



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014

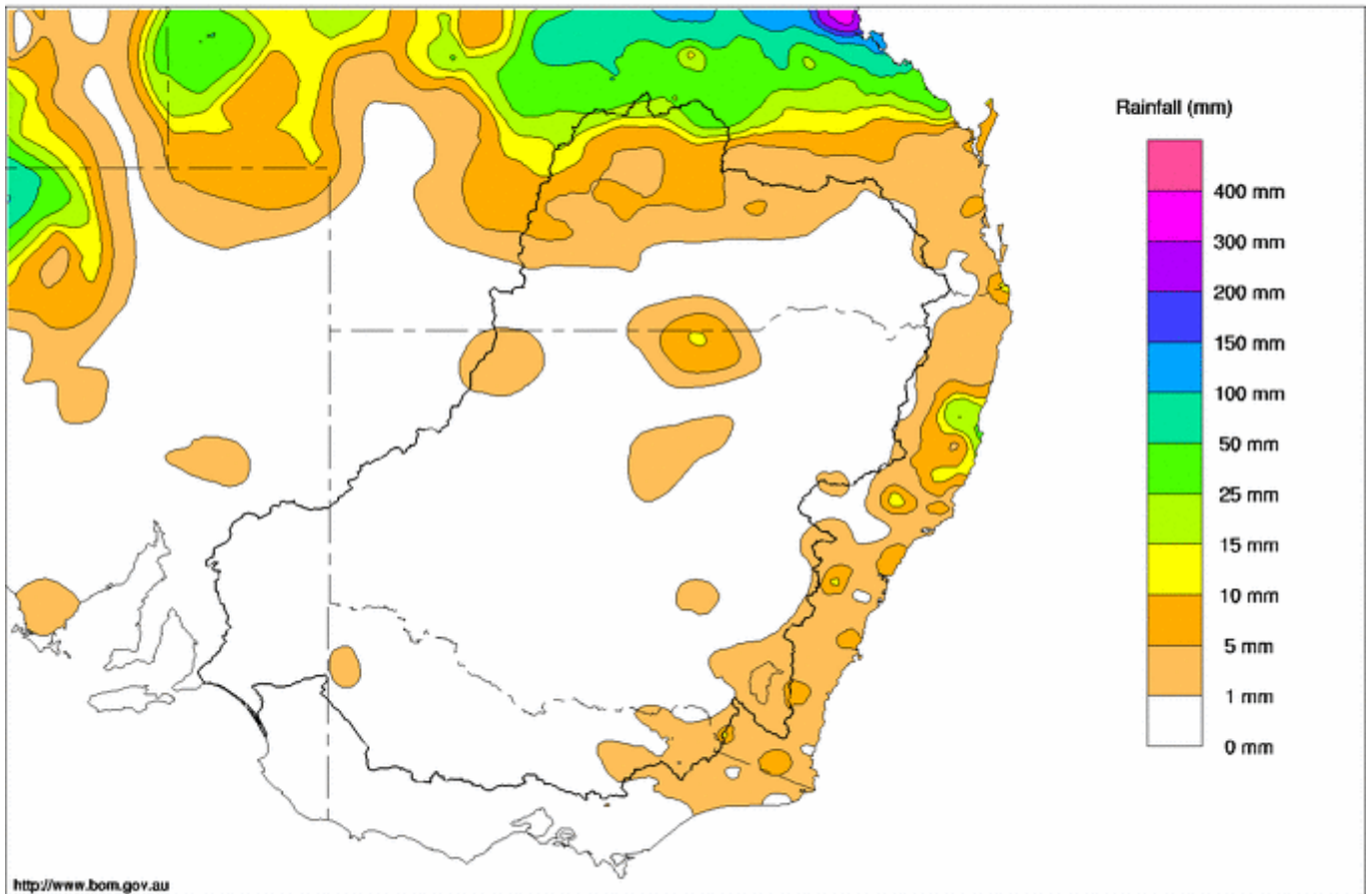
Trim Ref: D14/5223

Rainfall and Inflows

It was very hot and dry across the Murray-Darling Basin for much of the week before a cool change finally moved through. There was only light rain in the south-east with the change, with most parts of the Basin recording no rain at all for the week. Rain recorded in far northern parts of the Basin was associated with the summer monsoon in Queensland (Map 1). Further dry weather and warming temperatures are expected in the days ahead.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 5th February 2014

Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 5 February 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Streamflows in the upper Murray tributaries have returned to base flows following the short-lived peaks recorded during the previous week. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara receded from around 500 to 430 ML/day. At Hinnomunjie Bridge, the Mitta Mitta River has now fallen to a flow of just 130 ML/day, which is the lowest recorded so far this year. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 430 to 220 ML/day.

