



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2015

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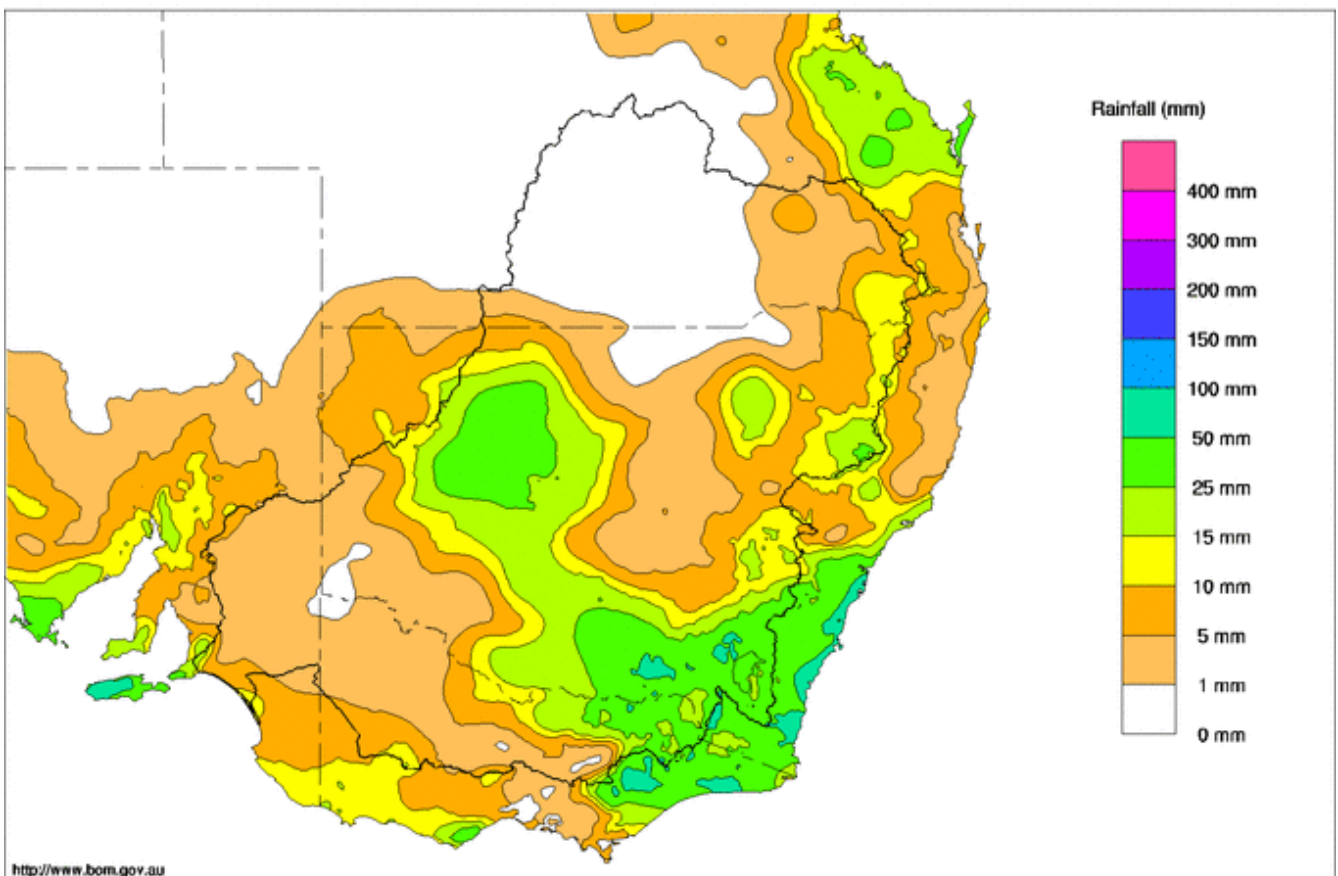
## Rainfall and Inflows

Rain over the Murray-Darling Basin continued into the early part of the week before returning towards week's end. The rainfall was associated with two slow moving trough systems and was heaviest in the south-eastern Basin and in north-western NSW. There were patchy totals across the remaining southern Basin and in the north-east (Map 1).

