



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2010

Trim Ref: D10/1785

Rainfall and Inflows

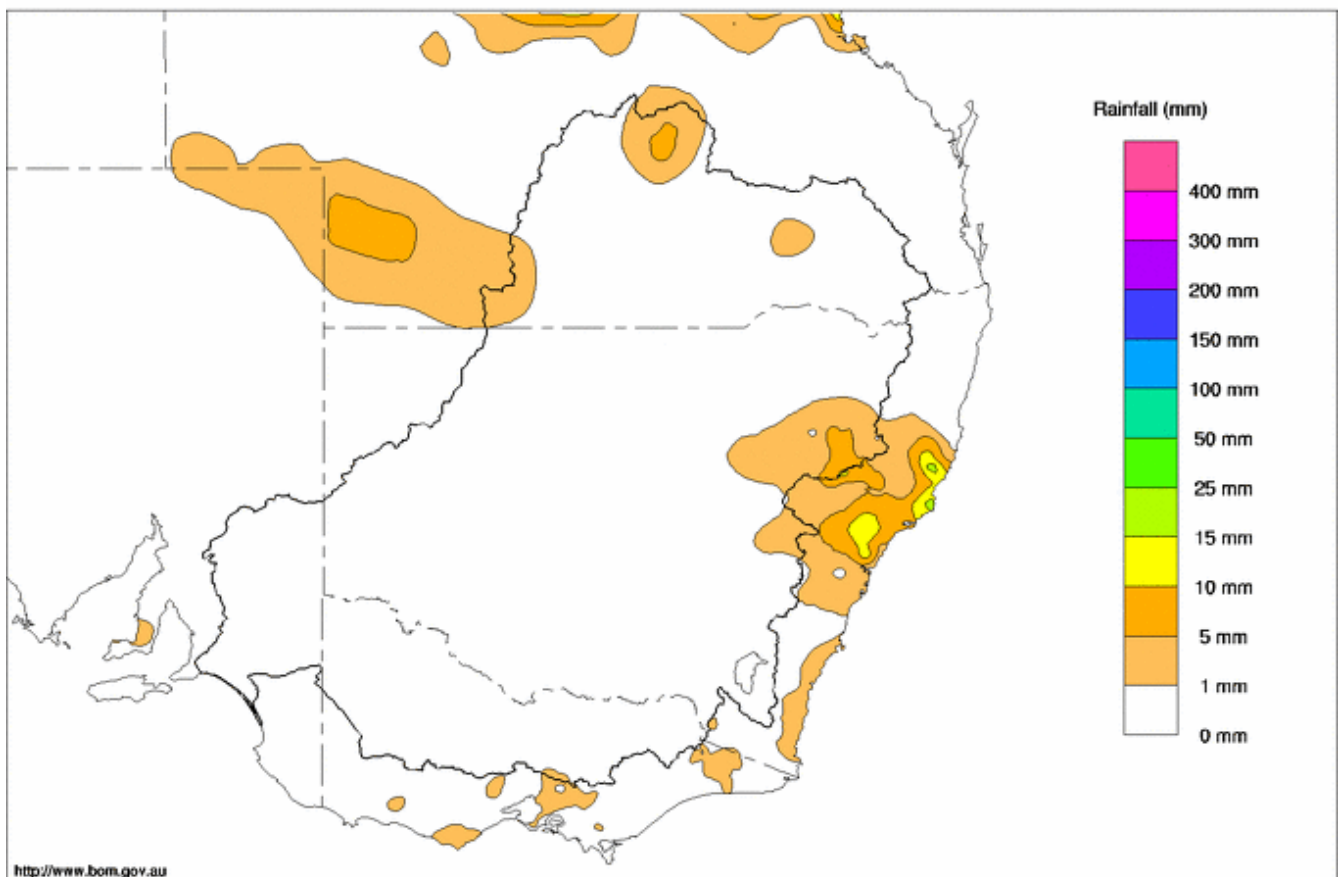
During the past week, most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin experienced hot and dry weather (see rainfall map below). The Liverpool Plains in the upper Namoi River catchment received light rainfall, with Nundle and Tamworth both recording 5 mm.

As a result of the continuing dry conditions in the southern Basin, streamflows in the upper tributaries of the Murray system continue to recede. At Rocky Point on the Ovens River, the flow receded from 430 to 240 ML/day, and at Biggara on the upper Murray from 290 to 210 ML/day.

