



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY 2010

Trim Ref: D10/14094

Rainfall and Inflows

After 4 weeks of relatively dry weather there were moderate falls of rain across the Murray–Darling Basin this week.

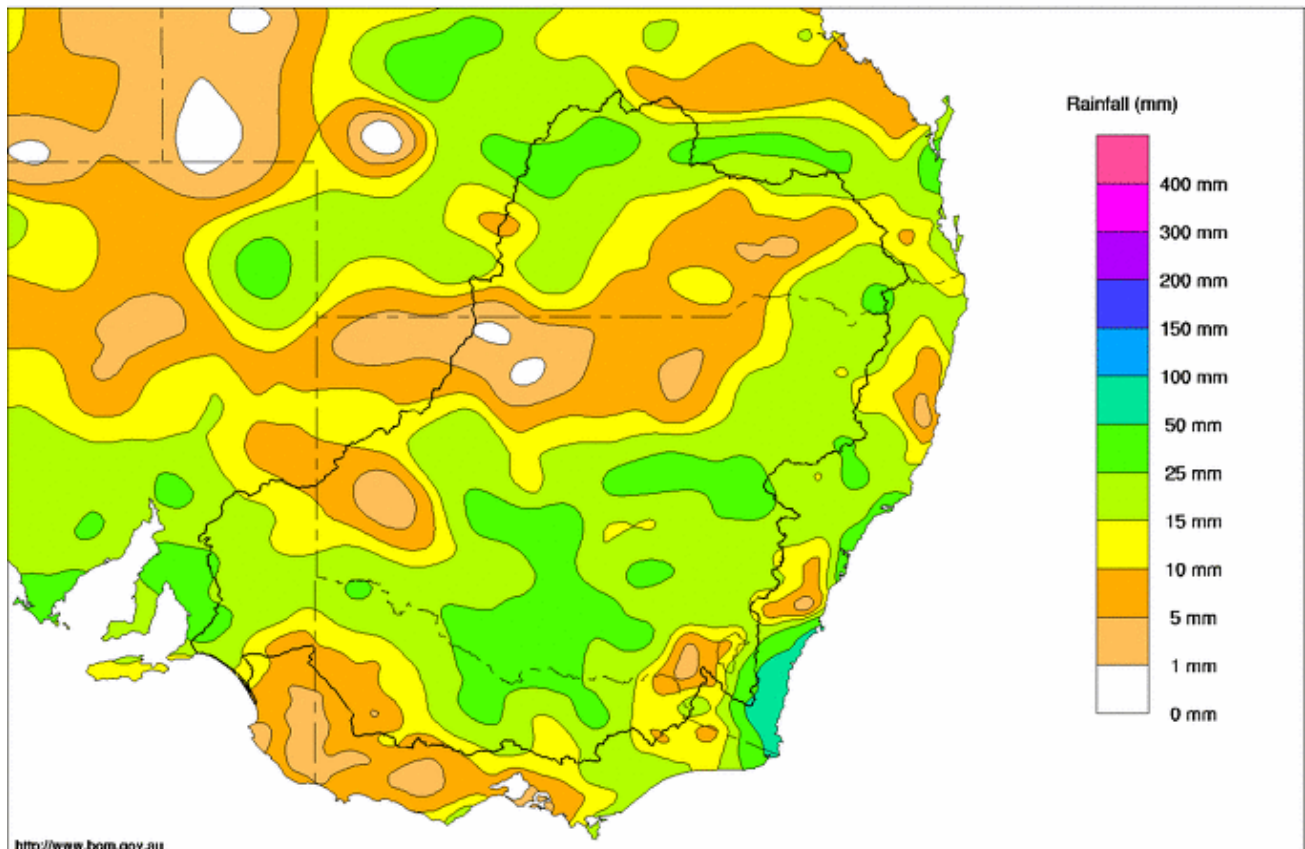
Barham and Tocomwal, on the mid Murray received some of the highest rainfalls for the week with recordings of 45 and 47 mm respectively. In the Victorian Alps, Mt Buffalo received 50 mm, however many other stations in the area recorded lower falls of around 25 mm or less. In the Snowy Mountains area, recorded rainfall was also relatively low with Charlotte Pass and Thredbo receiving 27 and 17 mm respectively.