The highest weekly totals fell in New South Wales' southern slopes and tablelands and included 70 mm at Yass (Rural Fire Service), 58 mm at Wagga Wagga and 57 mm at Burrinjuck Dam. Elsewhere, there was 63 mm at Henty and 35 mm at Grong Grong in the Riverina, 31 mm at Wilcannia Airport AWS and 28mm at Tilpa in the upper west and 37 mm at Hanging Rock and 36 mm at Chaffey Dam in the northwest slopes. Notable Victorian totals included 52 mm at Wodonga and 45 mm at Hunters Hill in the lower northeast, and 50 mm at Rocky Valley and 42 mm at Joker Creek in the upper north-east.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 24th June 2015

Australian Bureau of Meteorology



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 24/06/2015

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 24 June 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

This week's rain prompted renewed, but modest stream flow rises in the upper Murray tributaries. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge reached 1,950 ML/day. The Murray at Biggara reached around 1,500 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Mongans Bridge reached around 1,600 ML/day and on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta reached around 1,700 ML/day.



## River Operations

- Environmental releases from Hume commence;
- Inflows from the Goulburn River reach 7,000 ML/day as environmental pulse continues;
- Mildura Weir works proceed as planned.

MDBA total storage increased by 79 GL this week, with the active storage now 4,033 GL or 48% capacity.

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 2 GL to 2,832 GL (73% capacity). Bulk transfer releases continue from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir, although the flow at Colemans was reduced from 2,600 ML/day to 2,000 ML/day. The release is planned to continue decreasing until the weekend before increasing to around 4,500 ML/day (see attached flow advice).

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage level increased by 56 GL to 957 GL (32% capacity). The release of environmental water from Hume commenced this week and is expected to continue over the coming months. The water is being released on behalf of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and will remain well below normal summer rates but is likely to rise and fall to mimic natural flows expected at this time of year (see Figure 1). The release is currently 3,300 ML/day and expected to rise to around 4,500 ML/day in the coming week and updates will continue to be provided over the coming months.

