



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 05 MAY 2010

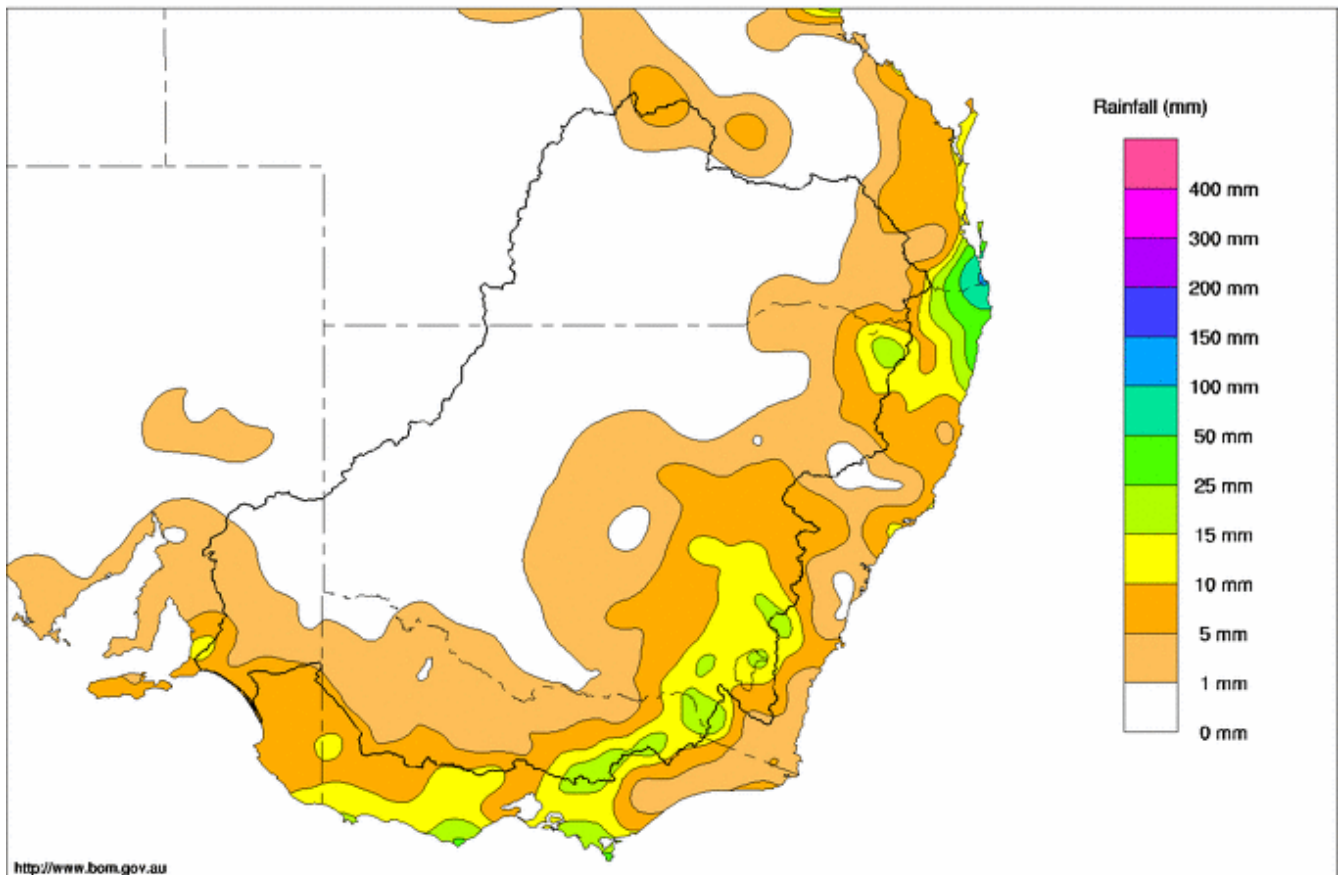
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall across the Basin followed a similar pattern to last week however totals received were significantly less. Highest falls were once again concentrated in the south-east while the north and west of the Basin remained mostly dry (see Map 1). Some of the highest totals included 56 mm at Mt Buller and 35 mm at Mt Hotham in the Victorian Alps, while in the Snowy Mountains, Thredbo received 39 mm.