On the Darling River upstream of Menindee Lakes, the flow at Bourke peaked at 47,000 ML/day on 23rd January. This is the highest flow at Bourke since December 2000. The flow peak is expected to arrive at Louth in the next few days. Further downstream, the flow at Wilcannia is currently 24,500 ML/day, and is expected to peak in early February. To date, the inflows to Menindee Lakes have been about 270 GL, and this will continue to increase over the coming weeks. However, the final volume of water reaching the Lakes will be highly dependent on the evaporative and floodplain losses as the peak flow slowly moves along the 700 km stretch of river between Bourke and the Lakes.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 27th January 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 72 GL to 1,937 GL (or 23 % capacity). This is well below the long term average for January of 5,390 GL.

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 4 GL to 1,190 GL (or 30 % capacity). The release (measured at Colemans gauge) is steady at about 560 ML/day. Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 50 GL to 642 GL (21 % capacity), and is expected to continue declining over the coming weeks as it supplies the bulk of the water along the Murray downstream to Wentworth. The target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) is currently 11,700 ML/day, and should remain fairly constant during the coming week.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.68 m AHD (or 0.22 m below FSL) and should rise slightly during the coming week. The release at Yarrowonga Weir is steady at 8,000 ML/day.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release has decreased from 6,400 to 4,700 ML/day, in response to the decrease in releases from Yarrowonga Weir during the previous week. The release should remain fairly steady during the coming week. The decrease in flows along the Murray is now reaching Euston Weir, and the release, which is currently 8,000 ML/day, is expected to decrease to about 6,000 ML/day during the coming week.

During the past week, storage in Menindee Lakes (which remains under NSW control) increased by 58 GL to 295 GL (or 17 % capacity). The NSW Government has increased the release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) to 8,900 ML/day and it is expected to continue increasing to about 12,000 ML/day during the coming week (see attached media release).

At Wentworth Weir, the flow from the Murray should start to decrease, but this will be more than offset by the increased flows arriving from the lower Darling River. As a result, the release at Wentworth is expected to increase during the coming week, from 5,400 ML/day to slightly over 9,000 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 18 GL to 315 GL (47 % capacity), but should start to increase over the next few weeks in response to the higher flows arriving from the lower Darling River. The target flow to South Australia is currently 8,300 ML/day. This consists of the normal entitlement flow (7,000 ML/day) plus some additional interstate trade water.

In South Australia, the pool levels in Weirs 1 to 6 are all slightly below full supply level. During the past two weeks the average flow past Weir 1 has been 3,500 ML/day which is the highest flow since February 2007.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.93 m AHD which is only slightly above the record low of -1.05 m AHD (in April 2009). The water level in the Goolwa Channel continues to gradually decline and is currently +0.23 m AHD, while the level in Lake Albert (which remains disconnected from Lake Alexandrina) remains fairly steady at -0.72 m AHD.

Algal Blooms

The Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has recently issued 'amber' alerts for blue-green algae along the Murray, from Hume Reservoir to Picnic Point (at the Edward River offtake in Barmah-Millewa Forest), and also at Deniliquin on the Edward River. Late summer and autumn is typically the period when algal growth along the Murray increases, and regular updates will be provided during the coming weeks.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 27 Jan 2010

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	429.83	1 190	30%	80	1 110	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.97	642	21%	30	612	-50
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.71	315	47%	100	215	-18
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		295	17%	(- -) #	0	+58
Total		9 352		2 442	26%	--	1 937	-14

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **23%**

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	403	39%	3	400	-17
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	493	30%	24	469	+22
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 003	30%	100	903	-19

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-Jan-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 066	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+20	472
Snowy-Murray Component	720	-	Tooma-Tumut	+7	236
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	12.9	237
			Murray 1 Release	+21	687

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)	7.9	134	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.0	91
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.7	40	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.8	141
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	16	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.6	78
Licensed Pumps	2.4	61	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	10
Lower Darling	0.3	6	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	163
TOTAL	13.6	257	TOTAL	32.8	483

