



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29TH MAY 2013

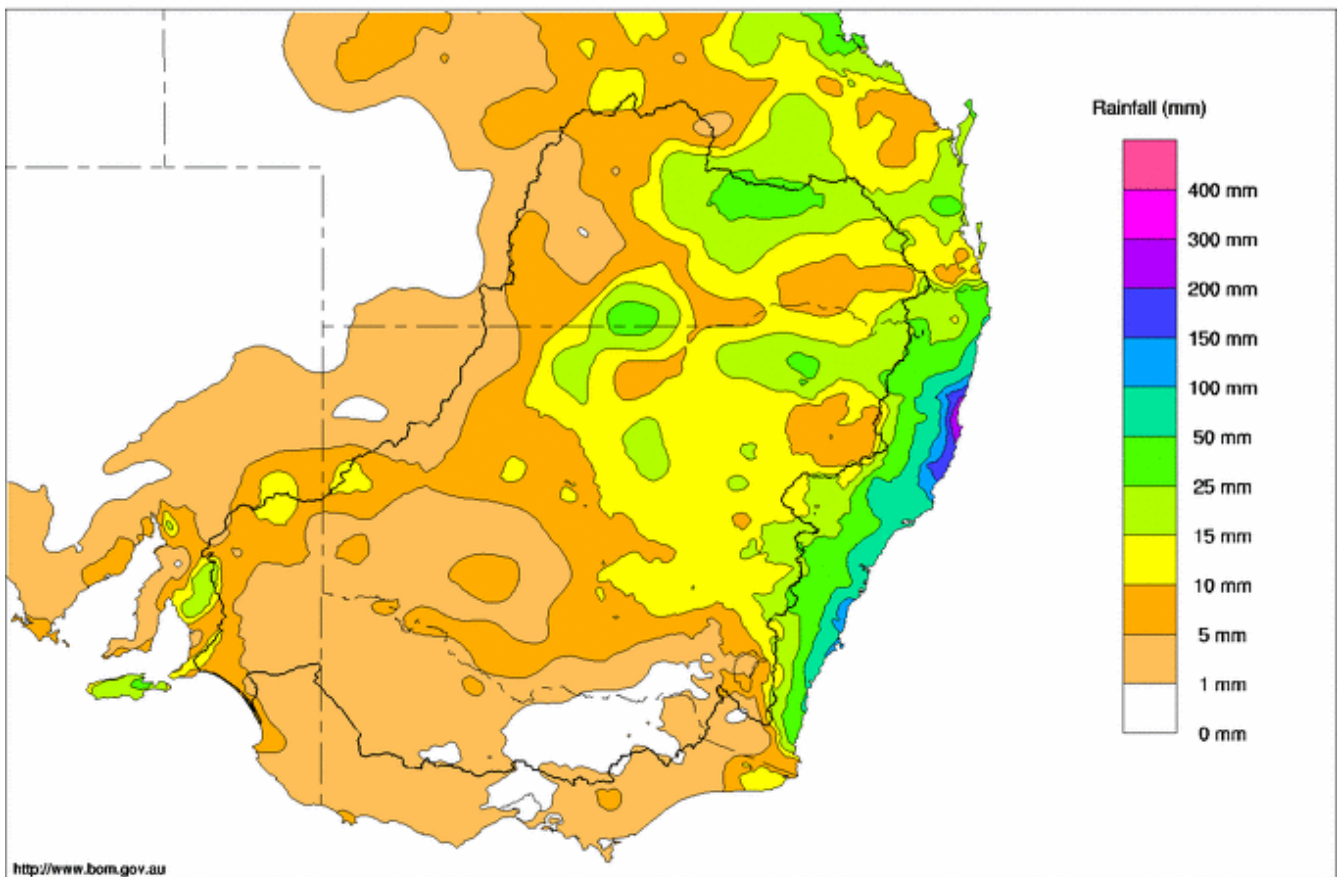
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rain contracted from southern and western parts of the Murray Darling-Basin to the north-east early in the week leaving mild and dry conditions during the last few days of the week that persisted under the influence of a slow-moving high pressure system. The higher weekly rain totals were concentrated over north-eastern NSW and parts of southern Queensland, with heavy rain falling along the NSW coast as the rain system moved into the Tasman Sea (Map 1).

