



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2014

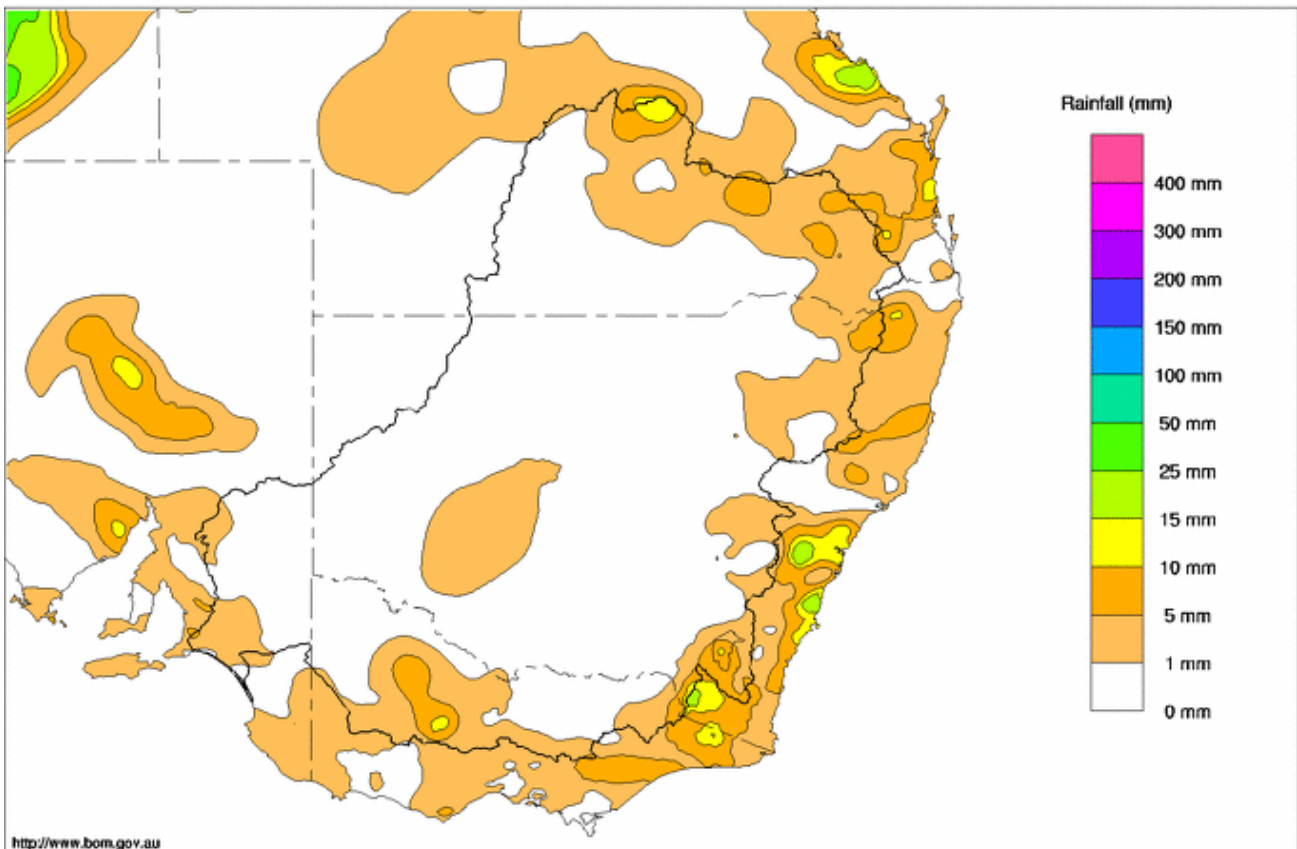
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Hot summer temperatures continued throughout the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with many locations reporting consecutive days above 40 degrees Celsius. Some limited rain fell along the crest of the Great Dividing Range and parts of north-west Victoria, however the majority of the Basin remained dry (Map 1).

Highest reported rainfall totals in Queensland included 19 mm at Yuleba and 13mm at Jandowae, both located in the Condamine-Balonne Rivers catchment. In New South Wales, the most significant rainfall occurred in the alpine region with 29 mm at Perisher and 16mm at Thredbo, whilst in Victoria 21mm was recorded at Natte Yallock on the Avoca River.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 22nd January 2014  
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>  
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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 22 January 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Scarce rainfall across the upper Murray catchments resulted in a further decline in streamflows this week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara receded a further 20 ML/day and is now at a very low baseflow of 435 ML/day. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge remained stable at a low rate of 200 ML/day; and on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 250 ML/day to 210 ML/day.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 172 GL this week and is currently 5,941 GL or 69% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 30 GL to 3,588 GL (93% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, was reduced during the week from a flow of 6,000 ML/day to 2,500 ML/day. The flow will remain steady at this rate over the coming week.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 81 GL to 1,880 GL (63% capacity). The release was highest at the beginning of the week at around 21,000 ML/day during the heatwave across the southern Basin, but has now reduced to 18,500 ML/day and is likely to reduce further this week based on forecast rain.