Streamflow response, due in part to the preceding dry conditions, in the upper Murray tributaries was minimal. For instance, Rocky Point on the Ovens River rose from around 800 to 1,050 ML/day and Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River rose from 400 to only 440 ML/day.

The rain has wet the catchments in the upper Murray and streamflows should respond to any further good rainfall events in the near future. The Bureau is currently predicting more rain for this weekend.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th May 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage (which now includes Menindee Lakes) has increased by 58 GL to 2,908 GL (34% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 2 GL to 1,239 GL (32% capacity) and the release remains on the normal winter minimum of 200 ML/day. Hume Reservoir total storage increased by 40 GL to 588 GL (19% capacity) and during the week, the release averaged 670 ML/day.

The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently at about 124.76 M AHD (0.14 m below FSL). The release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased during the week from about 2,100 to 3,200 ML/day due to increased inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. Releases in coming weeks will be dependent on rain and subsequent inflows.

As is normal for winter operation, the Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River continues to be lowered and is now at 1.99 m, down from 2.86 m this time last week. At Torrumbarry Weir, on the Murray, the pool level is being increased, after the recent lowering to assist in the supply of irrigation water through National Channel and is now at 85.91 m AHD (0.14 m below FSL). All diversions to major irrigation channels have now finished for the season. The release from Torrumbarry Weir has increased to around 2,350 ML/day and this, in part, will result in increasing the river level at Swan Hill to about 0.75 m.

Small inflows to the River Murray continued this week from the drainage of irrigation channels and are expected to continue for the coming week. Further downstream, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs have remained fairly steady and are slightly above Full Supply Level. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water have announced that the Mildura Weir pool will be fully drawn down over July to allow for upgrade works (see attached media release).

Total storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 38 GL to 1,380 GL (80% capacity). Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo are both close to maximum surcharge level and Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla are still slowly filling. Upstream of the lakes on the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia has slowed over the week with a decrease from around 6,500 to 5,600 ML/day. This has been a much slower recession than upstream sites on the Darling River. This indicates that the flow at Wilcannia has contributing flows from the Paroo which enters the Darling just upstream of Wilcannia.

Lake Victoria's total storage has decreased by 23 GL during the last week to 391 GL (58% capacity) and is expected to continue to slowly decline in the coming week. The flow to South Australia averaged around 5,800 ML/day; South Australia continues to receive volumes greater than entitlement flow to deliver entitlement water not supplied in previous months. The flow over Lock 1 averaged around 5,000 ML/day and locks 1-6 are all slightly above Full Supply Level.

The level in Lake Alexandrina continued to increase and is now at -0.40 m AHD, which is significantly higher than the same time last year (-0.98 m AHD). The level in Lake Albert has also increased slightly from -0.50 to -0.48 m AHD.

Algal blooms

Amber alerts remain in place at some locations between Hume Reservoir and Wentworth and in the Edward and Wakool Rivers. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 18000 999 457 or the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 26 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	431.33	1 239	32%	80	1 159	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.35	588	19%	30	558	+40
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.47	391	58%	100	291	-23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 380	80%	(480 #)	900	+38
Total		9 352		3 598	38%	--	2 908	+58

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **34%**

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	348	34%	3	345	-11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	601	37%	24	577	+14
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	817	25%	100	717	+2

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-May-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	599	-48	Snowy-Murray	+34	90
Snowy-Murray Component	447	-31	Tooma-Tumut	+3	11
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	30.5	79
			Murray 1 Release	+35	96

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)	-0.6***	245	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	145
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.5	62	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	0.0	329
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	24	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	126
Licensed Pumps	2.5	109	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	27
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	252
TOTAL	2.5	447	TOTAL	2.2	879

* 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**

***Negative value due to draining channels returning flows at end of irrigation season

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93 *	(5 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	40.4	
Flow so far this month	143	
Flow last month	203	

* Flow to South Australia in May includes underlivered entitlement flow from previous months

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	50	70	60
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	120	130	110
Burtundy (Darling)	210	210	420
Lock 9	170	90	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	230	230	300
Waikerie	-	-	350
Morgan	300	300	440
Mannum	310	310	510
Murray Bridge	200	3 720	700
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 400	5 230	5 570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 240	1 150	4 280
Meningie (Lake Alb)	15 820	16 520	13 110
Goolwa Barrages	20 720	20 880	15 270