Within the Basin, the highest precipitation totals in NSW included 35 mm at Guyra and 27 mm at Moree; while in Queensland, there was 38 mm at The Head, 32 mm at Miles, 31 mm at Roma and 29 mm at Chinchilla. There is rain forecast for much of the Basin during the next few days.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 29th May 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 29 May 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).
Issued: 29/05/2013

The drier weather in the south-eastern Basin resulted in stream flow recessions for most of the upper River Murray system tributaries. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from around 750 to 600 ML/day and on the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from 750 to 500 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded slowly from 1,500 to 1,100 ML/day. Rain forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the next few days is expected to increase flows later in the coming week.



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 65 GL during the week to 5,999 GL (70% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by just 1 GL to 3,583 GL (93% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, has remained at 350 ML/day throughout the week.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 58 GL to 1,476 GL (49% capacity). Inflows were once again boosted by continuing high releases by Snowy Hydro, with an average inflow of about 9,000 ML/day. The release from Hume Reservoir remains at 600 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers have receded and the pool level in Lake Mulwala has decreased to 124.65 m AHD, which is below the usual target of 124.7 m AHD. The release at Yarrawonga Weir was increased from 3,500 to 4,500 ML/day during the week, with additional releases being maintained above the usual minimum requirement to boost River Murray flows. These higher flows are being provided to assist in diluting potentially higher salinity levels at Mildura Weir whilst the weir is removed for essential maintenance. The additional releases may result in a further decrease to the Lake Mulwala pool level during the coming weeks; however the level to which it falls will depend on future rain, upstream flow responses and resultant tributary inflow. Higher inflows to Lake Mulwala are anticipated later in the coming week due to forecast rainfall; however the pool level will continue to fall prior to this rain and is expected to drop below 124.5 m AHD over the coming weekend.

On the Edward-Wakool system, flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes increased to around 800 ML/day over the weekend. Inflow through these offtakes will vary with the height of the River Murray at Picnic Point for around the next three weeks as the gates have been removed for scheduled maintenance work. At Stevens Weir the pool level has fallen to 2.93 m on the local gauge and will continue to decrease this week due to the scheduled winter drawdown. The release downstream of Stevens Weir was reduced early in the week but has since increased to 1,100 ML/day. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing has increased to 630 ML/day with a further rise expected during the coming days.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has been relatively steady at around 700 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir the flow increased early in the week and has been higher than 4,000 ML/day for the past few days. A similar flow is expected for the coming days. Downstream at Euston, the release has increased from around 3,600 to 5,600 ML/day and is forecast to remain above 5,000 ML/day during the coming week.

At Mildura Weir, the pool is currently being drawn down as essential maintenance works begin. As of Friday 31 May, the level had decreased to 32.46 m AHD (almost 2 metres below FSL) and will continue to decrease during the coming weekend. The release increased to above 8,000 ML/day as the drawdown got underway and will continue at higher rates until the target weir pool level is attained early in June. For the most recent forecasts of flow and salinity, please refer to the Flow and Salinity Report at: <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/flow-salinity-report>.

On the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia (upstream of Menindee) is slowly receding with the flow currently at 1,800 ML/day. Total storage in Menindee Lakes decreased by 13 GL to 1,229 GL (71% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, has decreased to 700 ML/day and is expected to be close to the winter minimum flow target of 200 ML/day later in the coming week.

At Wentworth Weir, higher flows are currently being experienced due to the increased releases at Mildura Weir resulting from the drawdown. The current flow is 13,700 ML/day and the flow is likely to vary somewhat this week as additional pool water continues to be released from Mildura Weir.



Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 20 GL this week and is currently at 385 GL (57% capacity). Flow into the lake has been increased while the outflow has been reduced to a minimal level to capture additional water from Mildura Weir and maintain the target flow into South Australia, which is currently 5,300 ML/day. The flow into South Australia will be decreased in the coming week to about 4,000 ML/day, which includes 3,000 ML/day of base entitlement (lower than for May) with the balance made up of environmental water.

At the Lower Lakes, the five-day average water level for Lake Alexandrina has been fairly steady at around 0.62 m AHD. All gates at Goolwa and Mundoo Barrages were closed over the weekend to manage reverse flows due to high tides, but 5 gates have since been re-opened bringing the total number of open gates to 23 across the 5 barrages.

At the Murray Mouth, lower flows through the Barrages and recent seasonal conditions in Encounter Bay have resulted in sand being gradually deposited inside the Murray Mouth. The build-up of sand presents a navigation hazard and mariners are advised to navigate with caution when operating in the vicinity of the mouth.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 29 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	481.74	3 583	93%	71	3 512	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	182.77	1 476	49%	23	1 453	+58
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.40	385	57%	100	285	+20
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 229	71%	(480 #)	749	-13
Total		9 269		6 673	72%	--	5 999	+65
Total Active MDBA Storage							70% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	391	38%	3	388	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 047	64%	24	1 023	+26
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 291	69%	100	2 191	+4

* 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 28 May 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 649	-37	Snowy-Murray	+41	133
Snowy-Murray Component	706	-37	Tooma-Tumut	+4	12
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	37	120
			Murray 1 Release	+47	144

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)	-0.7	1511	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	392
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.6	79	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	712
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	29	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	125
Licensed Pumps	1.2	268	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	7.7	80
Lower Darling	1.6	103	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	301
TOTAL	2.7	1990	TOTAL	12.4	1610

* 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	37.7
Flow so far this month	153.7
Flow last month	219.2

(5 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	120	120	100
Euston	140	110	120
Red Cliffs	160	150	140
Merbein	170	170	160
Burtundy (Darling)	500	490	470
Lock 9	280	280	270
Lake Victoria	380	380	270
Berri	500	480	320
Waikerie	480	500	340
Morgan	500	510	350
Mannum	450	450	360
Murray Bridge	470	470	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	580	590	450
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	520	530	380
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 110	3 110	3 490
Goolwa Barrages	1 340	1 610	1 640



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 29 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	-	-	-	7 560	F	6 920	7 680
Jingellic	4.0	2.17	208.69	8 720	F	8 400	9 560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	540	S	560	720
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 370	R	1 410	1 710
Albury	4.3	0.65	148.09	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	0.63	126.65	1 840	F	2 000	2 700
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.88	115.92	4 470	R	3 880	3 380
Tocumwal	6.4	1.37	105.21	4 230	R	4 180	2 930
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.50	80.05	4 000	F	3 900	3 390
Swan Hill	4.5	1.00	63.92	4 320	R	4 360	3 450
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.46	51.58	5 210	R	5 290	4 050
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.26	43.10	5 420	F	5 390	4 080
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 320	F	5 700	4 690
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.42	28.18	13 710	R	9 470	9 140
Rufus Junction	-	3.24	20.17	5 000	R	4 700	4 520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.59	-	4 670	S	4 680	4 420
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.30	154.53	980	R	1 020	1 160
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.18	145.86	1 130	F	1 230	1 490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.38	92.80	730	R	730	840
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.32	81.09	1 090	F	690	910
Edward at Liewah	-	1.73	57.11	1 060	R	870	620
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.51	55.00	630	R	440	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.61	56.57	270	F	340	340
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	250	S	270	270
Darling at Bourke	-	4.20	-	790	F	910	1 120
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.06	-	3 090	F	3 610	4 750

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 070	5 690
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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	-0.25	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.95
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.00	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.91	+0.16	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.08	+0.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.78	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.22	+0.24	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.21	+0.13	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.16

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.62
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Barrages