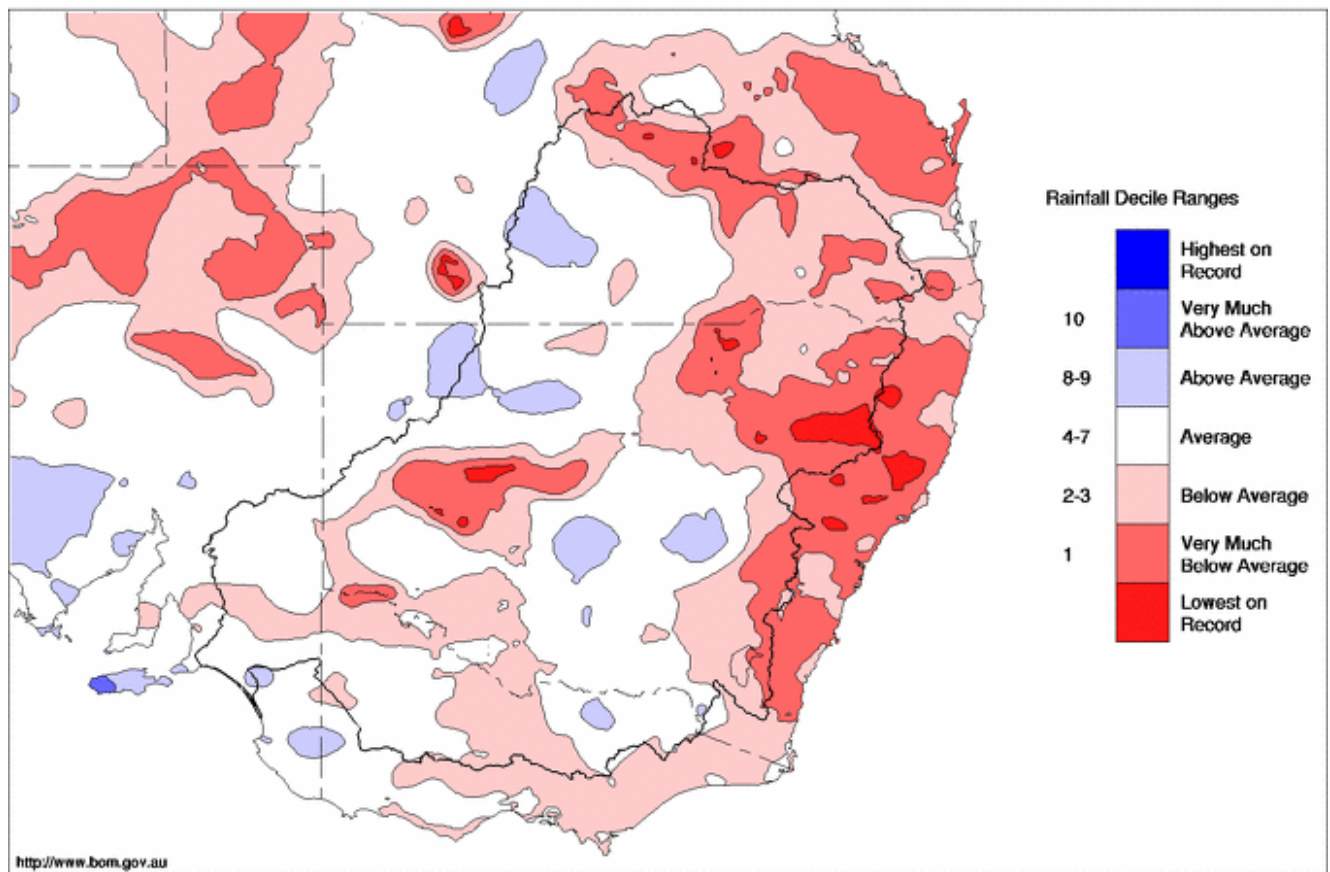


January 2014 Summary

The year got off to a relatively hot and dry start across the Murray-Darling Basin, with two significant heatwaves during the first part of the month and further hot conditions reported by the Bureau of Meteorology towards the end of the month. Average daily maximum temperatures for January were among the 10 hottest on record for Queensland, Victoria, NSW and South Australia. Conditions have been further impacted by a lack of rainfall, with parts of the eastern and northern Basin receiving practically no rain at all for the month. Rain was close to average across the central and south-eastern Basin but was mostly the result of a single rain event during the fourth week of the month (Map 2).

