



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2010

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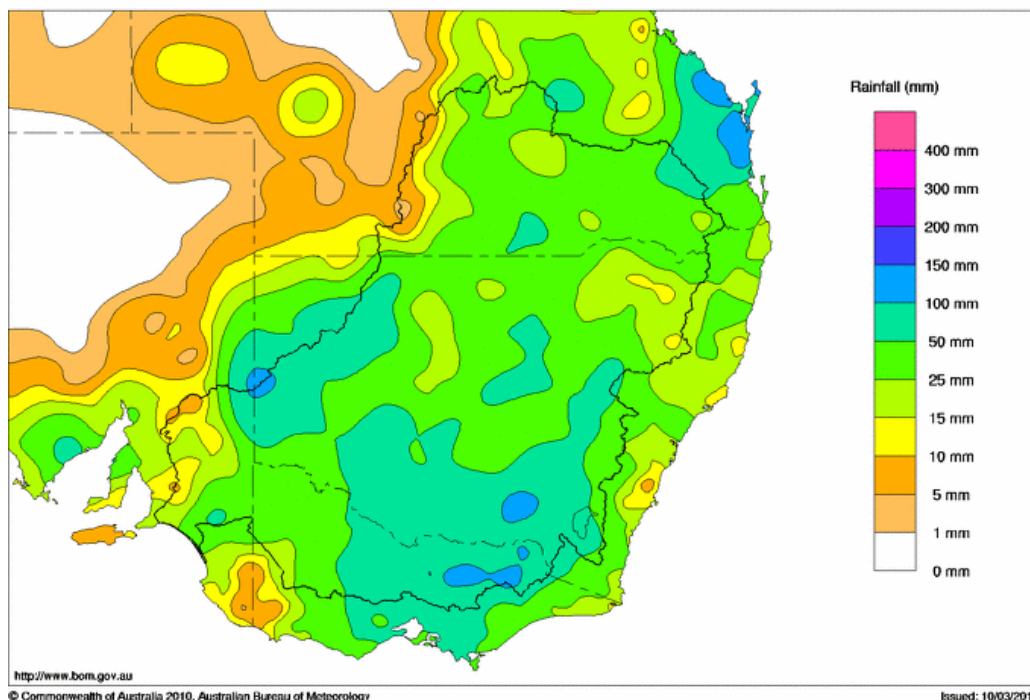
Rainfall and Inflows

For the week ending 10th March 2010, widespread rainfall was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin. Rainfall was intense and very heavy in many places, particularly in the Riverina district of NSW, near Broken Hill in western NSW and across north-eastern Victoria, where over 100 mm was recorded (see map below).

As a result of the rain, streamflows in the upper Murray and its tributaries have increased, with the best responses at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River (rising from 250 to 4,580 ML/day) and at Rocky Point on the Ovens River (rising from 400 to 4,150 ML/day).

In the northern Basin, major widespread flooding continues across the Paroo, Warrego, Balonne, Moonie and Weir Rivers. At St George on the Balonne River, the peak flow on 7th March was 255,000 ML/day which is the highest on record. The main flood peak is now passing Dirranbandi, and river rises have commenced further downstream towards the NSW border in the Bokhara, Culgoa, Birrie and Narran Rivers, and also at Mungindi at the top of the Barwon River. The Bureau of Meteorology has predicted that peak flows will reach the Darling River at Bourke in mid-April and Wilcannia in early to mid-May.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th March 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



River Operations

MDBA active storage (which currently excludes Menindee Lakes) increased by 66 GL to 2,012 GL (or 24% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 11 GL to 1,203 GL (31% capacity) and the release has been reduced to the minimum of 200 ML/day. Total storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 14 GL to 538 GL (18% capacity) in response to increased inflows and reduced releases. As a result

of the rain, the Hume release was reduced from 7,100 to 2,200 ML/day in response to reduced downstream demands and increased inflows to the Murray from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers.

In response to the increased tributary inflows, runoff from local rainfall and reduced irrigation diversions, the water level in Lake Mulwala increased to the Full Supply Level of 124.90 m AHD and the release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased from 5,500 to 8,500 ML/day. The release will be gradually reduced back to about 5,500 ML/day during the coming week.

Likewise, the flow downstream of Stevens Weir on the Edward River temporarily increased from 730 to 1,650 ML/day due to the very heavy local rainfall and a sharp reduction in irrigation demand. During the coming week, the flow should gradually recede back to the current target of 500 ML/day. Heavy rainfall also generated a response in Billabong Creek, with the flow at Darlot increasing from 70 to 1,690 ML/day.

Further downstream on the Murray, the release from Torrumbarry Weir has increased from 3,900 to 5,900 ML/day due to reduced irrigation diversions along National Channel and a small pulse from the Goulburn River. During the coming week, the release is forecast to temporarily increase to about 7,500 ML/day as the higher flows from Yarrowonga Weir arrive, before gradually reducing back towards 3,000 ML/day at the end of March (if it remains dry).

