



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

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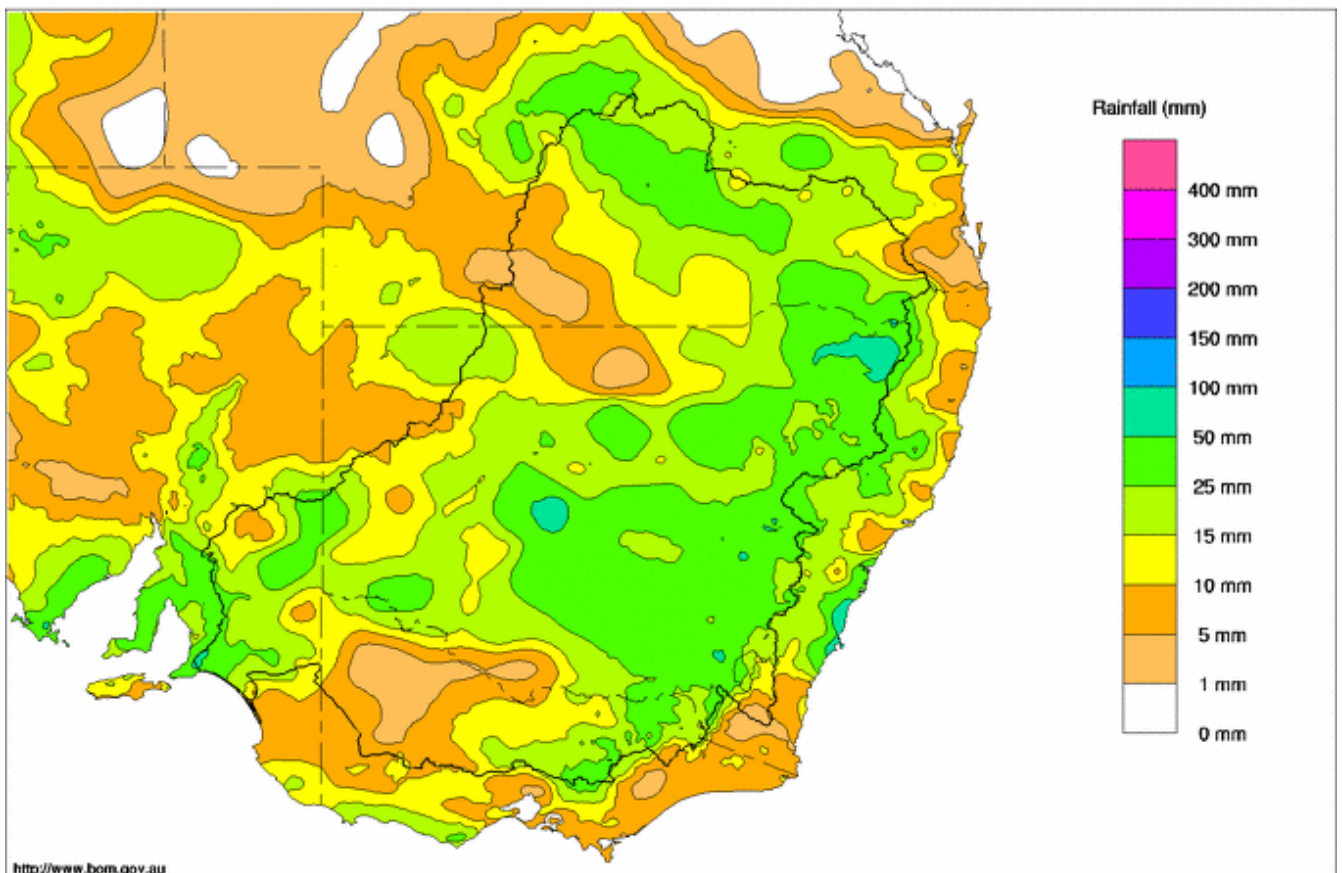
Rainfall and Inflows

There were further moderate falls of rain across the Murray–Darling Basin this week. Falls recorded across the Upper Murray were relatively light with the Victorian Alps receiving up to 30 mm and the Snowy Mountains recording 38 mm at Charlotte Pass.

