



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY 2013

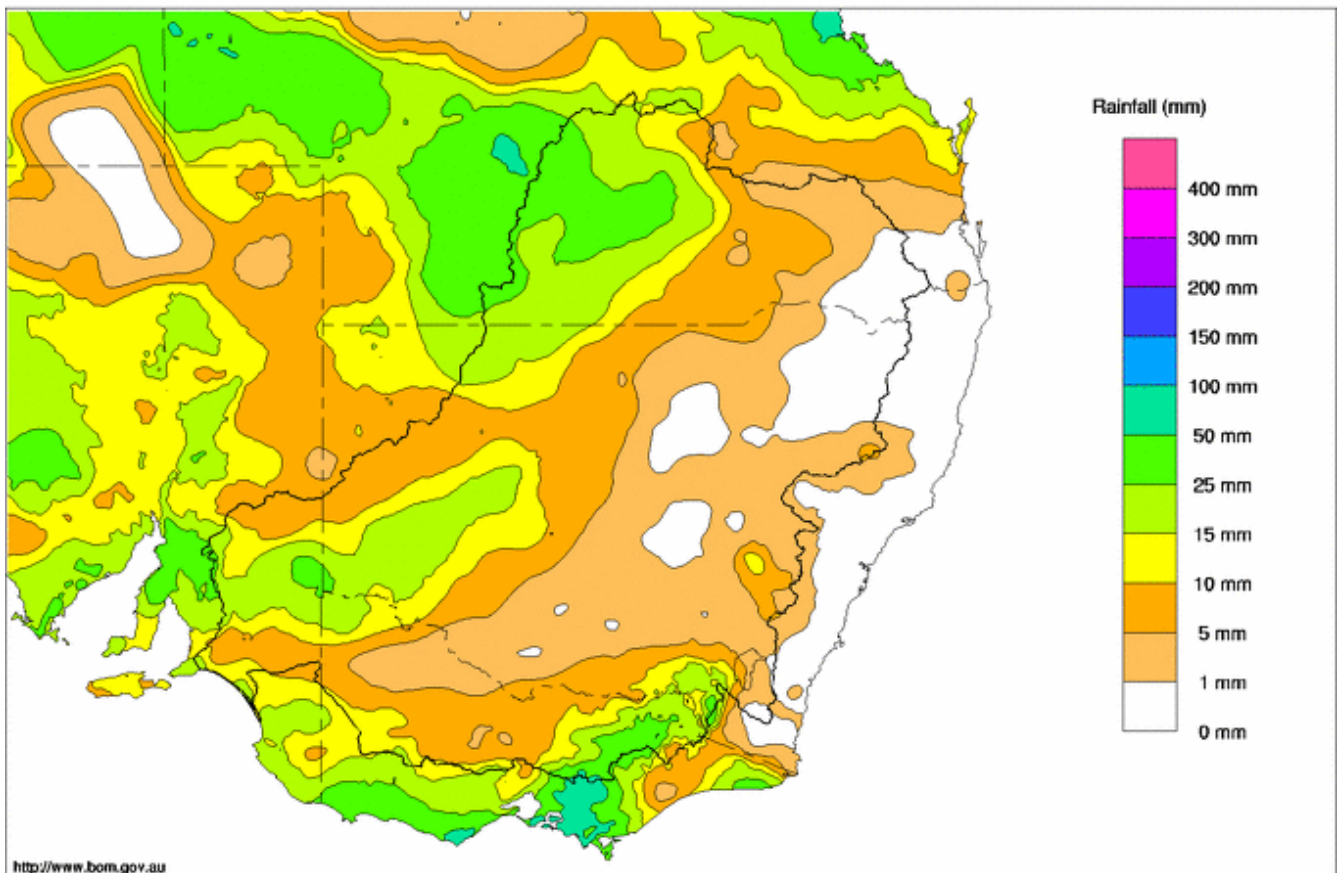
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Rainfall and Inflows

There were areas of rainfall across western and north-western parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week as a slow moving trough system tracked in from the west. Although the rain was not particularly heavy, it has provided a welcome change in conditions for areas that have been mostly very dry during recent weeks and months. Showers also fell in Victoria and south-eastern NSW within a southerly stream that persisted in the wake of the previous cold front, with the heaviest falls over the south-east ranges (Map 1).

