



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2014

Trim Ref: D14/24367

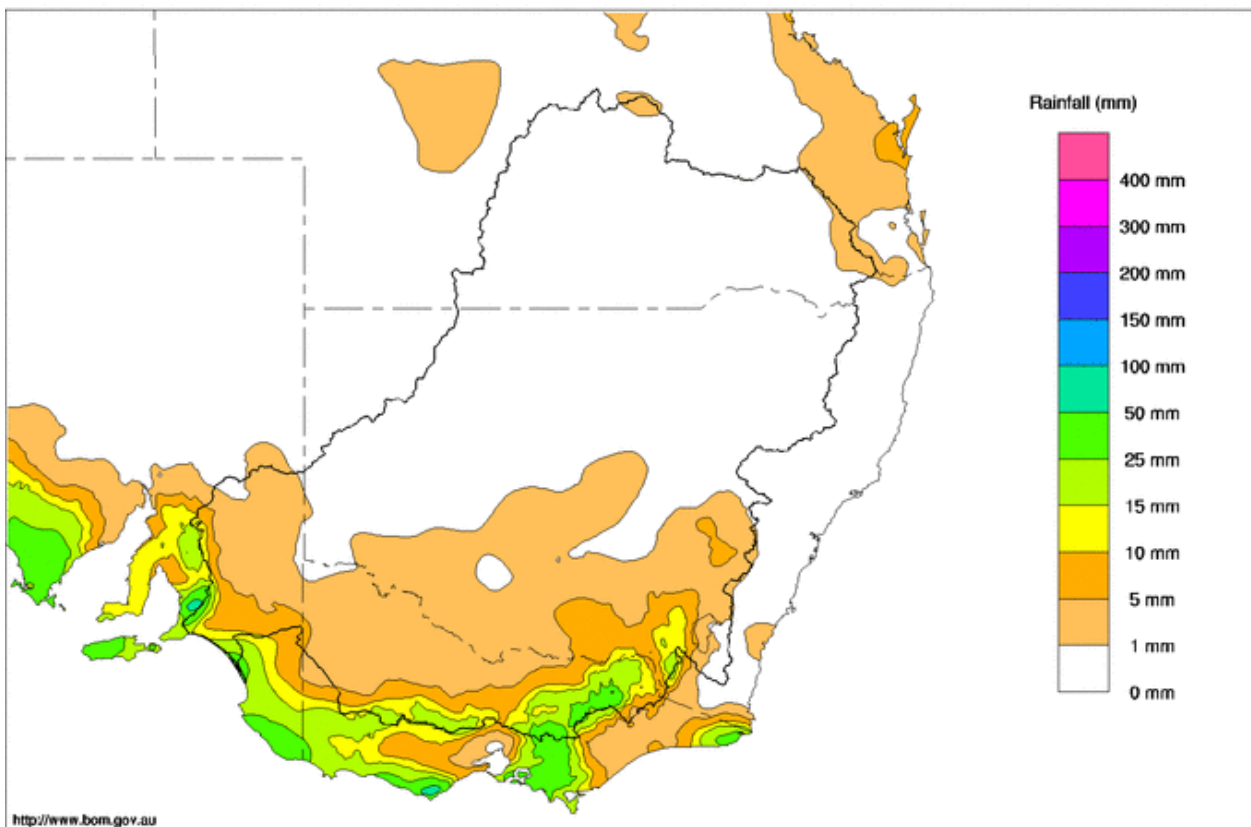
Rainfall and Inflows

There was a familiar pattern to the rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin this week: mostly dry conditions across the north and rainfall in the south, with the wettest areas along the southern Great Divide and ranges (Map 1). The rain was once again associated with the passage of cold frontal systems across southern Australia, while fine weather has prevailed in the north under a ridge of high pressure. These systems have been a recurrent theme of the last few weeks and are very typical of the winter period. More frontal systems are expected during the next few days.

