



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2009

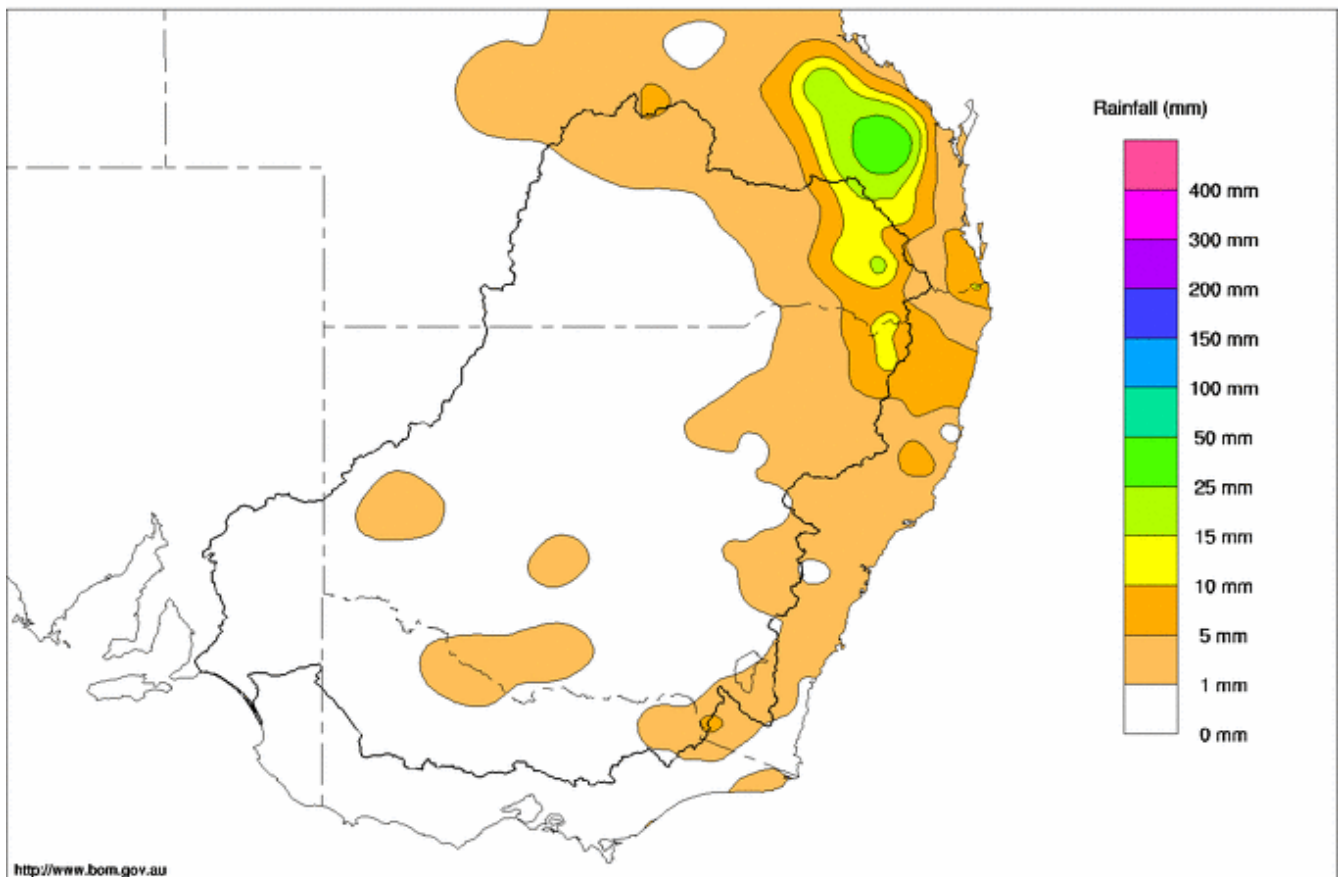
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## Rainfall and Inflows

There was very little rainfall across the Basin during the past week with the highest falls occurring in the northeast around the Darling Downs area (see Map 1). The southern Basin received very little rain and the hot and dry conditions resulted in continued streamflow recessions in most of the upper catchments. For example, Rocky Point on the Ovens River has fallen from 1,240 to around 850 ML/day. Similarly, at Biggara on the Murray (upstream of Hume Reservoir) the flow has receded from 780 to 580 ML/day.

