



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2014

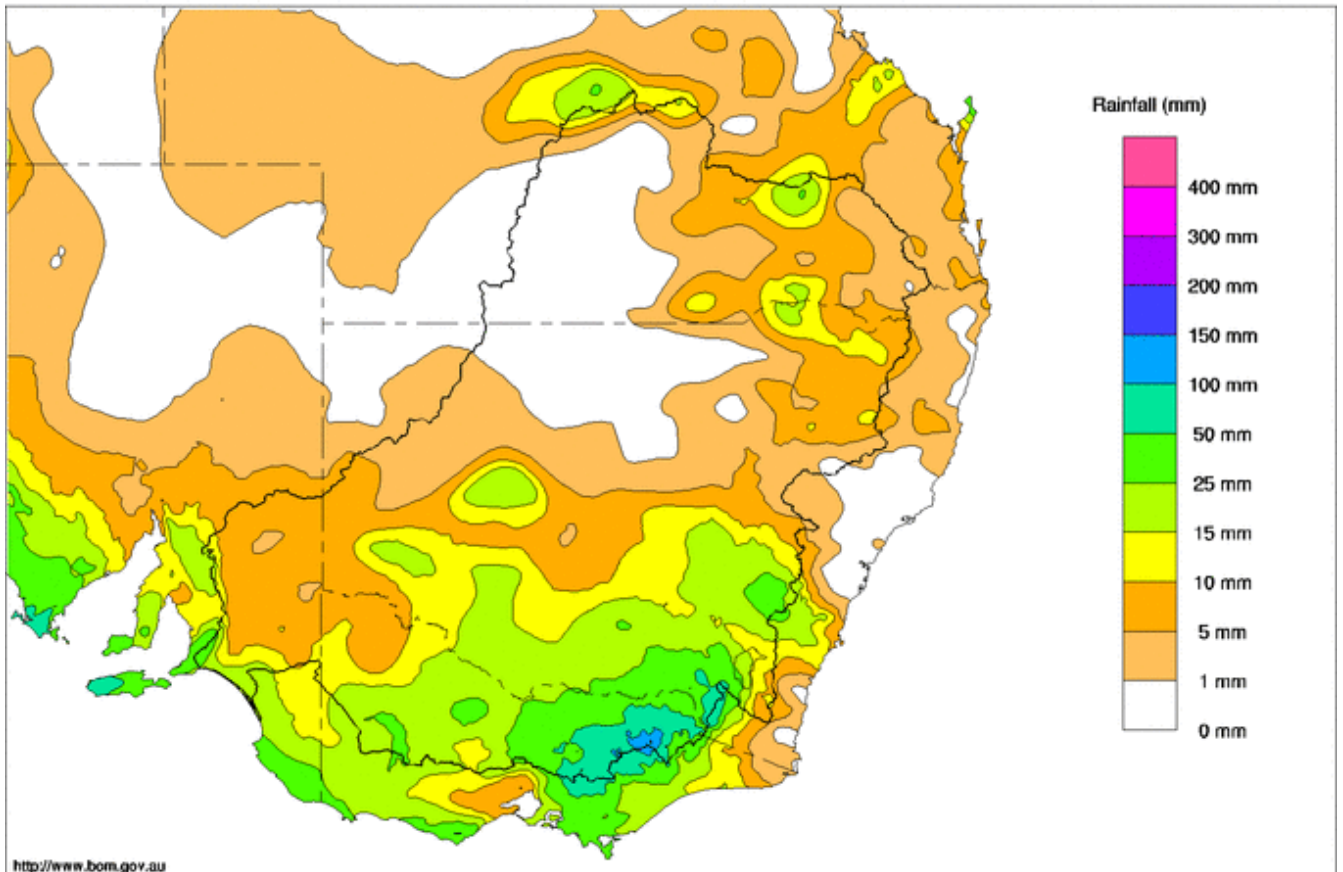
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions cooled across the southern Basin this week in the wake of a cold front that broke the spell of unseasonably warm weather. The cold front generated widespread rain across north-east Victoria and much of New South Wales, with particularly good falls across the upper Murray catchments (Figure 1).

Alpine regions recorded the highest rainfall totals for the week, including 163 mm at Mt. Hotham (Vic.), 159 mm at Rocky Valley (Vic.) and 116 mm at Perisher Valley (NSW). In Queensland, 36 mm was logged at Drillham in the upper Condamine catchment, and in South Australia, 18 mm was recorded at Meningie.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 28th May 2014  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 28 May 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flows in the upper tributaries responded positively to the rain, with most sites recording their highest flows for 2014. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from 400 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day. The Murray at Biggara rose from 300 ML/day to 2,000 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Mongans Bridge increased from 450 ML/day to 3,000 ML/day, and on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point rose from 700 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day. River levels at each of these sites will now be receding as the flow peaks progress downstream.



## River Operations

- Environmental watering has commenced at Gunbower Forest and Hattah Lakes utilising environmental works.
- Lowering of Torrumbarry weir pool may no longer be required due to recent inflows.
- Several lower Murray weir pools continue to be held above full supply levels.