Overall for January, the Bureau of Meteorology has reported that rainfall was 60% below the long-term mean and the 21st driest out of 115 years of record with an area-averaged total of 22.2 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles January 2014
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for January 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Inflows to the River Murray System receded further during January with the monthly total (excluding Snowy and Darling and environmental inflows) decreasing to an estimate of around 100 GL. The total was slightly higher than January last year when inflows were only around 75 GL, but considerably less than the long-term average of around 260 GL (see the graph on page 6).

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 199 GL this week and is currently 5,600 GL or 65% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 16 GL to 3,560 GL (92% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, increased at the end of the week from 2,500 ML/day to 3,500 ML/day as harmony transfers continue (see attached flow advice).



At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 106 GL to 1,694 GL (56% capacity). The release averaged around 19,200 ML/day over the past week, and is currently around 18,200 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, diversions at the irrigation offtakes totalled around 55 GL compared with 50 GL last week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala ranged between 124.66 m AHD and 124.75 m AHD. The downstream release was reduced from 10,300 ML/day to 10,000 ML/day today (Wednesday 5 February).

On the Edward River system, diversions at Edward Offtake were relatively steady at around 1,580 ML/day. Diversions at Gulpa Offtake reduced from 500 ML/day to 400 ML/day as environmental deliveries for a bird breeding event in Millewa Forest draw to a close. Deliveries from the Edward River Escape averaged around 1,600 ML/day, while diversions at the Wakool Main Canal reduced from 1,600 ML/day to 1,400 ML/day. The flow downstream at Stevens Weir continues to target around 1,200 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow increased from around 2,000 ML/day to 2,700 ML/day. The flow is expected to remain around 2,800 ML/day over the coming week. These higher flows are resulting from the delivery of 'Inter-Valley Transfer' (IVT) water, which has been traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel reduced at the end of the week from 3,850 ML/day to 3,500 ML/day. The flow downstream of the weir rose during the week to 5,700 ML/day and is expected to continue rising over the coming days to around 6,000 ML/day and will remain steady for the Southern 80 ski race on the weekend of 8/9 February.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald increased to around 1,200 ML/day, but is expected to reduce back toward the normal February minimum of 180 ML/day in the coming week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow was relatively steady averaging around 5,200 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate over the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has issued a red alert warning for toxic blue green algae for Lakes Wetherell, Tandure and Menindee. For more information, see the attached Algal Alert Bulletin. The total storage volume decreased by 22 GL over the past week to 525 GL (30% capacity). Releases from the lakes, measured at Weir 32, were steady at around 1,000 ML/day. The release is expected to remain around this rate until the second week of February, after which time it will be reduced to a minimum flow of around 350 ML/day. At Burtundy, the flow has gradually reduced to 1,260 ML/day.

On the Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir has recovered from a low of around 2,400 ML/day following the hot temperatures and associated high losses and diversions experienced during the week, and is currently 3,800 ML/day. Flows at Wentworth are expected to continue rising over the coming week to above 4,000 ML/day. At Lock 9, the weir pool has returned to full supply level following a draw-down of 10cm during January.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level has reduced to 25.44 m AHD (495 GL, 73% capacity). The flow into South Australia was increased during the week to deliver additional water in the first half of February. This is necessary because essential remedial works on the Lake Victoria outlet regulator are expected to constrain daily flow rates to South Australia later in February. The flow to South Australia reached 10,100 ML/day during the week and is currently 9,800 ML/day. The flow is expected to reduce to around 7,500 ML/d over the coming week.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level reduced 2 cm over the week to 0.63 m AHD. The majority of the Barrages are closed to help protect the level in the Lakes with only one gate remaining open at Tauwitche. The fishways at the barrages also remain open.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 05 Feb 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	481.37	3 560	92%	71	3 489	-16
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	184.36	1 694	56%	23	1 671	-106
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.44	495	73%	100	395	-55
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		525	30%	(480 #)	45	-22
Total		9 269		6 274	68%	--	5 600	-199
Total Active MDBA Storage							65% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	473	46%	3	470	-18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 079	66%	24	1 055	-61
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 681	80%	100	2 581	-65

* 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 04 Feb 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 516	-15	Snowy-Murray	+13	634
Snowy-Murray Component	716	-18	Tooma-Tumut	+0	234
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	13	400
			Murray 1 Release	+11	916

