



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

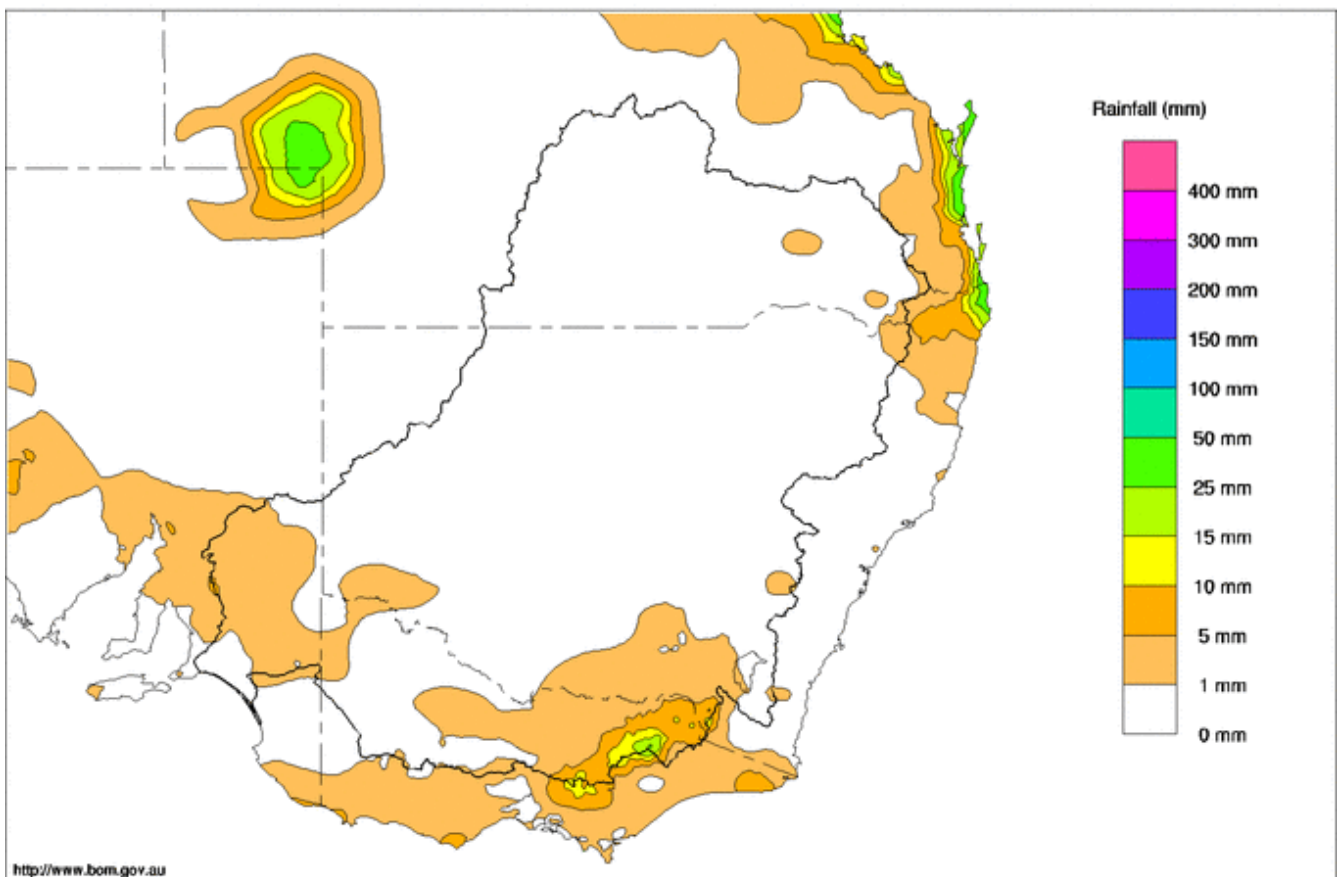
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2014

Trim Ref: D14/16458

## Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were dry and relatively warm across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. There was some light rain in the southern Basin (Map 1) and the highest weekly precipitation totals were in the Victorian Alps including 32 mm at Mount Hotham AWS, 22 mm at Mount Buller AWS and 15mm at Falls Creek AWS.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 21st May 2014  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 21/05/2014

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 21 May 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

During the week there was little change in the upper Murray system stream flows. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased slightly from 230 ML/day to 370 ML/day, while the Murray at Biggara was relatively steady at around 350 ML/day. Downstream at Jingellic, the flow averaged 5,800 ML/day due to Snowy Hydro releases. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point mostly receded over the week and averaged 510 ML/day.

## River Operations

River operations this week have continued to focus on conserving water in the major River Murray system storages. Releases from the major storages are close to minimums, as are flows along many reaches of the Murray. MDBA total storage has increased by 46 GL, with the active storage currently 4,901 GL or 58% capacity.