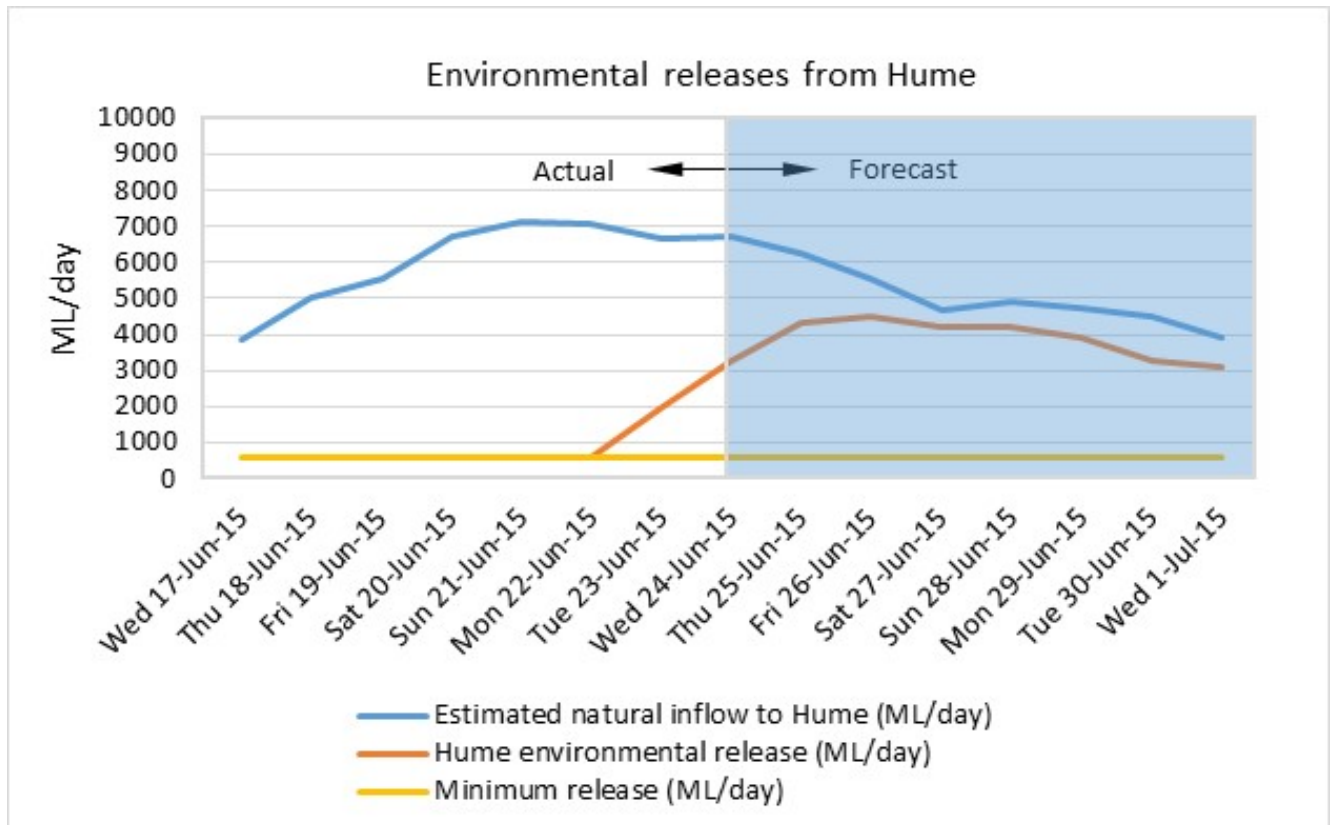


Figure 1 - Actual and forecast releases from Hume Reservoir compared with estimated natural inflows to Hume.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 3.1 m below the normal operating level to allow structural works at **Yarrowonga** Weir and the lake foreshore, and to manage the aquatic weed *Egeria densa*. Lowering the Lake level every few years exposes the *Egeria* to drying and frost, and is considered the most effective management option available (see Figure 2).

If low inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers persist into July, refilling of the lake may need to commence earlier than mid-July (as originally planned) to avoid the need to release water from Hume Dam for that purpose. MDBA will reassess conditions next week and provide advice, including a media release as appropriate. Regardless of rainfall and inflow conditions, lake levels will need to be substantially higher by late July and at normal operating levels by mid-August.



Release from Yarrowonga Weir decreased to 2,000 ML/day during the week to facilitate maintenance works at several sites downstream around Picnic Point. This flow reduction caused a temporary rise of about 0.5 m in Lake Mulwala. Higher releases recommenced during the week and are currently 5,800 ML/day.



Figure 2 - Dense mats of the aquatic weed *Egeria densa* lie exposed to drying and frost on the lake bed following the drawdown of Lake Mulwala. Photo, Peter Shaw, MDBA.

On the **Edward** River system, flows through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes fell away to 200 ML/day and 100 ML/day respectively, but are now rising again. The gates at these offtakes are currently clear of the water and flows over the winter period will vary in response to river level fluctuations in the Murray. At Stevens Weir, the pool level remains drawn down to a level of 2.3 m on the local gauge (2.9 m below the normal operating level). The flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged 700 ML/day, while downstream on the Edward River at Liewah, the flow has receded to 1,200 ML/day.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow has peaked at McCoys Bridge at around 7,000 ML/day as delivery of a winter pulse of environmental water, released from Eildon Reservoir, continues. The winter pulse is anticipated to provide environmental benefits along the Goulburn River before adding significantly to flows along the Murray all the way into South Australia.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, around 460 ML/day is being diverted at National Channel in order to maintain a winter base flow in Gunbower Creek for the benefit of native fish. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir increased this week from 4,100 ML/day to 8,900 ML/day. The flow rate is expected to continue rising towards 10,000 ML/day over the coming week.

The weir pool at **Euston** is currently 47.76 m AHD, which is about 16 cm above its Full Supply Level (FSL) and a little below the current target of 47.80 m AHD. The flow downstream of Euston weir receded to 6,000 ML/day but is expected to rise again in the coming week.

At **Mildura**, the repairs and maintenance of the trestleway, and the lock refurbishment, are proceeding as planned. The pool level is currently around 3.5 m below FSL. The flow has receded to around 6,900 ML/day and will continue receding for a few more days before rising again. The salinity at Mildura



is currently 260 EC and is expected to rise a little more over the next few days as the flow rate, and hence dilution, decreases. However, the salinity level is still relatively low when compared to salinities observed over the long term in this part of the river.

The storage volume in the **Menindee Lakes** increased by 2 GL during the week. A slow recession in flows along the Darling River upstream is expected to continue although recent rainfall has produced some minor rises. Small inflows to the Lakes are expected to persist for some time. The storage in the Menindee Lakes is now 79 GL (5% capacity) and release, measured at Weir 32, remains at zero. The latest information on the management of Menindee Lakes is available at the NSW Office of Water website at [http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/565948/Menindee-Broken-Hill-Communique-16\\_150624.pdf](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/565948/Menindee-Broken-Hill-Communique-16_150624.pdf).