The highest rainfall totals this week were in the Victorian Alps and across South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges. There were totals up to 25 mm over the NSW Snowy Mountains, along the central Victorian highlands and the South Australian coastal region near the Lower Lakes. Rain across the plains of northern Victoria and southern NSW was relatively light, with weekly totals generally less than 5 mm. The highest weekly totals within the Basin included 63 mm at Mt Buller, 53 mm at Rocky Valley, 46 mm at Mt Buffalo, 39 mm at Mt Barker and 22 mm at Meningie.

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

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2014, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 09/07/2014

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

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries receded early in the week following earlier peaks, but have since risen to new (lesser) peaks during the past few days. On the Tooma River, the flow at Pinegrove peaked at 2,900 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic peaked at 9,400 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point reached a peak of 8,100 ML/day and is currently flowing at 6,900 ML/day. Renewed rises are anticipated in the next few days.



River Operations

- Overbank flows continue in Barmah-Millewa Forest;
- Noticeable decrease in salinity in Lake Albert due to mixing following recent storm events.

MDBA total storage increased this week by 139 GL. Active storage is now at 5,521 GL (65% capacity). Storage in **Dartmouth** Reservoir increased by 20 GL to 3,535 GL (92% capacity). The flow at Colemans is steady at 200 ML/day.

Inflows to **Hume** Reservoir averaged around 16,000 ML/day with the storage rising 107 GL to 1,702 GL (57% capacity). Release remains at the minimum flow of 600 ML/day. Inflows from the Kiewa River downstream of Hume are keeping the flow at Doctors Point averaging around 3,600 ML/day.

At **Yarrowonga** Weir, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.73 m AHD. The release peaked at 20,500 ML/day and is currently 14,700 ML/day. Further downstream, most regulators into the Barmah-Millewa Forest are open as flows are well above the channel capacity of the **Barmah Choke**.

On the **Edward-Wakool** system, around 2,000 ML/day is flowing through the Edward River offtake, which remains fully open. The Gulpa Creek offtake is passing around 350 ML/day. At Toonalook, the flow is currently 3,700 ML/day and rising due to inflows from the River Murray via the Millewa forest. At Stevens Weir, the flow downstream is currently 2,300 ML/day and forecast to increase above channel capacity (around 2,700 ML/day) during the coming week.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge peaked around 5,500 ML/day and is currently 2,900 ML/day. Downstream at **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel have been steady at 700 ML/day, as environmental watering of the Gunbower Forest continues. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has averaged around 10,900 ML/day and expected to remain above 10,000 ML/day during the coming week.

On the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald is currently 760 ML/day and expected to rise above 3,000 ML/day in the coming week. At **Euston** Weir, the pool level is currently 8 cm above Full Supply Level (FSL). The level will continue to be gradually lowered below FSL over the coming week. Levels at Euston and **Lock 8** can be expected to be variable throughout the remainder of July and updates will be provided in future reports. The flow downstream of Euston Weir is 9,400 ML/day, and forecast to continue rising to 13,000 ML/day over the coming week.

Environmental watering of the **Hattah Lakes**, located between Robinvale and Mildura, is continuing with almost 1,000 ML/day being pumped into Chalka Creek.

At **Mildura Weir**, lock and weir works are due to commence late next week. Further information is provided in the attached media release. Storage in **Menindee Lakes** remains fairly steady, with a decrease this week of just 3 GL to 376 GL (22% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently around 200 ML/day.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased this week by 14 GL to 478 GL (71% capacity, 25.28 m AHD). The flow to South Australia averaged 4,000 ML/day over the past week, and will be around 4,500 ML/day in the coming week.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently 0.7 m AHD. Releases through the barrages and fishways averaged around 1,900 ML/day. Recent storm events have resulted in a large amount of water mixing in Lake Albert resulting in a noticeable decrease in salinity, currently around 2,300 ML/day. This is around 150 EC less than the average salinity recorded during June 2014.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 09 Jul 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	480.98	3 535	92%	71	3 464	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	184.42	1 702	57%	23	1 679	+107
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.28	478	71%	100	378	+14
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		376	22%	(-) #	0	-3
Total		9 269		6 091	66%	--	5 521	+139
Total Active MDBA Storage							65% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	687	67%	3	684	+20
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 052	64%	24	1 028	+33
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 492	75%	100	2 392	+55