At Euston Weir, the release is currently 5,600 ML/day and is forecast to temporarily increase to about 9,000 ML/day in about 2 weeks when the higher flows from both the Murray and Edward Rivers arrive. If it remains dry, the longer term outlook is for the flows at Euston Weir to steadily recede for the remainder of autumn.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) decreased by 8 GL to 590 GL (34% capacity). The release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) has been reduced from 9,000 to 6,000 ML/day and will continue to be gradually reduced during the coming week. Upstream of Menindee Lakes, the flow in the Darling River at Wilcannia is currently 5,170 ML/day.

On the Murray, the release from Wentworth Weir (immediately downstream of the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers) is currently 14,660 ML/day and is expected to gradually decrease to about 11,000 ML/day during the coming week, in response to the lower flows arriving from the Darling River.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 49 GL to 481 GL (71% capacity) and is forecast to continue increasing over the next few weeks. During the past week, the flow to South Australia averaged 9,000 ML/day and the flow past Lock 1 has increased to 7,570 ML/day. The water levels in Weirs 1 to 6 are all slightly above Full Supply Level, in response to both the local rainfall and runoff, and also the higher flows entering South Australia.

The salinity at Morgan (upstream of Weir 1) is currently 240 EC, which is significantly lower than 3 months ago (550 EC) and also well below the 10 year average of 460 EC. Downstream of Lock 1, the salinity at Murray Bridge is 350 EC, which is also significantly lower than 3 months ago (630 EC) and the 10 year average of 530 EC. The lower salinities in recent months are due to the higher flows passing along the Murray in South Australia.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently -0.85 m AHD, which is slightly higher than this time last year (-0.91 m AHD). In Lake Albert, the water level increased by 0.09 m to -0.68 m AHD, which is slightly lower than this time last year (-0.55 m AHD).

Algal Blooms

Red alerts for blue-green algae are currently active along the Murray between Hume Dam and Swan Hill some 800 river kilometres, and also along the full length of the Edward River. Further updates will be provided over the coming weeks. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
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Week ending Wednesday 10 Mar 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	430.21	1 203	31%	80	1 123	+11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.75	538	18%	30	508	+14
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.31	481	71%	100	381	+49
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		590	34%	(- -) #	0	-8
Total		9 352		2 812	30%	--	2 012	+66

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **24%**

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	465	45%	3	462	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	544	33%	24	520	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	900	27%	100	800	-3

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Mar-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	836	-7	Snowy-Murray	+20	626
Snowy-Murray Component	610	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+0	242
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	20.1	384
			Murray 1 Release	+24	851

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)	5.0	163	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.7	111
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.1	53	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	6.9	199
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	104
Licensed Pumps	3.1	79	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	16
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	214
TOTAL	5.3	322	TOTAL	17.7	644

* 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	186	(9 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	62.8	
Flow so far this month	87	
Flow last month	235	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	60
Euston	100	100	90
Red Cliffs	80	80	100
Merbein	90	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	230	240	480
Lock 9	220	220	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	190	190	320
Waikerie	-	-	410
Morgan	230	260	500
Mannum	280	300	590
Murray Bridge	350	370	660
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 970	6 250	5 630
Potalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 640	4 210	5 070
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	16 290	17 350	11 620
Goolwa Barrages	17 970	16 300	13 640

Week ending Wednesday 10 Mar 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	-	-	-	2 610	F	4 670	3 540
Jingellic	4.0	1.19	207.71	1 290	F	5 260	4 410
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.60	218.49	880	S	740	560
Heywoods	5.5	1.77	155.40	2 230	F	5 120	7 520
Doctors Point	5.5	1.98	150.45	4 150	R	6 220	8 270
Albury	4.3	1.05	148.49	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.48	127.50	5 470	F	6 930	7 950
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.46	116.50	8 560	R	6 180	5 920
Tocumwal	6.4	1.70	105.54	6 810	R	6 190	6 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.99	80.54	5 910	R	4 670	3 950
Swan Hill	4.5	0.95	63.87	4 280	R	4 040	4 010
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.26	51.38	5 300	S	5 120	5 420
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.27	43.11	5 610	F	5 360	5 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 120	F	4 860	5 070
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.90	28.66	14 660	F	15 000	14 610
Rufus Junction	-	3.73	20.66	8 120	F	7 890	7 270
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.05	-	7 570	R	5 770	4 550
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	154.77	1 370	R	560	390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.95	146.63	3 600	R	1 730	480
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.72	93.14	1 310	R	770	550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.50	81.27	1 300	F	1 160	770
Edward at Liewah	-	1.72	57.10	1 060	R	1 060	1 420
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.34	54.83	250	R	200	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.59	56.55	320	F	340	650
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.34	-	10 030	R	6 740	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.44	-	2 560	F	4 640	4 020
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.87	-	9 220	F	11 080	11 770

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 860	1 880
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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	+0.00	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.25
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.42
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+1.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+1.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.10	+0.66
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.25	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.15	+0.58
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+1.76	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	-0.70

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.14	0.525	69.875	186
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.21	0.177	61.477	293