The flow across the **South Australian** border averaged 3,800 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate for the rest of June. Higher flow rates are expected to begin in early July with the arrival of Goulburn River environmental water. Downstream at **Lock 1**, the flow has averaged about 3,300 ML/day.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5 day average level has increased to 0.68 m AHD. Small releases have been maintained throughout the week at the Goolwa and Tauwitche barrages.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Jun 2015**

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	468.90	2 832	73%	71	2 761	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	178.42	957	32%	23	934	+56
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.90	438	65%	100	338	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		79	5%	(- -) #	0	+2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>4 306</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 033</b>	<b>+79</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							48% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	477	46%	3	474	+34
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	484	30%	24	460	+22
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 856	56%	100	1 756	-32

\* 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 23 Jun 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 164	+9	Snowy-Murray	+9	70
Snowy-Murray Component	1 075	+11	Tooma-Tumut	+3	28
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	7	42
			Murray 1 Release	+14	109

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	842	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	301
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	94	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.9	612
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	106
Licensed Pumps	0.6	284	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	78
Lower Darling	0.1	61	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	301
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1398</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	90.0 *
Flow this week	26.7
Flow so far this month	90.0
Flow last month	137.5

(3 800 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	60	70	80
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	250	220	130
Merbein	250	230	130
Burtundy (Darling)	910	910	830
Lock 9	180	170	130
Lake Victoria	170	170	200
Berri	270	260	220
Waikerie	330	320	290
Morgan	330	320	280
Mannum	320	320	320
Murray Bridge	340	340	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	740	740	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	490	630	650
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 200	2 190	2 410
Goolwa Barrages	1 840	2 030	1 600



## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 24 Jun 2015

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	-	-	-	940	F	2 750	2 170
Jingellic	4.0	1.52	208.04	3 030	F	4 910	3 320
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.00	218.89	2 240	F	2 540	3 170
Heywoods	5.5	1.97	155.60	3 250	R	1 180	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.99	150.46	4 140	R	2 910	1 950
Albury	4.3	1.09	148.53	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	0.90	126.92	2 500	F	2 750	1 990
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.09	116.13	5 810	R	3 620	3 120
Tocumwal	6.4	1.50	105.34	5 100	R	3 250	3 500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	81.39	8 910	R	6 720	3 760
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	5 640	R	4 090	4 230
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.48	51.60	5 710	R	5 630	7 120
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.27	43.11	6 000	F	6 570	8 070
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 870	F	7 570	9 090
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.93	27.69	7 280	F	8 040	9 480
Rufus Junction	-	2.97	19.90	3 470	R	3 460	3 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.63	-	3 110	F	3 350	3 290
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.30	154.53	910	F	1 610	1 330
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.25	145.93	1 240	R	1 340	1 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.37	95.79	6 940	S	6 010	1 030
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	0.86	80.63	620	F	700	860
Edward at Liewah	-	1.83	57.21	1 160	F	1 290	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.37	54.86	340	S	360	440
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.96	56.92	580	R	490	560
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.31	-	300	S	370	440
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.12	-	450	S	470	500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.14	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	6 400	4 470
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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	-3.30	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.65
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.16	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-3.48	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.29	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.05	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.10	-0.13

