



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014

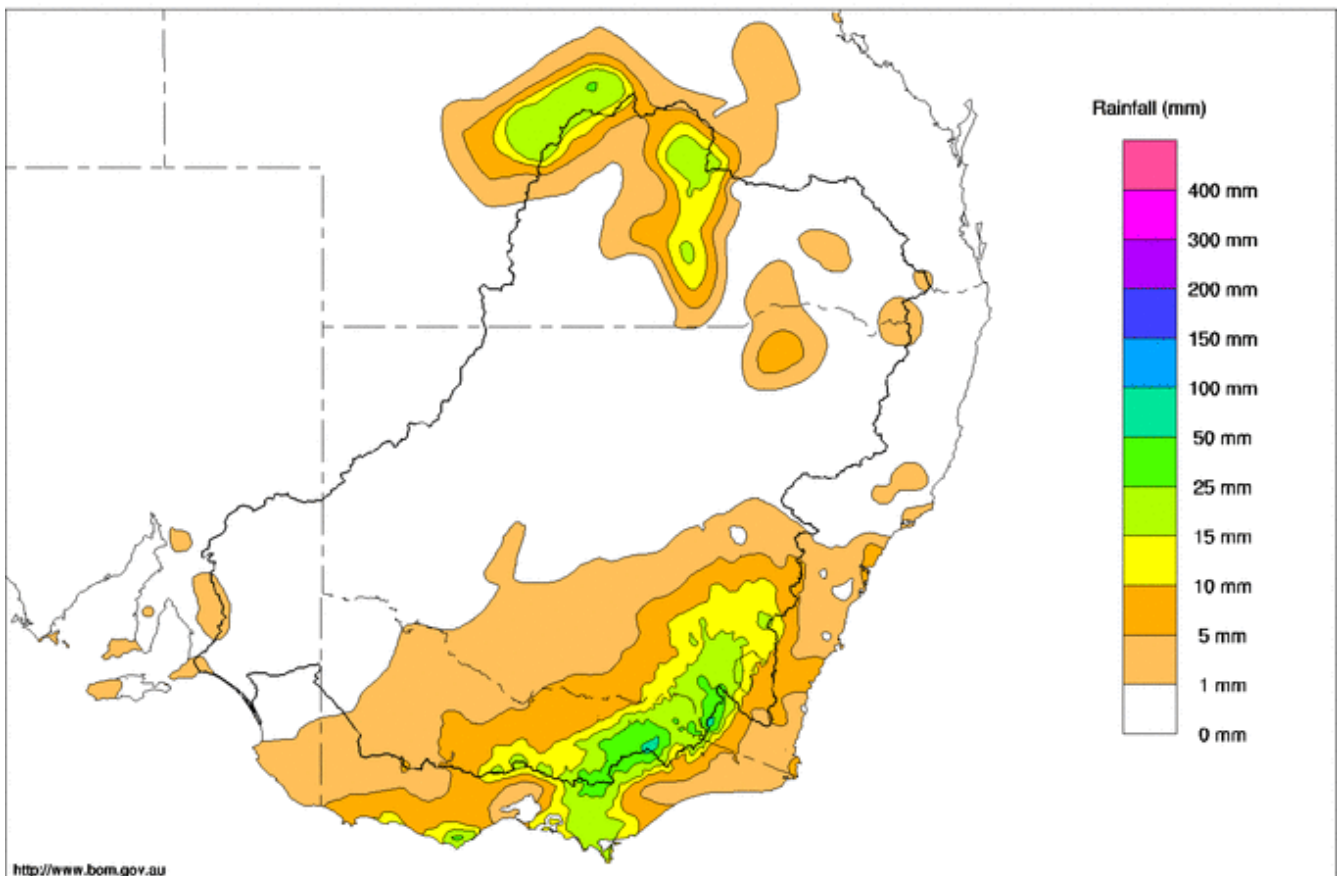
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## Rainfall and Inflows

At the beginning of the week, a cold front crossed Victoria, with an associated rainband bringing light to moderate falls to parts of southern Victoria (see Map 1). In a separate weather event mid-week, a surface trough located over central Queensland triggered thunderstorm activity with isolated rainfall being recorded in southern Queensland. South Australia remained dry this week along with a large area of NSW.