* 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 Jul 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 564	+24	Snowy-Murray	+9	114
Snowy-Murray Component	853	+1	Tooma-Tumut	+8	66
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	1	48
			Murray 1 Release	+12	171

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)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.3	2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	0
Licensed Pumps	0.5	1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.2	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	1
TOTAL	2.1	3	TOTAL	1.2	1

* 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 entitlement water.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *	
Flow this week	28.2	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	35.5	
Flow last month	103.6	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	100	120	100
Euston	240	220	110
Red Cliffs	170	160	130
Merbein	180	160	140
Burtundy (Darling)	620	620	510
Lock 9	200	210	180
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	390	410	290
Waikerie	450	460	330
Morgan	460	450	330
Mannum	400	400	360
Murray Bridge	410	410	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	680	690	680
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	740	660	570
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 270	2 280	2 600
Goolwa Barrages	2 890	4 970	1 510



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 09 Jul 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	-	-	-	2 870	F	3 190	5 900
Jingellic	4.0	2.21	208.73	8 500	F	10 700	14 380
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.70	218.59	1 190	F	1 380	2 610
Heywoods	5.5	1.30	154.93	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.88	150.35	3 350	R	3 570	4 570
Albury	4.3	0.96	148.40	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.20	127.22	4 080	R	4 590	4 560
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.25	117.29	14 720	F	18 380	13 510
Tocumwal	6.4	3.16	107.00	16 530	F	17 820	10 250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.44	81.99	10 960	F	10 910	6 660
Swan Hill	4.5	1.83	64.75	10 070	R	8 260	5 360
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.51	52.63	10 010	R	8 270	6 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.88	43.72	9 410	R	8 010	6 480
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 430	F	6 300	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	6 410	S	6 100	5 510
Rufus Junction	-	3.07	20.00	4 010	R	3 410	2 670
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.60	-	3 330	R	2 950	3 320
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.41	155.64	2 880	R	3 090	3 980
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.65	148.33	9 920	F	11 260	15 420
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.49	93.91	2 850	F	4 230	3 500
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.22	81.99	2 330	F	1 440	660
Edward at Liewah	-	1.25	56.63	660	R	620	600
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.62	55.11	900	R	800	680
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.15	57.11	760	R	760	510
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	10	R	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	-	190	S	260	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.75	-	160	S	150	130

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	16 810	26 870
---	--------	--------

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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.01	+0.77
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.09	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.57
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.35	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+0.37
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.21	+0.16
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.06	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.18	-0.16