Despite the additional rain, streamflows continued to decline from last week’s high flows. Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River, which peaked at around 28,000 ML/day on 5 September is now at 3,100 ML/day. At Wangaratta, on the Ovens River, the flows have fallen to about 19,000 ML/day from the peak of around 124,000 ML/day on 6 September. Similarly, on the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has fallen from its peak of around 60,000 ML/day on 10 September to 39,000 ML/day.

Murray System Inflows for the first half of September are already around 2,000 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 15th September 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 463 GL to 5,505 GL (64% capacity). Dartmouth total storage increased by 63 GL to 1,709 GL (44% capacity) and total storage in Hume Reservoir is currently at 2,254 GL, an increase of 281 GL over the week. Release from these two reservoirs remain at their normal minimums.

The release from Yarrowonga Weir has dropped from its peak of 112,000 ML/day on 8 September, to 29,000 ML/day and will continue to decrease as inflows to Lake Mulwala from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers recede. The pool level continued to fluctuate between 124.6 and 124.8 m AHD in response to flood operations.

As expected, large areas of the Barmah-Millewa Forest are being inundated from the increased releases from Yarrowonga Weir. Flows at Deniliquin, on the Edward River (see Figure 1), rose to around 13,000 ML/day this week from around 6,000 ML/day, and will continue to rise in the coming week.



Figure 1. Edward River at Deniliquin, 16 September 2010

Photo courtesy of L Cartwright



At Echuca, the river level is currently 91.74 m AHD due to high inflows from the Goulburn River combined with high River Murray flows. The level is still rising, however the Bureau of Meteorology is predicting it to peak at below minor flood level of 93.50 m AHD. For further information, see the Bureau of Meteorology flood warnings at <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic>. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently around 40,000 ML/day. It is expected that flows will remain close to this level for several more days.

At Euston Weir, the flow is currently around 25,000 ML/day and will continue to rise in the coming weeks as the higher flows from upstream arrive. Similarly, the flows at Wentworth rose from 20,200 to 21,500 ML/day during the week and will also continue to rise. Flow peaks in the mid and lower Murray are difficult to forecast at this time, however they are expected to remain at relatively modest levels. It is expected that peak flows will reach South Australia in about a month's time.

Menindee Lakes total storage rose by 68 GL to 1,692 GL (98% capacity) as continued inflows from the Darling River arrive. The Menindee Lakes are expected to reach Full Supply Level (100%), but at this stage all inflows are expected to be able to be captured as the lakes are capable of being surcharged to a storage volume of 2,050 GL. At Wilcannia, upstream of the lakes, the flows have been steady at around 9,900 ML/day for the past nine days and are expected to remain above 9,000 ML/day over the coming week. Release from Menindee Lakes remains at the normal minimum.

The 'Unregulated Flow Event', declared for most reaches of the Murray has been extended and regular updates will be provided as flows into South Australia continue to be assessed.

Total storage in Lake Victoria rose by 52 GL to 540 GL (80%) and is expected to continue to increase over the coming weeks. The flow over Lock 1 this week averaged 13,700 ML/day and on 15 September flow at Lock 1 was 15,400 ML/day. This is the highest flow over Lock 1 since April 2001. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is +0.51 m AHD and, with increasing inflows, will continue to rise towards Full Supply Level (+0.75 m AHD). The water level in Lake Albert is currently -0.32 m AHD.

All fishways on the Barrages are now open into the Coorong. It is expected that releases from the Lower Lakes, through the Barrages, will progressively be increased in coming weeks and further details will be provided in coming weekly reports.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 15 Sep 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	444.30	1 709	44%	80	1 629	+63
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	187.77	2 254	74%	30	2 224	+281
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.81	540	80%	100	440	+52
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 692	98%	(480 #)	1 212	+68
Total		9 352		6 195	66%	--	5 505	+463

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **64%**

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	907	88%	3	904	+65
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 393	85%	24	1 369	+79
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 904	57%	100	1 804	+119

