



River Murray Weekly Report

For the week ending Wednesday, 29 January 2020

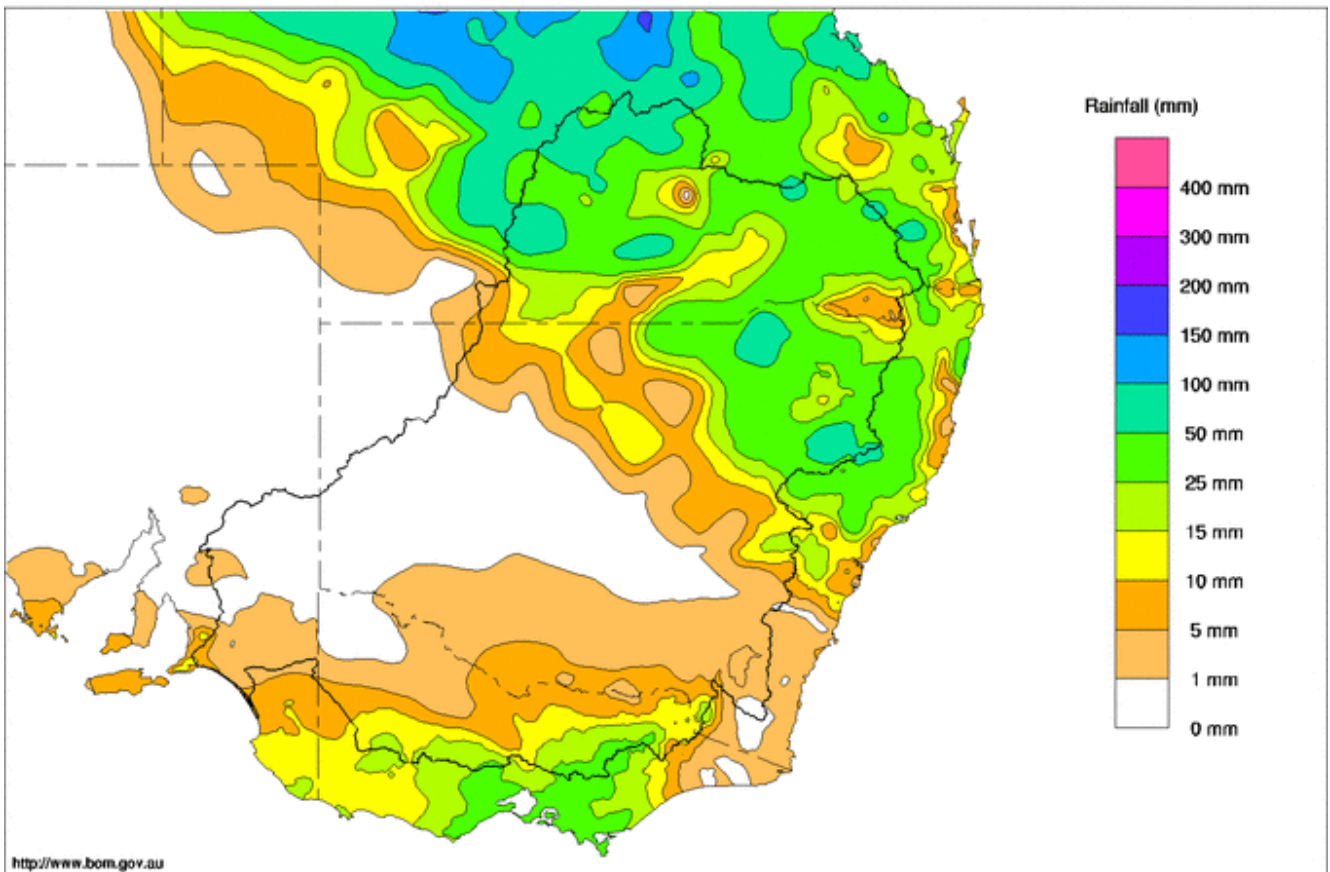
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Rainfall and inflows

Across the northern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin, rainfall was widespread with totals ranging from 25 mm to close to 100 mm. In the southern part of the basin, some rain was experienced across the mid-Murray and Riverina areas with higher totals in the Victorian Alps. Highest totals in the Murray System included 37 mm at Rocky Valley and 29 mm at Falls Creek in northeast Victoria.

The Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting further rainfall across the MDB for the [coming 8 days](#).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 29th January 2020
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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

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Map 1: Rainfall totals for week ending 29 January 2020 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

The upper Murray tributaries mostly receded this week despite the rainfall, indicating ongoing soil moisture deficits in the upper catchments. Specific information about flows at key locations in the upper Murray catchment including [Hinnomunje Bridge](#) on the upper Mitta Mitta River, [Biggara](#) on the upper Murray, [Bandiana](#) on the Kiewa River as well as [Peechelba](#) on the Ovens River can be found at the MDBA’s [River Murray data](#) webpage. Up-to-date river data for sites in the upper Murray can also be found at Bureau of Meteorology’s (BoM) [website](#) and in the Murray River Basin daily river report at the WaterNSW [website](#).



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River operations

- Bushfire activity currently not impacting river operations.
- IVT deliveries continue from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee valleys.
- Red Alerts for blue-green algae continue at numerous locations in the southern system.
- Pumping restrictions in place above Menindee Lakes.

Bushfire Impacts

The MDBA and state constructing authorities are continuing to monitor bushfire activity in the upper Murray catchment. To date, the fires have not posed any significant risk to any MDBA operated structures and have not impacted river operations. MDBA will continue to monitor the situation closely and will work with relevant fire and emergency management agencies where necessary. To stay updated on fire risks please visit:

New South Wales – [Rural Fire Service](#)

Victoria – [Vic Emergency](#)

South Australia – [Country Fire Service](#)

It is likely water quality will deteriorate in some locations as ash and sediment is washed into water courses following rain and further fish deaths could occur. A number of fish deaths occurred in the upper Murray following rain over the past week. The extent and timing of water quality or aquatic impacts depends on the location of the fires as well as the intensity and duration of rainfall events.

For information on current water quality and any impacts to your water supply, please contact your retail water supplier.

River operations

In the past week MDBA total active storage reduced by 75 GL to 2,617 GL (or 31% capacity). Murray System inflows (excl. Snowy, Darling, inter-valley trade and environmental tributary inflows) continue to track well below the long-term average (see plot on last page of this report) and currently lower than this time last year.

At **Dartmouth Reservoir**, the [storage](#) decreased by 30 GL to 1,903 GL (49% capacity). Over the last week the [release](#) from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, varied between around 6,600 ML/d and 3,400 ML/d with a current release of 5,600 ML/d. These releases aim to transfer a total volume of around 120 GL during January to support water levels at Hume Reservoir. Transfer requirements from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir are continually reviewed and revised in response to observed conditions and updated forecast demands across the system. Transfers are expected to continue in the coming months.

At **Hume Reservoir**, the [storage](#) decreased by 32 GL to 583 GL (19% capacity). The release from Hume varied between 8,600 ML/day and 12,800 ML/d over the week and is currently around 11,600 ML/d.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the [pool level](#) is currently 124.74 m AHD and is expected to remain above 124.7 m AHD over the coming week. Diversions into Yarrawonga Main Channel and Mulwala Canal averaged 300 ML/d and 1,600 ML/d respectively. Of the diversion to Mulwala Canal, approximately 1,250 ML/d is water being diverted around the Barmah Choke through Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) infrastructure. Similarly, on the Victorian side around 135 ML/d continues to travel through Yarrawonga Main Channel and into the Broken Creek, again to bypass the Barmah Choke and transfer water to meet demands in the lower system.

The release from **Yarrawonga Weir** is forecast to reduce from 8,600 ML/d to target 8,500 ML/d and is likely to remain around this flow rate over the coming weeks to meet expected downstream demands.

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Photo 1: The Ovens River at Wangaratta (Ovens catchment). Photo: Erin Morgan.

Flows through the **Edward River** offtake remain at around 1,550 ML/d. On the **Gulpa Creek**, diversion at Gulpa offtake remained around 250 ML/d. Downstream, at Toonalook on the Edward River, the flow remained steady averaging 1,700 ML/d. At Stevens Weir, the flow averaged 2,550 ML/d and may recede to around 2,000 ML/d over the coming week.

