



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2014

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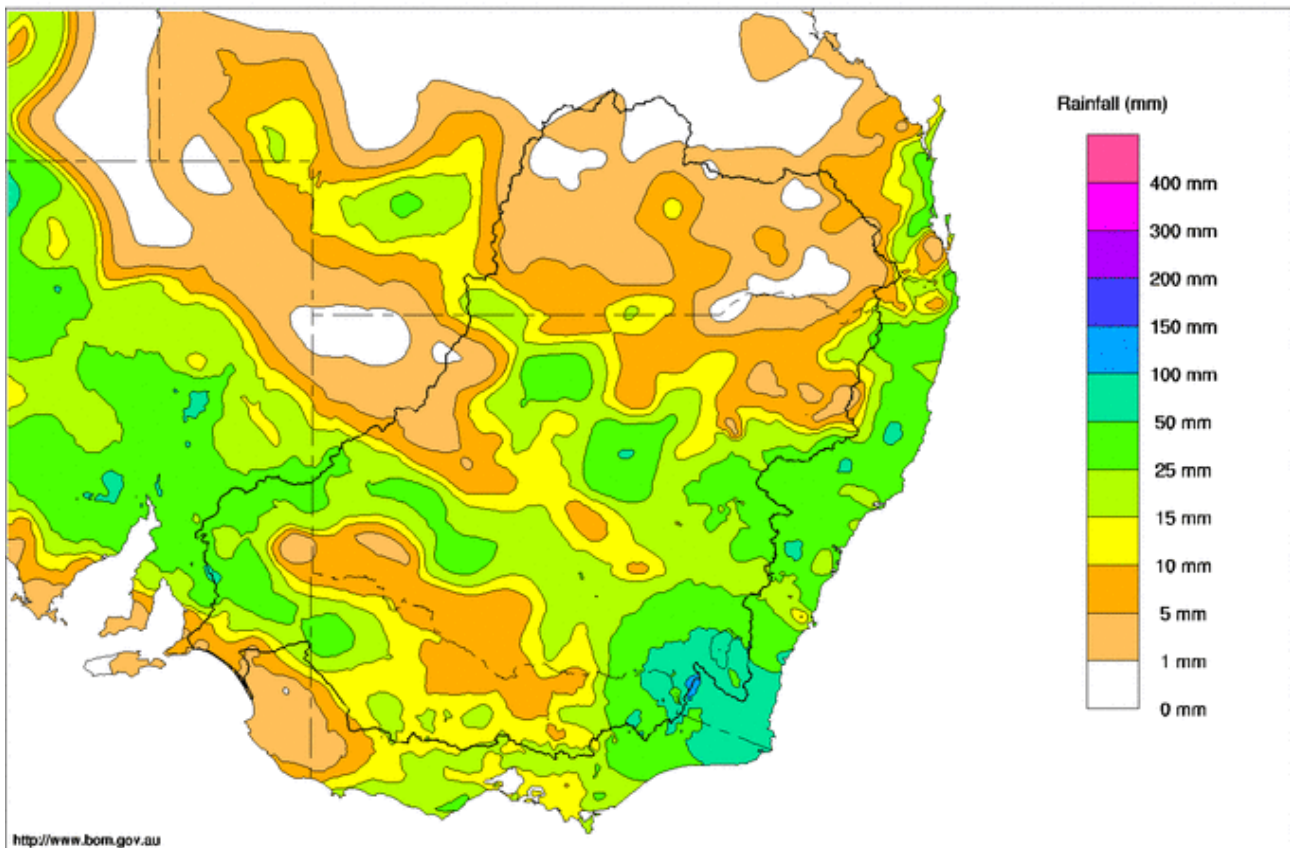
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall persisted over eastern and south-eastern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin early this week as a trough system lingered over the region. Towards the end of the week, a new rain system moved into South Australia from the north-west, generating rain across western parts of the Basin (Map 1). As of 10 April, this system is continuing to deliver further widespread rain across the southern Basin that is expected to considerably dampen demands and transmission losses along the River Murray System over the coming days.

