



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2011

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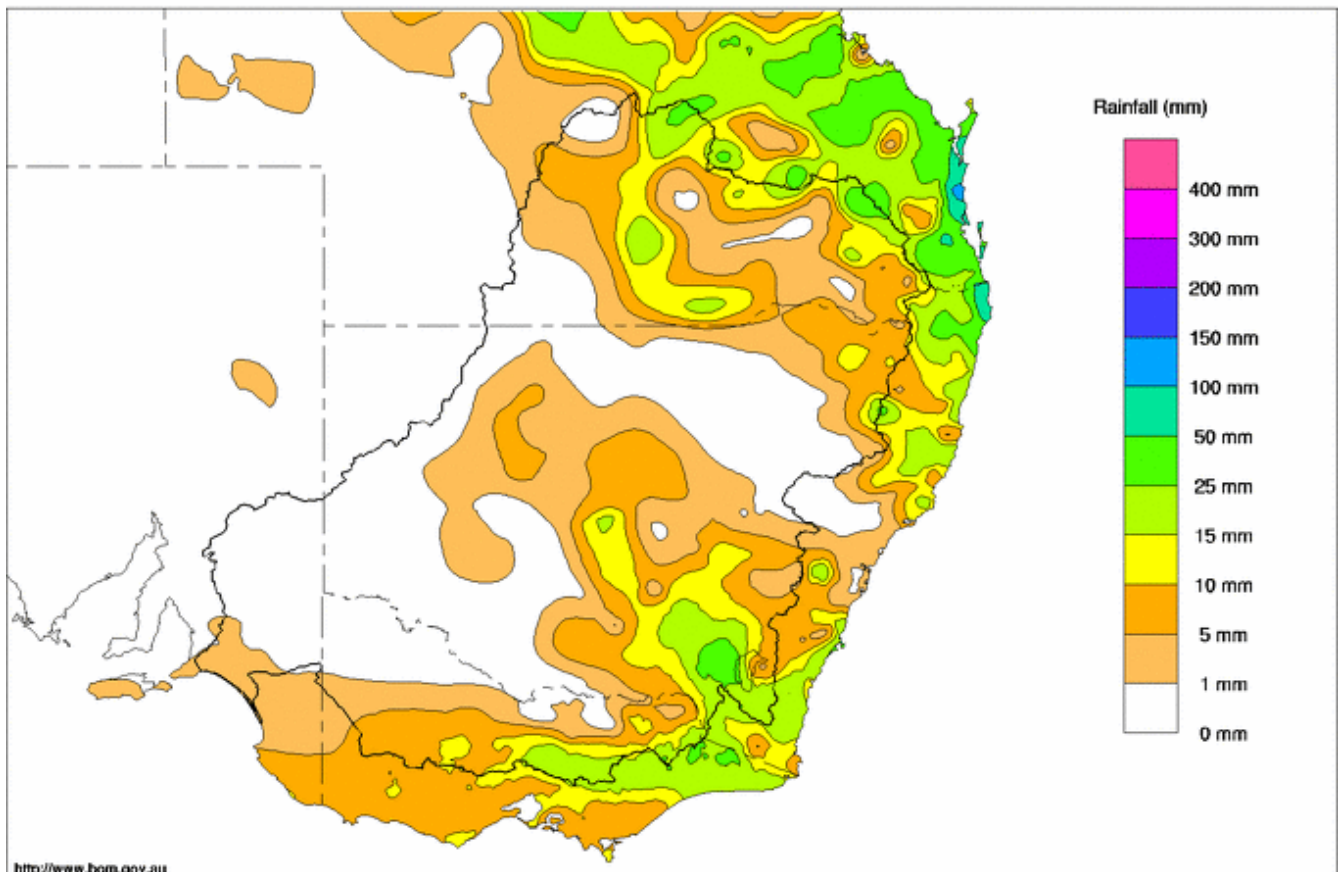
Rainfall and Inflows

It has been the driest week in the Murray-Darling Basin since late September 2010, with no rain recorded across about one third of the catchment and falls generally less than 25 mm across the remainder. Some notable rainfalls were 35 mm at Cooma in southern NSW, 60 mm at Jandowae on the Darling Downs in Queensland and 34 mm at Mt Buller in the Victorian Alps.

Despite the low rainfalls, flooding has continued in many towns and localities in the Basin as high flows pass downstream. As of 26 January, the Balonne River at the towns of Surat and St George in southern Queensland remains at major flood levels, although the river is slowly falling. In NSW, the Barwon River at Mungindi, the Bokhara River at Goodooga and the Darling River at Louth and Tilpa are all at major flood levels. At Bourke, the Darling River has fallen to moderate flood levels but is expected to rise above the major flood level again, as floodwaters from Queensland and northern NSW arrive. Moderate flooding is occurring at Wilcannia on the Darling River and river flows here are also expected to reach major flood levels in early February. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 26th January 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Inflows to the River Murray upstream of Echuca are all receding. The flow in the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge has fallen from a peak of 25,650 ML/day on 22 January to 13,970 ML/day while the Ovens River at Wangaratta has fallen to 4,650 ML/day.