Despite the rain, stream flows in the upper Murray catchments have continued to recede from the peaks reached over the Anzac Day weekend. At Hinnomunjie on the upper Mitta Mitta River, flows have decreased from 880 to 620 ML/day over the last week, while at Rocky Point on the Ovens River, flows have decreased from 1,940 to 1,090 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th May 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 05/05/2010

Map 1. Murray Darling Rainfall for the week ending 5 May 2010 (source; Bureau of Meteorology).

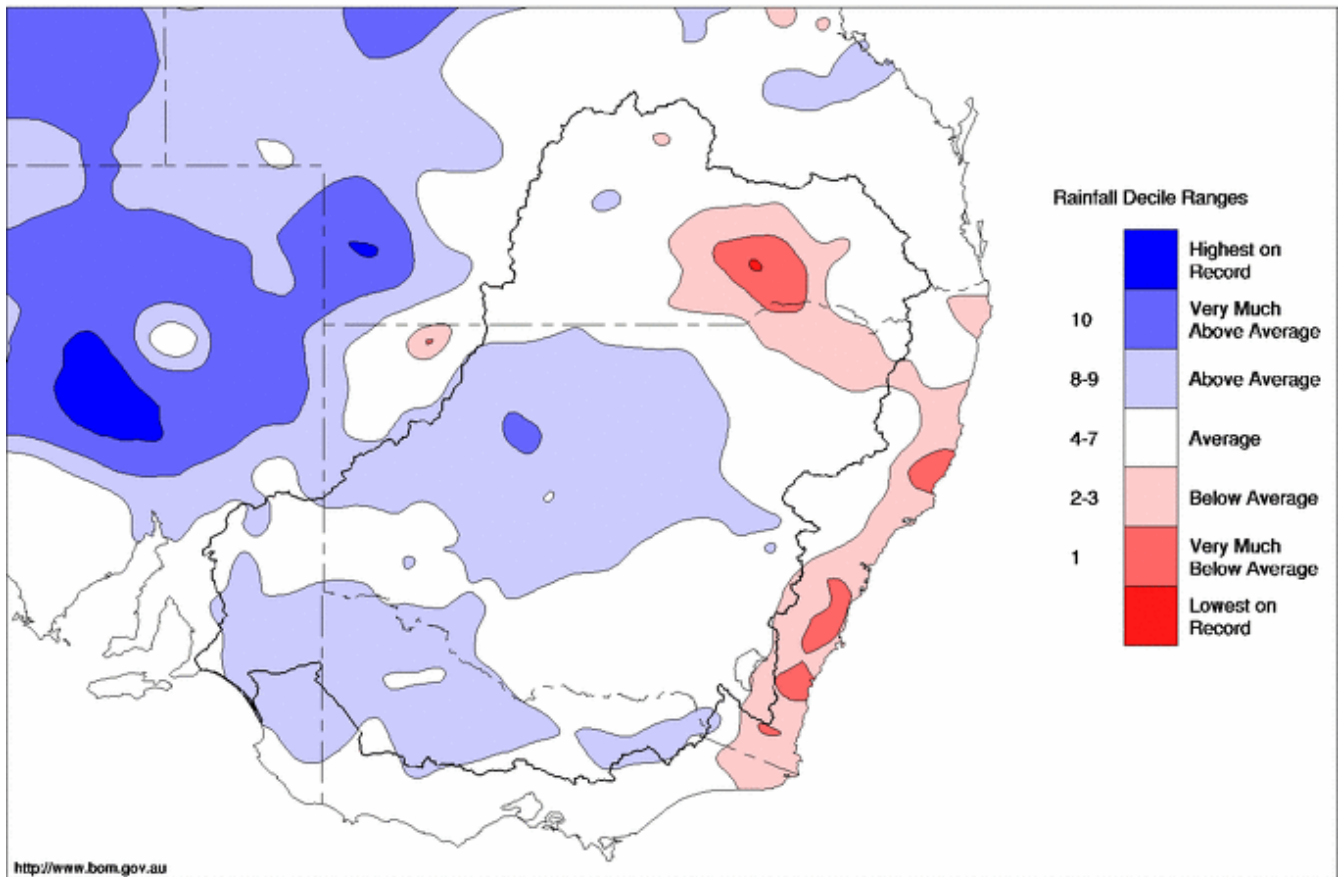


April 2010 Summary

In the central and southern regions of the Basin (and most notably in the catchments of the upper Murray and its tributaries), April rainfall was average or above average (see Map 2). Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) for April were about 140 GL, which is below the long term average of 230 GL, but significantly above the last few years (42 GL in April 2007, 66 GL in April 2008 and 46 GL in April 2009). For the 2009-10 water year to date (1 June 2009 to 30 April 2010), Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) are 3,050 GL, and are tracking as the 14th lowest in 119 years of records.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles April 2010

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 30/04/2010

Map 2. Murray-Darling Basin Rainfall Deciles, April 2010 (source; Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage (which now includes Menindee Lakes) increased by 149 GL to 2,623 GL (or 30% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 6 GL to 1,230 GL (31% capacity), which is higher than this time last year (814 GL and 24 % capacity). The release from Dartmouth has been reduced to the normal minimum of 200 ML/day, to maximise the capture of water over the coming months.

Storage in Hume Reservoir, which reached a minimum of 470 GL (or 15.5 % capacity) on 24 April, is now gradually rising, and is currently at 488 GL (16 % capacity). The target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) was reduced from 4,600 ML/day to 2,500 ML/day, and will continue to be reduced over the coming week. This is in response to decreasing irrigation demand downstream, and the closure of the main irrigation diversion channels in early to mid May. Likewise, the release at Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 4,400 to 3,800 ML/day and, depending on inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers, will continue to be reduced over the next few weeks.

