



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2010

Trim Ref: D10/30627

Rainfall and Inflows

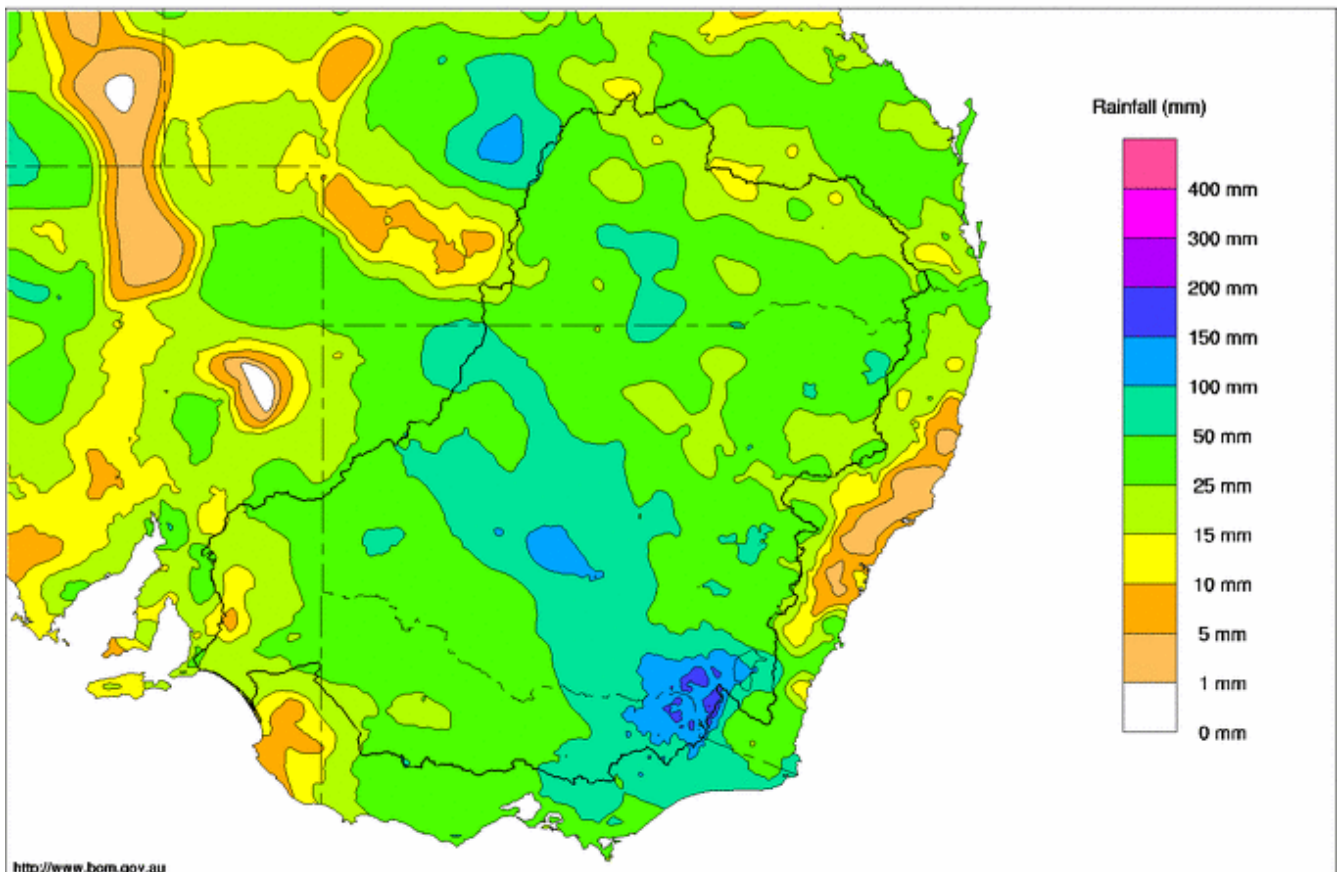
Widespread rain fell across the Murray-Darling Basin during the last week, with most areas receiving at least 25 mm. The highest falls were recorded in southern NSW, in the upper catchments of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Batlow recorded 176 mm while Tumbarumba received 141 mm. Further west, Henty recorded 165 mm and Lockhart 171 mm.

There has been flooding along parts of the Murrumbidgee River, with flows of more than 93,000 ML/day at Wagga Wagga and 43,000 ML/day, and rising, at Narrandera. Burrinjuck Dam has filled, with a peak spill of nearly 35,000 ML/day.