Figure 2 – Current key operations

MDBA total storage increased by 34 GL this week, with the active storage now 4,935 GL or 54% capacity. Releases from the upper storages are being held to a minimum, with tributary inputs meeting the majority of system demands. At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume has increased by 8 GL to 3,443 GL (89% capacity). The flow at Colemans is steady at 200 ML/day.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume has increased by 32 GL to 1,248 GL (42%). The release is steady at 600 ML/day. Downstream, moderate inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are expected in the coming week. These tributary inputs will lead to an increase in the pool level at **Yarrowonga** Weir, which is forecast to approach the full supply level of 124.9 m AHD. The downstream release from Yarrowonga Weir has been increased from 1,800 ML/day to 2,800 ML/day. Further small increases to the release are likely over the coming week to manage inflows into the weir pool.

On the **Edward** River system, the combined inflow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes is around 150 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is steady at 300 ML/day. On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoy's Bridge is 1,000 ML/day and forecast to rise over coming days to around 2,500 ML/day.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, the pool level is steady at the full supply level of 86.05 m AHD. As a result of recent inflows, the proposed draw-down of the weir pool has now been postponed until further notice.

Diversions at National Channel have been raised to 500 ML/day this week to supply an environmental watering event in **Gunbower Forest**. Environmental water is being delivered to the forest (Figure 3) via the new Hipwell Road Channel. The bulk of water will be delivered over the winter months outside of the irrigation season. Further information is available on the North Central Catchment Management Authority website ([www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)).



Figure 3 – Environmental water begins flowing into Gunbower Forest via the Hipwell Road Channel  
(Photo courtesy Anna Chatfield, NCCMA)



At **Swan Hill** the flow is currently 3,200 ML/day. The flow is forecast to reduce to around 2,300 ML/day over coming days before rising again late next week. Downstream at **Euston Weir**, the pool level is steady at 47.80 m AHD (20 cm above full supply level) and the release is around 4,500 ML/day.

Environmental watering has also commenced this week at **Hattah Lakes**, located off the main Murray channel between Euston and Mildura weir pools (Figure 4). Environmental water is planned to be pumped into the central lakes over several months, with approximately half of the water expected to be returned to the River Murray starting in October. Further information is available on the Mallee Catchment Management Authority website (<http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au>).



Figure 4 – Environmental water being pumped into Chalka Creek, which flows into Hattah Lakes  
(Photo courtesy Heather Peachey, MDBA)

At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume has decreased by 2 GL and is now 394 GL (23% capacity). The release at Weir 32 is 200 ML/day, which corresponds with a downstream flow at Burtundy of around 140 ML/day.

The flow at **Wentworth Weir** peaked at 4,500 ML/day this week, and is expected to recede to around 3,400 ML/day over coming days. The storage in **Lake Victoria** has decreased by 6 GL to 438 GL (65% capacity, 24.90 m AHD).

Flow across the border to **South Australia** averaged 3,600 ML/day over the past week. The target flow over the coming week will be 3,000 ML/day, which is the average daily entitlement flow for June. At the **Lower Lakes**, the five-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at 0.64 m AHD. The release through the barrages is estimated to be around 2,200 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 28 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	479.48	3 443	89%	71	3 372	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180.98	1 248	42%	23	1 225	+32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.90	438	65%	100	338	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		394	23%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>5 523</b>	<b>59%</b>	- -	<b>4 935</b>	<b>+34</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							54% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	572	56%	3	569	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	862	53%	24	838	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 289	69%	100	2 189	+13

\* 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 27 May 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 536	-2	Snowy-Murray	+8	63
Snowy-Murray Component	823	+34	Tooma-Tumut	+2	13
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	6	49
			Murray 1 Release	+13	74

**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)	-0.3	1080	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	312
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.0	50	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.4	539
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	26	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	110
Licensed Pumps	1.0	238	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	172
Lower Darling	0.1	198	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.7	295
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1428</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	25.3	(3 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	105.1	
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	130	90
Euston	140	140	100
Red Cliffs	180	170	120
Merbein	180	170	130
Burtundy (Darling)	560	530	500
Lock 9	180	200	180
Lake Victoria	220	210	240
Berri	360	350	270
Waikerie	330	320	320
Morgan	360	370	320
Mannum	360	370	360
Murray Bridge	470	460	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	690	690	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	600	550	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 500	2 620	2 650
Goolwa Barrages	2 390	1 230	1 290



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 28 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	-	-	-	1 720	F	2 400	4 500
Jingellic	4.0	1.57	208.09	3 550	F	3 860	5 830
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.99	218.88	2 180	R	680	400
Heywoods	5.5	1.30	154.93	600	S	690	720
Doctors Point	5.5	1.59	150.06	1 720	R	1 300	1 230
Albury	4.3	0.73	148.17	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.64	126.66	1 840	R	1 660	1 700
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.58	115.62	2 820	R	2 050	1 820
Tocumwal	6.4	0.94	104.78	2 210	R	2 040	2 010
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.06	79.61	2 410	R	2 510	2 700
Swan Hill	4.5	0.81	63.73	3 180	F	3 310	2 630
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.25	51.37	4 860	R	4 590	3 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.04	42.88	4 500	R	4 340	3 340
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	4 500	R	3 300	3 400
Rufus Junction	-	2.70	19.63	2 340	R	2 850	2 930
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 870	S	2 890	2 950
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 060	R	640	510
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.13	145.81	920	R	750	630
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.53	92.95	1 020	R	1 000	1 030
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.54	80.31	310	F	290	800
Edward at Liewah	-	1.52	56.90	880	R	690	570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.51	55.00	630	R	490	430
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.64	56.60	300	S	330	400
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	40	S	40	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.04	-	130	S	180	250
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	140	R	150	260

