



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2009

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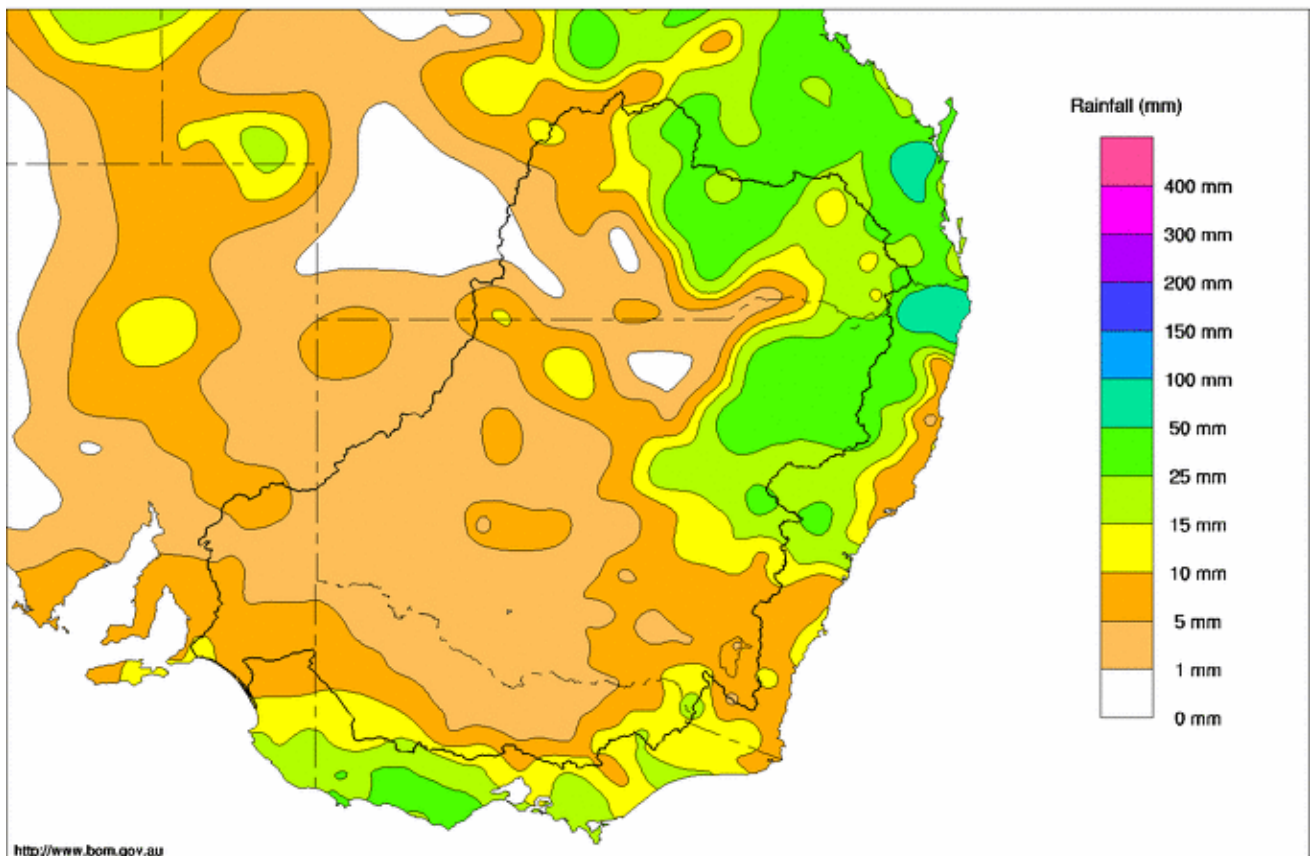
## Rainfall and Inflows

There was again little rainfall in the southern Murray-Darling Basin during the week. The alpine regions received less than 50 mm and most other areas in the southern Basin received less than 10 mm (see Map 1). As a result, streamflows in the upper Murray and its tributaries continue to slowly recede. At Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River flow has fallen from 380 to around 300 ML/day and at Rocky Point on the Ovens River flows have dropped from 620 to about 450 ML/day.

Total Murray system inflow for the first 3 weeks of December was around 90 GL. Whilst the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting some rain in the upper Murray this coming week it is not expected to have a significant impact on streamflows given the dry state of the catchments. Heavier rain is forecast for large parts of the northern Basin.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd December 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 23/12/2009

## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 82 GL to 2,264 GL (27% capacity)

Total Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has decreased by 15 GL to 1,195 GL (31% capacity) as the second pulsed transfer of water to Hume Reservoir increased to a peak of around 4,500 ML/day this week (measured at Colemans gauge). The release is currently about 1,900 ML/day and falling. Further pulsed releases are expected in the coming months.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 65 GL to 909 GL (30% capacity) and the release is currently targeting 13,300 ML/day at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam). The water level in Lake Mulwala is 124.72 m AHD (18 cm below FSL) and is expected to remain fairly steady over the coming weeks. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 10,000 to 10,200 ML/day and is also expected to remain fairly steady over the Christmas – New Year period.