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

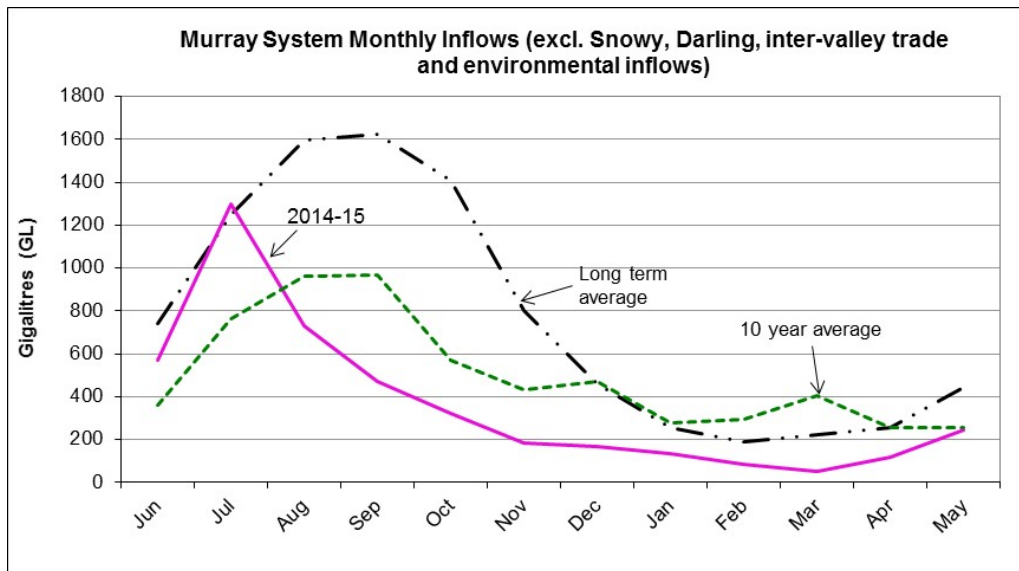
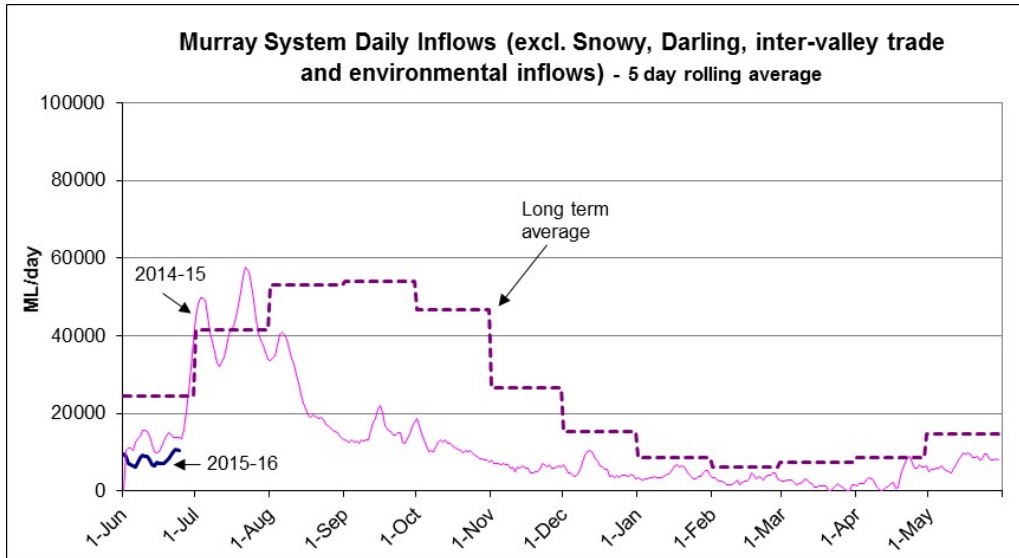
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.68
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## Barrages

### Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	4	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 24 Jun 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	61%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	53%

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

# Mitta Mitta Flow Advice



25 June 2015

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, on the Mitta Mitta River are advised to take into account forecast releases of water from Dartmouth Dam and make any necessary adjustment to their river activities.

The information below assumes dry conditions, with little or no rainfall for the period.

## Forecast Mitta Mitta flows 27 June–25 July 2015

Date	Releases from Dartmouth Dam	Colemans Gauge		Tallandoon Gauge	
		Flow (ML/day)	Height (m)	Flow (ML/day)	Height (m)
Saturday 27 June	start rising	1,700	1.60	2,000	1.93
Sunday 28 June	peak	4,500	2.16	4,750	2.56
Wednesday 1 July	start falling slowly	4,500	2.16	4,750	2.56
Saturday 25 July	steady until early August	2,400	1.77	2,450	2.05

The releases from Dartmouth Dam may vary from those forecast. And flows on the Mitta Mitta may increase at any time if there's rainfall in the river catchment.

A further flow advice will be issued when there is a significant change to releases.

Landholders and river users on the Mitta Mitta are advised to regularly check the current flows and forecasts on the MDBA website for more information on releases from Dartmouth Dam:

[www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes).

Live river data for Dartmouth Dam, the Mitta Mitta and other sites on the Murray system can be seen at <http://livedata.mdba.gov.au>.

Summary information about the River Murray system is available in the River Murray weekly report at: [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report).

**ENDS**

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