* 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	
Flow this week	56.9	(8 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	196	
Flow last month	155	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	70	60
Euston	80	80	90
Red Cliffs	90	90	110
Merbein	90	100	100
Burtundy (Darling)	610	610	540
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	180	190	200
Berri	180	180	350
Waikerie	-	-	520
Morgan	300	300	550
Mannum	620	660	630
Murray Bridge	770	770	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 940	6 040	5 490
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	6 170	5 570	5 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	14 730	14 390	10 790
Goolwa Barrages	12 350	12 220	13 490

Week ending Wednesday 27 Jan 2010

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	-	-	-	1 800	F	2 890	1 820
Jingellic	4.0	1.27	207.79	1 740	R	3 290	2 190
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.47	218.36	610	S	610	630
Heywoods	5.5	2.82	156.45	11 610	R	9 940	10 740
Doctors Point	5.5	2.78	151.25	11 900	R	10 590	11 310
Albury	4.3	1.77	149.21	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.38	128.40	10 950	R	9 880	12 120
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.39	116.43	8 010	S	7 870	9 250
Tocumwal	6.4	1.89	105.73	7 960	S	7 910	9 410
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.65	80.20	4 720	F	5 530	6 720
Swan Hill	4.5	1.16	64.08	5 620	F	6 270	7 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.81	51.93	7 430	F	7 930	8 490
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.71	43.55	8 040	F	8 530	9 690
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 390	F	5 900	6 780
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	5 430	S	5 670	6 150
Rufus Junction	-	3.67	20.60	7 770	R	7 540	6 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.24	-	3 650	R	3 500	3 540
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.74	153.97	250	F	370	430
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.64	145.32	200	S	290	500
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.27	92.69	600	S	600	600
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.62	81.39	1 460	F	1 580	2 070
Edward at Liewah	-	2.52	57.90	1 920	F	2 000	2 150
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.19	54.68	110	F	130	170
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.09	57.05	690	R	680	850
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.56	-	970	F	980	1 080
Darling at Bourke	-	10.51	-	43 840	F	46 050	44 160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	270	R	100	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	620	1 030
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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	-0.03	+1.36
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+0.92
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.05	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.08	+0.27
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+1.01	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.08	-0.99

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.73	0.89	70.24	579
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.38	1.107	62.407	1368