At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 2 GL to 3,435 GL (89% capacity). The flow at Colemans continued at the minimum of 200 ML/day. Hume Reservoir's storage increased by 44 GL this week to 1,216 GL (40% capacity) while release from Hume averaged 720 ML/day. This is slightly above the minimum release of 600 ML/day in order to meet the minimum flow target of 1,200 ML/day in the Murray at Doctors Point downstream of the confluence with the Kiewa River.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the pool level slowly rose over the week and is currently 124.68 m AHD. The level is expected to be around 124.7 m AHD during the coming week. However, if dry conditions continue, the pool may be drawn down below 124.6 m AHD during June to assist in meeting minimum river flow targets downstream. A media release will be issued if any significant draw upon Lake Mulwala is necessary.

On the Edward River system, the combined inflow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes is 150 ML/day due to the low level of the River Murray at Picnic Point. Murray Irrigation Limited continued draining its channel system via the Edward Escape and these return flows, in combination with the gradual lowering of Stevens Weir pool, boosted the flow downstream of Stevens Weir to around 1,400 ML/day. The flow has now reduced to 300 ML/day and is expected to remain at this rate for the coming week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been steady at 1,000 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, diversions via National Channel to supply irrigation ceased on 15 May. Diversions will, however, recommence on 26 May and continue over the coming months to supply environmental entitlements to the Gunbower forest. Over the coming weeks, Torrumbarry Weir pool is expected to be gradually lowered by up to 40cm below full supply level. The flow downstream of the weir is expected to reduce to around 2,300 ML/day next week and may potentially fall lower than this in coming weeks if conditions remain dry.

At Swan Hill the flow is currently 3,300 ML/day. The flow has been temporarily boosted by return flows from Goulburn-Murray Water as they empty their channel system for annual maintenance. The flow at Swan Hill may reduce to around 2000 ML/day (or 0.6 m on the local gauge) in two weeks' time if conditions remain dry.

Further downstream at Euston Weir, the pool level has been gradually increased to 47.8 m AHD (20 cm above full supply level). This stored water can be used to supplement downstream flows during low flow periods. The release is currently 3,400 ML/day and expected to increase to around 4,500 ML/day during the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume gained 1 GL during the week and is now 396 GL (23% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 is the minimum of 200 ML/day. The flow at Wentworth Weir is currently 2,900 ML/day and is expected to rise to around 3,500 ML/day over the coming week.

The storage in Lake Victoria is currently 444 GL (66% capacity, 24.96 m AHD) after peaking during the week just under 25 m AHD.

The flow to South Australia averaged 3,700 ML/day during the week but is expected to reduce to 3,000 ML/day later in the coming week. The flow to South Australia includes about 600 ML/day of environmental water being delivered from the Goulburn River. At the Lower Lakes, the five-day average level in Lake Alexandrina reduced by 1 cm to 0.64 m AHD. The release through barrage is estimated to be about 2,400 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 21 May 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	479.35	3 435	89%	71	3 364	+2	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180.71	1 216	40%	23	1 193	+44	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.96	444	66%	100	344	-1	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		396	23%	(- -) #	0	+1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>5 491</b>	<b>59%</b>	- -	<b>4 901</b>	<b>+46</b>	
Total Active MDBA Storage							58% ^		

#### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	570	56%	3	567	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	866	53%	24	842	+17
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 275	68%	100	2 175	-0

\* 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 20 May 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 540	-16	Snowy-Murray	+23	55
Snowy-Murray Component	786	+6	Tooma-Tumut	+1	11
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	23	43
			Murray 1 Release	+22	62

### 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)	-7.8	1081	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	312
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.5	49	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	538
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	26	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	109
Licensed Pumps	0.8	237	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	172
Lower Darling	0.1	198	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.8	289
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1420</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 the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	93.0 *	
Flow this week	25.9	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	79.9	
Flow last month	183.5	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	140	150	90
Euston	150	140	100
Red Cliffs	170	150	120
Merbein	150	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	510	520	500
Lock 9	210	190	170
Lake Victoria	200	190	240
Berri	340	320	270
Waikerie	340	350	320
Morgan	380	370	320
Mannum	370	380	360
Murray Bridge	470	490	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	690	690	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	540	550	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 600	2 610	2 650
Goolwa Barrages	950	1 140	1 290



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 21 May 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	-	-	-	3 450	F	4 780	4 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	4 530	F	5 830	4 700
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.36	218.25	440	R	400	430
Heywoods	5.5	1.38	155.01	700	S	720	740
Doctors Point	5.5	1.47	149.94	1 210	F	1 230	1 420
Albury	4.3	0.64	148.08	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.59	126.61	1 710	F	1 700	2 280
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.32	115.36	1 820	F	1 820	1 870
Tocumwal	6.4	0.90	104.74	2 010	S	2 010	2 080
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.15	79.70	2 730	R	2 700	1 900
Swan Hill	4.5	0.83	63.75	3 310	R	2 630	2 170
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.05	51.17	4 160	R	3 630	4 140
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.82	42.66	3 430	R	3 340	4 530
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	2 890	R	3 400	4 750
Rufus Junction	-	2.83	19.76	2 960	R	2 930	3 050
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.58	-	2 910	R	2 950	3 140
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.01	154.24	540	F	510	590
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.98	145.66	550	F	630	680
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.54	92.96	1 040	S	1 030	990
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.54	80.32	310	F	800	310
Edward at Liewah	-	1.08	56.46	540	F	570	640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.41	54.91	410	S	430	610
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.80	56.76	440	F	400	320
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	60	S	60	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	220	S	250	390
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	180	S	260	290

