



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2010

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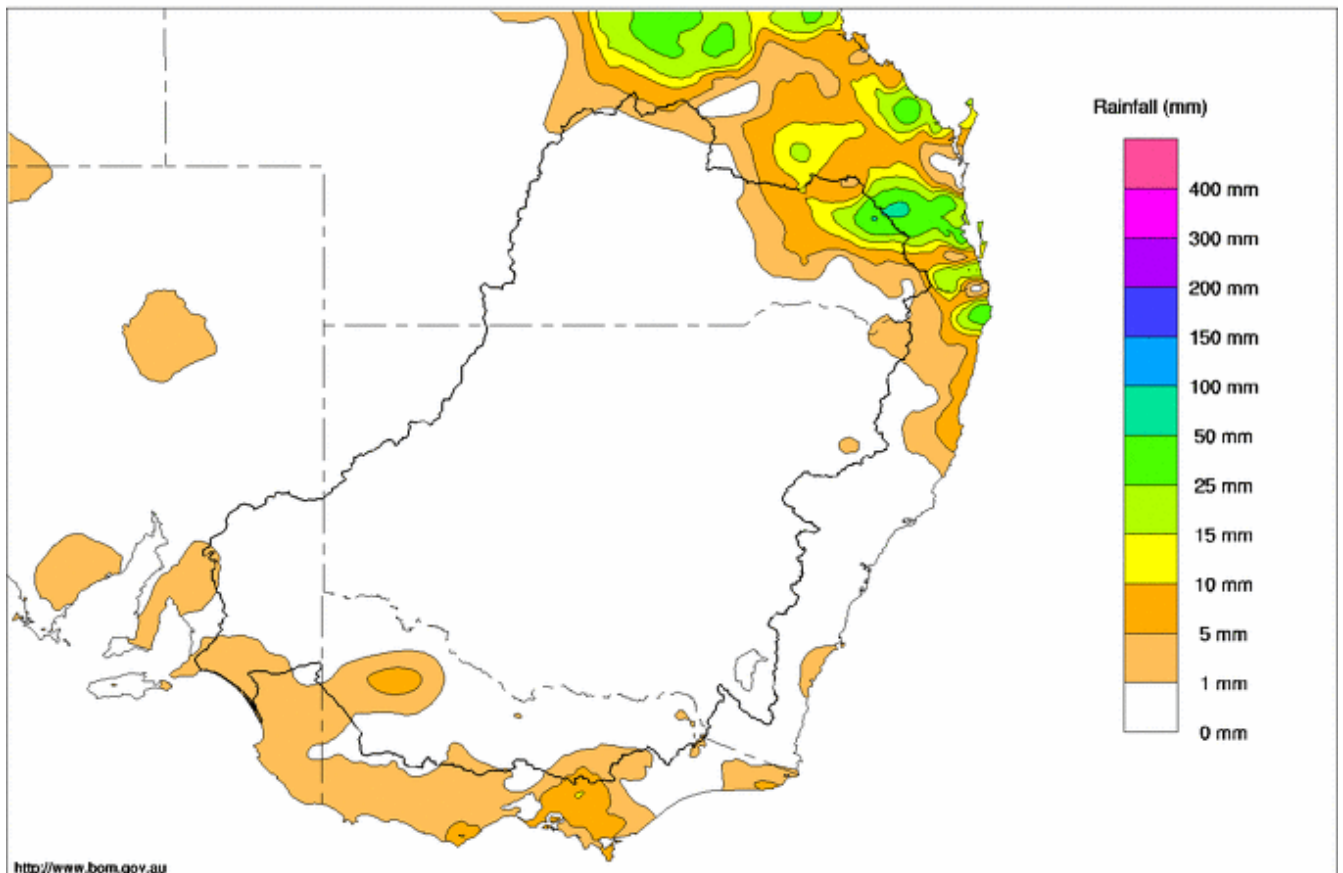
## Rainfall and Inflows

Very little rain fell across the Murray-Darling Basin during the past week. Queensland recorded some localised falls of between 10 to 50 mm in the headwaters of the Condamine River, however there were virtually no falls recorded across the Upper Murray. As a result, flows in the Upper Murray tributaries continue to fall. For example, Wangaratta, on the Ovens River is now flowing at 6,060 ML/day, down from 8,770 ML/day last week.