The highest rainfall totals were in south east Victoria with Mount Hotham recording 58mm and Mount Buffalo 44mm. The largest totals in NSW were recorded in the south east of the state although moderate rain did extend north to places such as Bigga which recorded 18mm. In Queensland one of the higher totals was 18mm recorded at Mitchell.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 8th October 2014  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Map 1- Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

The rain across south eastern Australia did little to elicit stream flow response. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie peaked at 3,800 ML/day and is now receding. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta increased to 2,200 ML/day before receding.



## River Operations

- Bureau of Meteorology forecasts further rainfall for the south east of the Murray Darling Basin in the coming week
- Campaspe River will rise this week with an environmental flow pulse
- Weir pool level variability continues at Lock 8

MDBA total storage decreased by 59 GL this week, with the active storage now 6,411 GL (76% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 27 GL to 3,619 GL (94% capacity) as water continues to be transferred to Hume reservoir to meet summer demand. Dartmouth releases, measured at Colemans, were reduced from 7,000 ML/day at the beginning of the week to 5,000 ML/day. Commencing this weekend, releases will be gradually reduced until flows reach 3,000 ML/day at Colemans next week.

**Hume** Reservoir storage capacity decreased by 2 GL this week and is currently 2,342 GL (78% capacity). Release at Doctors Point varied between 12,000 to 14,000 ML/day this week in response to downstream demands and the flow at Doctors Point, over the coming week, will be influenced by rainfall predicted early next week by the Bureau of Meteorology.

At **Lake Mulwala**, diversions steadily increased at both major irrigation offtakes with weekly averages of 1,900 ML/day and 1,800 ML/day at Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel respectively. While the forecast orders at the major irrigation offtakes are increasing it is likely that the total demand will reduce if the forecast rain eventuates.

In the **Edward-Wakool** system, flows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are steady at 1,600 ML/day and 350 ML/day respectively.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has averaged around 3,000 ML/day this week. This flow has largely been comprised of environmental water en route to provide benefit to the Chowilla floodplain and Lower Lakes in South Australia in a few weeks' time. The flow at McCoys Bridge is forecast to recede to around 1,000 ML/day over the coming week.

On the **Campaspe** River, the flow at Rochester is currently 200 ML/day but will rise over the coming week due a pulse of environmental water. This pulse is targeting vegetation and fish passage outcomes in the Campaspe River before contributing to environmental watering actions in South Australia. The flow is likely to reach a peak of 1,500 ML/day on the weekend and will be maintained for around one week.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions from National Channel are 2,800 ML/day, but are forecast to reduce to 2,300 over the coming week. Diversions through the inlet into **Koondrook-Perricoota** Forest have now ceased, including the small flow passing through the fishway. Access to some areas of Koondrook-Perricoota continues to be restricted as water progresses through the forest. The release from Torrumbarry Weir is 7,700 ML/day.

Further downstream, inflow to the Murray from the **Murrumbidgee** River at Balranald has been reduced to the October minimum flow of 1,030 ML/day and is forecast to remain steady over the coming week.

At **Euston**, the pool level is being managed at around 20 cm above the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 47.6 m AHD and the downstream release has risen to 9,200 ML/day.



At **Hattah Lakes**, around 135 ML/day continues to be pumped from the River Murray into Lake Kramen. Hattah releases returning to the Murray via Oateys and Messengers regulators have temporarily ceased.

At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage volume has decreased a further 8 GL to 306 GL (18% capacity) largely due to evaporation. For the second week in a row, the average release at Weir 32 totalled 125 ML/day. NSW Office of Water is closely monitoring flows in the Lower Darling River, with the aim of maximising the volume of water retained in the lakes whilst still ensuring there is a visible flow at Burtundy. For more information please visit the NSW Office of Water website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)).