The highest rainfall totals were recorded over the NSW Snowy Mountains and surrounding area of the south-east. There were totals up to around 100 mm over the alpine peaks, while other notable totals included 75 mm at Tuggeranong, 74 mm at Cooma, 70 mm at Adaminaby, 67 mm at Tumbarumba and 66 mm at Hunters Hill. Elsewhere in the Basin, there was worthwhile rain in central and western NSW including 47 mm at Nyngan and 43 mm at Bourke; and in South Australia, where totals included 69 mm at Eudunda, 63 mm at Point Pass, 49 mm at Blanchetown and 42 mm at Morgan.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 9th April 2014

Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 9 April 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flow responses were highest in the tributaries upstream of Hume Reservoir and were some of the best observed for the year so far. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara rose above 1,000 ML/day for only the second time since the start of January. Downstream at Jingellic, the flow reached a peak of 5,400 ML/day with the current flow at 2,500 ML/day. On the Tooma River, the flow at Pinegrove increased from 250 ML/day to a peak of around 750 ML/day.



River Operations

Rainfall during recent weeks continues to modify operations on the River Murray System as overall demands decrease. Storage release rates are relatively low for this time of the year, meaning flows upstream of South Australia could be lower than is often seen leading into the Easter and school holiday period. However with rainfall continuing, there is uncertainty in river level forecasts and Murray River communities and holiday makers are advised to keep up to date with river level forecasts (see attached media release).

MDBA active storage decreased by 46 GL this week and is currently 4,727 GL or 56% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 7 GL to 3,431 GL (89% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, was decreased to a low of 500 ML/day over the weekend before increasing again to 4,000 ML/day due to AGL Hydro commencing an entitlement release for hydro-electric power generation.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume fell by just 19 GL this week with total storage now down to 1,057 GL (36% capacity). The release was increased to around 9,400 ML/day at the start of the week before reductions were made as downstream demands softened ahead of forecast rain. The current release is 6,700 ML/day and is likely to decrease further in the coming days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, diversions at the major irrigation offtakes increased marginally before dropping right back as demand fell away. Very low diversions are expected during the coming week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala was fairly steady for much of the week but as of 10 April, the level has risen above 124.8 m AHD as rain continues. A pool level close to FSL (124.9 m AHD) is expected this weekend. The downstream release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced to 6,000 ML/day on 8 April, however it is anticipated that slightly higher releases will be maintained during the next few days to manage the pool level before reductions re-commence. The release as of 10 April had increased to 9,500 ML/day.

On the Edward River system, total flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes has eased slightly; while downstream at Stevens Weir, the flow downstream increased from around 600 to 800 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, flows at McCoys Bridge have receded throughout the week with the current flow at 1,650 ML/day. Rain that is currently falling over the catchment may increase unregulated tributary inflows, however at this stage, flows along the lower Goulburn are not expected to rise to any significant degree.

Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, diversions at National Channel decreased markedly from around 3,000 to 1,000 ML/day as demand fell away. A further reduction is possible in the days ahead. The downstream flow at Torrumbarry is currently about 4,000 ML/day, however higher flows are expected during the coming week as undiverted water is passed downstream. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 290 ML/day. Downstream at Euston Weir, the release is increasing as higher flows from the Goulburn River continue to arrive.

On the Darling River system, tributary inflows resulting from recent rain in the northern Basin are now flowing along the Barwon River and into the Darling. On the Barwon River at Walgett, the flow peaked at 6,700 ML/day on 4 April and rises are now being observed downstream at Bourke. At Menindee Lakes, the storage decreased by 4 GL and is now at 383 GL (22% capacity). The release continues to target a flow of 350 ML/day at Weir 32.