Flows into the Murray from the Goulburn River have also continued to decline, with the flow at McCoys Bridge now 7,800 ML/day, down from 20,370 ML/day last week. In contrast, and because of the longer travel times from the upper Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has continued to rise and is currently 6,200 ML/day. Without further rain, the flow at Balranald is expected to peak within the next week.

Murray system inflows for September to date are about 2,900 GL making it the wettest September since 1993.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) 29th September 2010  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 29/09/2010



## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by around 180 GL to 5,940 GL (69% capacity) during the week. Dartmouth Reservoir is now at 1,760 GL (45% capacity) and Hume is at 2,460 GL (81% capacity). At Dartmouth, the increase in storage during the week was around 20 GL, while Hume increased by around 80 GL.

Hume release has been increased above the required minimum for the first time in about five months as water from environmental entitlements has been ordered to sustain watering of some low-lying portions of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. With receding tributary inflows, increasing temperatures and irrigation demands, further increases in release from Hume Dam can be expected in coming weeks.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has declined during the week from 14,880 ML/day to around 10,000 ML/day and is expected to be maintained at about this rate over the next week. The pool level is temporarily being drawn upon by a few centimetres to facilitate the environmental watering, but levels can be expected to rise again next week.

Flows past Torrumbarry Weir have receded from a peak of 47,000 ML/day to around 34,000 ML/day as the high river flows along the Murray continue to move downstream. The Torrumbarry pool level has decreased along with the river flows and is currently 85.68 m AHD, down from a peak of 86.12 m AHD late last week. The pool will be gradually returned to the normal Full Supply Level of 86.05 m as the gates of the weir are reinstated. At Swan Hill, flows have persisted at around 24,000 ML/day since 8 September and are expected to begin to fall slowly from next week. The contribution from the Murrumbidgee at Balranald is around 6,200 ML/day and is expected to peak within the next week. The flow through Euston Weir is currently 33,000 ML/day and this is likely to continue rising during the next week with rises also occurring in Sunraysia.

The flow downstream of Stevens Weir has more than halved over the past week, decreasing from 12,000 ML/day to 4,000 ML/day. However, flows along the Wakool River are rising as water returns from the Koondrook, Perricoota and Werai Forests with the flow at Gee Gee Bridge increasing from 500 to 5,100 ML/day and the flow at Kyalite increasing from about 8,000 ML/day to 10,000 ML/day.

The Menindee Lakes reached 1,782 GL during the week as they continue to be surcharged towards 2,050 GL. Inflows to the Lakes from the Darling River have dropped slightly, with an average of 9,500 ML/day passing Wilcannia however renewed rises in the upper Darling tributaries may see inflows persisting for many weeks. Release from Menindee Lakes is being maintained at 500 ML/day but this may be increased in October and further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

Flow to South Australia is currently 21,600 ML/day and is expected to continue to rise until mid-October. The storage in Lake Victoria also continues to rise and is currently 620 GL, after inflows of 38 GL during the week. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently 0.65 m AHD while, in Lake Albert, the level is approximately 0.33 m AHD and rising rapidly. It is expected the combined lake levels will approach FSL of 0.75 m in the next couple of weeks. With the partial opening of the blocking bank at Clayton release from Goolwa Barrage is expected to be increased from next week.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 29 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	445.62	1 763	45%	80	1 683	+22
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	188.97	2 461	81%	30	2 431	+81
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.51	620	92%	100	520	+39
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 787	103%	(480 #)	1 307	+39
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>6 631</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 941</b>	<b>+179</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **69%**

# 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		n/a	n/a	3	n/a	n/a
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 450	89%	24	1 426	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		1 987	60%	100	1 887	+32

