



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2009

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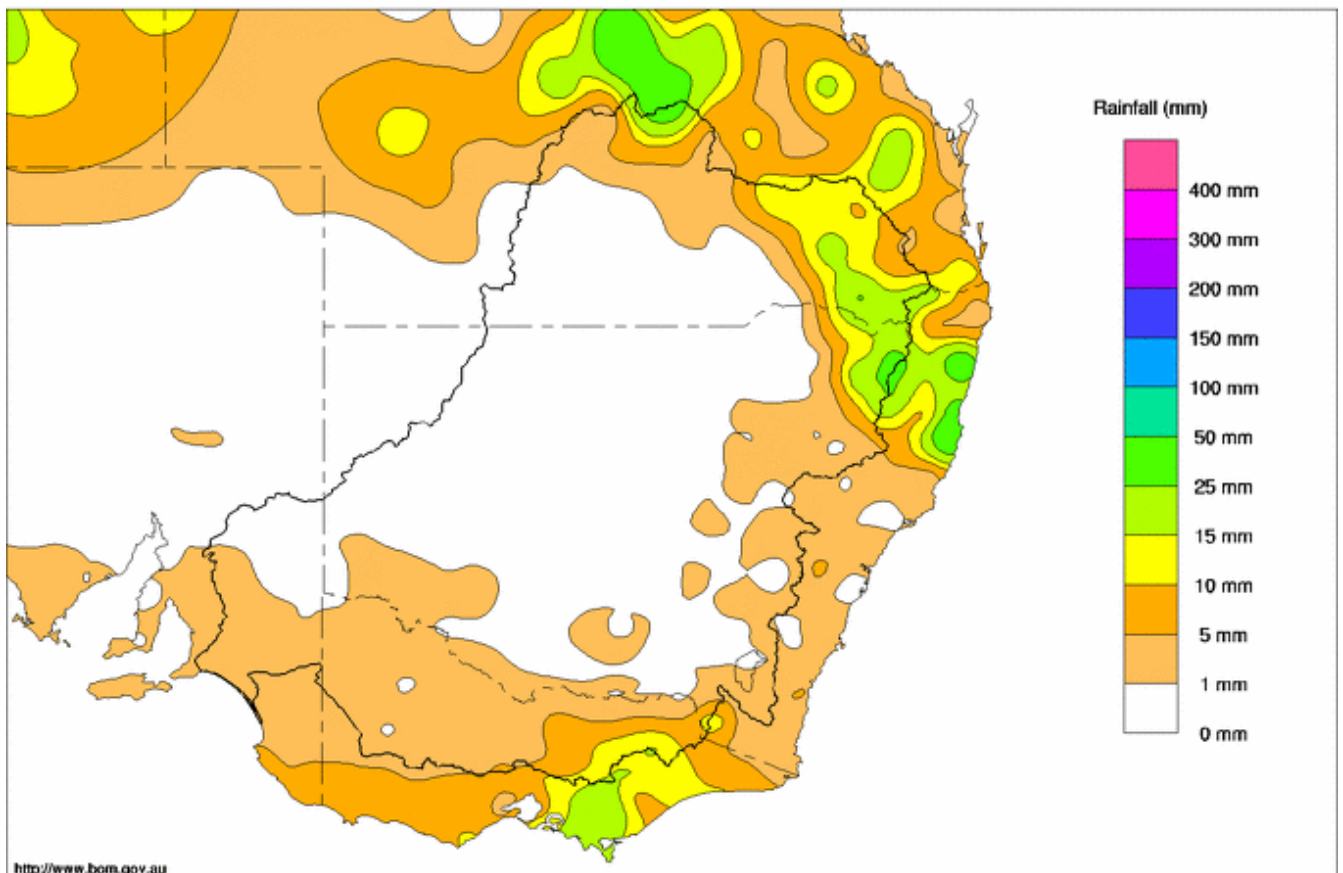
## Rainfall and Inflows

There was very little rainfall across the southern Murray-Darling Basin during the past week. Isolated rain occurred in the Snowy Mountains with Perisher receiving 26 mm, and in the Victorian Alps with Mount Buller receiving 27 mm. However, most other areas in the southern Basin received well below 10 mm (see Map 1). As a result, streamflows have continued to recede in most of the upper Murray catchments. For example, Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River fell from 480 to 380 ML/day. Similarly, Biggara on the upper Murray has fallen from 600 to around 400 ML/day.

Total Murray system inflows for the first half of December were about 80 GL and are now receding to levels observed this time last year.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th December 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 16/12/2009



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 62 GL to 2,339 GL (28% active capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is fairly steady at 1,210 GL (31% capacity) and the release is currently at about 500 ML/day. The second pulsed release in December, which will help to maintain sufficient water in Hume Reservoir for the remainder of the irrigation season, will begin on Thursday 17 December with a peak of around 4,500 ML/day at Colemans on 18 and 19 of December. The flow rate will then be gradually decreased to target a flow at Tallandoon of 600 ML/day by 3 January. Further pulsed releases are expected in the coming months.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 73 GL to 974 GL (32% capacity) and the release averaged around 12,200 ML/day over the week. The release from Hume Reservoir is expected to increase further in the next few weeks to meet rising downstream demands and river losses.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is 124.68 m AHD (22 cm below FSL) and is expected to rise in the coming days as the higher releases from Hume arrive. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently around 10,000 ML/day and will be increased to 10,200 ML/day as the level in Lake Mulwala rises. In mid May 2009 Lake Mulwala was emptied to help control the spread of the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa*. A preliminary assessment of the drawdown has reported good results, with relatively low *Egeria* cover over most of the lake.