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)	42.0	824	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.8	227
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.6	21	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.7	341
Western Murray Irrigation	1.5	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.2	90
Licensed Pumps	7.5	158	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	143
Lower Darling	6.0	175	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	213
TOTAL	59.6	1198	TOTAL	54.8	1014

* 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	194.0 *
Flow this week	62.3
Flow so far this month	48.2
Flow last month	240.0

(8 900 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	80	70	80
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	160	140	110
Merbein	150	150	120
Burtundy (Darling)	480	470	510
Lock 9	290	300	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	260
Berri	320	330	250
Waikerie	360	340	300
Morgan	330	310	300
Mannum	290	290	330
Murray Bridge	300	300	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	670	650	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	620	570	540
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 800	2 710	2 610
Goolwa Barrages	990	960	1 360



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 05 Feb 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	-	-	-	420	F	2 110	1 530
Jingellic	4.0	1.31	207.83	1 610	F	2 730	1 820
Tallandoo (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.34	219.23	3 610	R	2 820	2 820
Heywoods	5.5	3.42	157.05	18 240	S	19 230	15 200
Doctors Point	5.5	3.32	151.79	18 700	R	19 490	15 570
Albury	4.3	2.36	149.80	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.63	129.65	18 470	F	18 220	16 340
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.69	116.73	10 310	S	10 320	10 040
Tocumwal	6.4	2.32	106.16	9 810	F	9 830	9 730
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.03	80.58	5 730	R	5 410	6 260
Swan Hill	4.5	1.12	64.04	5 100	S	5 460	5 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.69	51.81	6 340	S	6 560	5 860
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.16	43.00	5 130	F	5 200	4 290
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	3 820	R	2 720	4 240
Rufus Junction	-	3.92	20.85	9 260	F	8 370	6 890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.74	-	5 690	R	4 490	3 410
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	340	R	290	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	220	R	260	480
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.41	93.83	2 690	R	2 270	2 490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.19	80.96	940	S	1 290	1 230
Edward at Liewah	-	1.84	57.22	1 160	R	1 120	1 040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.49	54.98	580	S	590	580
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.61	57.57	1 180	R	650	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.89	-	0	F	160	110
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	30	R	20	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.10	-	1 260	F	1 370	1 870

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 720	2 080
------------------------	-------	-------

(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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+1.58
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.36
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.10	+0.94
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.19	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.49	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.28
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.47	-0.02	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.01

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
--	------

Barrages

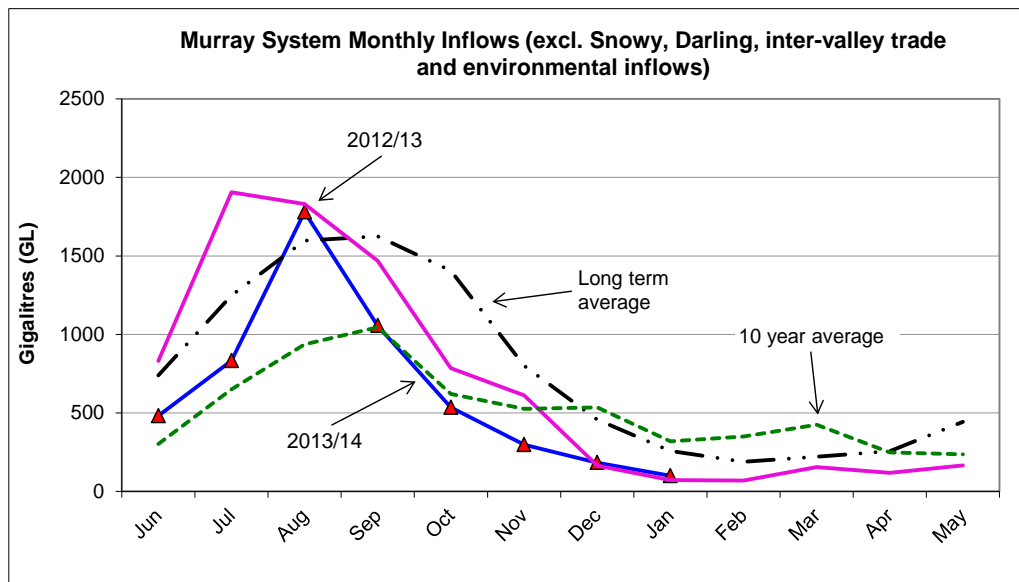
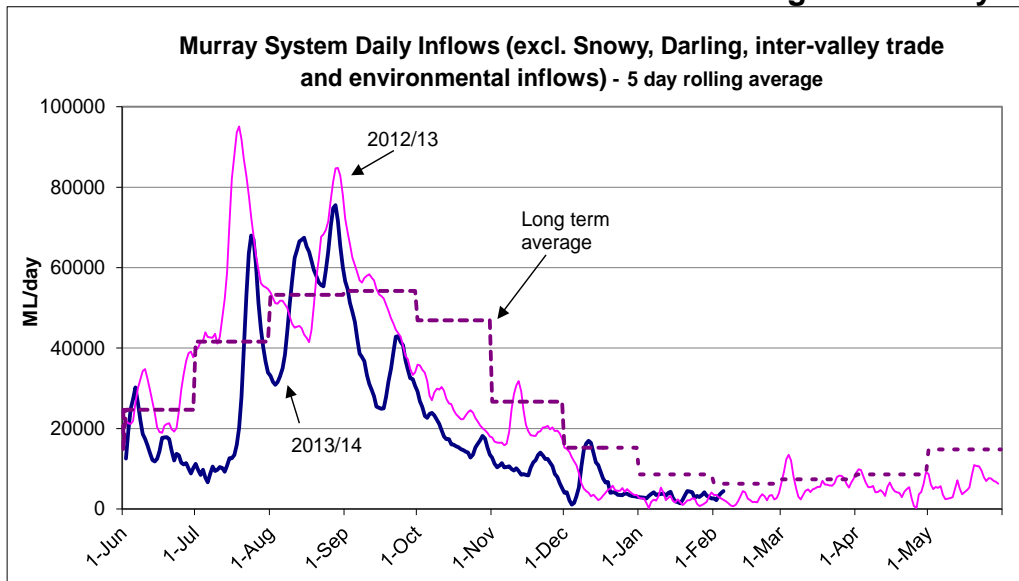
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.62	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	1	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 05 Feb 2014