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Sep-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	774	+25	Snowy-Murray	+2	347
Snowy-Murray Component	549	+22	Tooma-Tumut	+17	190
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-15.5	157
			Murray 1 Release	+21	527

### 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	32.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.3	1.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	6.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	2.0	61.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	4.0
Licensed Pumps	0.9	6.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	2.0
Lower Darling	5.0	24.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	26.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>94.0</b>

\* 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	141.7	(20 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	473.0	
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	170	180	140
Euston	160	170	130
Red Cliffs	170	190	120
Merbein	150	170	100
Burtundy (Darling)	270	260	270
Lock 9	230	210	140
Lake Victoria	160	170	170
Berri	170	160	180
Waikerie	140	150	220
Morgan	200	190	270
Mannum	230	260	320
Murray Bridge	270	280	340
Milang (Lake Alex)	3 300	3 350	3 460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 310	1 550	1 770
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 620	12 390	12 420
Goolwa Barrages	8 780	8 950	15 460

Week ending Wednesday 29 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	-	-	-	5 000	R	4 130	5 330
Jingellic	4.0	2.12	208.64	8 320	R	9 880	13 630
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.72	218.61	1 270	F	1 410	2 070
Heywoods	5.5	1.84	155.47	3 410	R	1 110	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	6 460	R	3 410	3 740
Albury	4.3	1.24	148.68	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.91	126.93	2 900	R	3 010	4 480
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	S	11 110	20 530
Tocumwal	6.4	2.34	106.18	11 060	F	13 130	26 340
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.91	85.46	34 370	F	41 400	45 810
Swan Hill	4.5	3.92	66.84	24 420	F	24 660	24 160
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.79	55.91	31 090	R	29 190	25 810
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.80	46.64	33 200	R	31 350	26 880
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	29 260	F	27 610	24 540
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.76	29.52	32 700	R	30 840	22 660
Rufus Junction	-	5.26	22.19	20 220	R	19 020	16 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.29	-	18 300	R	16 030	15 300
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.40	155.63	3 030	R	2 540	3 540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.63	147.31	6 060	F	6 940	11 940
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.49	95.91	7 800	F	12 100	28 820
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.04	82.81	3 940	F	8 020	12 730
Edward at Liewah	-	4.09	59.47	4 580	R	4 040	3 280
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	-	-	6 170	S	5 450	3 990
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.45	60.41	6 240	R	5 750	3 400
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.18	-	9 220	F	8 200	5 200
Darling at Bourke	-	5.29	-	10 110	R	9 960	9 930
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	140	S	150	160

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	16 780	22 860
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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	-0.24	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.22	+2.94
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.54	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+1.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.09	+1.06
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.05	+1.86	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+1.87
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+2.12	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+1.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.90	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+1.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	-0.05	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	+0.54

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	4.243	73.593	9718
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.25	4.26	65.56	6926