Week ending Wednesday 26 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	-	-	-	6 310	F	5 410	6 090
Jingellic	4.0	1.99	208.51	7 110	R	6 150	6 030
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	380	R	340	340
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	154.89	640	F	680	720
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 370	R	1 190	1 190
Albury	4.3	0.68	148.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.46	126.48	1 360	R	1 270	1 400
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.52	115.56	2 590	R	2 200	1 930
Tocumwal	6.4	0.92	104.76	2 650	R	2 490	2 350
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.99	79.54	2 340	F	2 240	2 000
Swan Hill	4.5	0.67	63.59	2 540	R	2 480	2 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.86	50.98	3 850	R	3 370	2 470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.95	42.79	4 180	R	3 000	2 740
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 590	F	2 580	2 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	2 500	S	2 460	2 800
Rufus Junction	-	3.34	20.27	5 260	F	5 230	4 930
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.08	-	5 420	R	5 030	4 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.19	154.42	830	R	630	640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.05	145.73	990	R	960	1 340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	370	S	350	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.73	80.50	470	F	440	1 030
Edward at Liewah	-	1.80	57.18	1 130	F	1 160	560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.26	54.75	180	R	150	120
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	270	S	260	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.14	-	0	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	410	S	450	610
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.91	-	650	F	640	700

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 990	1 860
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+1.03
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.14	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.78
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.40
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.19	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.11	+0.29
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.20	+0.38	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.83

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.44	0.896	70.246	579
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.09	0.066	61.366	201

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.40

Barrages

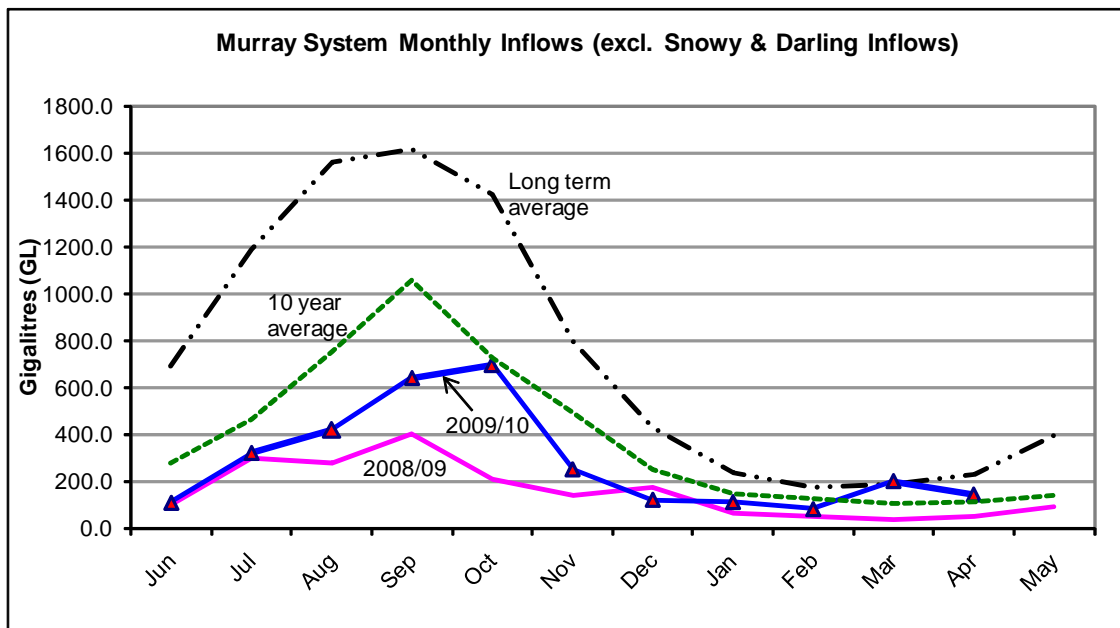
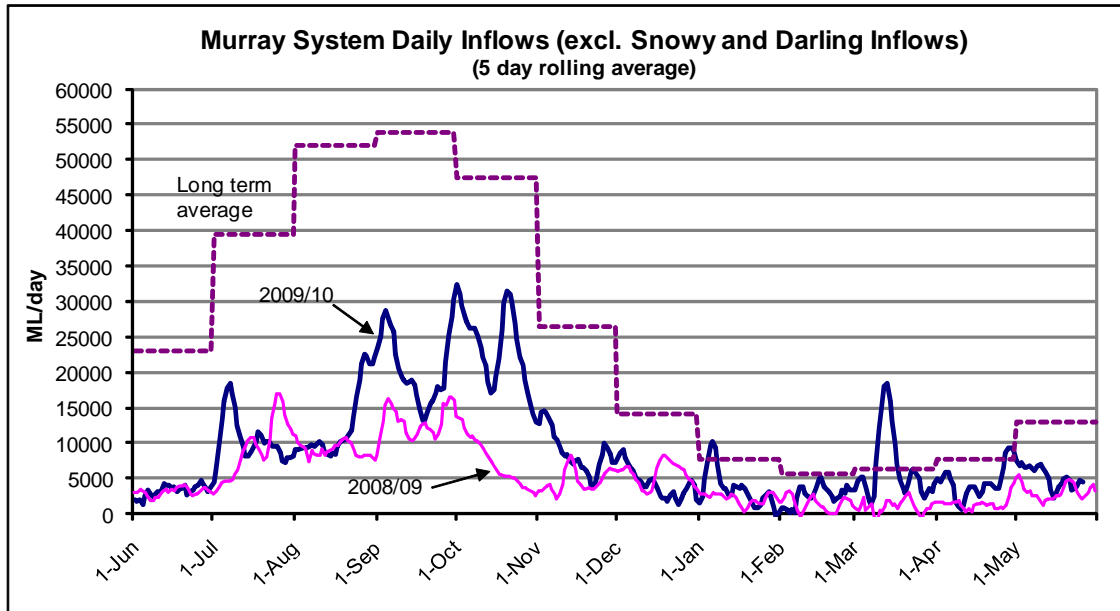
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.07	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	FALSE	FALSE