On the Edward River, the release from Stevens Weir increased from 2,200 to 2,600 ML/day. The replenishment flow along the Wakool River system has now reached the Murray, bringing with it a short-term rise in salinity normally observed after an initial flush in the system. At Boundary bend on the Murray, salinity has risen from 100 to 129 EC and is expected to peak below 200 EC in the coming week. At Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River the salinity was around 4,200 EC on Friday 11 December and is now around 2,000 EC.

The release from Euston Weir has decreased from 11,400 to 10,200 ML/day and is likely to decrease slightly during the coming week. The refilling of Euston Lakes (Dry Lake and Lake Benanee) which began in early November is continuing to progress. The temporary weir at Taila creek (which isolated the lakes in December 2007) has been partially removed to enable more water to flow into the lakes. The pool levels at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all at or close to Full Supply Level.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) decreased by 6 GL to 151 GL (9% capacity) with no inflows from the Darling system.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 16 GL to 365 GL (54% capacity) as higher flows arrive from the Murray. The target flow for South Australia has increased from 4,700 to 4,900 ML/day and locks 1-5 are at, or above Full Supply Level with Lock 6 being 5 cm below Full Supply Level. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is fairly steady at -0.82 m AHD and in Lake Albert is -0.52 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) decreased from 0.56 to 0.52 m AHD.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Week ending Wednesday 16 Dec 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	430.43	1 210	31%	80	1 130	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.37	974	32%	30	944	-73
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.19	365	54%	100	265	+16
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		151	9%	(- -) #	0	-6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 700</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 339</b>	<b>-62</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **28%**

# 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	437	43%	3	434	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	528	32%	24	504	-46
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 079	32%	100	979	-7

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Dec-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 194	-19	Snowy-Murray	+5	386
Snowy-Murray Component	787	-4	Tooma-Tumut	+0	218
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	5.4	167
			Murray 1 Release	+10	591

### 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)	2.3	94.3	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.7	64
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.0	31.2	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	3.1	105
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	9.2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	45
Licensed Pumps	2.8	44.2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	2
Lower Darling	0.3	4.1	Licensed pumps - LMW	9.0	103
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>183.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>318</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	217 *	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	33.4	
Flow so far this month	76	
Flow last month	142	

\* Reduced to approx. 150 GL during December 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	110	100	80
Red Cliffs	80	70	110
Merbein	80	70	100
Burtundy (Darling)	580	570	530
Lock 9	90	100	150
Lake Victoria	160	200	200
Berri	220	240	390
Waikerie	-	440	520
Morgan	500	520	600
Mannum	700	670	600
Murray Bridge	610	600	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 880	5 900	5 380
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	5 340	5 250	4 910
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 910	11 340	9 860
Goolwa Barrages	10 470	10 460	14 020

Week ending Wednesday 16 Dec 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	-	-	-	2 100	R	1 090	1 960
Jingellic	4.0	1.30	207.82	1 860	R	1 910	2 920
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.49	218.38	630	S	660	1 000
Heywoods	5.5	2.98	156.61	14 330	R	12 370	10 720
Doctors Point	5.5	3.09	151.56	15 400	R	13 040	11 360
Albury	4.3	2.09	149.53	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.72	128.74	13 160	R	12 240	11 030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.64	116.68	9 960	S	10 000	9 970
Tocumwal	6.4	2.17	106.01	9 870	F	9 870	9 860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.40	80.95	7 270	S	7 270	7 500
Swan Hill	4.5	1.45	64.37	7 520	R	7 440	8 550
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.09	52.21	8 590	R	8 990	9 470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.06	43.90	10 270	F	11 030	11 220
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 010	F	8 370	7 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	27.88	7 620	R	7 790	6 980
Rufus Junction	-	3.05	19.98	4 010	F	4 040	4 020
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.55	-	2 220	S	2 160	2 140
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.35	154.58	1 090	R	650	620
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.92	145.60	670	F	810	1 000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.29	92.71	630	S	610	610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.37	82.14	2 570	F	2 430	2 280
Edward at Liewah	-	2.66	58.04	2 090	F	2 110	2 120
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.35	54.84	280	S	280	200
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.88	57.84	1 410	F	1 350	1 120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	10	F	10	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.29	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	90	F	100	100

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 040	2 920
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+0.79
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.23	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.55
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.48	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnina	27.40	-0.02	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+0.91	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-1.30

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.93	1.37	70.72	1408
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.42	62.72	1799