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 680	3 340
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+0.55
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.20	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.20	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+0.40
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.47	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.23	+0.24
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.48	+0.04	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.17	-0.17

**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**

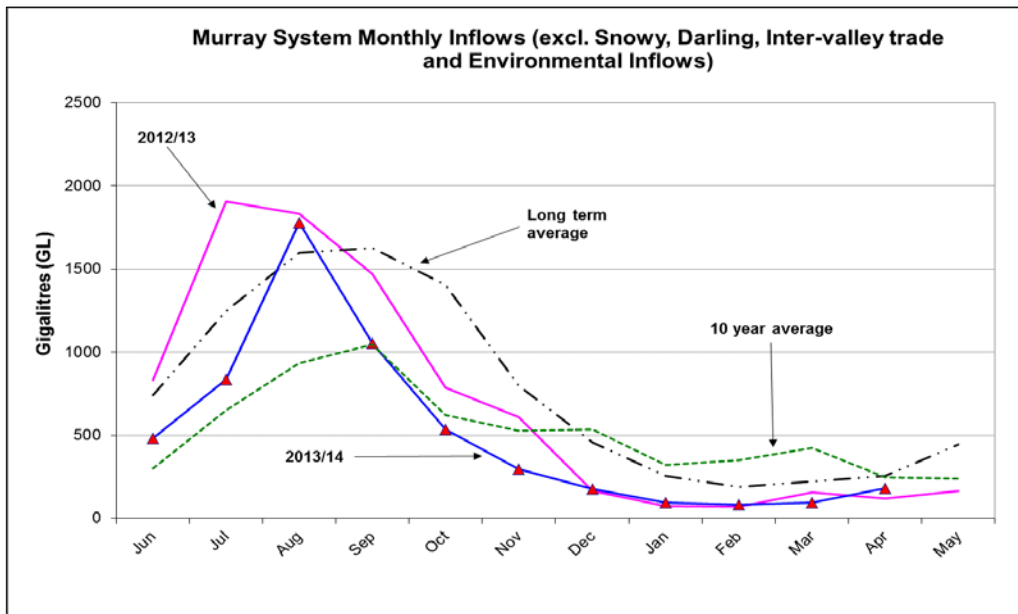
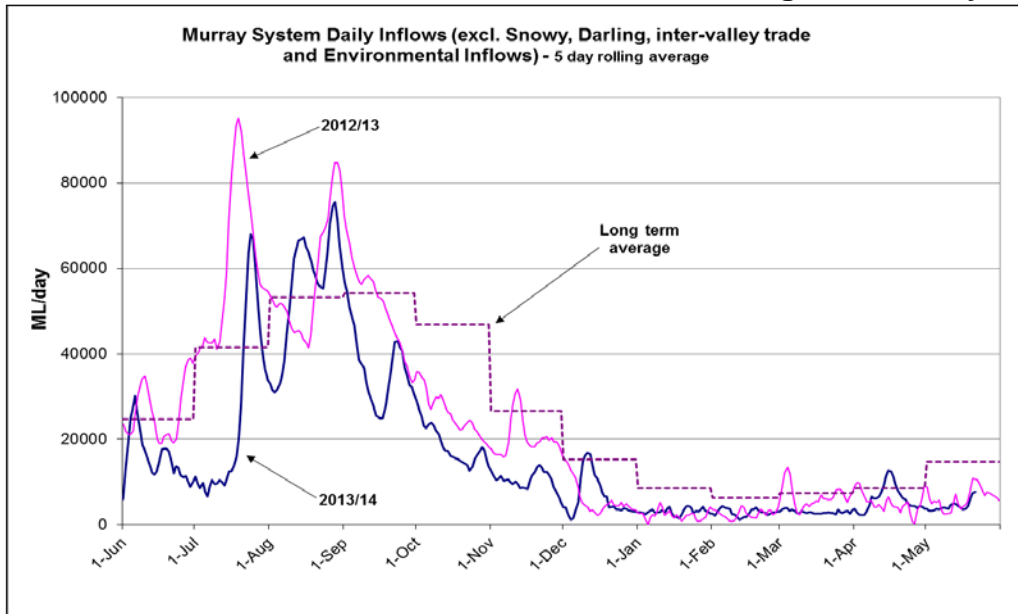
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.68	6	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 21 May 2014



**State Allocations (as at 21 May 2014)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	63%

**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>