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

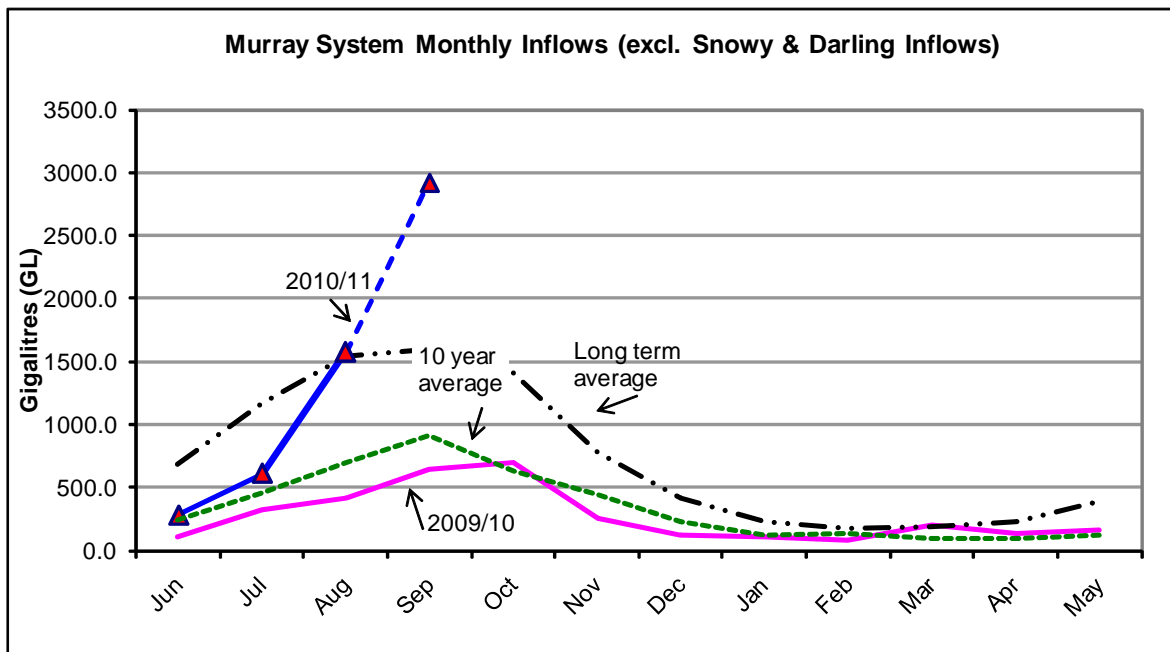
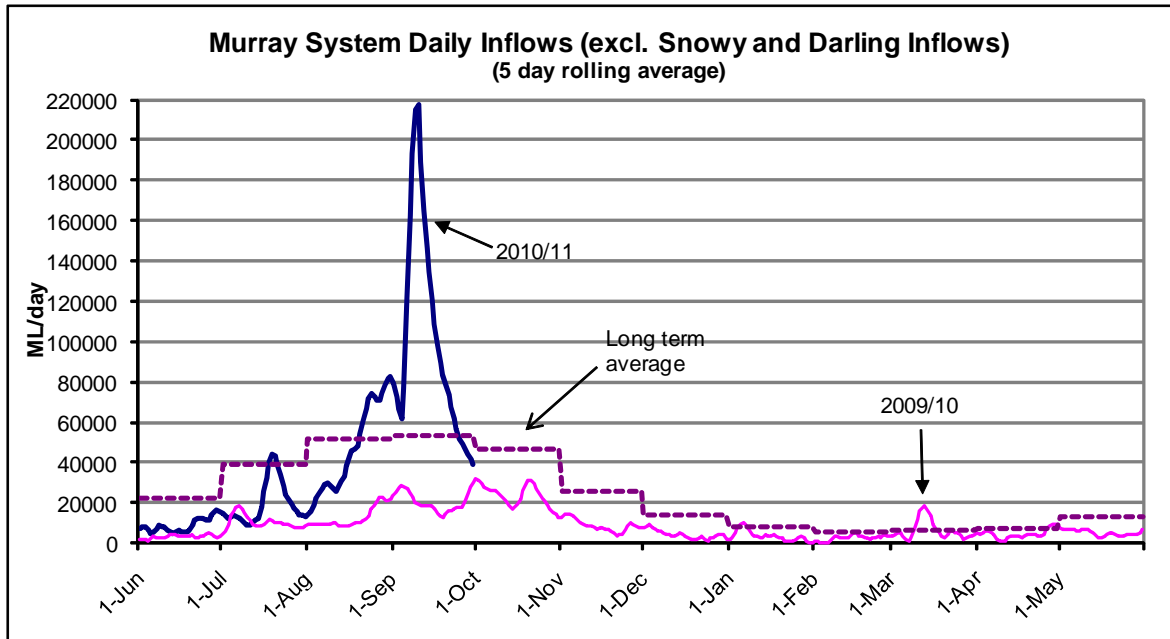
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.65

### Barrages

#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.61	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	2	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	8	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 29 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/>