Periods of intense heat generally correspond with a spike in power demand, which in turn can prompt a rapid increase in hydro-electricity power generation. This was observed during the past week, with a sharp rise in the release of water through the Snowy Mountains Scheme, resulting in a contribution of 12 GL into the upper River Murray system which was captured in Hume Reservoir.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the total diversion at the irrigation offtakes remained steady at around 66 GL this week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.84 m AHD and is expected to remain above 124.75 m AHD over the Australia Day long weekend. The downstream release is steady at around 10,100 ML/day.

Flows are expected to remain at, or near, channel capacity rates in Barmah-Millewa Forest through the remainder of summer. This is due to limited water availability in Menindee Lakes, combined with expected ongoing high demands. This is good news for recreational users of the river as river levels will remain relatively high for this time of year. However, MDBA can make no guarantees about river levels in any particular reach on any particular day as operations may need to be adjusted in response to weather and demand conditions. River users can keep up to date on current and forecast conditions at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/river-flows>.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes averaged 1,600 ML/day and 600 ML/day respectively. Flow through Gulpa Creek is planned to decrease to 500 ML/day in the coming week as a bird breeding event in Reed Beds wetland reaches its final stages. At Stevens Weir, the downstream flow is around 1,200 ML/day. Diversions to the Wakool River are about 100 ML/day, with approximately 320 ML/day flowing into Yallakool Creek. Wakool Main Canal diversions rose again this week from 1,850 ML/day to 2,100 ML/day in response to warmer temperatures. The flow in the Edward River at Moulamein has now fallen this week from 1,300 ML/day to 1,100 ML/day whilst the Niemur River at Mallan School has receded from 240 ML/day to 135 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow peaked this week at 2,900 ML/day and is now expected to steadily recede in line with the delivery pattern of Inter-Valley Transfer water from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel remained steady at 3,000 ML/day and the downstream release increased from 4,700 ML/day to 5,800 ML/day as higher flows arrived from the Goulburn River.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has continued receding and is now about 300 ML/day. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow has reduced from 6,000 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day. The flow at Euston will continue receding for a few more days before higher flows arrive from Torrumbarry Weir.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 40 GL over the last week to 568 GL (33% capacity). Release from the lakes is currently around 1,350 ML/day at Weir 32 and continues to be gradually reduced. At Burtundy, the flow has fallen from 3,000 ML/day to 2,300 ML/day and will continue to recede.



On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir has fallen this week from 8,000 ML/day to around 5,300 ML/day. This is due to a combination of hot weather, decreasing releases from Menindee Lakes, and decreasing flows from the River Murray upstream of the confluence.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased by 21 GL to 579 GL (86% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently averaging around 7,200 ML/day, and will be targeting 7,450 ML/day for the remainder of January. At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level has decreased to 0.70 m AHD and the estimated release through the barrages is approximately 800 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 22 Jan 2014**

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)			(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	481.83	3 588	93%	71	3 517	-30
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	185.62	1 880	63%	23	1 857	-81
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.18	579	86%	100	479	-21
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		568	33%	(480 #)	88	-40
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 615</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 941</b>	<b>-172</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							69% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	493	48%	3	490	-18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 197	73%	24	1 173	-47
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 792	84%	100	2 692	-50

\* 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 21 Jan 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 536	-17	Snowy-Murray	+17	615
Snowy-Murray Component	737	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+0	234
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	17	381
			Murray 1 Release	+22	898

**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)	54.6	739	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.6	208
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.0	16	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.8	294
Western Murray Irrigation	1.4	17	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.3	78
Licensed Pumps	9.0	141	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	141
Lower Darling	6.1	163	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	186
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>907</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	217.0 *
Flow this week	50.6
Flow so far this month	173.6
Flow last month	374.1

(7 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	130	120	110
Merbein	130	130	120
Burtundy (Darling)	490	490	520
Lock 9	290	290	160
Lake Victoria	220	230	260
Berri	310	290	250
Waikerie	270	280	300
Morgan	280	280	300
Mannum	290	290	340
Murray Bridge	280	280	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	720	720	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	510	480	540
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 570	2 550	2 610
Goolwa Barrages	930	920	1 390





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 22 Jan 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	-	-	-	430	S	2 270	2 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.13	207.65	620	F	3 490	1 950
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.26	219.15	3 240	F	4 690	5 950
Heywoods	5.5	3.42	157.05	18 790	F	19 330	20 110
Doctors Point	5.5	3.34	151.81	18 950	F	20 010	20 480
Albury	4.3	2.40	149.84	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.68	129.70	18 840	F	20 010	18 970
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.66	116.70	10 100	S	10 120	9 780
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	9 610	R	9 620	9 290
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.07	80.62	5 870	R	5 000	5 100
Swan Hill	4.5	0.98	63.90	4 250	R	4 400	5 240
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.44	51.56	5 410	F	6 020	7 240
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.10	42.94	4 800	F	5 250	6 880
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 510	F	4 550	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	5 310	S	5 970	8 480
Rufus Junction	-	3.57	20.50	6 960	R	6 590	6 820
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	2 890	F	3 110	4 350
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	310	F	730	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.78	145.46	210	R	190	310
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.51	93.93	2 880	R	2 280	950
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.40	81.17	1 190	F	1 150	1 140
Edward at Liewah	-	1.78	57.16	1 110	F	1 220	1 480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.52	55.01	660	S	730	910
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	240	F	250	670
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	40	R	10	20
Darling at Bourke	-	3.92	-	0	F	10	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.58	-	2 360	F	2 620	3 090