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

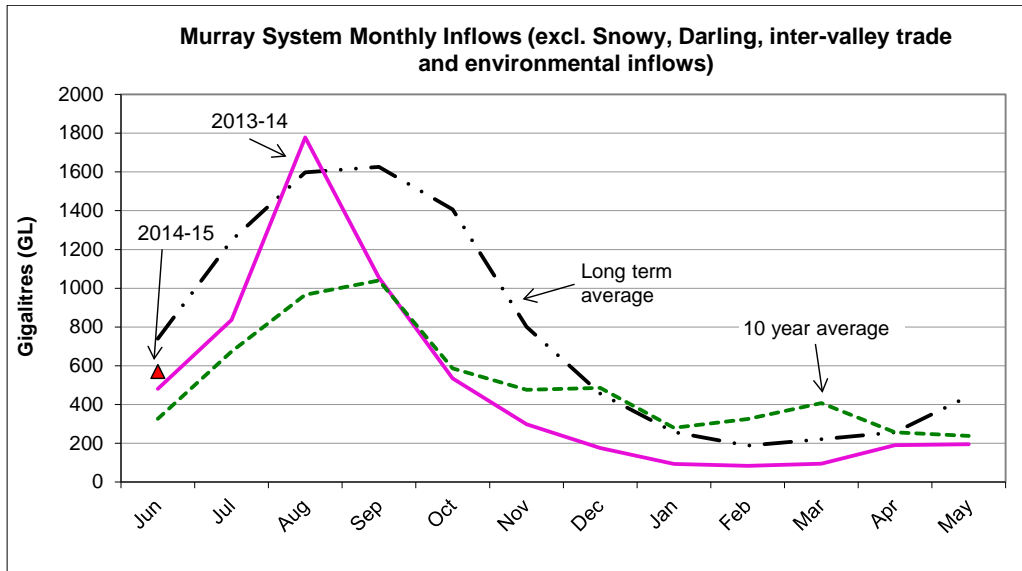
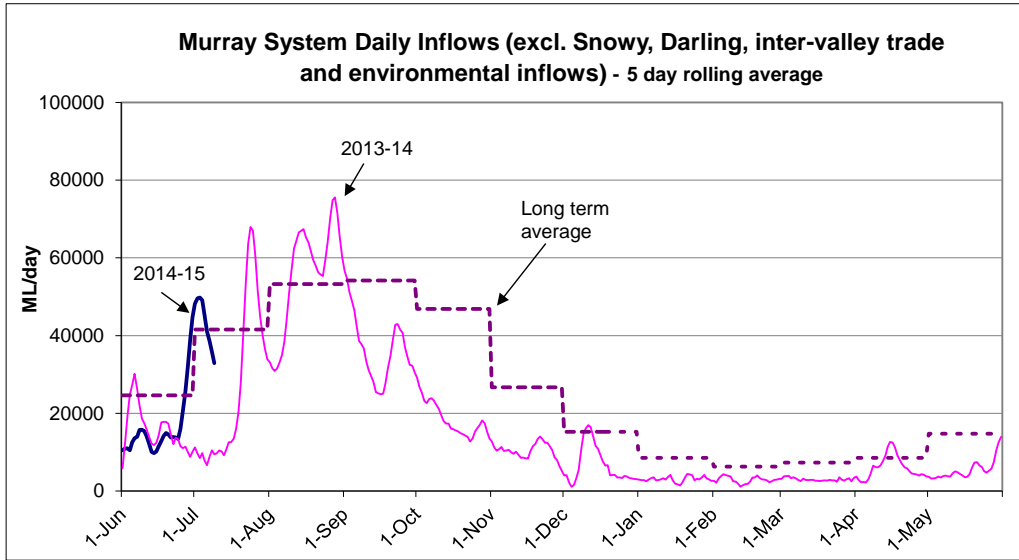
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
--	------

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.71	5	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 09 Jul 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	6%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	57%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	10%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	74%
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>

MEDIA RELEASE



8 July 2014

Mildura lock and weir works start next week

Holiday makers and the community around Mildura are reminded that Lock 11 is expected to close next Tuesday, 15 July and the Mildura weir pool will drop to very low levels the following week to allow for maintenance work at the weir.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the works are likely to take about four weeks.

“The Mildura weir pool will start to be drawn down in the week commencing 21 July and it is likely to remain low until mid-August while work is underway,” Mr Dreverman said.

David Dreverman said the works had been scheduled to start after the Victorian and New South Wales school holidays and prior to the irrigation season.

“Based on local tourism, industry and irrigation advice we’ve managed to time the works to cause the least disruption to river users.

“We appreciate the community’s understanding while we do this upgrade, which is a necessary part of managing the river properly and reliably to support surrounding industries” Mr Dreverman said.

Mr Dreverman said removing the weir would drop the river height to about 3.0 metres below the level of a full weir pool, but the exact river height would depend on river flows.

“The weir pool will be raised back to full supply level by mid-August and the lock reopened, once the weir is reinstated.

“This is part of the major task of installing mechanised gates, which also involves repairing the support structure on the riverbed. The final phase of this infrastructure program is expected to be completed over two to three months next winter,” Mr Dreverman said.

The MDBA and Goulburn–Murray Water will issue further advice in the coming weeks.

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn–Murray Water on 1800 013 357.

Follow @MD_Basin_Auth on Twitter: http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

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

Subscribe to MDBA media releases at: www.mdba.gov.au/media-pubs/subscribe