NSW State Water has announced that the annual winter lowering of the Stevens Weir pool will commence on Friday 7 May, following completion of irrigation requirements for the 2009-10 season. The drawdown will improve fish migration and river bank vegetation, and also assist the construction of a fish ladder at Stevens Weir.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release is steady at 2,600 ML/day and further downstream at Euston Weir, it is also steady at 2,600 ML/day. At Wentworth Weir, the release has decreased from 3,070 to 2,500 ML/day and should remain fairly steady during the coming week. If the weather remains dry, the low flows between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs are expected to continue over the coming weeks.

On the Darling River, the floodwaters passing Wilcannia peaked on Friday 30 April at 9.14 m (or 26,400 ML/day), which is slightly lower than the peak in early February 2010 (9.4 m or 28,000 ML/day), and is only just above the minor flood level of 9.0 m. Further upstream at Bourke, the flow has now receded to 2,000 ML/day. During the past week, storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 150 GL to 1,133 GL (66 % capacity). MDBA forecasts indicate that the storage volume is likely to reach about 1,300 GL (or 75% capacity) by the end of May, and possibly slightly higher if some water from the Paroo River finally reaches the Darling River. The release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) is currently at 300 ML/day but will be reduced to 200 ML/day over the coming days.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 23 GL to 462 GL (68 % capacity) and is expected to continue decreasing over the next few weeks. For the month of May, the flow to South Australia has been reduced to a target flow of 5,500 ML/day. The flow past Lock 1 averaged 4,800 ML/day and the water level in Lake Alexandrina increased by a further 0.04 m to -0.51 m AHD. The water level should continue to gradually increase through the remainder of autumn and winter in response to inflows from the Murray, lower evaporative losses, and local inflows from any rainfall.

