



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2014

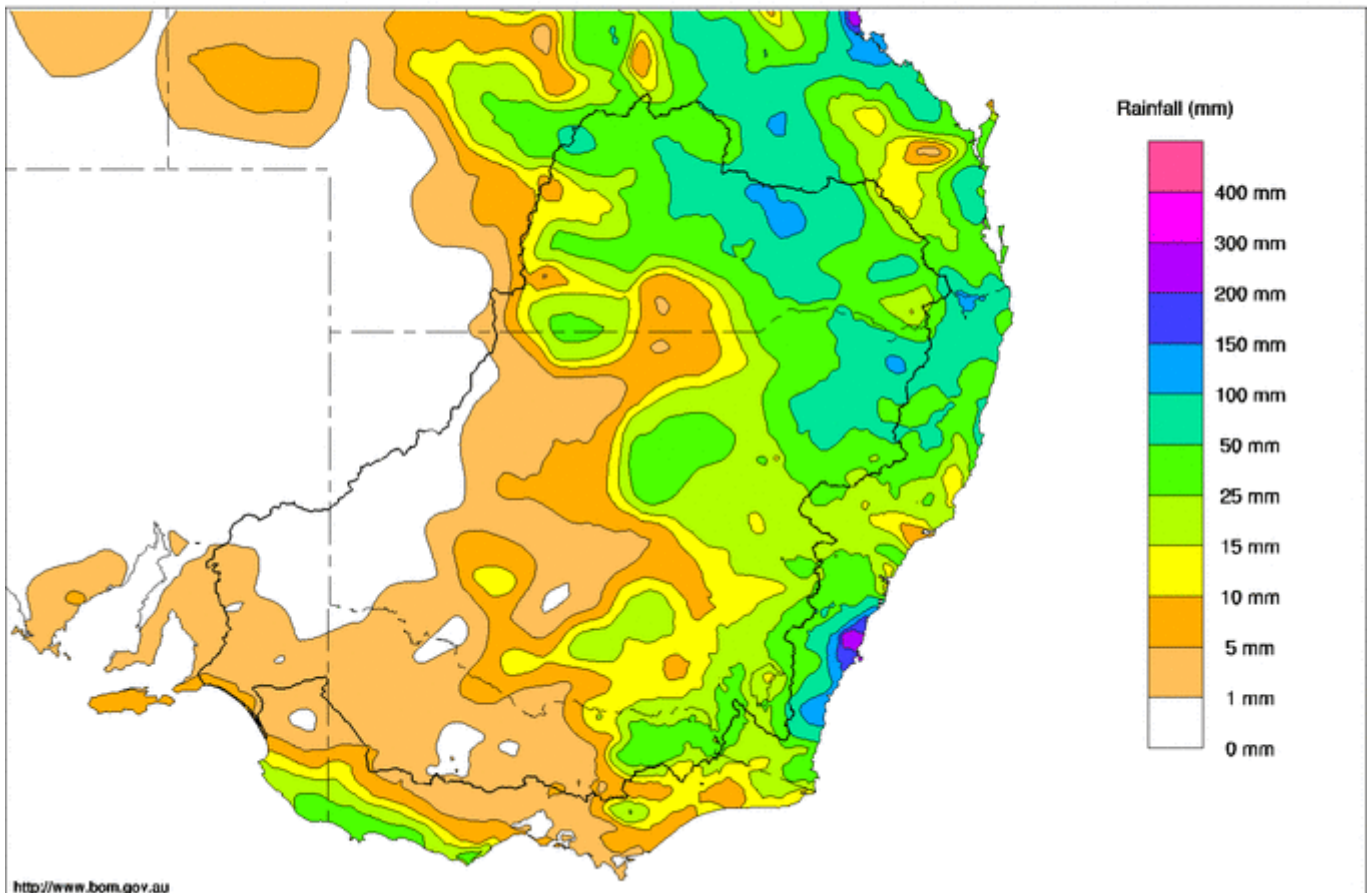
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Rainfall and Inflows

A series of trough systems and a moist easterly airflow resulted in further rain and storms this week across eastern and north eastern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin. Across the western Basin, conditions were mostly dry (Map 1).

The heaviest rain within the Basin fell in Queensland with several locations recording weekly totals in excess of 100 mm including 130 mm at Yuleba, 111 mm at Warkon and 107 mm at Surat. Other notable totals included 93 mm at Pittsworth, 87 mm at The Head, 84 mm at Maryvale, and 81 mm at both Roma and Mitchell. In north-eastern NSW, there were also totals above 100 mm including 130 mm at Wallagra and 110 mm at Pindari Dam. Elsewhere there was 78 mm at Barrabra, 68 mm at Narrabri Airport, 59 mm at Gunnedah Airport and 46 mm at Coonamble. The wettest locations in Victoria were once again in the State's north-east and included 78 mm at Whitlands, 77 mm at Lake William Hovell, 40 mm at Myrtleford and 39 mm at Eldorado.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 26th March 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 26 March 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flow responses across upper Murray system tributaries this week were similar to the preceding week's modest increases, although with catchments becoming wetter, there may be increased