Highest totals were once again recorded in the Victorian Alps where Rocky Valley reported 117 mm. Other totals included 68 mm at Woods Point, 58 mm at Mt Buffalo and 50 mm at Harrietville. Elsewhere in Victoria there was 47 mm at Graytown and 39 mm at Mt William. In NSW there were good falls across the Snowy Mountains with 34 mm reported at Cabramurra; while out west there was 23 mm at Lake Victoria and 17 mm at Pooncarie. In South Australia, Renmark recorded 18 mm while in the north-western Basin, there was 35 mm at Boothulla, 32 mm at Morven and 27 mm at Charleville.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 22nd May 2013
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 May 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



Persistent showers following last week's rain have helped maintain or further increase flows across the upper Murray tributaries. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara has averaged around 900 ML/day this week, while on the Swampy Plains River, Snowy Hydro releases from Khancoban

Pondage have averaged close to 8,000 ML/day, which has further boosted flows in the River Murray at Jingellic to an average of around 9,500 ML/day.

On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana has averaged 1,150 ML/day compared to 450 ML/day during the previous week; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased to a peak of 2,400 ML/day and remains at 1,500 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 94 GL during the week to 5,934 GL (69% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 9 GL to 3,582 GL (93% capacity). The release measured at the Colemans gauge remained at 350 ML/day throughout the week.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 70 GL to 1,418 GL (47% capacity). Inflows averaged 10,500 ML/day and were boosted by high releases from Snowy Hydro. The release was maintained at the seasonal minimum of 600 ML/day throughout the week.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.82 m AHD after reaching 124.86 m AHD (4 cm below FSL) during the week. The release was increased to 4,500 ML/day to pass higher tributary inflows and has now been reduced to 4,200 ML/day with further reductions to around 3,500 ML/day expected if conditions stay dry in the coming days. A release target above the seasonal minimum remains planned for the coming weeks to provide dilution flows for assisting with possible salinity increases during the Mildura Weir drawdown. The actual release at Yarrawonga during this period will depend on salinity responses and future inflows, but is expected to be at least 3,500 ML/day. On a dry inflow scenario, this release will decrease the level of the Lake Mulwala pool to around 1 metre below FSL by early to mid-June (see the MDBA media release from 1 May for more information).

Flow into the Edward River system via the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes decreased to around 200 ML/day during the week but has since increased above 400 ML/day as higher flows from Yarrawonga begin to arrive. Return flows from the Edward Escape are expected to continue for around another week as Murray Irrigation Limited continues draining their irrigation system. At Stevens Weir the pool level has decreased to 3.70 m on the local gauge and will continue to fall this week. The release increased to an average of 900 ML/day due to the additional irrigation return flows. The higher release is expected to continue over the coming days before gradually decreasing. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing remains steady at around 340 ML/day but is forecast to begin rising later in the coming week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been receding slowly this week and is currently 750 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir the flow went up to 3,800 ML/day following the closure of National Channel at the completion of the irrigation season. The flow is currently 3,200 ML/day but should increase in a few days' time as higher flows arrive from Yarrawonga Weir. Downstream at Euston, the pool level is currently 47.59 m AHD (1 cm below FSL) and the release has decreased to 3,600 ML/day.



At Mildura Weir, the weir pool remains close to the Full Supply Level of 34.40 m AHD, but will begin to decrease from early next week as the drawdown for essential maintenance work begins. If the drawdown and works proceed as planned, the pool is expected to reach the drawdown target level early in June.

