



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2013

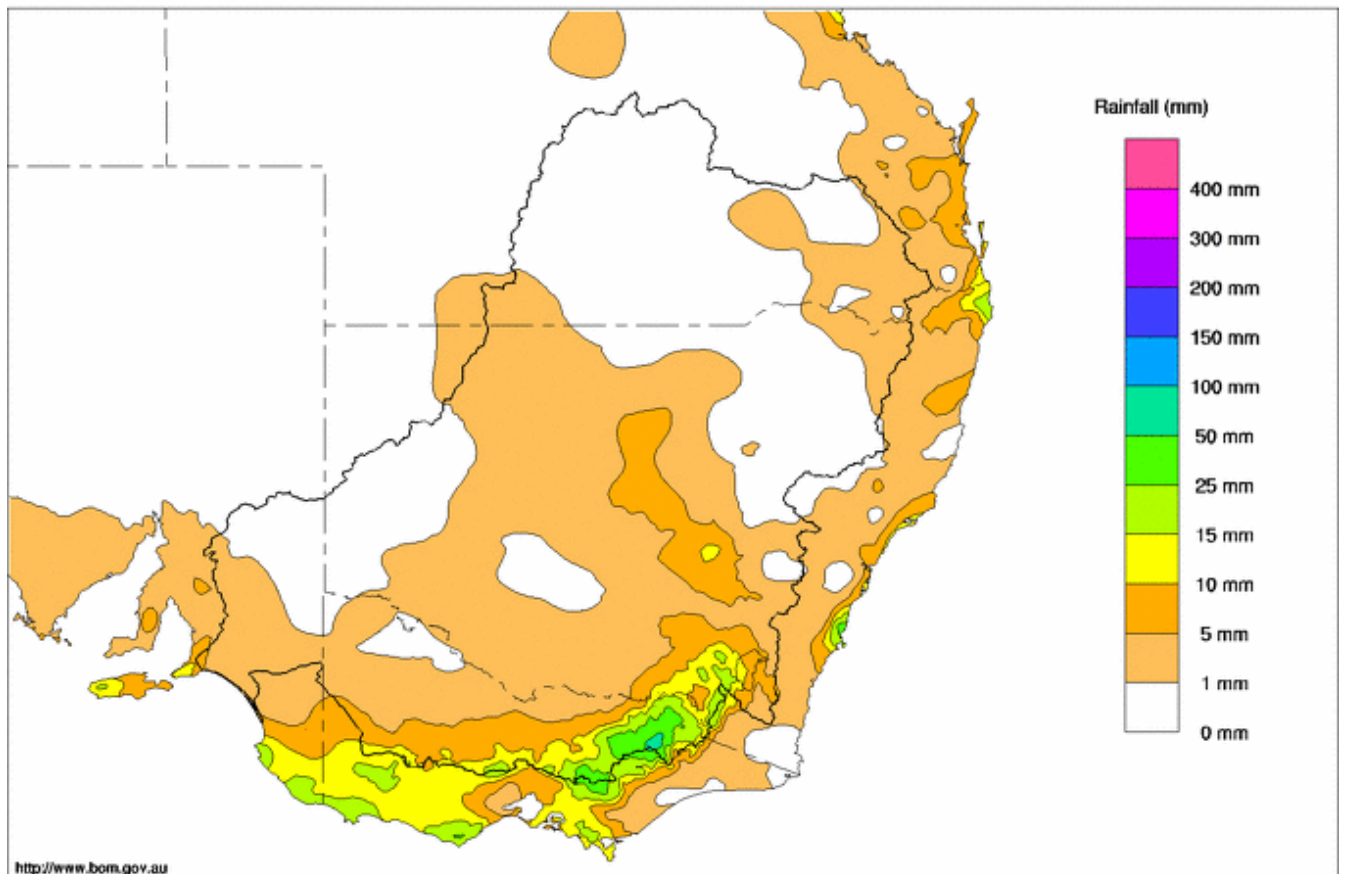
Trim Ref: D13/27162

## Rainfall and Inflows

It was quite dry across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with the only worthwhile precipitation falling in the south-east with a weak cold front. The heaviest falls were once again over the Victorian Alps and NSW Snowy Mountains, with totals above 10 mm recorded over the lower areas of north-eastern Victoria, parts of central and western Victoria and the NSW south-west slopes (Map 1).