responses to any further rain in the coming week. Some of the better responses were on the upper River Murray, where the peak flow at Biggara was around 700 ML/day - slightly higher than the previous week; and on the Ovens River, where the flow at Rocky Point increased to over 500 ML/day for the first time since late January.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 107 GL this week and is currently 4 813 GL or 57% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 9 GL to 3,460 GL (90% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, was decreased from 1,500 to 1,000 ML/day prior to the weekend, but has now been increased to 4,500 ML/day. A gradual reduction in the release is planned for the coming week with a flow rate of about 1,800 ML/day anticipated in about 10 days' time.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume fell by 75 GL to 1,106 GL (37% capacity). The release was reduced a number of times during the week in anticipation of a decrease in downstream demands expected as a result of forecast rain. The release has now decreased below 10,000 ML/day for the first time since prior to the summer. Further reductions are possible with more rain expected over the next few days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the total diversion at the major irrigation offtakes continued at relatively high levels until the last few days. The diversion rate is now less than half of what it was one week ago. The pool level in Lake Mulwala has increased to 124.85 m AHD and levels close to the Full Supply Level are expected during the next few days. A downstream release of 7,300 ML/day was maintained for much of the week, with the current release back up to 8,200 ML/day to manage the pool level.

On the Edward River system, diversions to the Wakool Main Canal averaged just over 1,000 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the flow downstream continued to target around 600 ML/day, while downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing decreased from about 500 to 430 ML/day over the week.

On the Goulburn River, flow at McCoys Bridge has increased this week due to an environmental release with the flow currently at around 4,000 ML/day and close to peaking. Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, diversions at National Channel have continued at around 3,400 ML/day this week and are expected to continue at around this rate over the coming week. The downstream flow at Torrumbarry is currently about 4,500 ML/day and is expected to increase to above 5,000 ML/day in the coming days as higher flows continue arriving from the Goulburn River.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 220 ML/day. Downstream at Euston Weir, the flow has continued to recede this week and is now at 4,500 ML/day. The recession is expected to continue for a few more days, although the flow is expected to remain above 3,500 ML/day before higher flows arrive in early April.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by a further 12 GL to the current volume of 388 GL (22% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 is targeting 350 ML/day, while the flow downstream at Burtundy is steady at about 270 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, essential maintenance works on the outlet structure are continuing. The storage volume fell this week by 23 GL to 441 GL (65% capacity). Flow to South Australia is close to 6,200 ML/day and is expected to decrease slightly during the coming week.

At the Lower Lakes, higher swells and tides during the week forced the temporary closure of Barrage gates at Goolwa and Tauwichee to avoid reverse flows of seawater; however more favourable conditions have enabled gates to be re-opened since the weekend. The 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina has increased to 0.63 m AHD and additional gates have now been opened with the estimated release currently 1,200 ML/day.

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 26 Mar 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	479.77	3 460	90%	71	3 389	-9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	179.77	1 106	37%	23	1 083	-75
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.93	441	65%	100	341	-23
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		388	22%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		9 269		5 395	58%	- -	4 813	-120
Total Active MDBA Storage							57% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	462	45%	3	459	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	807	49%	24	783	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 355	71%	100	2 255	-53

* 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 25 Mar 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 501	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	651
Snowy-Murray Component	698	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	238
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	-2	413
			Murray 1 Release	+1	941

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)	31.6	1037	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.3	298
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.8	39	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.5	465
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	105
Licensed Pumps	8.0	215	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	157
Lower Darling	0.2	196	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.3	264
TOTAL	43.1	1511	TOTAL	42.6	1289

* 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	186.0 *	
Flow this week	46.6	(6 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	191.0	
Flow last month	201.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	90	90	90
Euston	100	100	100
Red Cliffs	140	130	110
Merbein	150	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	480	490	500
Lock 9	150	150	180
Lake Victoria	240	240	250
Berri	280	280	270
Waikerie	450	450	320
Morgan	470	430	320
Mannum	420	460	340
Murray Bridge	400	380	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	750	750	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	700	670	550
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 600	2 690	2 630
Goolwa Barrages	1 300	1 430	1 310



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 26 Mar 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	F	430	430
Jingellic	4.0	1.13	207.65	1 080	F	1 150	540
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.51	219.40	4 440	R	2 240	1 630
Heywoods	5.5	2.74	156.37	9 160	F	12 720	13 920
Doctors Point	5.5	2.60	151.07	10 080	F	13 510	14 560
Albury	4.3	1.62	149.06	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.73	128.75	12 220	F	14 540	14 400
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.31	116.35	7 350	S	7 370	7 930
Tocumwal	6.4	1.93	105.77	7 370	R	7 490	8 000
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.66	80.20	4 480	R	3 780	4 110
Swan Hill	4.5	0.82	63.74	3 180	R	3 310	4 250
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.11	51.23	4 360	F	4 900	6 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.03	42.87	4 450	R	5 100	6 450
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	4 800	F	5 330	7 280
Rufus Junction	-	3.34	20.27	5 570	R	6 050	6 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.64	-	3 600	F	4 590	6 120
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	270	F	430	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.91	145.59	410	F	420	260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.07	94.49	3 980	R	2 350	950
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.17	80.94	930	F	650	620
Edward at Liewah	-	1.26	56.64	670	F	870	1 260
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	430	S	460	580
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.55	56.51	220	F	270	730
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	40	F	40	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.14	-	540	R	310	360
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.81	-	270	S	270	290