On the Edward River, the target release from Stevens Weir has decreased slightly from 2,600 to 2,500 ML/day. The replenishment flow along the Wakool River system that reached the Murray last week, brought with it a short-term rise in salinity. This salt spike has peaked at Boundary Bend at around 170 EC on Monday. At Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River the salinity was around 2,000 EC last week and is now about 600 EC and continuing to fall.

On the mid Murray, the release from Euston Weir has remained fairly steady over the week and is now at 10,300 ML/day. The release is expected to slowly decline in the coming week, while the release at Wentworth Weir has fallen from 7,600 to around 6,500 ML/day. The pool levels at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all at or above Full Supply Level.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) decreased by 7 GL to 144 GL (8% capacity) with no inflows from the Darling system.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 5 GL to 370 GL (55% capacity) as continued higher flows arrive from the Murray. Lake Victoria should remain fairly steady over the coming week. The target flow to South Australia has been increased from 4,700 to 5,100 ML/day and the flow over Lock 1 is around 2,000 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.82 m AHD and in Lake Albert the level is slowly decreasing from -0.52 to -0.54 M AHD. The Water level in Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) decreased from 0.52 to 0.47 M AHD.

### Algal Blooms

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (RACC) has recently announced Amber alerts for blue-green algae at Barham on the Murray River, Koraliegh Water Supply Channel and for the Wakool River at Kyalite. Further updates will be provided over the coming months.

**The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.**

***Note: As in previous years there will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 30 December 2009. The next report will cover the two week period ending 6 January 2010.***

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Week ending Wednesday 23 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	429.97	1 195	31%	80	1 115	-15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.75	909	30%	30	879	-65
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.25	370	55%	100	270	+5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		144	8%	(- -) #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 618</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 264</b>	<b>-82</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **27%**

# 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		433	42%	3	430	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		528	32%	24	504	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		1 064	32%	100	964	-15

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Dec-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	n/a	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+8	393
Snowy-Murray Component	n/a	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+3	221
Target Storage	n/a		Nett Diversion	5.0	172
			Murray 1 Release	+12	603

### 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)	n/a	n/a	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.9	67
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.5	32.7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.2	109
Western Murray Irrig.	1.0	10.2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	n/a	n/a
Licensed Pumps	-7.6	36.6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	3
Lower Darling	0.3	4.4	Licensed pumps - LMW	9.0	112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>290</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 *	(5 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	35.3	
Flow so far this month	111	
Flow last month	142	

\* Reduced to approx. 155 GL during December drought contingency operations

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	130	120	90
Red Cliffs	110	100	110
Merbein	110	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	590	590	530
Lock 9	80	90	140
Lake Victoria	200	190	200
Berri	200	210	390
Waikerie	-	-	520
Morgan	480	480	600
Mannum	750	720	610
Murray Bridge	640	620	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 700	5 780	5 400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	5 470	5 050	4 920
Meningie (Lake Alb)	13 650	11 510	9 940
Goolwa Barrages	10 670	10 600	13 850

## Week ending Wednesday 23 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	-	-	-	2 010	F	1 580	1 090
Jingellic	4.0	1.23	207.75	1 450	F	1 990	1 910
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.99	218.88	2 170	F	2 660	660
Heywoods	5.5	2.87	156.50	12 750	S	12 410	12 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.92	151.39	13 500	S	13 190	13 040
Albury	4.3	1.90	149.34	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.67	128.69	12 880	R	13 410	12 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.68	116.72	10 240	S	10 210	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.20	106.04	10 080	S	10 000	9 870
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.37	80.92	7 170	S	7 210	7 270
Swan Hill	4.5	1.44	64.36	7 460	F	7 520	7 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.11	52.23	8 680	R	8 760	8 990
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.03	43.87	10 130	F	10 260	11 030
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 520	F	7 410	8 290
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	27.84	6 320	F	6 590	7 790
Rufus Junction	-	3.14	20.07	4 510	R	4 370	4 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.55	-	2 160	R	2 140	2 160
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	300	F	530	650
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	420	F	510	810
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.27	92.69	600	S	600	610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.39	82.16	2 600	F	2 530	2 430
Edward at Liewah	-	2.65	58.03	2 080	S	2 100	2 110
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.35	54.84	270	F	280	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.65	57.61	1 190	R	1 240	1 350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.84	-	0	F	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.23	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	70	R	70	100