Highest reported totals for the week included 63 mm at Mt Hotham, 51 mm at Rocky Valley Reservoir, 42 mm at Mt Buffalo, 39 mm at Harrietville and 29 mm at Dartmouth Reservoir.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 31st July 2013  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2013, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 31/07/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 31 July 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



Stream flows receded for most of the past week (following the peaks resulting from the previous week's heavy rain) before modest rises over the last few days. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara receded from 2,800 to 1,900 ML/day and has now increased to a peak of 2,400 ML/day. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge receded to around 1,700 ML/day before rising to a peak of 3,600 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point decreased from 11,800 to 6,100 ML/day before rising to 8,400 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 159 GL this week and is now 7,306 GL (85% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 5 GL to 3,726 GL (97% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, was maintained at 4,000 ML/day during the first part of the week with AGL Hydro releasing entitlement water for hydro-electricity generation. However, due to storage increases over the last few weeks, MDBA has now re-commenced 'harmony transfers' to Hume Reservoir. Harmony transfers provide benefits including helping to balance the risk of spill and flood protection at both Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs. The release is currently being maintained at 4,000 ML/day, with release targets over the coming weeks depending on future rain and storage inflow at both Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs.

Inflows to Hume Reservoir averaged in excess of 23,000 ML/day this week - slightly less than the previous week - and the storage volume increased by 159 GL to 2,400 GL (80% capacity). The release remains at the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.69 m AHD, which is close to the normal operating target. The release peaked early in the week at 29,500 ML/day and has now been decreased to 13,000 ML/day as tributary inflows recede. The release will be managed this week to maintain a steady pool level and is expected to average around 12,000 ML/day over the coming days. Diversions along both Mulwala Canal and the Yarrawonga Main Channel also began this week, with the small diversions thus far starting the re-filling of channel systems.

On the Edward-Wakool system, a total of about 2,800 ML/day is flowing through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes, which remain fully open. Downstream at Toonalook, flows have now exceeded 3,000 ML/day and are expected to continue rising over the coming week as higher flows from the Murray continue passing along the upper Edward River, Gulpa Creek and through the Millewa Forest. At Stevens Weir, the pool level has been raised to 4.0 m on the local gauge and the flow downstream is currently 800 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys peaked at 4,000 ML/day and has now receded to 1,300 ML/day. Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow peaked at 7,600 ML/day but has since receded slightly as Goulburn River inflows fell away. Downstream flows were further limited by diversions at National Channel, which increased to an average of 2,400 ML/day over the past 6 days. A renewed rise at Torrumbarry Weir towards 8,000 ML/day is possible later in the coming week as higher flows continue arriving from Yarrawonga. On the Murrumbidgee River, flows at Balranald have been steady at around 1,600 ML/day during the last few days but higher flows are likely later in the coming week.



At Euston Weir, the pool level is slightly higher than recent weeks but remains below Full Supply Level with daily variability resulting from on-going maintenance works on the navigable pass. The release from Euston Weir has been close to 6,000 ML/day most of the week, but will begin to rise in the coming days as higher flows arrive from upstream.