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DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 05 May 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	431.06	1 230	31%	80	1 150	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.13	488	16%	30	458	+15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.15	462	68%	100	362	-23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 133	65%	(480 #)	653	+150
Total		9 352		3 313	35%	--	2 623	+149

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **30%**

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		385	37%	3	382	-15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		593	36%	24	569	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		814	24%	100	714	+6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-May-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	696	-12	Snowy-Murray	+17	11
Snowy-Murray Component	514	+46	Tooma-Tumut	+6	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	11.2	9
			Murray 1 Release	+20	9

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)	11.1	253	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	135
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.3	60	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.3	315
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	N/A	N/A
Licensed Pumps	1.3	103	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.6	25
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	246
TOTAL	12.9	446	TOTAL	20.1	721

* 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	93	
Flow this week	41.4	(5 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	28 *	
Flow last month	203	

* Flow to South Australia includes entitlement plus trade

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	70	60
Euston	100	100	90
Red Cliffs	130	130	100
Merbein	120	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	220	240	440
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	230	220	300
Waikerie	260	260	350
Morgan	270	280	450
Mannum	300	300	530
Murray Bridge	290	290	640
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 050	5 100	5 590
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 910	1 650	4 520
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	16 960	17 250	12 810
Goolwa Barrages	22 140	21 570	14 800

Week ending Wednesday 05 May 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	-	-	-	3 710	F	3 590	3 080
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	208.19	4 570	S	4 120	4 710
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	450	R	440	600
Heywoods	5.5	1.47	155.10	1 230	F	1 990	5 920
Doctors Point	5.5	1.78	150.25	2 760	F	3 680	7 320
Albury	4.3	0.89	148.33	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.15	127.17	3 850	R	4 080	7 750
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.78	115.82	3 880	R	4 070	4 440
Tocumwal	6.4	1.28	105.12	4 460	F	4 620	4 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.07	79.62	2 600	R	2 610	2 280
Swan Hill	4.5	0.68	63.60	2 600	R	2 500	2 240
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.64	50.76	3 060	R	2 770	2 730
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.60	42.44	2 640	F	2 690	3 090
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 520	F	2 690	3 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.91	27.67	2 490	F	2 770	3 020
Rufus Junction	-	3.23	20.16	5 050	F	5 440	6 400
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.14	-	4 550	F	4 830	4 900
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.66	154.89	1 580	R	1 470	1 400
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.36	146.04	1 820	F	2 020	1 690
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	470	F	450	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.65	80.42	390	F	410	390
Edward at Liewah	-	0.98	56.36	480	S	480	490
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.22	54.71	140	F	160	210
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	180	F	220	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	100	R	100	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.36	-	1 980	F	3 810	13 280
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.94	-	770	F	790	770

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 780	5 090
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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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.93
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+0.57
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.27	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.30
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	-0.20	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.24
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.21	+0.42	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.89

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.50	1.08	70.43	916
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	0.02	61.32	170