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.93

Barrages

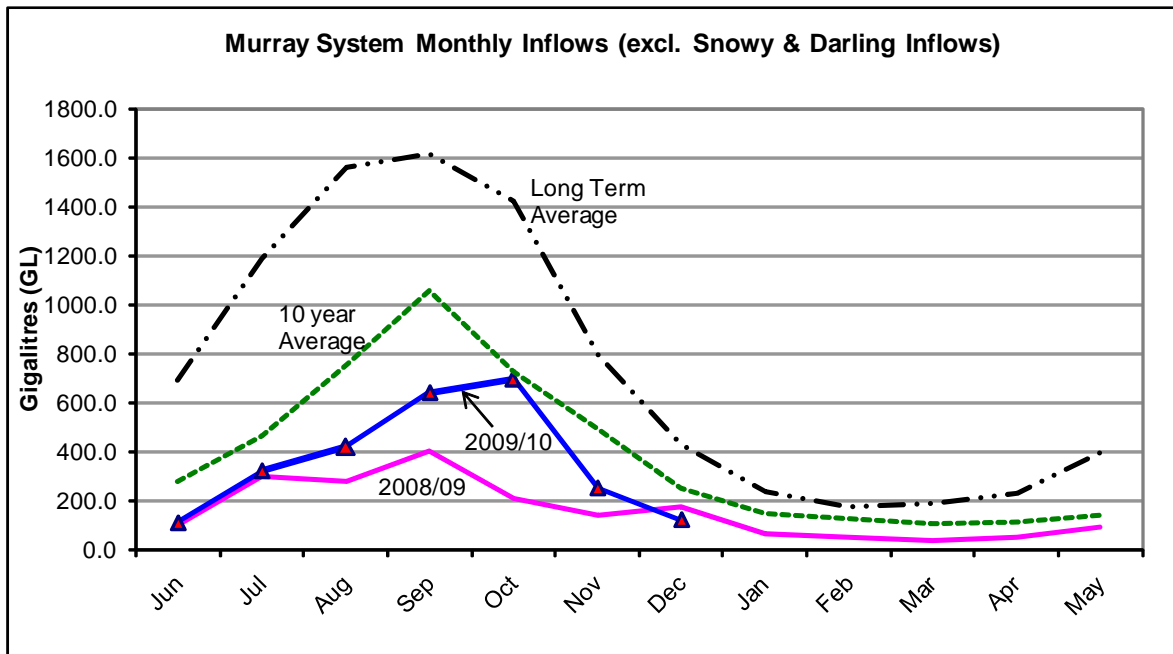
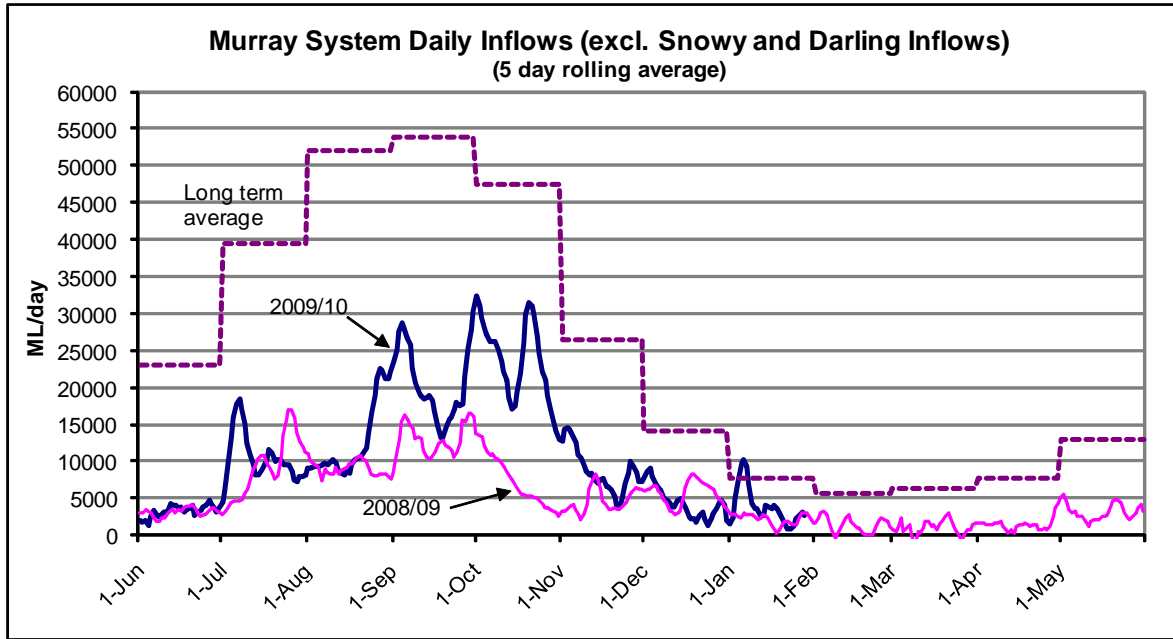
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.23	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 27 January 2010



State Allocations (as at 27 January 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	13%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	63%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	18%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	55%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

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>



Lower Darling flows to increase

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss today advised that flows from the Menindee Lakes to the Lower Darling will increase to 12,000 megalitres per day over the next three days.

The increased releases are necessary to ensure the balance between water entering the lakes and releases to the Lower Darling River, so that when the flow event finishes, Lake Wetherell and Lake Pamamaroo will be at full supply capacity

“Based on the current estimates of the volumes of water coming into the Menindee Lakes system from the flood water generated over Christmas, Mr Harriss said that the combined releases from Lake Wetherell and Lake Pamamaroo will increase from 9,000 megalitres per day to 12,000 megalitres per day.

Mr Harriss said that the flood flow upstream of Menindee peaked at Bourke on 22nd January at approximately 47,000 megalitres per day and the peak is not expected at Wilcannia until the second week in February.

“It is always difficult to assess the losses that will occur between Bourke and Wilcannia and then into the Menindee Lakes, as this depends on the length and peak of the flows, the river conditions and the weather conditions experienced during the flow.

The NSW Office of Water and State Water will continue to inform landholders in the Lower Darling River downstream of the Menindee Lakes of any changes to releases.

For real time flow data and storage information, visit the NSW Office of Water’s Real Time data base at www.water.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 403234

Our news releases are on the web:
www.water.nsw.gov.au