Storage in Menindee Lakes remains fairly steady, with a decrease this week of just 1 GL to 1,255 GL (73% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 230 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, outflow has been lifted to around 5,400 ML/day and the storage volume has decreased by 4 GL to 599 GL (88% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently targeting 8,000 ML/day and 'unregulated flows' are continuing. Downstream at Blanchetown, the flow past Lock 1 has increased from 3,600 to 6,800 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, increasing inflows from the Murray have been supplemented over the past two weeks by high local inflows along the Finniss River following recent heavy rain over the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges. The 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased from 0.66 to 0.72 m AHD during the week and a level of 0.75 m AHD is now being targeted. Favourable weather and tidal conditions enabled releases through 10 barrage gates for most of the past week, with the total flow into the Coorong estimated to be in excess of 2,000 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 31 Jul 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	484.00	3 726	97%	71	3 655	+5	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.79	2 400	80%	23	2 377	+159	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.35	599	88%	100	499	-4	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 255	73%	(480 #)	775	-1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 980</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 306</b>	<b>+159</b>	
Total Active MDBA Storage							85% ^		

#### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 322	81%	24	1 298	+43
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 485	75%	100	2 385	+22

\* 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 30 Jul 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 433	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+38	436
Snowy-Murray Component	550	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+8	77
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	29	359
			Murray 1 Release	+45	513

### 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)	5.5	6	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.5	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.3	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.8	15
Western Murray Irrigation	N/A	N/A	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	0
Licensed Pumps	0.3	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	1
Lower Darling	0.4	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>20</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 commencement of unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *
Flow this week	51.3
Flow so far this month	142.3
Flow last month	117.0

(7 300 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	80	130	110
Euston	170	150	130
Red Cliffs	150	140	160
Merbein	160	160	170
Burtundy (Darling)	690	620	470
Lock 9	200	220	260
Lake Victoria	350	340	290
Berri	500	500	340
Waikerie	610	620	370
Morgan	650	590	380
Mannum	540	530	380
Murray Bridge	570	570	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	590	650	470
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	580	580	410
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 690	2 700	3 400
Goolwa Barrages	1 860	3 370	1 680



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 31 Jul 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	-	-	-	9 490	F	8 170	9 480
Jingellic	4.0	2.78	209.30	14 410	R	14 560	19 900
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.70	219.59	5 440	F	5 540	4 150
Heywoods	5.5	1.25	154.88	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.00	150.47	4 300	R	4 630	6 890
Albury	4.3	1.04	148.48	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.30	127.32	4 570	F	6 050	6 260
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.03	117.07	12 930	F	21 260	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	3.08	106.92	15 870	F	21 270	6 780
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.37	80.92	6 930	F	6 830	3 600
Swan Hill	4.5	1.26	64.18	5 960	R	4 620	3 110
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.60	51.72	5 620	R	4 870	4 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.42	43.26	6 320	R	5 940	6 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	6 650	S	6 920	6 210
Rufus Junction	-	3.61	20.54	7 210	S	6 750	3 900
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.79	-	6 780	R	5 820	3 310
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.76	155.99	4 010	R	4 000	4 820
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.60	148.28	9 610	R	10 260	16 680
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.73	93.15	1 330	F	2 610	1 440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.03	80.80	780	F	930	590
Edward at Liewah	-	1.37	56.75	760	R	710	1 160
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.26	54.75	180	S	190	240
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.03	57.99	1 580	F	1 690	2 120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.69	-	1 420	R	680	660
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 080	S	1 060	850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	240	F	370	440

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 410	35 510
---	--------	--------

**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	-0.21	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+1.27
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.18
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.26	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.83
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.37	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.36
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.16	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.32
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.18	+0.00	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.04