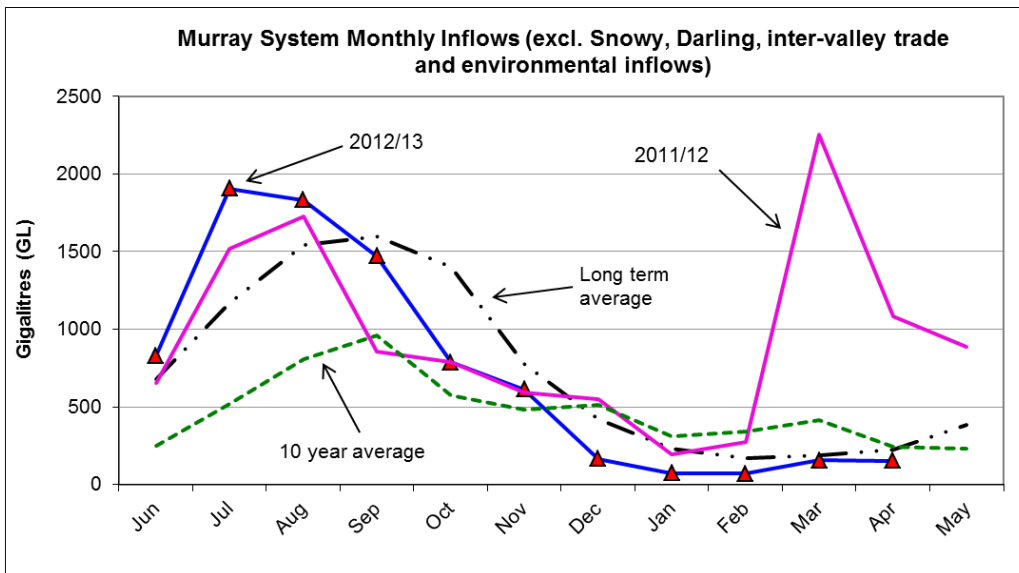
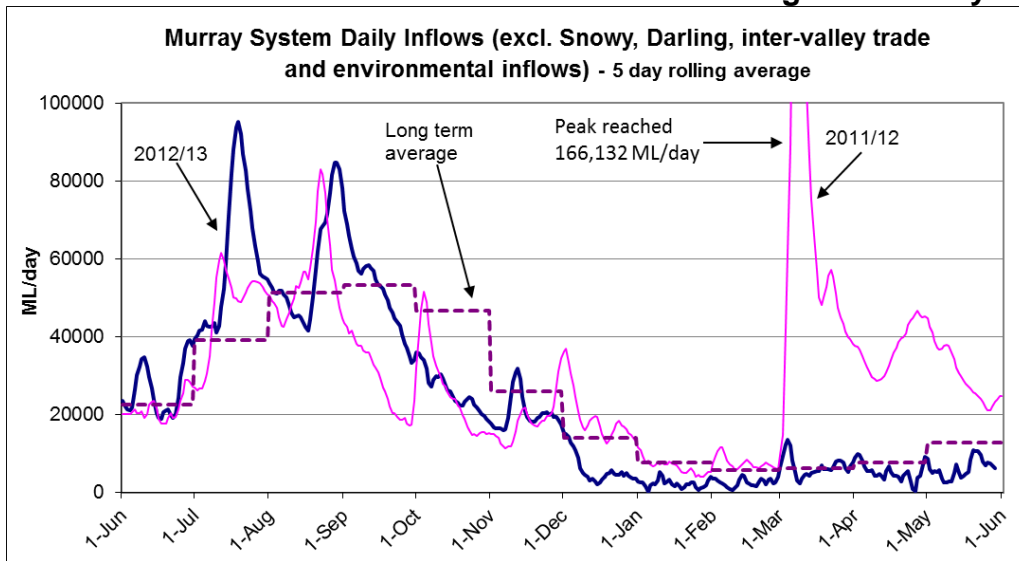
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.70	17	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 29 May 2013



State Allocations (as at 29 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/>