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 310	530
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.05
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.14	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.12	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.12	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.12	+0.37
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.08	-0.43	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.21	+0.29
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.47	+0.09	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.17	-0.11

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

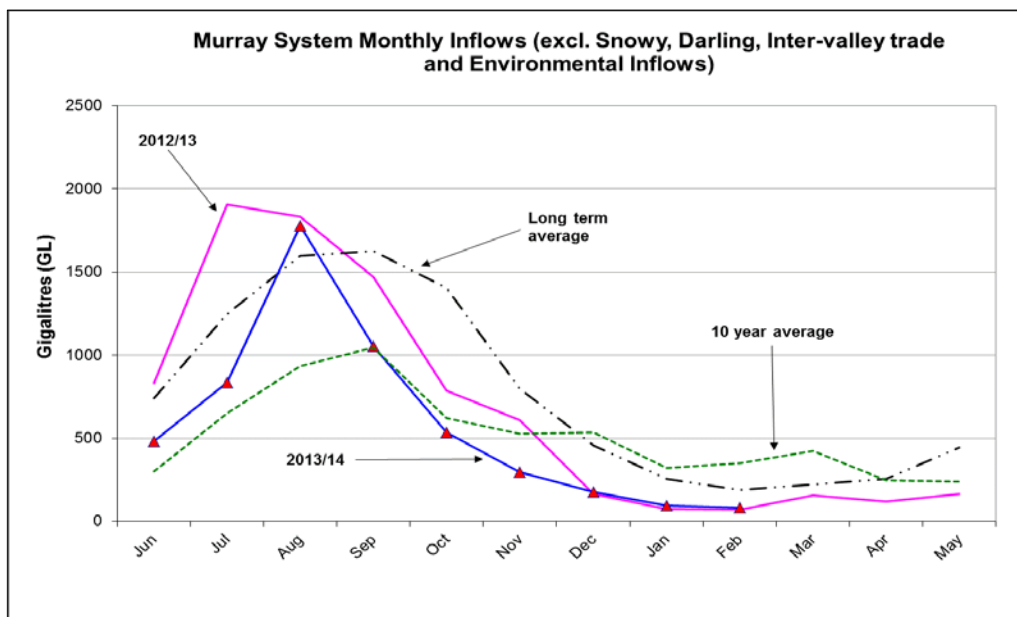
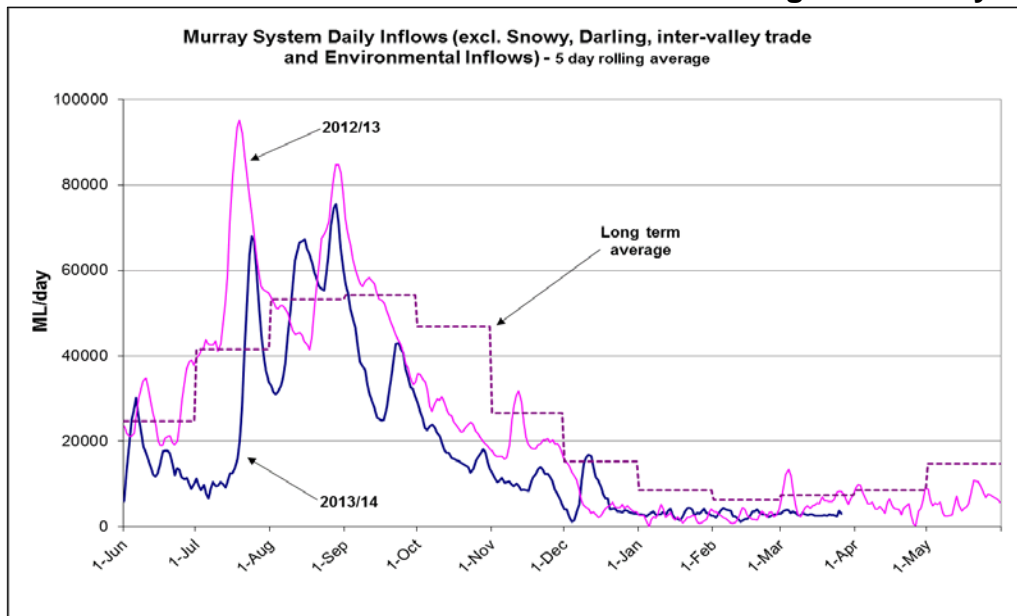
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.61	2	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 26 Mar 2014



State Allocations (as at 26 Mar 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>