At Lake Victoria, essential maintenance works on the outlet structure are continuing. The storage volume has decreased to 410 GL (61% capacity) and the flow to South Australia is currently 7,200 ML/day, with a target of 8,000 ML/day for the next few days.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.62 m AHD. Releases through the Barrages have been further increased, with the current outflow estimated at around 2,200 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 09 Apr 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	479.29	3 431	89%	71	3 360	-7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	179.54	1 080	36%	23	1 057	-19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.64	410	61%	100	310	-19
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		383	22%	(-) #	0	-4
Total		9 269		5 304	57%	--	4 727	-50
Total Active MDBA Storage							56% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	515	50%	3	512	+39
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	801	49%	24	777	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 295	69%	100	2 195	-24

* 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 08 Apr 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 534	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+2	653
Snowy-Murray Component	726	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	243
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	0	410
			Murray 1 Release	+4	951

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)	13.3	1066	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.2	308
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.4	43	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.9	502
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	25	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	107
Licensed Pumps	5.9	228	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.9	160
Lower Darling	0.2	197	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	267
TOTAL	22.1	1559	TOTAL	29.3	1344

* 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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	33.8	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	44.5	
Flow last month	222.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	100	100	100
Red Cliffs	150	150	120
Merbein	160	160	120
Burtundy (Darling)	500	520	500
Lock 9	180	170	180
Lake Victoria	220	230	250
Berri	280	270	270
Waikerie	350	380	330
Morgan	410	400	320
Mannum	420	430	340
Murray Bridge	430	430	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	790	790	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	660	560
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 690	2 720	2 670
Goolwa Barrages	980	1 020	1 300



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 09 Apr 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	-	-	-	850	F	2 120	450
Jingellic	4.0	1.39	207.91	2 490	F	3 290	1 410
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.42	219.31	3 990	R	2 210	3 730
Heywoods	5.5	2.48	156.11	6 700	S	7 630	6 340
Doctors Point	5.5	2.38	150.85	7 760	R	8 590	7 640
Albury	4.3	1.41	148.85	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.01	128.03	7 940	F	9 010	8 520
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.10	116.14	5 930	F	6 440	7 300
Tocumwal	6.4	1.81	105.65	6 630	S	6 670	7 540
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.53	80.07	4 060	R	4 770	6 240
Swan Hill	4.5	1.05	63.97	4 690	F	5 450	4 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.63	51.75	6 300	F	6 150	4 450
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.29	43.13	5 850	R	5 330	4 040
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	5 710	R	3 790	4 220
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 770	R	4 290	5 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.59	-	3 730	R	3 520	5 170
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	340	S	360	600
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.95	145.63	500	S	510	570
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.89	93.31	1 650	F	2 190	3 670
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.06	80.83	820	F	680	620
Edward at Liewah	-	1.34	56.72	730	R	660	600
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	430	R	350	390
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.63	56.59	290	R	220	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.59	-	1 060	R	670	210
Darling at Bourke	-	4.13	-	500	R	240	600
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	230	R	200	270

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 410	1 880
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.25
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+0.20
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.13	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.10	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+0.24	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.14	+0.35
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.18	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.21	+0.29
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.23	+0.17	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.21	-0.17