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.51

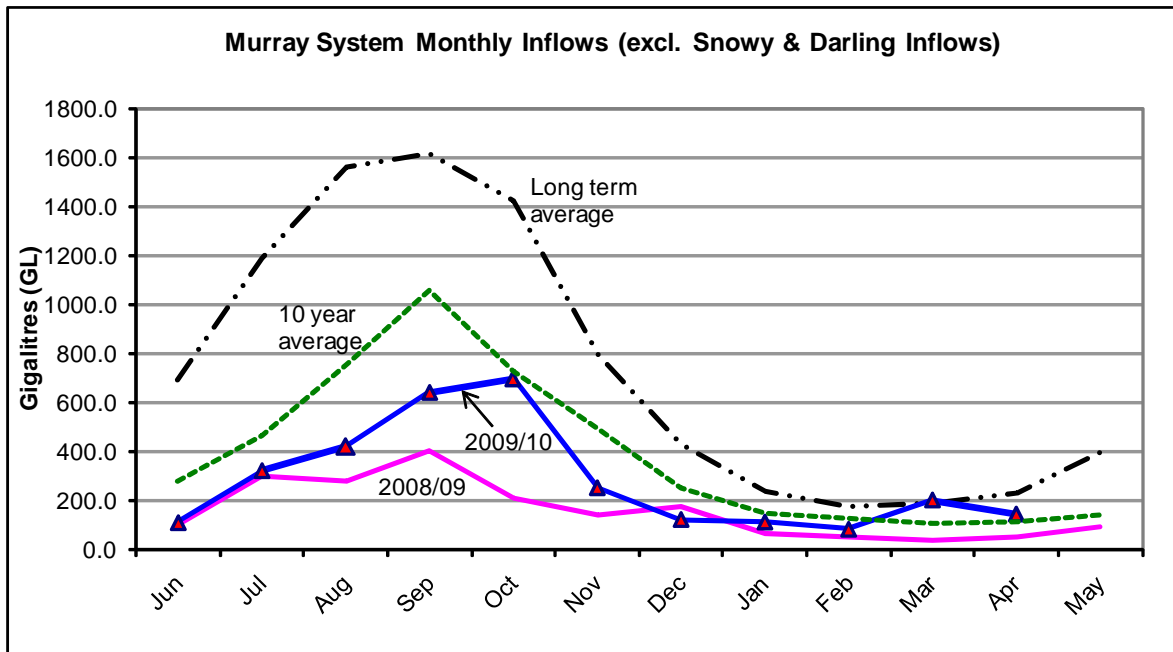
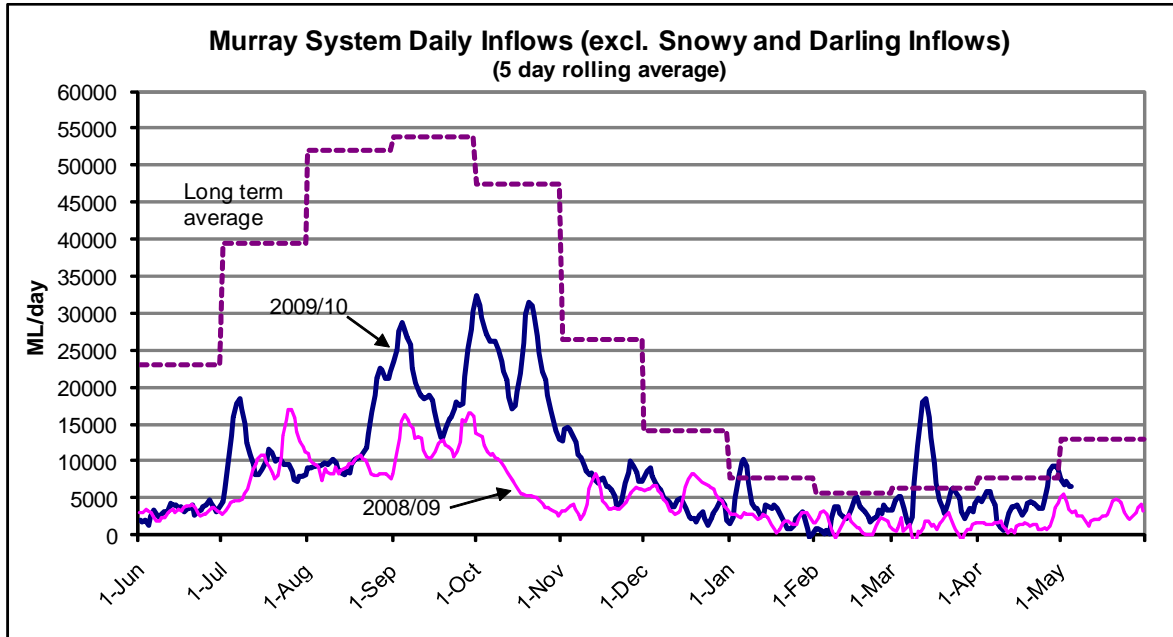
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.08	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



Week ending Wednesday 5 May 2010



State Allocations (as at 5 May 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	27%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	27%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	71%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
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