In the River Murray, there was major flooding at Jingellic, upstream of Hume Reservoir, with the flow increasing from about 8,700 ML/day to a peak of about 150,000 ML/day. The peak flows in other tributaries upstream of Hume Reservoir included 55,000 ML/day in Jingellic Creek at Jingellic and 43,000 ML/day in the Tooma River at Pinegrove.

Flows were more modest on the Ovens River with the peak flow at Wangaratta of about 23,000 ML/day on 17 October. These flows have now declined to 11,240 ML/day. The Goulburn River at Shepparton reached a peak of 14,700 ML/day on 19 October, and is currently 14,440 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th October 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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In the northern catchment of the Darling River system, there has been flooding at Boggabilla on the Macintyre River, with a peak flow of about 73,000 ML/day, and flooding at other locations on the Macintyre, Moonie and Balonne Rivers.

Murray system inflows during the last week totalled 667 GL, and compares with 1,090 GL recorded in the first week of September 2010.

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,683 GL (78% capacity)—an increase of 590 GL since last week.

Dartmouth Reservoir gained 76 GL during the week and the storage volume is now 1,840 GL (48% capacity). Inflows to Hume Reservoir were 436 GL, increasing the storage volume to 2,922 GL (97% capacity). Pre-releases of flood water from Hume commenced on 18 October as the reservoir is expected to be close to its full supply level of 3,005 GL by late October. The release from Hume Reservoir is currently 9,580 ML/day and may be increased further in the next few days, depending on inflows and local rainfall. At this stage, however, the release is expected to remain within channel capacity rates (25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point).

Flows past Yarrawonga Weir have increased during the week from 11,000 ML/day to a peak on 19 October of 28,000 ML/day. These high flows will prolong the environmental benefits of the previous flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. Flows downstream of Yarrawonga Weir will be maintained at greater than 18,000 ML/day in the coming weeks by release of water from environmental watering accounts.



Figure 1 - Bethanga Bridge over Hume Reservoir

Photo by Tim Tanner of NSW State Water



A blackwater event, resulting in low dissolved oxygen levels, has caused fish deaths in the Wakool River (see attached media release). MDBA, NSW Office of Water and NSW State Water have initiated several changes to river operations to improve the poor water quality in the Wakool River and to increase flows in the River Murray downstream of the Wakool Junction. In the Edward River system, higher flows are already passing downstream of Stevens Weir and are expected to reach the Wakool River in the next week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level has been lowered during the week to provide additional dilution flows downstream of the Wakool Junction. Further water for dilution of flows has been sourced from Goulburn-Murray Water's mid-river storages and from accelerated inflows from the Murrumbidgee River. Blackwater events occur naturally and whilst regulated flows may mitigate some events, they are unlikely to eliminate them.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently 14,140 ML/day and is expected to increase to more than 17,000 ML/day in the next week. The pool will be raised again as the higher flows arrive. At Euston, the flow is currently 20,670 ML/day and falling. Flows past Euston are expected to start rising again by late October, with higher flows from both the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

Flows past Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are likely to continue falling for the next week, to about 15,000–18,000 ML/day, before rising again. Further information on forecast river flows is available from the MDBA website (see http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info).

Menindee Lakes are currently surcharged to 1,919 GL (111% capacity). Pre-releases commenced from Lakes Menindee, Pamamaroo and Wetherell on 15 October, and the flows past Weir 32 will gradually increase to 17,000 ML/day by 26 October. The Menindee Lakes should be lowered to full supply level by the end of the year.

Lake Victoria is close to its full supply volume of 677 GL, however, the lake level will be gradually lowered over the next couple of weeks. This lowering is in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy which aims to minimise the time the lake is at high levels. The lake will be re-filled as the period of unregulated flows nears its end.

Flows into South Australia are currently about 30,000 ML/day. Lakes Albert and Alexandrina are slightly higher than their full supply level, and releases from the barrages are about 28,000 ML/day. Releases from the barrages are likely to continue until early 2011, albeit at low rates from December 2010.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 20 Oct 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	3 856	448.25	1 840	48%	71	1 769	+76
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.58	2 922	97%	23	2 899	+436
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.99	676	100%	100	576	+25
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 919	111%	(480 #)	1 439	+52
Total		9 269		7 357	79%	--	6 683	+590

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **78%**

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	1 046	102%	3	1 043	+77
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 547	95%	24	1 523	+102
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 082	62%	100	1 982	+56

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Oct-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	899	+78	Snowy-Murray	+12	388
Snowy-Murray Component	626	+49	Tooma-Tumut	+17	218
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-4.3	171
			Murray 1 Release	+39	628