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 420	2 920
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-31.10	-28.25
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-28.25	-25.30
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.20	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-25.30	-22.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-22.20	-18.80
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+0.31	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-18.80	-15.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-36.40	-33.60	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-15.10	-12.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-33.60	-31.10	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-12.20	-9.75

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

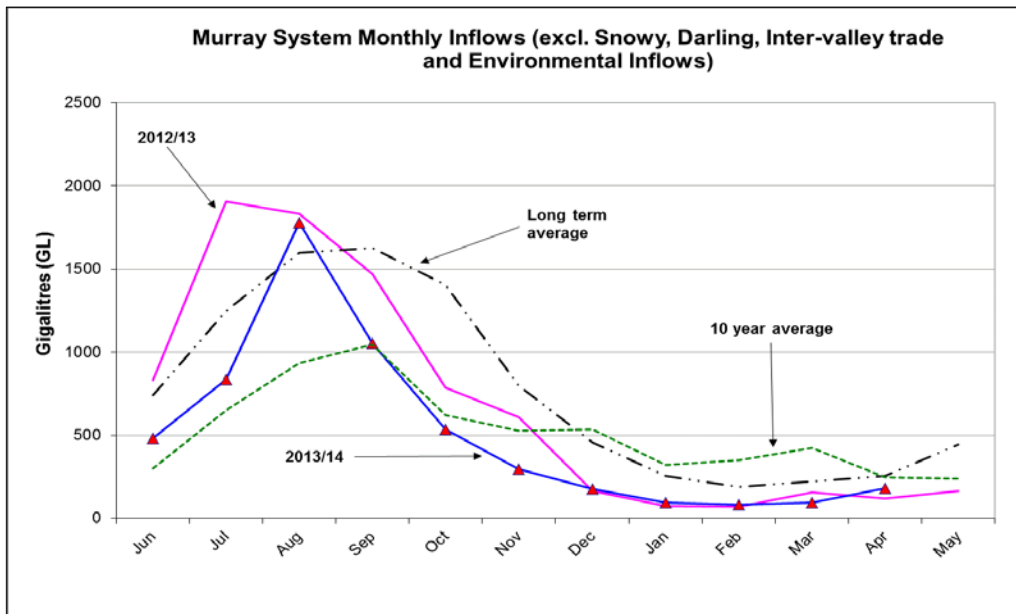
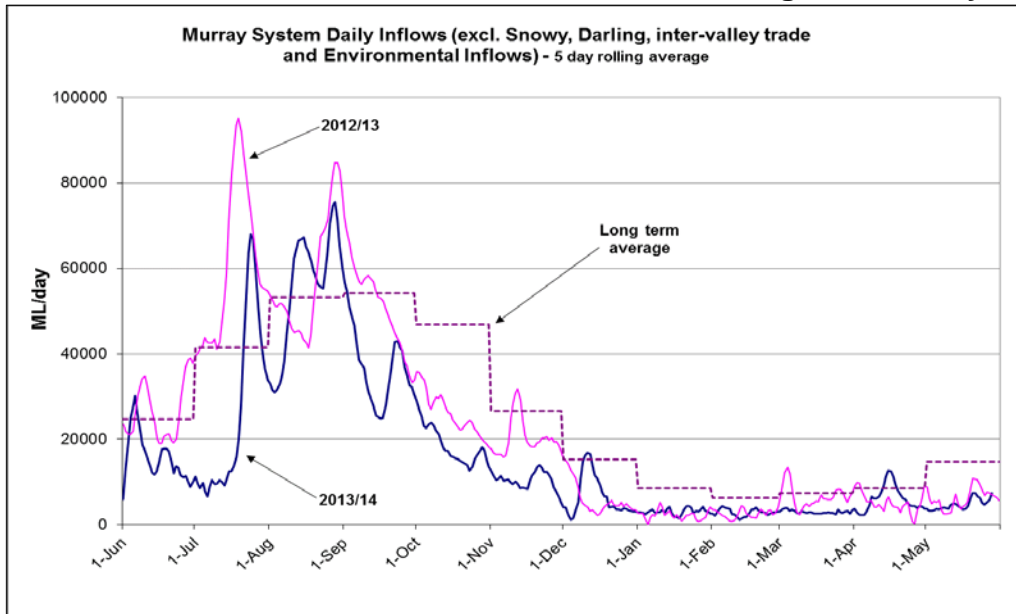
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.64
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

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

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



**State Allocations (as at 28 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>