At the Menindee Lakes, the flow upstream at Wilcannia has receded to below 2,000 ML/day for the first time since late February. Total storage decreased by 11 GL to 1,242 GL (72% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, continues to fall and is now at 2,300 ML/day; while the flow downstream at Burtundy has receded to 4,200 ML/day.

At Wentworth Weir, the flow has receded from 10,700 to 8,600 ML/day. The flow is expected to ease further this week; however higher flows are anticipated towards the end of the month as additional water is released from Mildura Weir during the planned drawdown.

Storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 25 GL this week and is currently at 366 GL (54% capacity). The flow into South Australia has been fairly steady this week and is currently at 5,300 ML/day; while at Blanchetown in South Australia, the flow past Lock 1 is currently 4,600 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, the five-day average water level for Lake Alexandrina increased from 0.60 to 0.63 m AHD. More favourable conditions during the last few days have permitted additional barrage gates to be opened bringing the current total to 24 gates.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 22 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	481.73	3 582	93%	71	3 511	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	182.33	1 418	47%	23	1 395	+70
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.21	366	54%	100	266	+25
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 242	72%	(480 #)	762	-11
Total		9 269		6 608	71%	--	5 934	+94
Total Active MDBA Storage							69% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	391	38%	3	388	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 021	63%	24	997	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 287	69%	100	2 187	+8

* 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 May 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 686	-35	Snowy-Murray	+42	92
Snowy-Murray Component	743	+137	Tooma-Tumut	+3	8
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	39	84
			Murray 1 Release	+45	97

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)	-4.7	1512	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	392
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.0	78	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	702
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	29	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	125
Licensed Pumps	1.5	267	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	72
Lower Darling	2.1	101	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	296
TOTAL	1.0	1987	TOTAL	6.6	1587

* 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	38.0	(5 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	116.0	
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	150	130	100
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	140	150	140
Merbein	170	170	160
Burtundy (Darling)	500	490	470
Lock 9	300	290	270
Lake Victoria	390	380	270
Berri	500	480	320
Waikerie	520	520	340
Morgan	500	490	340
Mannum	460	460	360
Murray Bridge	-	-	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	570	590	450
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	520	520	370
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 090	3 140	3 500
Goolwa Barrages	1 580	3 330	1 640



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 22 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	-	-	-	7 950	F	7 600	4 160
Jingellic	4.0	2.21	208.73	9 100	R	9 560	5 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.47	218.36	630	S	720	1 470
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	154.89	600	S	600	3 390
Doctors Point	5.5	1.52	149.99	1 420	S	1 710	3 870
Albury	4.3	0.66	148.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.79	126.81	2 390	F	2 700	5 410
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.91	115.95	4 660	R	3 380	2 630
Tocumwal	6.4	1.37	105.21	4 230	R	2 930	3 750
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.27	79.82	3 170	S	3 390	2 760
Swan Hill	4.5	1.12	64.04	5 040	R	3 450	3 360
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.25	51.37	4 510	R	4 050	4 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.87	42.71	3 590	F	4 080	4 480
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 300	F	4 690	4 530
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	27.82	8 610	F	9 140	11 500
Rufus Junction	-	3.14	20.07	4 450	F	4 520	4 330
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.63	-	4 630	R	4 420	4 370
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.36	154.59	1 060	R	1 160	450
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.33	146.01	1 480	R	1 490	620
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.38	92.80	740	R	840	930
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.05	80.82	810	F	910	510
Edward at Liewah	-	1.24	56.62	660	R	620	500
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.38	54.87	340	S	330	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.71	56.67	360	R	340	310
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	250	S	270	350
Darling at Bourke	-	4.23	-	1 030	S	1 120	1 370
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.76	-	4 230	F	4 750	6 520

Natural Inflow to Hume	5 660	3 530
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(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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+0.82
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.42	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.14	+0.22	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.12

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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Barrages