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



Week ending Wednesday 26 May 2010



State Allocations (as at 26 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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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>

MEDIA RELEASE

26 May, 2010



Sunraysia weir pools to be lowered for upgrade works

The Mildura weir pool is to be fully drawn down over July to allow upgrade works and the construction of a fishway.

The water level of the Wentworth weir pool down river of Mildura may also need to be lowered.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water said today that the lock at Mildura would also be closed while the weir pool is drawn down.

Upgrades will include installation of a new prototype trestle with mechanised gates to significantly improve flow regulation. The existing method requires manual adjustment of wooden drop bars.

The works will also include construction of a 'Denil' fishway on the Victorian side of the river. The fishway is part of the MDBA's 'Sea to Hume Fishway Program' which is restoring fish passage along the River Murray all the way from the sea to Hume Dam, a distance of about 2,200 km.

The drawdown of Mildura Weir pool (to about 3.6 m below full supply level) will start in mid July.

After the modifications are completed and all trestles have been placed back in the river, the weir pool will be raised back to full supply level by early August 2010.

The prototype trestle will be trialled over the next year. It is expected that further trestle upgrades will be undertaken in future years based on the knowledge gained from this trial.

Construction of the fishway is expected to start in June and will take about three months. To assist with construction, the water level of the Wentworth weir pool may need to be lowered slightly (by up to 20 cm) to reduce the water level on the downstream side of Mildura Weir. Such lowering, if needed, would occur late July.

The proposed schedule for works is:

Proposed date	Action
Early June	Commence construction of the fishway at Mildura Weir.
Early July	Wentworth Weir pool at full supply level for the 'Junction Rally'.
Early July	Mildura Lock closed.
Mid to late July	Mildura Weir pool lowered and trestles removed from river. Modification to two existing trestles and arrival on-site of new trestle.
Late July	Lowering of Wentworth weir pool, if needed.
Late July / early August	Trestles placed back in river, including the new mechanised trestle, and the gradual refilling of Mildura Weir pool commences.
Early August	Mildura Weir pool raised back to full supply level and Mildura Lock re-opened.

Water quality measurements will be taken during the drawdown at Mildura Weir, so that any salinity impacts in the weir pool or downstream can be carefully assessed.

Any higher salinity water will be diverted into Lake Victoria to minimise impacts on the river and to water users in South Australia.

During the drawdown of Mildura Weir, interference with any habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic plants is prohibited.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

Over the coming weeks, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water will issue further advice with more specific dates and details.

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141

 Receive MDBA updates via http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

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