In north-western Victoria, the Loddon River at Kerang has receded to minor flood levels, but the flood waters are covering a large expanse of land. Downstream of Kerang, river levels are slowly rising at Swan Hill, but are currently just below minor flood level.

The Wakool River at Stoney Crossing is expected to rise during the next week due to floodwaters passing from the Loddon River into the Murray and thence into the Wakool River via Waddy Creek and Merran Creek. At Balranald, on the Murrumbidgee River, the flow which originated from rainfall in November/early December peaked at 24,640 ML/day on 20–21 January and is currently 20,550 ML/day. These rivers enter the Murray downstream of Swan Hill.

Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Darling inflows) during the last week totalled 471 GL, compared with nearly 650 GL the week before. This month's Murray system inflow will exceed the previous highest January inflow of 1,078 GL recorded in 1974.

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,466 GL (75% capacity). Dartmouth Reservoir storage increased by 7 GL to 2,218 GL (58% capacity) while Hume Reservoir storage declined by 94 GL to 2,688 GL (89% capacity). The release from Hume Reservoir has been increased during the week to target a flow at Doctors Point of 23,000 ML/day. This release is to supply downstream demands at Yarrawonga Weir.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release has declined to 16,060 ML/day. The release is expected to remain at about 16,000 ML/day during the coming week. With the dry conditions, diversions at Mulwala Canal have increased to 6,750 ML/day and at Yarrawonga Main Channel to 1,330 ML/day. Diversions at Mulwala Canal continue to include about 1,600 ML/day to supplement flows in the Edward River system, downstream of the Edward escape for water quality purposes.

Flow in the Edward River at Stevens Weir has varied between 8,000–8,500 ML/day during the past week and is expected to decline during next week. At Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River, the flow is currently 25,910 ML/day and is expected to continue falling for the next few days before possibly rising again in early February.

On the River Murray at Barmah, the flow is 20,850 ML/day and is likely to remain above 10,000 ML/day until mid February. Further downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, flows have reduced from a peak of 54,620 ML/day on 20 January to 43,620 ML/day. At Swan Hill, the flow was 27,250 ML/day on Wednesday 26 January. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that the River Murray at Swan Hill will exceed major flood level by 29–30 January and peak early in February, however there is still uncertainty about the magnitude of inflows from the Loddon River. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

At Euston on the River Murray, downstream of Swan Hill and the confluences of the Wakool and Murrumbidgee Rivers, the flow is currently 74,000 ML/day and near its expected peak. Flow past Mildura Weir will follow a similar trend to Euston. The flood recession at Euston and Mildura will depend on the timing and peak flows from the Loddon and Wakool Rivers.

Menindee Lakes are currently holding 1,777 GL (103% capacity) and releasing 31,280 ML/day, measured at Weir 32 on the lower Darling River. This release will be increased to 38,000 ML/day during the coming week to assist with flood operations. At Burtundy, the flow is currently 16,430 ML/day and is expected to be greater than 20,000 ML/day by early-mid February. Further information about the management of Menindee Lakes can be found at the NSW Office of Water website <http://water.nsw.gov.au>.



At Wentworth, at the confluence of the Darling River with the River Murray, the River Murray height downstream of the weir is currently 31.98 m AHD (1.2 m above normal pool level). The river is rising and the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting minor flooding by early February.

At Lake Victoria, the level has been rising slowly to 25.08 m AHD (currently 457 GL or 68% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 73,800 ML/day and is likely to increase above 80,000 ML/day in early February and may exceed 85,000 ML/day by mid February. More information on flows in South Australia can be obtained from <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/>.

Releases through the barrages at the Murray Mouth are being made to pass inflow and also draw the level of the Lower Lakes down towards 0.5 m AHD. The level of the lakes is currently 0.68 m AHD. This operation is attempting to draw higher salinity water out of Lake Albert to allow dilution when the lakes are re-filled. Although the Murray Mouth has widened and deepened as a result of flood releases since August, the accumulated sand is limiting the rate of drawdown.

Water Quality

Low dissolved oxygen levels and associated “blackwater” are still occurring across wide areas of the Murray system. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is issuing regular water quality bulletins which are available early each week from the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater>). These bulletins provide information on dissolved oxygen levels, blackwater, fish deaths and other water quality issues along the river.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 26 Jan 2011

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	456.74	2 218	58%	71	2 147	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.37	2 688	89%	23	2 665	-94
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.10	457	68%	100	357	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 777	103%	(480 #)	1 297	-51
Total		9 269		7 140	77%	--	6 466	-126

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **75%**

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	978	95%	3	975	-46
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 554	95%	24	1 530	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 627	79%	100	2 527	+17

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Jan-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	986	+16	Snowy-Murray	+12	801
Snowy-Murray Component	412	-6	Tooma-Tumut	+3	323
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	9.0	478
			Murray 1 Release	+15	1 195

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)	24.5	346.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.8	48.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	129.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	7.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	33.0
Licensed Pumps	1.7	43.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	8.0
Lower Darling	12.3	184.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	171.0
TOTAL	39.3	583.0	TOTAL	19.4	389.0