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

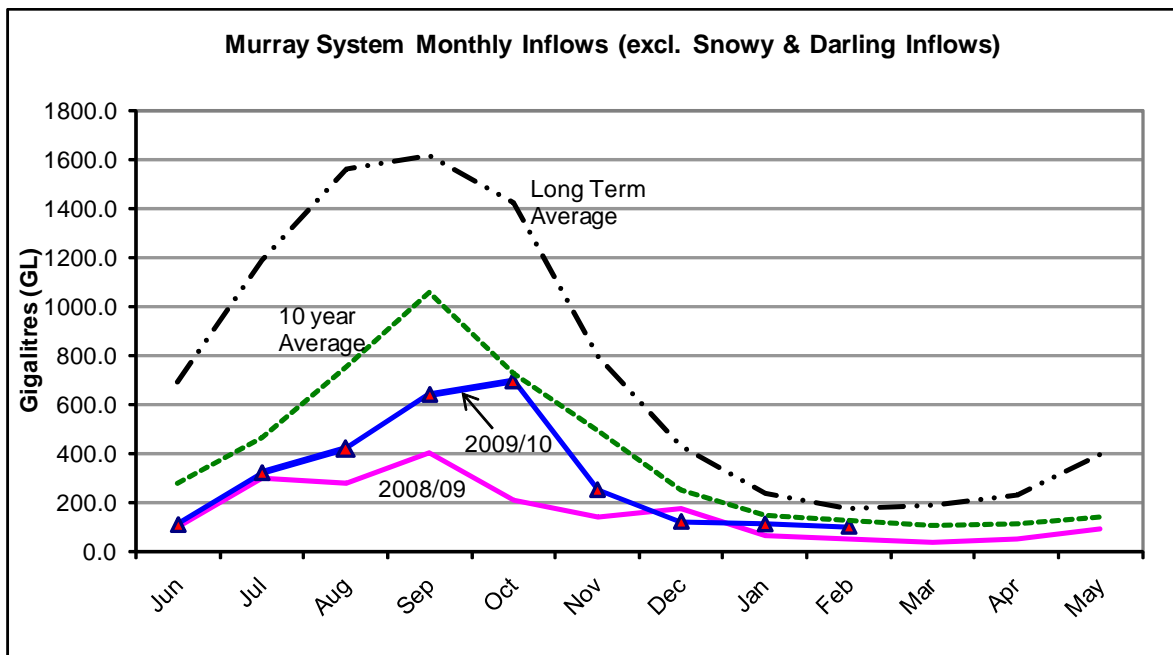
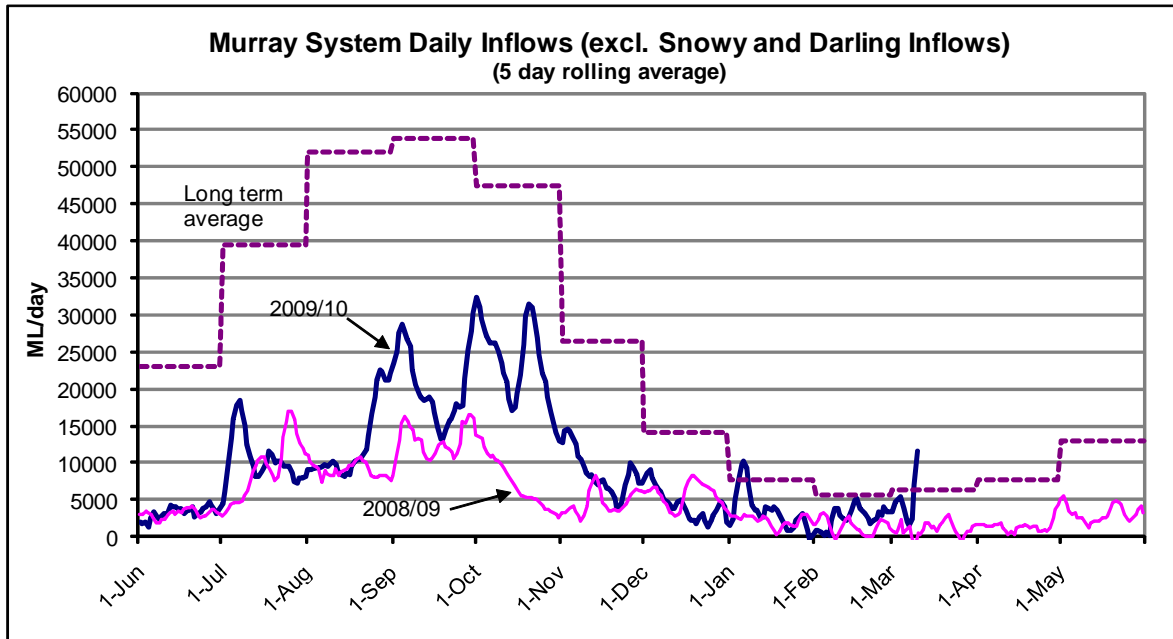
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.85

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.00	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 10 March 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	20%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	66%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	24%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	60%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	55%
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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>