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 150	1 420
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.22
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.22
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.11	+0.65
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.14	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	-0.16	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.26	+0.01	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.05

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.71
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**Barrages**

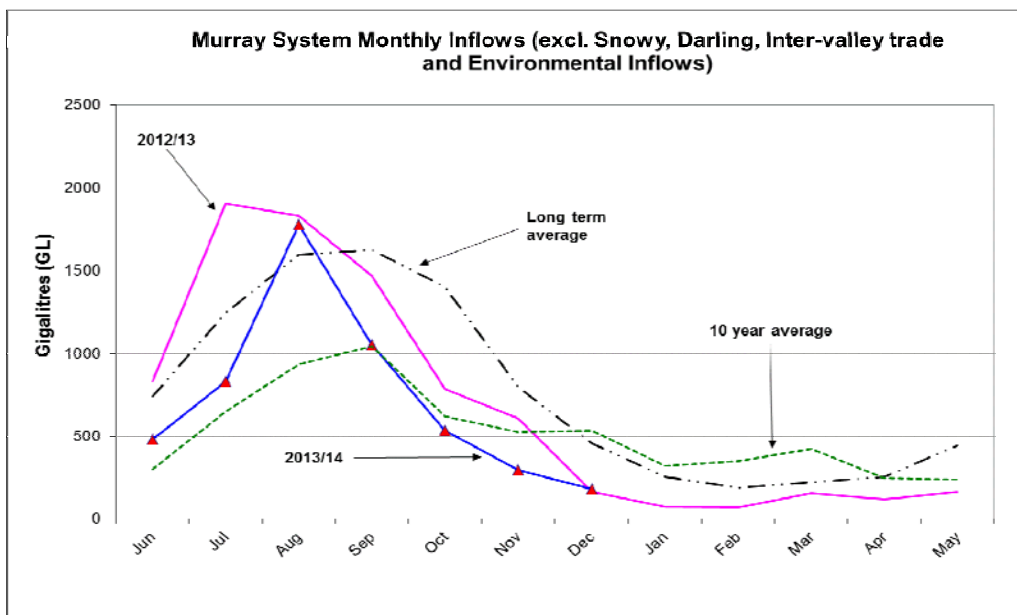
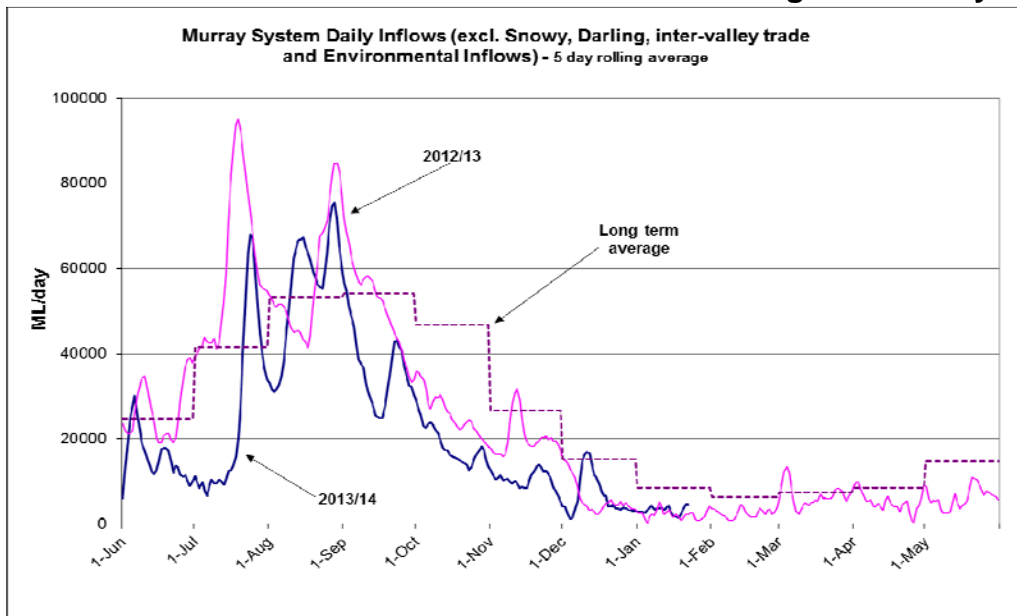
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.68	2	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 22 Jan 2014



**State Allocations (as at 22 Jan 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	59%

**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>