At **Wentworth Weir** on the Murray, the pool level is being held around 10 cm above FSL. This is aimed at assisting irrigators within the weir influence to continue to divert water while there are low flows in the Lower Darling. The release from Wentworth Weir is 6,300 ML/day, and forecast to increase to around 9,500 ML/day over the coming week.

At **Lock 8**, the weir pool level will be raised a further 10cm to 70cm above FSL (25.3m AHD). The changes are part of a trial by the New South Wales Office of Water to introduce variations to weir pool levels to achieve a more natural wetting and drying cycle for the riverine environment.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume decreased 22 GL to 644 GL (95% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently targeting 7,850 ML/day. The flow will be increased to 8,700 ML/day this week which incorporates entitlement flows, environmental water traded from the Goulburn River, and environmental water being used to test the new works on the Chowilla Floodplain.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the five-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.71 m AHD and releases from the barrages are targeting 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 08 Oct 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	482.32	3 619	94%	71	3 548	-27
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.46	2 342	78%	23	2 319	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.73	644	95%	100	544	-22
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		306	18%	(- -) #	0	-8
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 911</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 411</b>	<b>-59</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							76% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	840	82%	3	837	-24
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 100	67%	24	1 076	-37
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 910	87%	100	2 810	-10

\* 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 07 Oct 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 094	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	202
Snowy-Murray Component	964	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	162
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-1	40
			Murray 1 Release	+13	386

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.5	170	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.8	52
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.4	9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	16.9	214
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.2	13
Licensed Pumps	3.7	51	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	6
Lower Darling	0.3	14	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>323</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	170.0 *
Flow this week	53.5
Flow so far this month	60.5
Flow last month	184.3

(7 600 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	110	100	100
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	150	150	130
Merbein	160	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	670	670	800
Lock 9	160	170	140
Lake Victoria	220	210	200
Berri	240	240	210
Waikerie	290	270	290
Morgan	250	250	270
Mannum	310	300	340
Murray Bridge	350	350	410
Milang (Lake Alex.)	730	730	740
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	590	560	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 290	2 270	2 260
Goolwa Barrages	910	980	1 220



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 08 Oct 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	-	-	-	4 780	F	2 390	2 880
Jingellic	4.0	2.07	208.59	7 230	R	5 520	6 830
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.73	219.62	5 610	F	6 480	7 320
Heywoods	5.5	2.87	156.50	13 490	R	12 050	6 160
Doctors Point	5.5	2.96	151.43	14 180	R	12 730	8 040
Albury	4.3	1.95	149.39	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.77	128.79	12 480	R	12 330	7 710
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.66	116.70	10 030	S	10 040	10 020
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	9 550	F	9 520	9 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.59	81.14	7 740	R	7 930	6 230
Swan Hill	4.5	1.55	64.47	8 170	S	7 890	4 360
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.34	52.46	9 230	R	8 050	5 300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.84	43.68	9 220	R	7 190	5 900
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	6 270	R	6 130	7 540
Rufus Junction	-	3.61	20.54	7 210	F	6 920	6 490
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.72	-	4 460	R	4 300	5 650
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	154.77	1 270	R	1 200	1 640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.61	146.29	2 150	R	1 620	2 470
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.67	94.09	3 190	R	2 920	2 760
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.81	80.58	560	S	670	1 020
Edward at Liewah	-	1.76	57.14	1 090	R	860	1 010
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.54	55.03	680	F	690	690
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.49	57.45	1 080	S	1 120	1 340
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.02	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	10	S	20	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	50	F	60	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 060	12 310
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+1.27
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.22	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.18	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.13	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.34	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.46
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.63	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.32	+0.46
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.60	+0.08	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.33	-0.03

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.71
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**Barrages**