Murray Bridge, below Lock 1 on the River Murray, experienced a record 6 consecutive days of a maximum temperature of 40°C or above. Adelaide experienced the first spring heatwave ever recorded for the entire record back to 1887 with 8 consecutive days in excess of 35°C. Temperatures of around 40°C were also experienced across the Riverina and Sunraysia districts. Some rain is predicted to occur in the coming week over the southern Basin; this may reduce temperatures and evaporative losses but is not expected to significantly boost streamflows.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th November 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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## River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 2,460 GL (29% capacity) down from 2,521 GL (30% capacity).

Total Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 5 GL to 1,205 GL (31% capacity). The release from Dartmouth Reservoir is currently around 330 ML/day and is maintaining a flow downstream at Tallandoon of 600 ML/day. Commencing on Friday 27 November a small pulse of water will be transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir, the pulse will peak at around 3,000 ML/day. This transfer helps in maintaining levels in Hume Reservoir as well as providing environmental benefits to this reach of river. Similar pulses are likely to follow in December and January.

Storage in Hume Reservoir has decreased by 42 GL to 1,134 GL (37% capacity) and the release has averaged around 12,200 ML/day over the week. The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume and the Kiewa River) is currently around 12,400 ML/day.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir is steady at 10,300 ML/day and the level in Lake Mulwala has increased slightly to 124.77 m AHD (13cm below FSL). Downstream at Stevens Weir on the Edward River, the flow is steady at about 2,200 ML/day but is expected to be increased over the coming week to assist in maintaining flows downstream and to assist in the environmental watering of the Werai Forest (see Figure 1 and attached media release) which commenced last week.



Figure 1. Watering of Werai Forest

Further downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, the release has decreased slightly to 6,900 ML/day due to increased demand and higher losses, the release is expected to increase in the upcoming week. Further downstream at Euston Weir, the pool is now at full supply level and the release has averaged 6,600 ML/day during the week. The refilling of Euston Lakes (Dry Lake and Lake Benanee) is being assisted by the high weir pool level and water has begun to fill Dry Lake.

High transmission losses and increased diversions due to the recent hot weather in the Sunraysia district have caused lower flows through this area. However, increased releases from upstream have now reached Mildura Weir where the release has risen from 3,400 to 4,400 ML/day and is likely to increase further.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remains under NSW control) decreased by 7 GL to 175 GL (10% capacity). Releases from Weir 32 are now around 230 ML/day.



Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 24 GL to 331 GL (49% capacity) and is expected to continue to decline over the coming week. The flow to South Australia has been increased to 5,000 ML/day due to increased demand and transmission loss and the flow over Lock 1 has averaged about 1,400 ML/day.

Water levels in Locks 1-6 continue to be slightly below full supply level and the water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.81 m AHD. At Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) the water level has dropped from 0.70 to 0.67 m AHD after the pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina ceased last week. In the absence of significant local tributary inflows over summer, this pool is expected to fall towards 0.0 m AHD by early autumn. The water level in Lake Albert decreased from -0.37 to -0.43 m AHD.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Week ending Wednesday 18 Nov 2009

### Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.29	1 205	31%	80	1 125	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.80	1 134	37%	30	1 104	-42
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.88	331	49%	100	231	-24
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		175	10%	(- -) #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 845</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 460</b>	<b>-68</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **29%**

# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	448	44%	3	445	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	562	34%	24	538	-44
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 099	33%	100	999	-18

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Nov-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 257	-18	Snowy-Murray	+24	327
Snowy-Murray Component	797	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	208
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	22.5	119
			Murray 1 Release	+27	529

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.3	80.6	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.6	49
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.9	14.9	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	4.6	92
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	6.7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.4	31
Licensed Pumps	4.5	33.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	2
Lower Darling	0.7	3.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.5	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>138.3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>241</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 is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above\*\*

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180 *	
Flow this week	34.0	(4 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	81	
Flow last month	83	

\* Reduced to approx. 150 GL during November drought contingency operation

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	160	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	590	580	510
Lock 9	120	120	150
Lake Victoria	210	200	210
Berri	300	320	430
Waikerie	-	-	560
Morgan	710	700	600
Mannum	580	580	600
Murray Bridge	700	720	710
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 880	5 860	5 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 210	5 150	4 880
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 300	11 010	9 460
Goolwa Barrages	10 390	10 300	14 940