State Allocations (as at 05 Feb 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%
---------------	------

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>

Mitta Mitta River Flow advice



3 February 2014

“Harmony” releases continue from Dartmouth Reservoir during February

Landholders and river users should take into account increased water releases from Dartmouth Reservoir into the Mitta Mitta River starting this week and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

From Tuesday, February 4 2014, the flow will be increased from the current flow of 2,500 megalitres per day (ML/day) at Colemans gauge (gauge height 1.79m) to a flow of 3,500ML/day (gauge height 1.98m) on Wednesday, February 5.

At this stage, a release rate of 3,500ML/day is expected to continue until around the middle of February, with the release rate reducing to around 2,000ML/day during the second half of the month.

The flow at Tallandoon is currently about 2,700ML/day (gauge height 2.11m). Current forecasts, assuming dry conditions, indicate that the higher releases from Dartmouth Reservoir during the first half of February will result in a peak flow at Tallandoon of about 3,600ML/day (gauge height 2.33m).

Dartmouth Reservoir is currently storing 3,563GL (92 per cent capacity). These “harmony” releases from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir free up additional airspace in Dartmouth Reservoir and therefore increase its flood mitigation capacity for the coming winter and spring without affecting the security of supply to downstream water users.

Variations in the release rate are aimed at improving the Mitta Mitta River’s water quality downstream of the Dartmouth Reservoir.

A further flow advice will be issued if these forecasts change significantly.

The MDBA routinely updates the flow forecasts its website at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes each Wednesday.

The Weekly Report is also available at mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report

ENDS

Media enquiries can be directed to the MDBA Media Office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

Public enquiries can be directed to engagement@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

Follow the MDBA on Twitter: http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>

Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, 5 February 2014

Red alert for issued for sections of the Menindee Lakes system

The Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee today issued a red alert warning for toxic blue green algae for Lakes Wetherell, Tandure and Menindee in the Menindee Lakes system in western NSW.

Sunraysia RACC Chair, Owen Russell, said that the very high readings taken in these lakes were not surprising given the extreme temperatures and reduced inflows.

“A red alert level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals.

“Town water supply to residents along the Sunset Strip and to the township of Menindee is safe to use, however it is not advisable to use the raw water from these lakes while the red alert is in place.”

Mr Russell said that a red alert for the Great Darling Anabranch continues with landholders advised to keep stock away from water at this site until the bloom passes.

Water users should use personal discretion at all times and avoid any water source that appears green or has a septic or musty odour.

Suspicious blooms can be reported to the NSW Office of Water on 1800 353 104.

For the latest information on blue green algae in your area, ring toll free 1800 999 457.