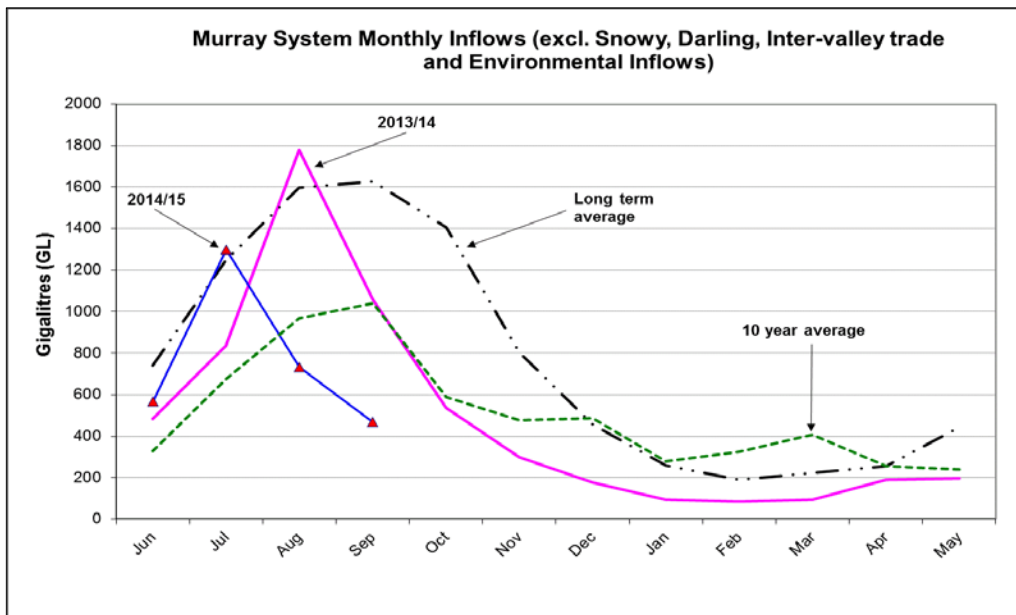
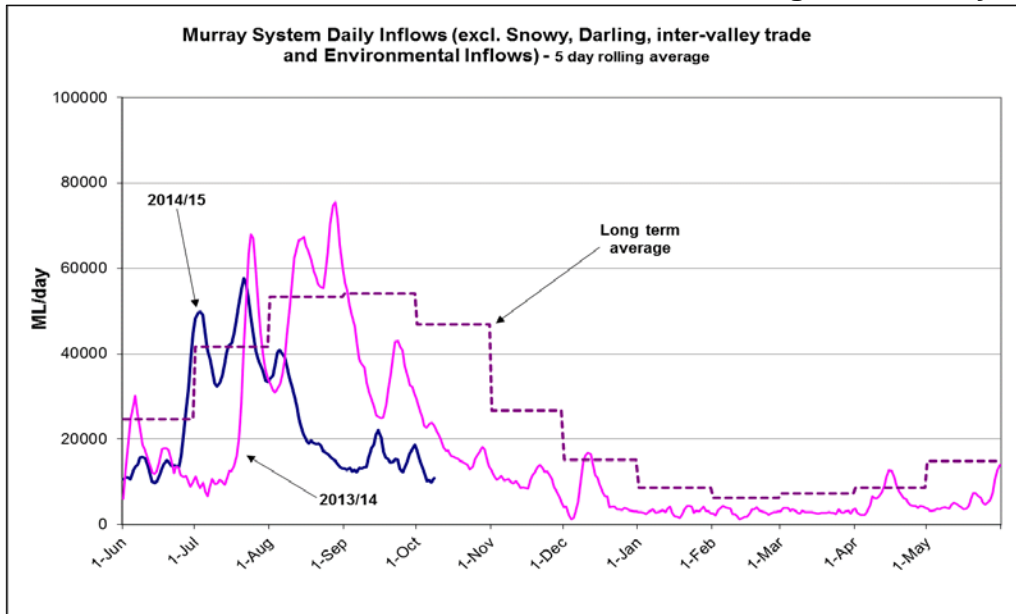
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.67	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.71	3	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 08 Oct 2014



**State Allocations (as at 08 Oct 2014)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	34%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	37%

**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>