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)	13.2	107.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.1	12.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.9	5.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	2.4	90.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	1.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	8.0
Licensed Pumps	1.6	14.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2.0
Lower Darling	5.3	38.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.2	45.0
TOTAL	19.2	165.0	TOTAL	8.7	157.0

* 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	170.0 *	
Flow this week	207.4	(29 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	568.9	
Flow last month	495.4	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for October 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	110	140	140
Euston	150	140	130
Red Cliffs	130	120	130
Merbein	120	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	290	280	270
Lock 9	170	170	150
Lake Victoria	170	170	170
Berri	180	180	180
Waikerie	-	-	200
Morgan	240	240	260
Mannum	260	260	300
Murray Bridge	260	250	310
Milang (Lake Alex)	2 150	2 330	3 320
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	420	540	1 520
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	8 630	9 000	11 730
Goolwa Barrages	2 360	3 010	12 610



Week ending Wednesday 20 Oct 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	-	-	-	8 270	F	10 980	6 370
Jingellic	4.0	3.70	210.22	27 560	F	39 510	9 830
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.92	218.81	1 900	F	2 610	970
Heywoods	5.5	2.56	156.19	9 580	R	3 280	7 090
Doctors Point	5.5	3.04	151.51	14 800	R	9 840	9 490
Albury	4.3	2.05	149.49	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.40	128.42	11 080	F	10 850	10 430
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.59	118.63	28 030	R	18 910	10 130
Tocumwal	6.4	3.84	107.68	24 100	R	15 850	10 740
Torrumbary Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.05	82.60	14 140	R	10 120	11 290
Swan Hill	4.5	1.90	64.82	10 450	F	10 300	19 250
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.93	54.05	18 080	F	23 440	36 410
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.62	45.46	20 670	F	29 210	37 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	28 620	F	29 060	30 990
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.91	29.67	35 400	F	38 770	38 140
Rufus Junction	-	6.09	23.02	31 030	R	29 620	28 220
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.94	-	29 400	R	27 640	25 040
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.78	156.01	5 400	F	6 390	2 740
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.65	148.33	11 240	F	13 790	3 850
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.11	97.53	13 080	R	5 520	1 450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.59	82.36	2 980	F	2 400	1 490
Edward at Liewah	-	2.79	58.17	2 270	F	2 700	4 480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.42	55.91	3 740	F	5 780	10 660
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.06	57.02	660	R	350	780
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.82	-	7 560	F	10 740	15 090
Darling at Bourke	-	6.25	-	15 390	S	15 380	12 870
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.90	-	590	S	550	380

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	77 120	12 790
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.95	+3.74
No 26 Torrumbary	86.05	-0.25	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+1.89
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.14	+1.63
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+1.88	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+2.51
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+2.27	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+1.99
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+1.45	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+1.89
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.35	+2.53	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	+1.19

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.00	1.967	71.317	2775
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.53	1.91	63.21	2505