Week ending Wednesday 18 Nov 2009

### River Levels and Flows

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	-	-	-	4 740	F	5 090	4 630
Jingellic	4.0	1.84	208.36	5 860	F	6 240	6 470
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.47	218.36	610	F	610	600
Heywoods	5.5	2.71	156.34	12 000	F	12 170	12 270
Doctors Point	5.5	2.83	151.30	12 400	R	12 730	12 940
Albury	4.3	1.80	149.24	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.65	128.67	12 740	F	12 910	12 700
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.69	116.73	10 310	S	10 270	10 310
Tocumwal	6.4	2.21	106.05	9 940	R	9 920	9 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.28	80.83	6 870	F	7 080	6 420
Swan Hill	4.5	1.42	64.34	7 330	S	7 010	6 080
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.86	51.98	7 630	R	7 010	5 920
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.60	43.44	7 370	R	6 660	5 800
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 420	F	3 920	3 910
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	3 920	R	2 690	2 770
Rufus Junction	-	3.10	20.03	4 340	R	4 260	3 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.61	-	1 400	R	1 430	1 390
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.17	154.40	800	R	950	1 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.09	145.77	1 090	S	1 260	1 890
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.10	92.52	340	S	330	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.16	81.93	2 220	S	2 210	2 350
Edward at Liewah	-	2.45	57.83	1 840	R	1 750	1 120
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.00	54.49	10	F	10	30
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.43	57.39	980	R	800	850
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.47	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.54	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	100	F	110	70

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 170	6 310
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### Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+0.77
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.08	-0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.07	+0.06
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.11	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.07	+0.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.06	+0.03
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.09	-0.02
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.47	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	-1.36

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.58	1.5	70.85	1668
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.077	62.377	1329

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.81

### Barrages

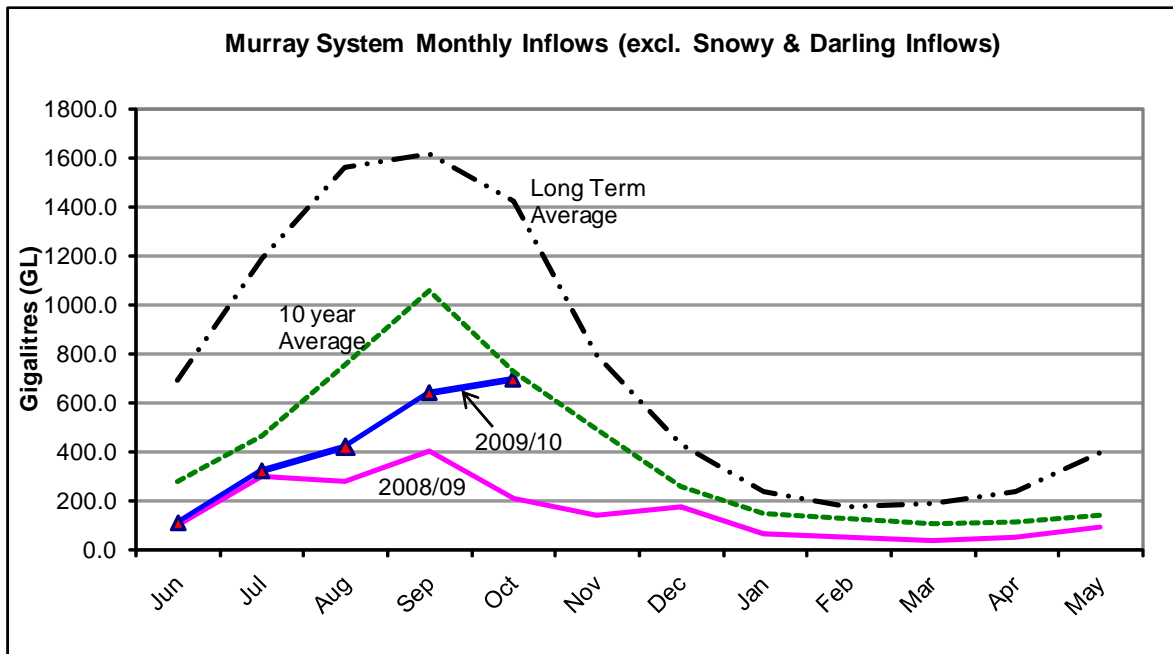
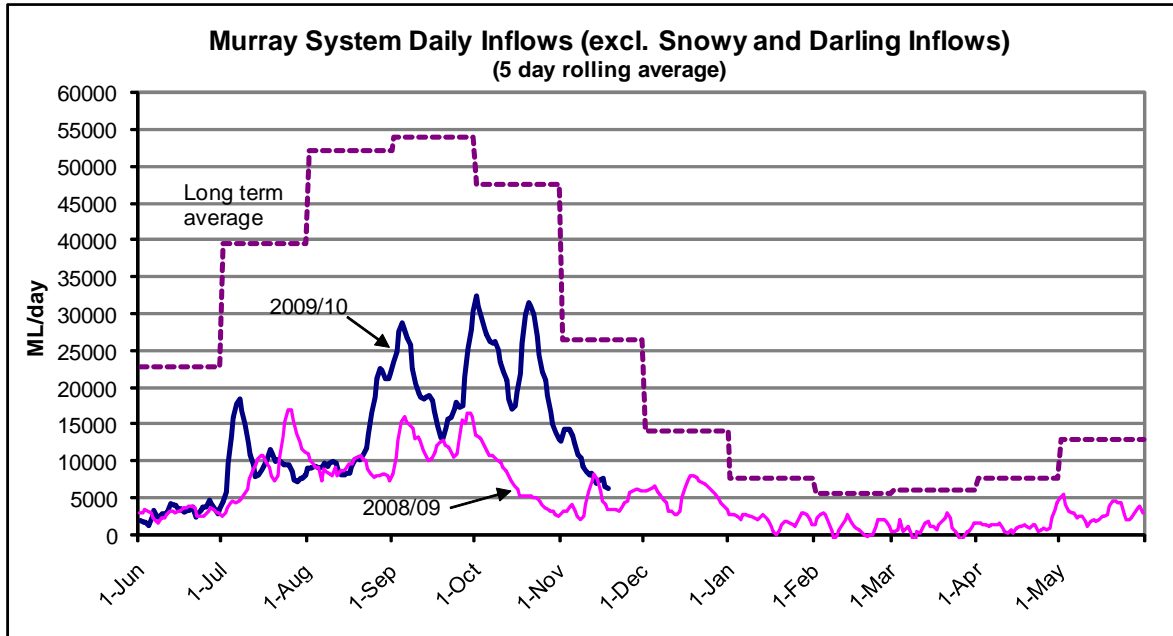
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.67	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 18th November 2009