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

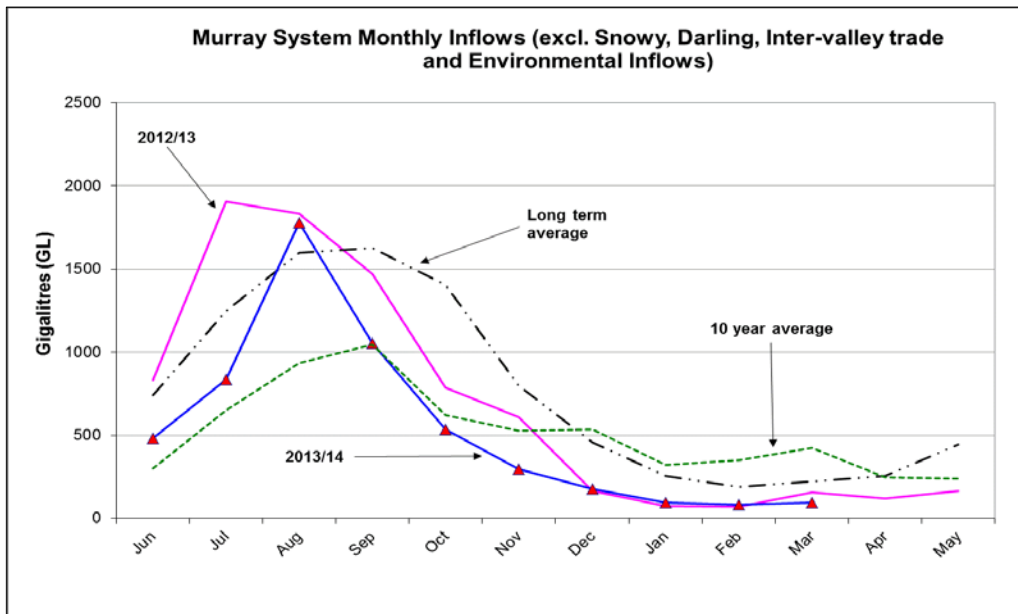
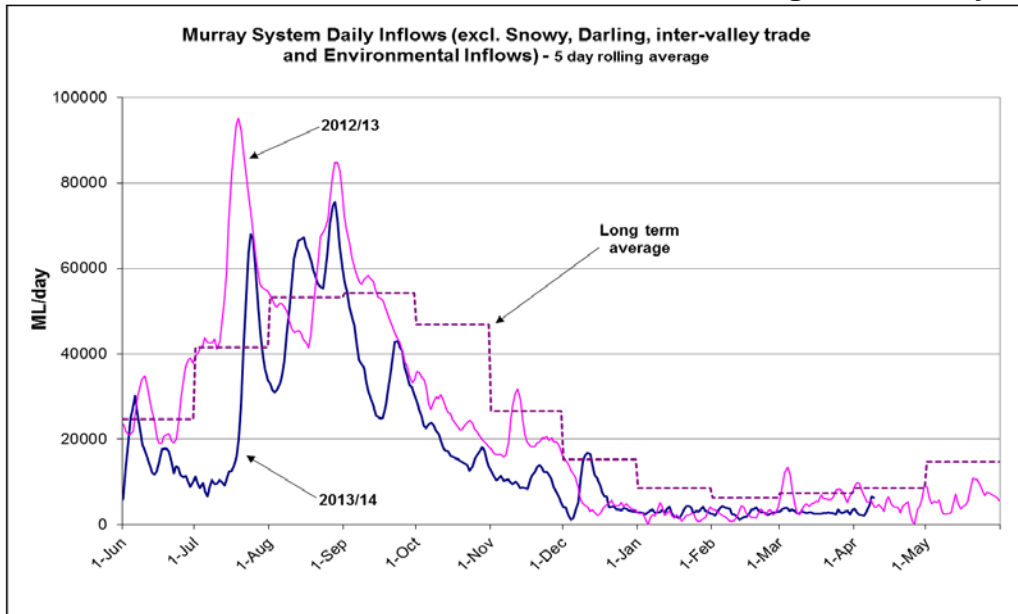
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.62
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.59	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.62	4	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 09 Apr 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%
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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>

MEDIA RELEASE



11 April 2014

Easter outlook for Murray flows

Communities and holiday makers along the River Murray System are advised to keep up to date with river level forecasts during the Easter period.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said flows upstream of South Australia will be influenced by the widespread rain that has fallen over the Murray catchment in the past few days.

“Demand for water has reduced considerably in recent weeks, due to the weather, and the MDBA has been reducing releases from upper storages to conserve as much water as possible for next year,” Mr Dreverman said.

“This means if weather conditions become dry, river flows between Hume Dam and Mildura could be quite low for this time of year.”

Mr Dreverman said the impact on River users would mainly be seen in those reaches upstream of Mildura, where water levels are not controlled by weir pools.

People along the river, including recreational users, are advised to visit MDBA’s website for the latest information about river flows and levels at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts

For more information on how the MDBA’s river management takes account of communities’ recreational needs, see the MDBA River Operations and Recreation page at www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/managing-rivers/river-murray-system/operations-and-recreation

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141

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