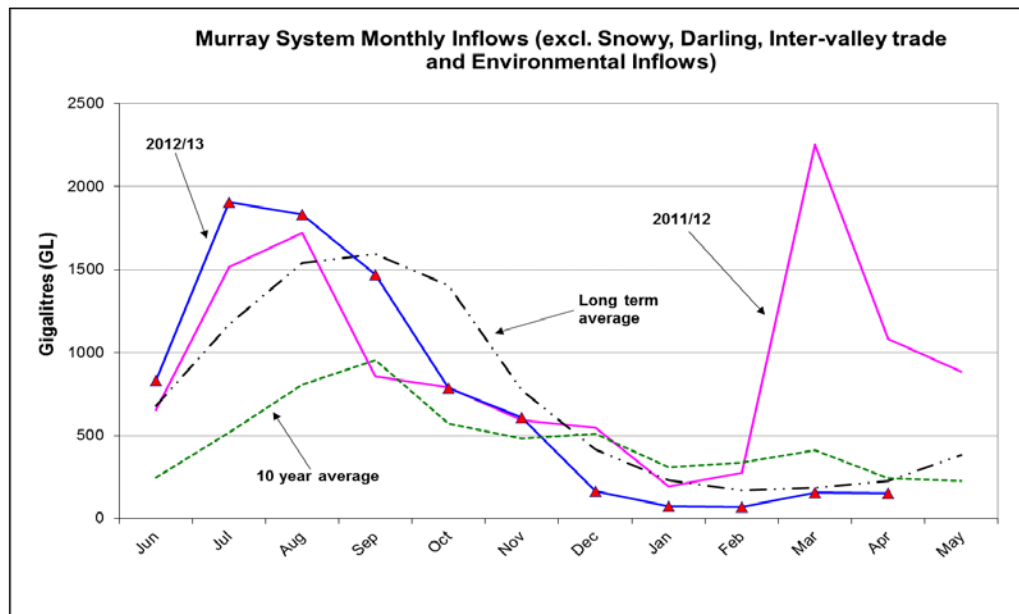
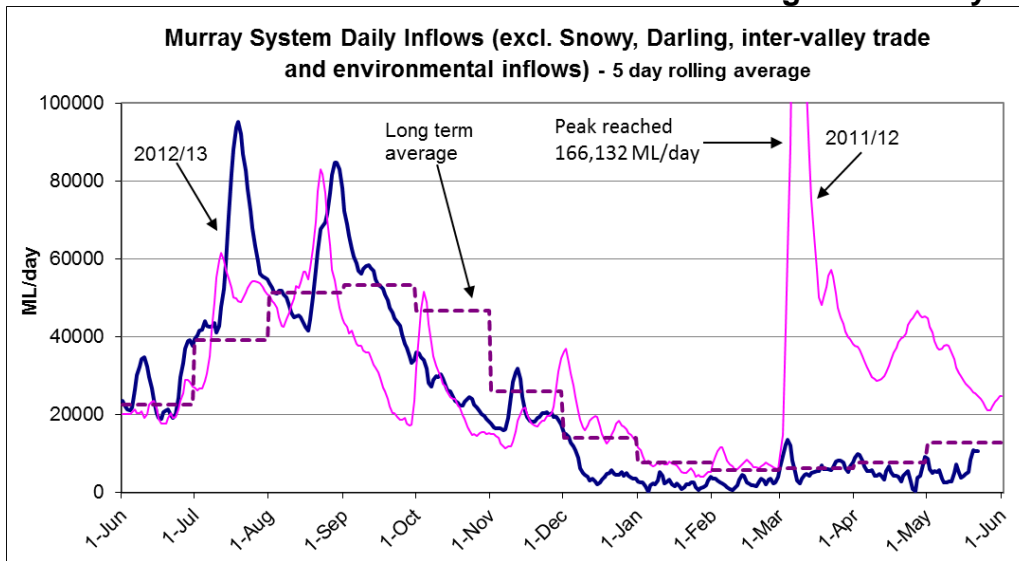
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.75	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	17	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 22 May 2013



State Allocations (as at 22 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/>