**State Allocations (as at 18th November 2009)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	10%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	55%
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**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	14%

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	41%
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**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	25%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	48%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>



*Australian Government Minister for Climate  
Change and Water*  
**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*New South Wales Minister for  
Climate Change and the Environment*  
**John Robertson MLC**

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

PW 339/09

19 November 2009

### **COMMONWEALTH PROVIDES 10.8 BILLION LITRES OF WATER FOR NEW SOUTH WALES RIVERS AND WETLANDS**

The Commonwealth has allocated 10.8 billion litres of water to 13 environmental sites in New South Wales (NSW), including wetlands in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Macquarie valleys.

The water is part of the Commonwealth's environmental water holdings, purchased through the Government's water buyback program for the Murray-Darling Basin. This allocation brings the total Commonwealth water allocated to date to the environment to 26.7 billion litres.

"In this era of extended drought and climate change, we face monumental challenges in the Murray-Darling Basin," Federal Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said.

"The Rudd Government is taking action to meet these challenges. We have taken over Basin-wide planning and will put a new, lower, scientifically-based limit on water use in the Basin for the first time ever.

"We have committed more than \$4 billion so far to upgrade and modernise water and irrigation infrastructure in the Basin to help our farmers and regional communities and to protect food security.

"And we are buying back water to help restore health to our rivers, securing the purchase of 638 billion litres worth \$996 million as at 31 October this year."

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said the water was being delivered from this month in cooperation with the NSW Government.

NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, John Robertson, said the water would complement the almost 50 billion litres of environmental water provided to Murray, Murrumbidgee and Macquarie Marshes wetlands in recent months by the NSW Government.

"The environmental water is helping to support River Red Gums and other important wetland vegetation which provides critical habitat for wildlife, including water bird and frog breeding during spring," Mr Robertson said.

Sites selected for watering include Toupna Creek in Millewa State Forest, which provides habitat for the Southern Pygmy Perch, and Werai State Forest. Both areas are in the Ramsar-listed Central Murray wetlands near Deniliquin in southern NSW. Other sites to benefit include the Macquarie Marshes in central NSW and wetlands within Yanga National Park on the Lowbidgee Floodplain.

The sites were selected by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder after receiving advice from the Environmental Water Scientific Advisory Committee. Details of the individual sites to be watered and general information about the Australian Government's environmental watering program can be found at: [www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/cewh/](http://www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/cewh/)

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