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.81

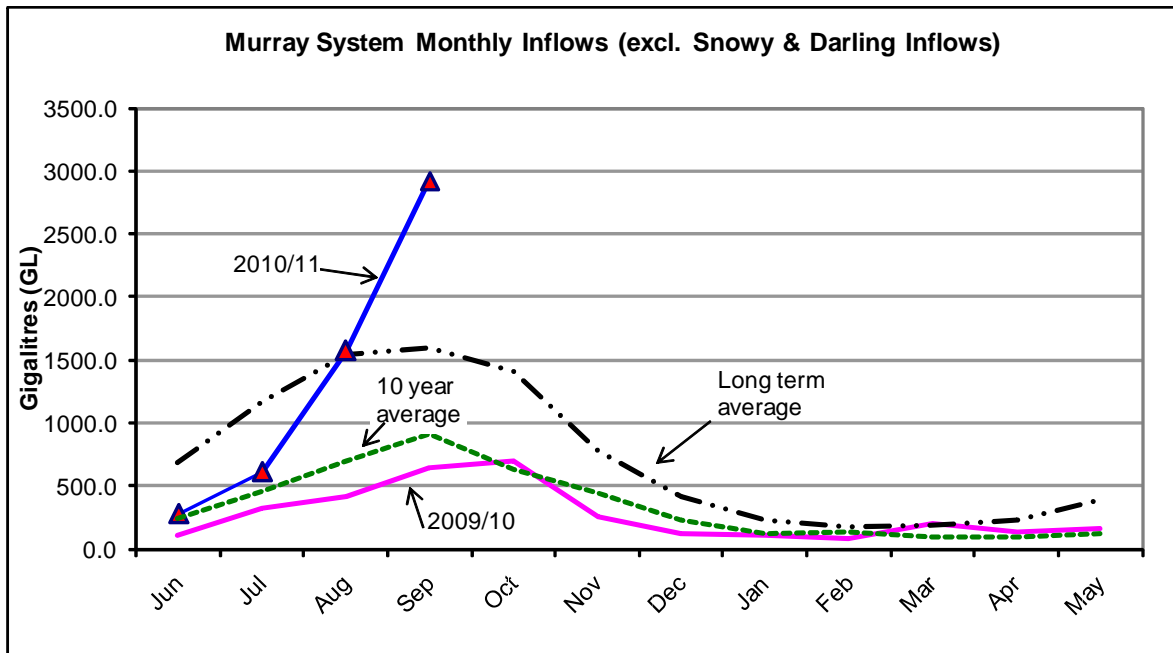
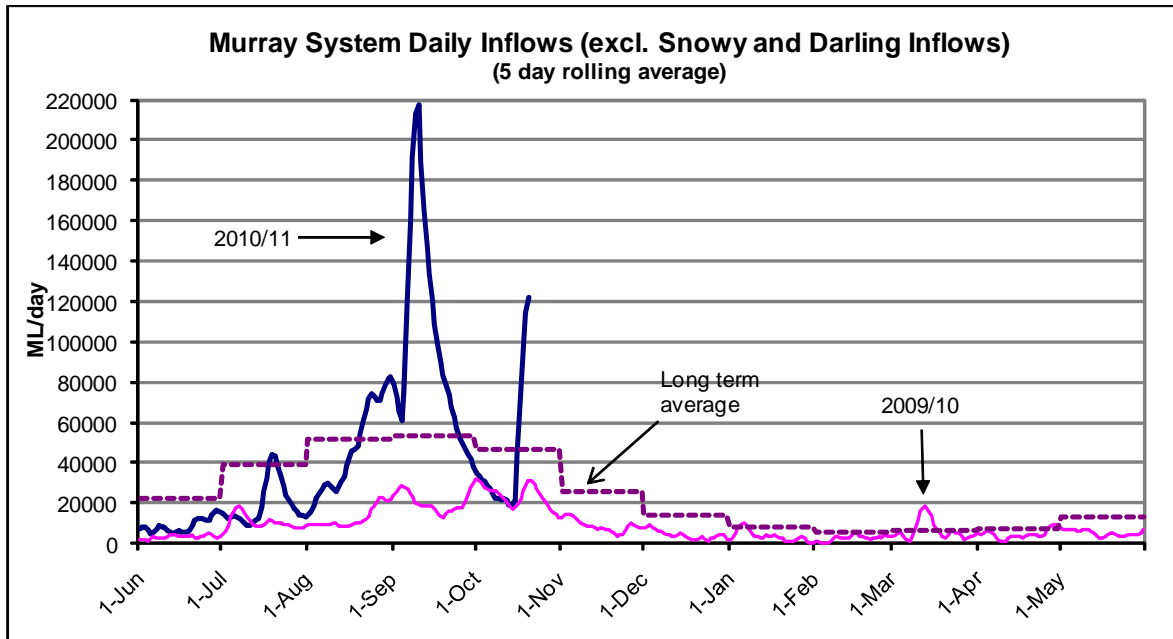
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.73	47	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.77	3	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	11	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.81	34	Open	Open



Week ending Wednesday 20 October 2010



State Allocations (as at 20 October 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	42%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	51%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	80%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	67%
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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/>

Wakool and Mid-Murray Water Quality Alert

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority today advised of ongoing poor water quality in the lower Wakool River as well as the possibility of poor quality in the River Murray in the vicinity of the Wakool River Junction.

The poor quality is in relation to a 'blackwater event' due to return flows from the natural flooding of the Koondrook and Perricoota Forests. Rapid breakdown of leaf litter from the forest floor has resulted in dissolved oxygen falling to very low levels and there have been reports of fish deaths in the Wakool River.

This poor quality water is currently moving downstream and will progressively mix with the Murray River over the coming days.

The Authority, together with the governments of New South Wales and Victoria, have implemented a number of immediate mitigation measures aimed at increasing the dilution of this water. These measures include higher releases in the upper Wakool initiated on 8 October 2010. They also include delivery of additional water from nearby storage facilities to the Murray River.

Any water quality issues are expected to be short term and localised, as increased flows are expected down the Murray River due to recent rain and the provision of managed environmental water from The Living Murray portfolio and the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allocation.

River users are advised to take the water quality into account when planning their operations around the Wakool and River Murray confluence.

Further advice will be issued if circumstances change.

For more information contact the MDBA Media office on (02) 6279 0141 or email media@mdba.gov.au

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