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 830	2 740
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.87
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	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.54
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.09
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.01	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.04	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+1.01	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-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	-3.21	1.515	70.865	1690
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.067	62.367	1316

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

### Barrages

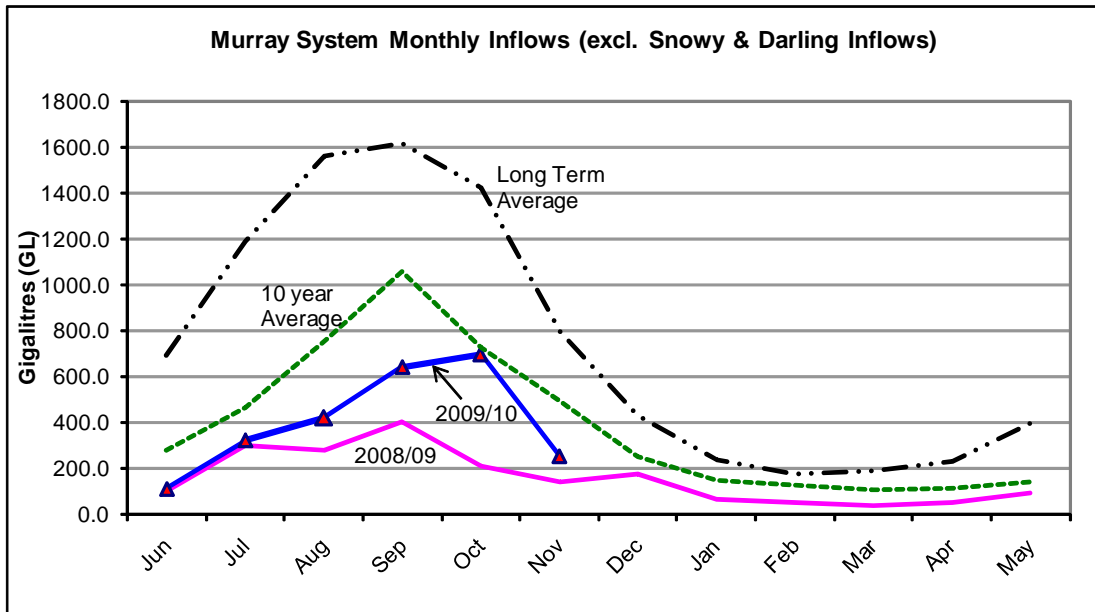
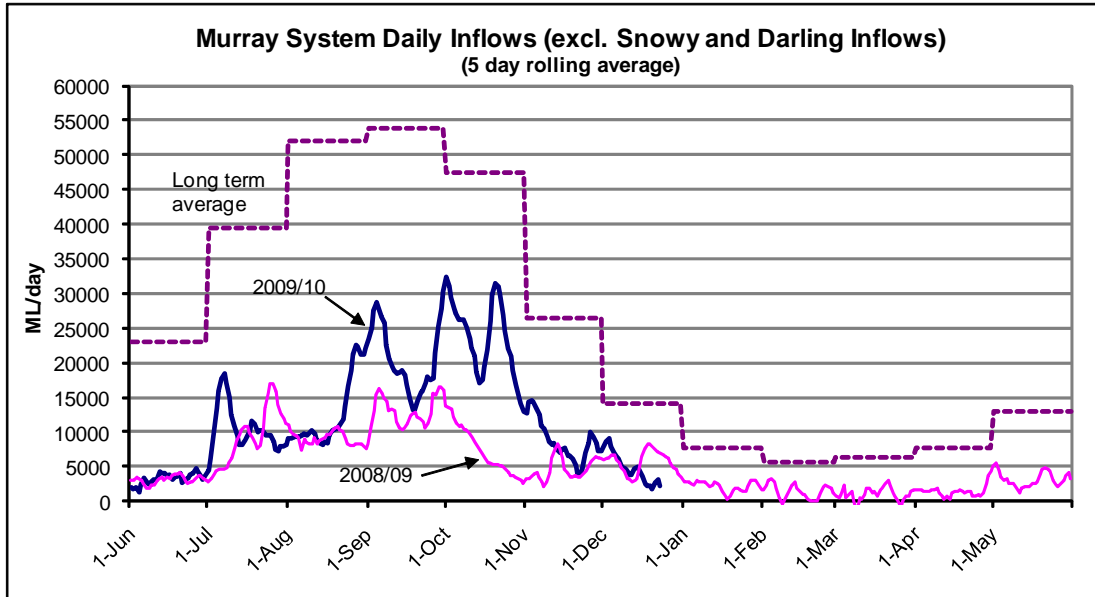
#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.47	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 23 December 2009



State Allocations (as at 23 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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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>