There are a number of water quality alerts current across the Edward and Wakool Rivers including a [Red Alert](#) for blue-green algae at Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River. A Red Alert level warning indicates that people should avoid direct contact with the water. For more information on this and other alerts, visit the [WaterNSW](#) website.

Flow in the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoys Bridge, has receded steadily over the last week from 1,800 ML/d to the current flow near 1,300 ML/d. This is made up of the normal January minimum flow rate of 350 ML/d and delivery of Goulburn Inter Valley Trade (IVT) water to meet demands on the River Murray as a result of trade from the Goulburn to the Murray Valley. The delivery of IVT from the Goulburn System is being managed in consultation with Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) to deliver flows at a variable rate to limit environmental impacts to the lower Goulburn River.

Small volumes of IVT are also being delivered via the Broken Creek and Campaspe River. For February, a volume of up to 50 GL will be called from the Goulburn System as specified on the [GMW website](#). Delivery of IVT water will continue over coming months to meet the demands of entitlement holders that have traded water from the Goulburn system. Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray Valleys is available at the Victorian water register [website](#).

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The **Torrumbarry Weir pool** is currently at the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 86.05 m AHD. [Diversions](#) to National Channel from the Torrumbarry weir pool have remained around 1,450 ML/d. Downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the release remained steady at around 7,500 ML/d this week. The flow is expected to gradually decrease to around 6,700 ML/d over the coming week as the Goulburn flow reduces.

Inflow from the **Murrumbidgee River**, measured at [Balranald](#), has averaged 1,300 ML/d. This is comprised of minimum end of system flows and delivery of Murrumbidgee IVT water. The MDBA has requested WaterNSW to deliver up to 40 GL for each of the months of January and February. Approximately 100 ML/d of Murrumbidgee IVT is currently being delivered via the Billabong Creek, which reaches the Murray through the Edward-Wakool River system.

The [Murrumbidgee IVT balance](#) remained above 85GL this week, meaning trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray remained closed. Trade is expected to open over the next week as IVT deliveries continue causing the account to go below 85 GL. A reduction in the account can also occur if water is traded from the Murray back to the Murrumbidgee. Further information on expected IVT deliveries from the Murrumbidgee is provided by WaterNSW.

There are several water quality alerts for the lower Murrumbidgee River, including a Red Alert at [Redbank Weir](#).

At **Euston**, the [weir pool level](#) is targeting FSL. Over the past week the [downstream release](#) was steady at near 10,000 ML/d and is expected to recede gradually over the coming week.

The **Menindee Lakes storage** is approximately 6 GL (less than 1% capacity). A [Red Alert](#) for blue-green algae is in place for Lake Wetherell and Wilcannia. WaterNSW continues to manage the Menindee Lakes in accordance with the [Lower Darling Annual Operations Plan](#). WaterNSW has advised that releases at Weir 32 are only planned to recommence when significant inflows are received into the Menindee Lakes. Inflows are currently zero and no significant inflows are expected in the near future.

For the week to 29 January, rainfall of between 25 and 100 mm fell over the northern and north-eastern parts of the northern Basin, providing localised runoff and streamflow. The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Environment [has put a restriction order in place until 31 January](#) to protect first flows in drought-affected inland river systems of northern NSW. Many of the northern rivers have been dry for several months, hence more rainfall is required to reconnect the northern river system and provide inflows to Menindee Lakes.

As a result of the ongoing drought conditions in NSW, extensive [water restrictions](#) remain in place. More information on drought management activities in NSW can be found on the NSW Government website - [Drought Hub](#). Links to other drought services and assistance can be also accessed via the MDBA [drought webpage](#).

At **Wentworth Weir**, the [pool level](#) is currently targeting 10 cm above FSL to assist pumpers in the upper reaches of the Darling River arm of the weir pool whilst there is no inflow from the Darling River. The downstream release is near 7,000 ML/d and is expected to recede slightly to near 6,700 ML/d over the coming week.

At **Locks 8 and 7**, the weir pool levels are being varied as part of the weir pool variability program. Currently, Lock 8 is targeting a level between 90 and 100 cm below FSL and Lock 7 is targeting a level between 50 and 60 cm below FSL.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume reduced by 13 GL to 325 GL (48% capacity). Lake Victoria's current storage volume is relatively low for this time of year. Current forecasts indicate the storage will continue to fall over the coming months as additional water is released to assist meeting peak summer demands. Current planning forecasts indicate that Lake Victoria is likely to reach relatively low levels by early autumn 2020 if the dry conditions continue.