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.82

### Barrages

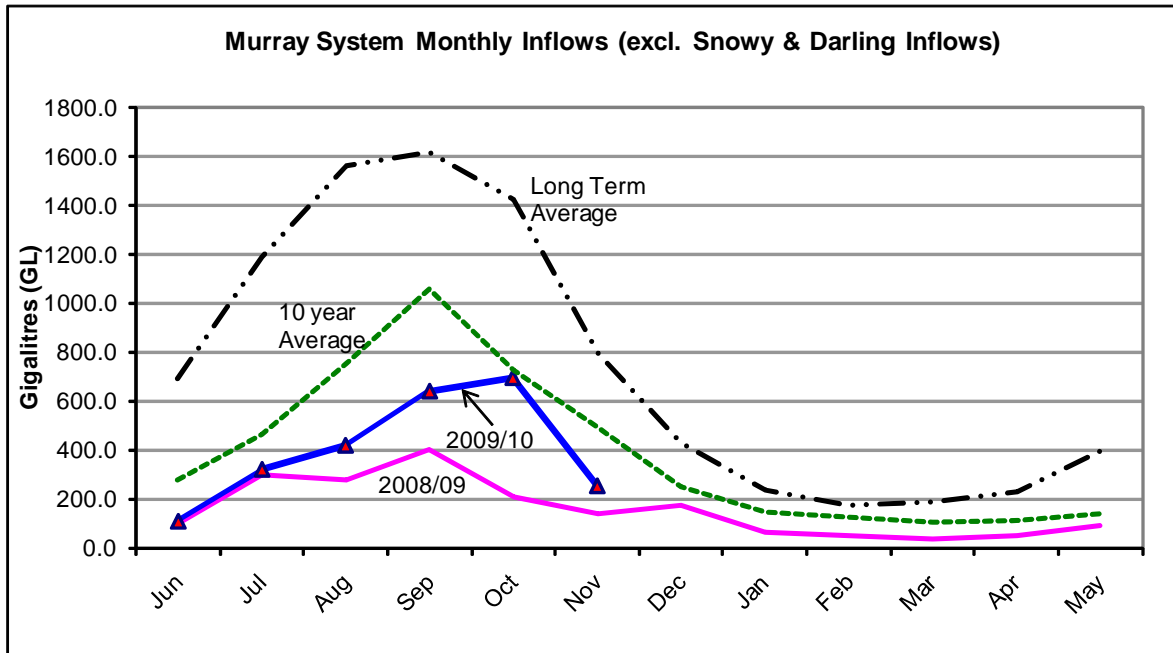
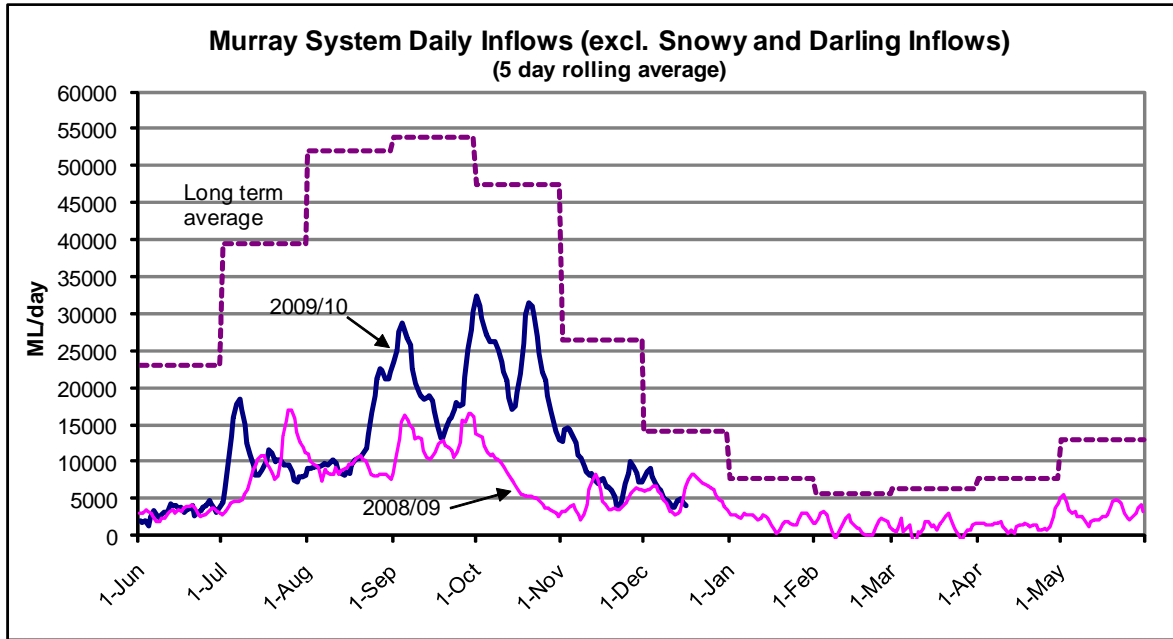
#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.52	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 16th December 2009



State Allocations (as at 16th December 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	10%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	60%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	15%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	49%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	25%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	48%
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