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.72
--	------

**Barrages**

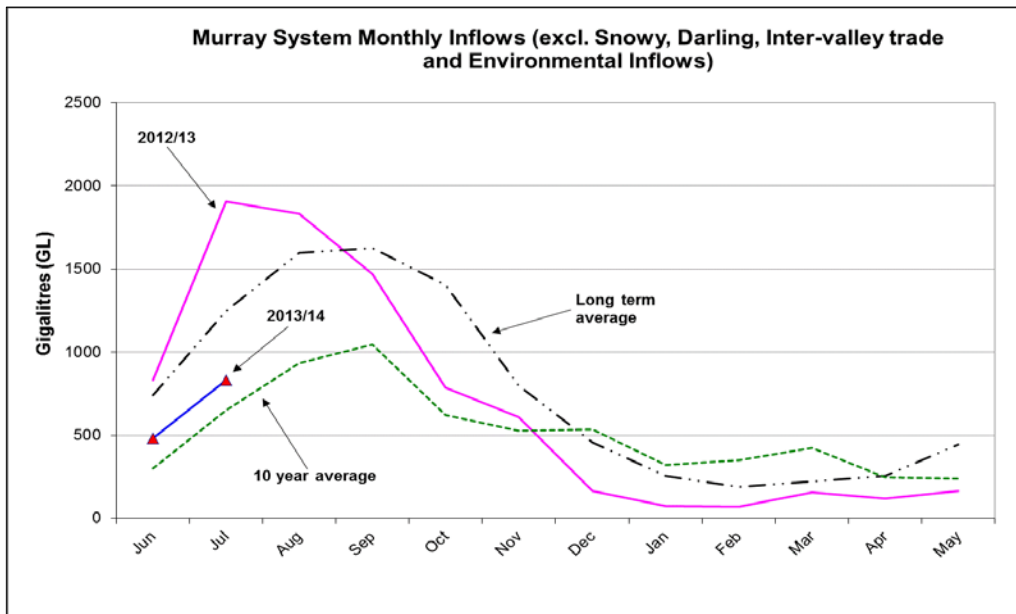
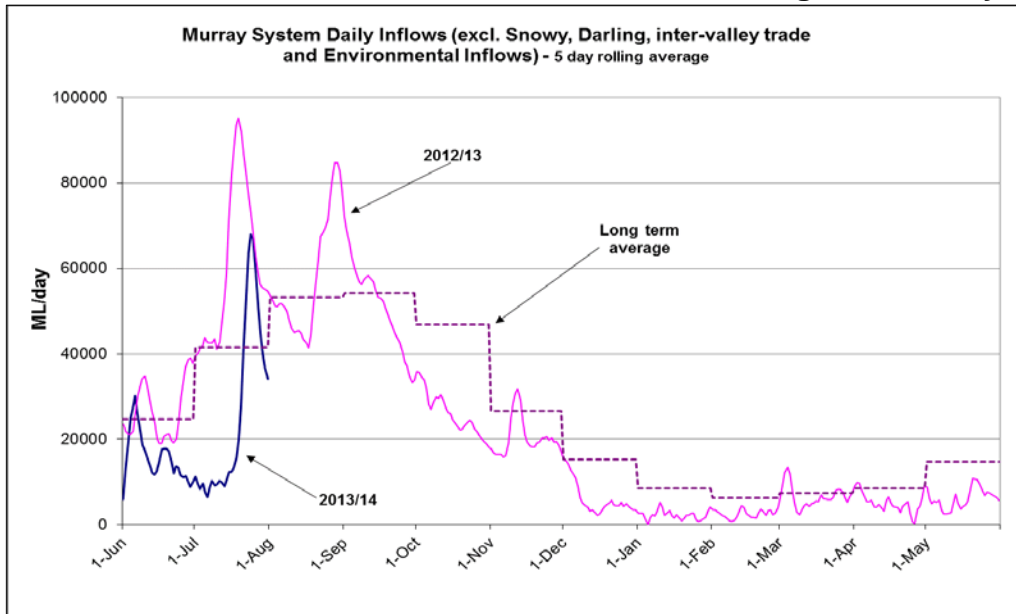
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.71	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	4	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 31 Jul 2013



**State Allocations (as at 31 Jul 2013)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	46%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	25%

**Victorian - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	72%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
---------------	------

NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>  
 VIC : <http://www.q-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>