This week, the [flow](#) to **South Australia** averaged 8,150 ML/d, which comprises the delivery of monthly South Australian Entitlement, net trade into the state and small volumes of environmental water. For more information on South Australia's Entitlement flow, see the South Australian Department for Environment and Water's latest [River Murray flow report](#).



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Photo 2: Goolwa Lock looking towards Goolwa (South Australia).
Photo: SA Water.

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level has reduced by 1 cm over the last week to 0.56 m AHD. Releases are currently only occurring through fishways with all barrage gates now closed to help manage the level of the Lower Lakes through the warmer months. For information on barrage releases see the South Australian [Department for Environment and Water Weekly River Murray Flow Report](#).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

ANDREW REYNOLDS
Executive Director, River Management



Australian Government



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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 2020

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	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)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	449.73	1 903	49%	71	1 832	-30
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	174.50	583	19%	23	560	-32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.81	325	48%	100	225	-13
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		6	0%	(- -) #	0	-0
Total		9 269		2 817	30%	- -	2 617	-75
Total Active MDBA Storage							31% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	318	31%	3	315	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	633	39%	24	609	+31
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 335	40%	100	1 235	-13

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28 Jan 2020

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2019
Lake Eucumbene - Total	950	-32	Snowy-Murray	+9	299
Snowy-Murray Component	532	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	186
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	9	113
			Murray 1 Release	+8	458

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2019	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2019
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.9	108	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.1	82
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.8	30	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.1	188
Western Murray Irrigation	1.1	17	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.4	78
Licensed Pumps	3.5	83	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1	14
Lower Darling	0.0	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	265
TOTAL	7.3	239	TOTAL	19.2	627

* Figures are derived from actual and estimates where data is unavailable. 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)

* Total flow to SA is slightly more than base entitlement due to environmental water delivery and trade to SA.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *	
Flow this week	56.9	(8 100 ML/d)
Flow so far this month	235.8	
Flow last month	225.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2019
Swan Hill	70	70	70
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	-	-	50
Merbein	80	80	90
Burtundy (Darling)	-	-	1 220
Lock 9	100	100	100
Lake Victoria	130	120	110
Berri	150	150	140
Waikerie	200	200	210
Morgan	210	210	220
Mannum	270	270	260
Murray Bridge	260	250	290
Milang (Lake Alex.)	940	920	840
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	910	900	810
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 470	1 320	1 670
Goolwa Barrages	3 160	3 110	1 900

**River Levels and Flows****Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 2020**

	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge	Height	Flow (ML/d)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/d)	Average Flow last Week (ML/d)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	4 440	R	2 170	1 000
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	4 540	R	2 790	2 670
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.73	219.62	5 850	R	5 100	5 330
Heywoods	5.5	3.12	156.75	12 770	R	10 510	11 330
Doctors Point	5.5	2.89	151.36	13 640	R	11 630	12 130
Albury	4.3	1.89	149.33	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	2.51	128.53	11 200	R	10 240	11 640
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.48	116.52	8 620	S	8 660	8 750
Tocumwal	6.4	2.02	105.86	8 510	F	8 610	8 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.40	80.94	6 980	F	7 530	7 960
Swan Hill	4.5	1.49	64.41	7 960	F	8 230	8 400
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.47	52.59	10 260	S	10 330	10 190
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.79	43.63	10 130	S	10 140	9 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 660	F	8 650	7 780
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	27.72	7 060	S	7 060	5 980
Rufus Junction	-	3.69	20.62	7 910	S	7 760	7 740
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.65	-	4 860	F	4 860	4 260
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	0.75	153.98	190	F	300	260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.82	145.50	290	F	380	240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.66	93.08	1 260	F	1 460	2 040
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	2.29	82.06	2 440	F	2 550	2 670
Edward at Liewah	-	3.01	58.39	2 540	S	2 510	2 380
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.39	54.88	420	S	420	400
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.66	57.62	1 230	F	1 310	1 160
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	2.12	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	9.0	2.96	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.49	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	980	1 350
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.51	+1.37
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.25
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.25	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.77
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.32	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.81	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.98	-0.25	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.10