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Sep-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A	N/A	Snowy-Murray	N/A	N/A
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A	N/A	Tooma-Tumut	N/A	N/A
Target Storage	N/A		Net Diversion	N/A	N/A
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

Data not supplied by Snowy Hydro

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	n/a	27.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-2.1	1.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	6.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	1.4	58.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	0.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	3.0
Licensed Pumps	0.4	4.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	1.0
Lower Darling	4.5	15.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	20.0
TOTAL	5.0	52.0	TOTAL	3.0	83.0

* 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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	107.6	(15 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	189.7	
Flow last month	219.3	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for September due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	200	220	120
Euston	180	170	110
Red Cliffs	160	130	100
Merbein	120	110	90
Burtundy (Darling)	280	280	270
Lock 9	140	140	130
Lake Victoria	150	140	170
Berri	130	140	190
Waikerie	-	-	240
Morgan	260	260	300
Mannum	270	300	340
Murray Bridge	340	390	350
Milang (Lake Alex)	3 100	3 080	3 500
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 170	1 540	1 840
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	12 470	12 420	12 410
Goolwa Barrages	12 250	12 450	17 350



Week ending Wednesday 15 Sep 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	-	-	-	6 040	F	7 180	12 730
Jingellic	4.0	3.00	209.52	18 400	F	26 070	39 970
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.13	219.02	2 830	F	4 150	7 250
Heywoods	5.5	1.14	154.77	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.08	150.55	4 970	F	7 510	12 610
Albury	4.3	1.13	148.57	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.70	127.72	6 720	F	11 670	9 500
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.15	119.19	34 940	F	52 820	45 640
Tocumwal	6.4	5.47	109.31	45 010	F	61 760	24 380
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.19	85.74	39 350	R	34 140	28 260
Swan Hill	4.5	3.86	66.78	23 980	R	23 690	22 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.94	55.06	24 380	R	23 150	21 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.04	45.88	24 730	R	23 730	22 560
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	22 310	F	22 420	21 730
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.40	29.16	21 530	R	20 720	19 270
Rufus Junction	-	4.75	21.68	15 330	R	14 230	11 770
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.11	-	15 400	R	13 700	10 090
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.76	155.99	5 030	F	6 320	12 900
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.49	149.17	19 130	F	31 330	51 740
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	9.59	101.01	38 880	F	43 750	18 900
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.63	84.41	8 960	F	6 120	4 150
Edward at Liewah	-	3.18	58.56	2 840	R	2 480	1 950
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.25	55.74	3 160	R	2 420	910
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.85	57.81	1 380	R	940	1 130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	4.47	-	4 030	R	3 180	3 190
Darling at Bourke	-	5.24	-	9 820	S	9 820	9 800
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	180	F	160	170

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	41 810	79 260
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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	-0.23	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+2.41
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.13	+0.68
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.20	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.14	+0.77
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+1.42	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+1.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.05	+1.76	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.97
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.21	+0.52	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.06	+0.82
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.04	+1.61	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.36

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.31	3.705	73.055	7758
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.26	2.152	63.452	2886

