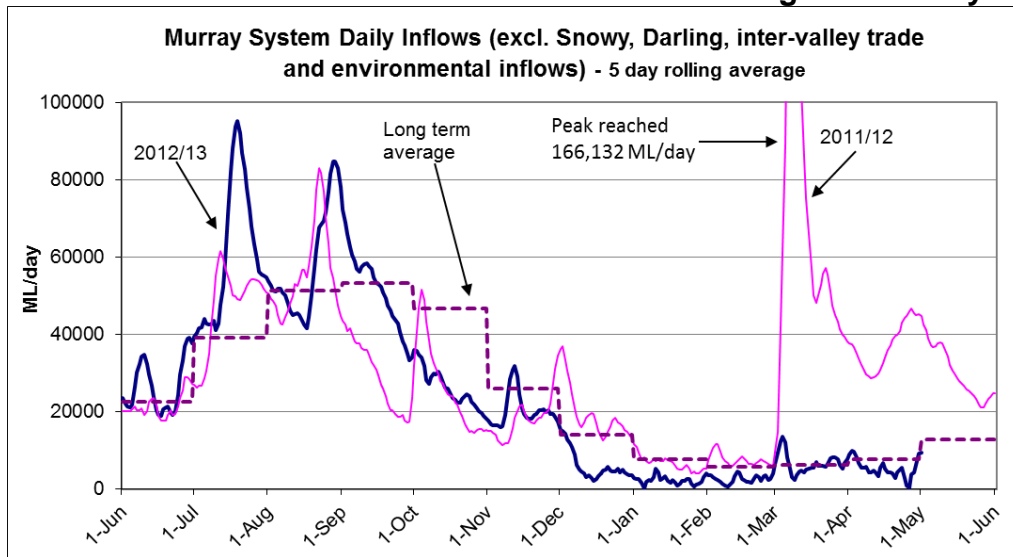
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.63	13	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 01 May 2013



State Allocations (as at 01 May 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
 SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>

Lower Darling River Flow advice



30 April 2013

Flows to decrease at Weir 32

Flows at Weir 32 are set to gradually decrease from Sunday 5 May from about 9,000 ML/day (3.3m), back to the normal winter minimum flow rate of 200 ML/day (1.4 m) by the start of June.

This is due to reducing operational demands on the River Murray as the 2012-13 watering season draws to a close.

Commencing on Sunday 5 May, flows at Weir 32 will reduce by 500 ML/day each day until the flow reaches 5,000 ML/day (2.5m) on about Monday 13 May. The flow rate will then be reduced by 250 ML/day until the flow at Weir 32 reaches 200 ML/day (1.4m) by the start of June.

Storage levels at Menindee Lakes are currently at 75% and are expected to continue slowly rising to a peak in early May.

NSW Office of Water has indicated the lakes will continue to be managed to maximise the storage in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo (see www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Flood-management/default.aspx#menindee).

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 7,300 ML/day (4.1m) and expected to peak at around 7,600 ML/day (4.3m) in the coming week. The flow is expected to remain around this rate until about 9 May, and then start decreasing. The flow is expected to return to the normal minimum of around 200 ML/day later in June.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the changing flow rates along the lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

Forecast flows and Menindee storage volumes are also available on the MDBA website (see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts>).

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements. A further flow advice will be issued if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

ENDS

For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at 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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Trim: D13/15375

MEDIA RELEASE



1 May 2013

Mildura Weir pool lowering to begin 27 May

The MDBA is reminding river users and boat operators that Mildura Weir pool will be drawn down from Monday, 27 May so essential maintenance work can be done on the weir's underwater concrete base.

Boat access through both the weir and Lock 11 will not be possible during this period.

MDBA spokesman David Dreverman said the necessary maintenance work by Goulburn–Murray Water was expected to take at least eight weeks to complete.

“We expect the weir pool to remain down for about eight weeks, but if more time is needed to complete the repair work, it could extend up to 11 weeks,” Mr Dreverman said.

“The MDBA and Goulburn-Murray Water recognise this drawdown will affect the local community, so we’re taking all reasonable measures to get this done as quickly as possible.”

The weir pool level will be gradually lowered over a 7 to 9-day period to 3.6m below full supply level, so work can start in early June.

Mr Dreverman said it was expected the low river levels could lead to an increase in salty groundwater entering the river, so measures would be in place to help dilute the water.

“Bringing flows down from Lake Mulwala is one way we will dilute the salt in the river—another is to coordinate the end of season drainage of irrigation systems and use this as a dilution measure.

“For this reason, river pumpers could consider filling off river storages before the drawdown as a pre-emptive measure.

“We’re also advising boat operators, stock owners and other river users to adjust their activities as a result of the changes to water levels, potential for increased salinity levels and the lock closure.”

Any spikes in salinity in downstream flows will be diverted through Lake Victoria to be diluted before flowing into South Australia.

The MDBA will continue to closely monitor river and salinity levels throughout the draw down period and will advise of any updates or changes. Forecasts of river flows and salinities, along with additional information will be provided on the MDBA’s website at [www.mdba.gov.au/river- data/current-information-forecasts](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts)

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn-Murray Water on 03 5826 3754.

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MEDIA RELEASE



1 May 2013

Partial lowering of Lake Mulwala

Water levels at Lake Mulwala will be lowered during late May to July to help manage River Murray salinity levels while essential maintenance work is done downstream at Mildura Weir.

MDBA spokesman David Dreverman said the maintenance work at the weir could lead to an increase in salty groundwater entering the River Murray and additional flows from upstream would help dilute the water.

“The work at Mildura Weir is essential maintenance work on the underwater concrete base, so it can’t be avoided,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Bringing flows from Lake Mulwala is one way we can dilute any salt in the river—another is to coordinate the end of season drainage of irrigation systems and use this as a dilution measure.”

“In the current dry conditions it’s important to maximise storage in Hume Reservoir so we will plan to refill Lake Mulwala with inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers.”

Mr Dreverman said Lake Mulwala would start being lowered from late May by about 5 to 10cm each day, and by early June was expected to reach 124.0 m AHD (90 cm below Full Supply Level).

There is a possibility the level could be lowered further, but this will depend on river flows and salinity levels in Sunraysia over the coming months. If additional lowering of Lake Mulwala is required then further advice will be provided.

Lake Mulwala will be refilled by late July, or earlier if possible, for the start of the irrigation season.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users could consider adjusting their activities as a result of the changes to water levels.

Mr Dreverman said the lowering of Lake Mulwala may provide an opportunity to remove some of the debris built up from the severe local storms that passed through the area in late March.

The MDBA will continue to closely monitor river and salinity levels throughout the draw down period and will advise of any updates or changes.

Additional information will also be provided on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au/riverdata/current-information-forecasts.

ENDS

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