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.56
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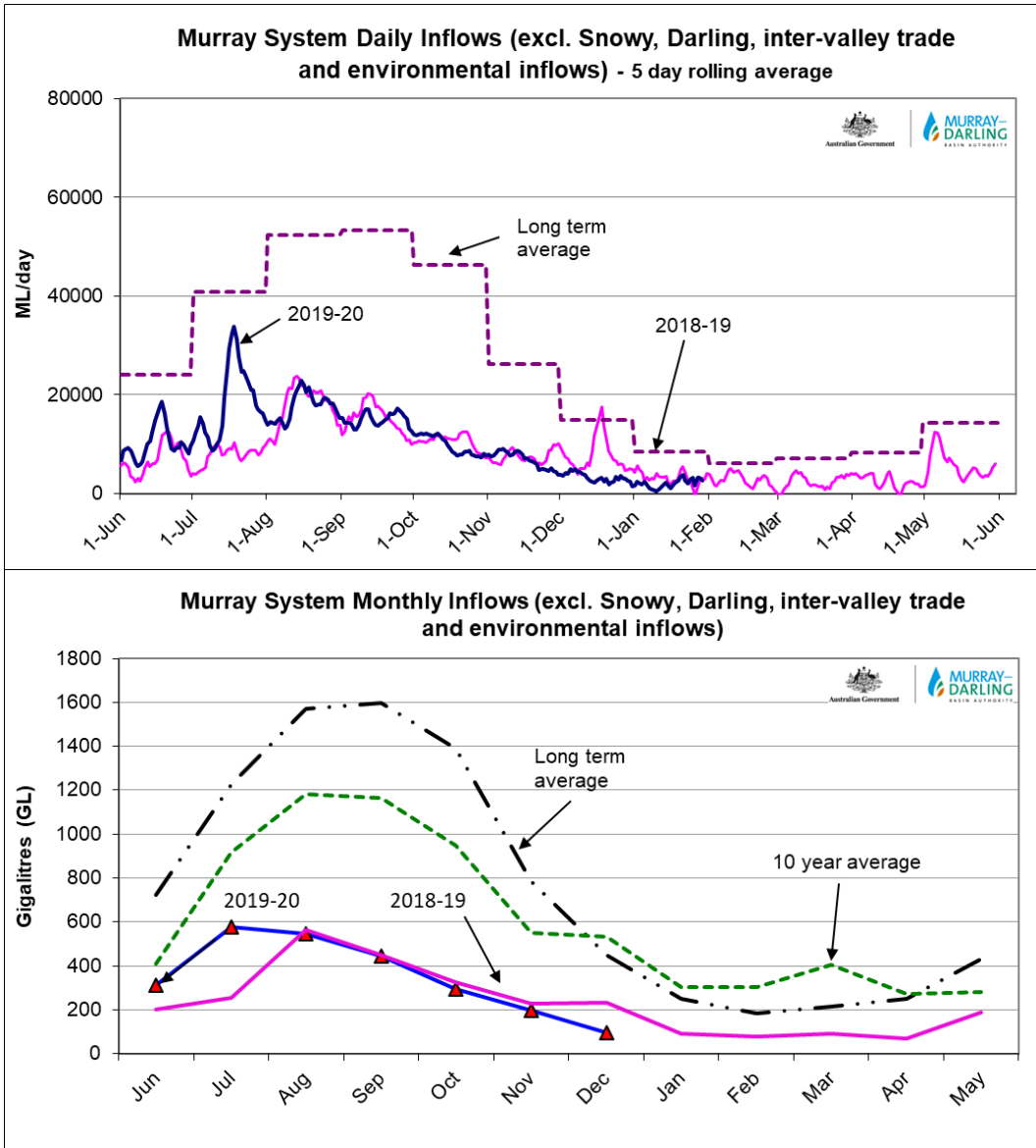
Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.59	All closed	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.57	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	All closed	Open	Open	Open	-

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





State Allocations (as at 29 Jan 2020)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	56%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	6%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	68%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	30%
General security	0%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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NSW : <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/summary>

VIC : <http://nvrn.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