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

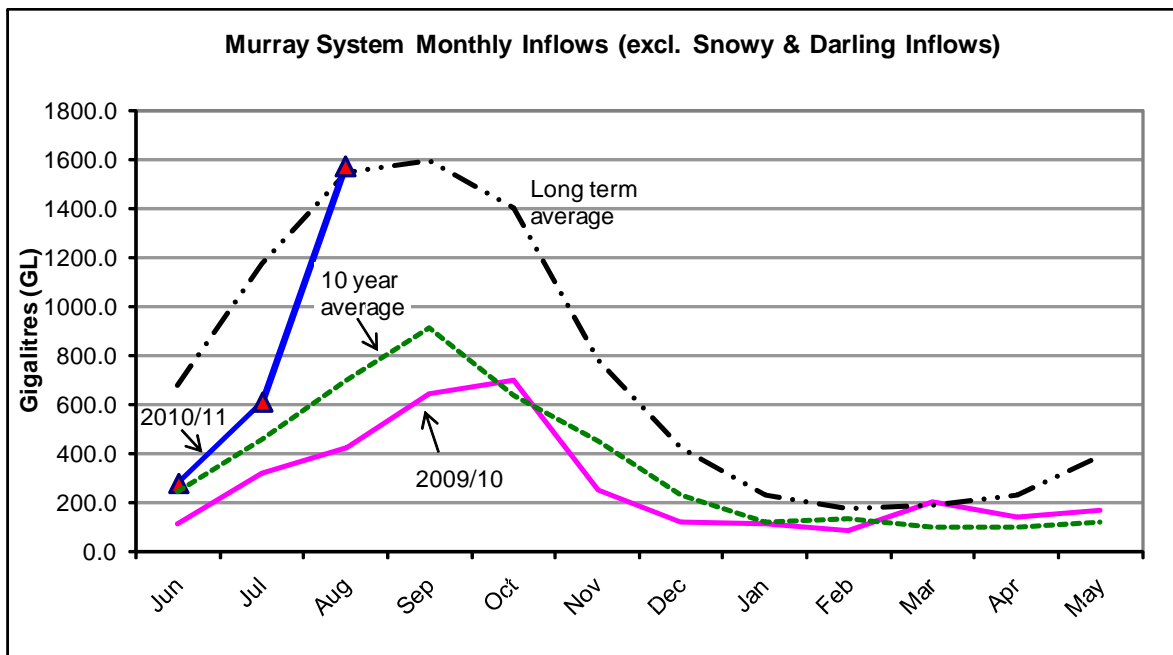
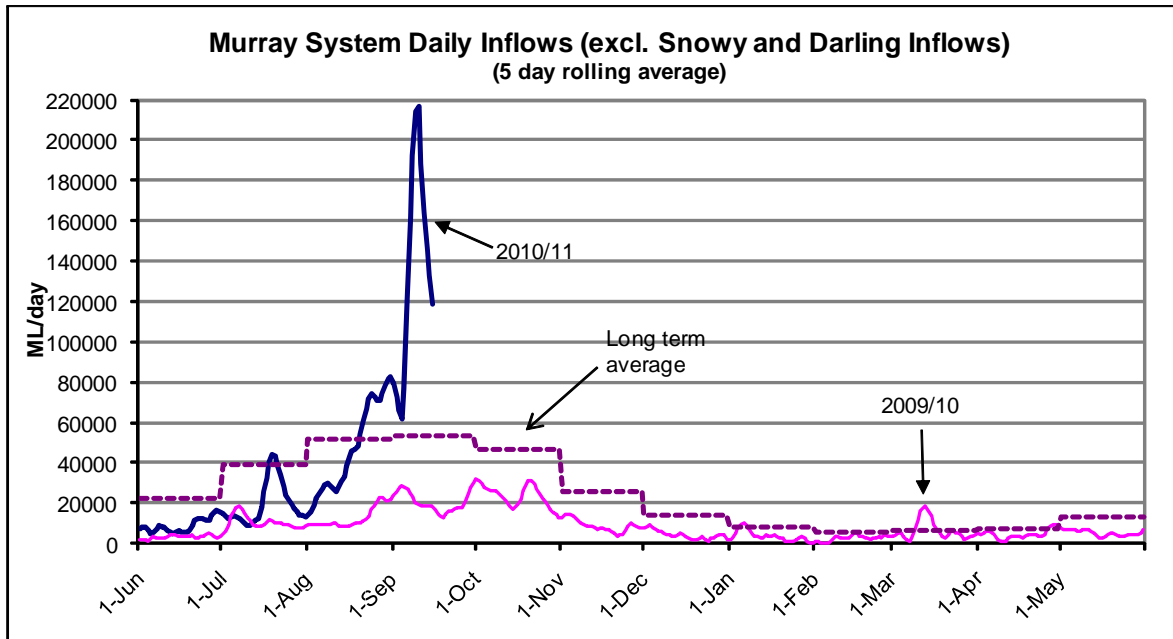
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (mAHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.85	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



Week ending Wednesday 15 September 2010



State Allocations (as at 15 September 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	36%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	94%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	45%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	67%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	63%
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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.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>