* 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	217.0 *	
Flow this week	504.8	(72 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,660.5	
Flow last month	1,943.9	

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

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	240	240	160
Euston	210	200	150
Red Cliffs	170	170	150
Merbein	220	210	140
Burtundy (Darling)	280	270	260
Lock 9	260	250	200
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	290	270	220
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	360	360	270
Mannum	350	350	300
Murray Bridge	310	310	300
Milang (Lake Alex)	550	520	2 270
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	400	410	870
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 630	7 470	9 420
Goolwa Barrages	650	680	6 670

Week ending Wednesday 26 Jan 2011

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	-	-	-	2 640	F	2 560	3 250
Jingellic	4.0	1.77	208.29	5 030	R	4 760	6 280
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.56	218.45	850	F	1 000	1 340
Heywoods	5.5	3.47	157.10	21 050	R	18 570	12 520
Doctors Point	5.5	3.75	152.22	22 740	R	20 250	15 990
Albury	4.3	2.83	150.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.04	130.06	25 320	R	19 990	23 250
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.41	117.45	16 060	F	18 850	26 590
Tocumwal	6.4	3.33	107.17	19 350	F	21 550	26 490
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.38	85.93	43 620	F	49 400	36 890
Swan Hill	4.5	4.34	67.26	27 250	R	26 100	24 420
Wakool Junction	8.8	9.25	58.37	57 990	F	61 250	65 170
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	7.40	49.24	74 000	S	73 270	69 700
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	66 120	F	65 710	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.22	31.98	82 380	R	80 030	72 270
Rufus Junction	-	7.64	24.57	74 270	R	72 120	66 080
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.22	-	51 100	S	50 730	49 270
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.56	154.79	1 420	R	1 510	2 930
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.27	146.95	4 650	F	6 010	13 840
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.36	97.78	13 970	F	21 730	7 910
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.40	84.17	8 030	F	8 360	8 110
Edward at Liewah	-	5.25	60.63	7 800	F	8 380	9 590
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.65	60.14	25 910	F	27 510	30 010
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.53	62.49	20 550	F	23 150	20 110
Barwon at Mungindi	-	7.68	-	28 410	R	19 470	11 470
Darling at Bourke	-	11.48	-	63 210	F	69 740	83 440
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.74	-	16 430	S	16 470	16 250

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 850	9 690
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.56	N/A
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.08	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.53	+3.35
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.86	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.24	+3.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+3.99	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.04	+4.21
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	N/A	+4.58	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.15	+3.79
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+1.15	+3.77	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.16	+3.81
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.96	+4.34	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.36	+2.47

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	2.52	71.87	4200
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.82	4.7	66	7870

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.68

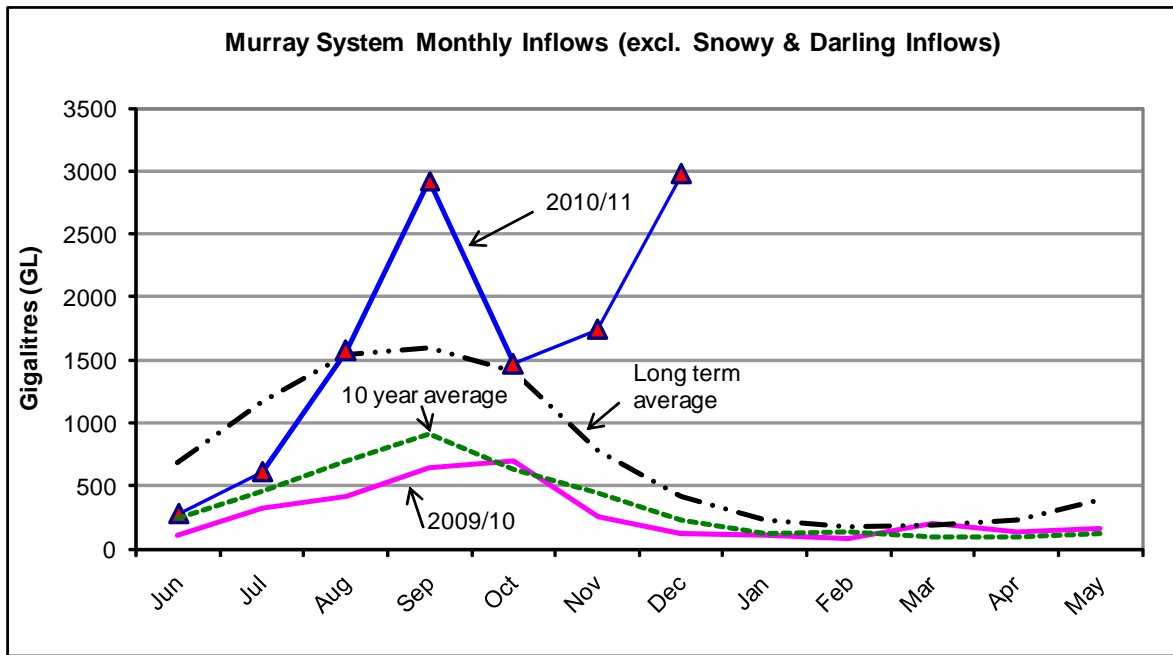
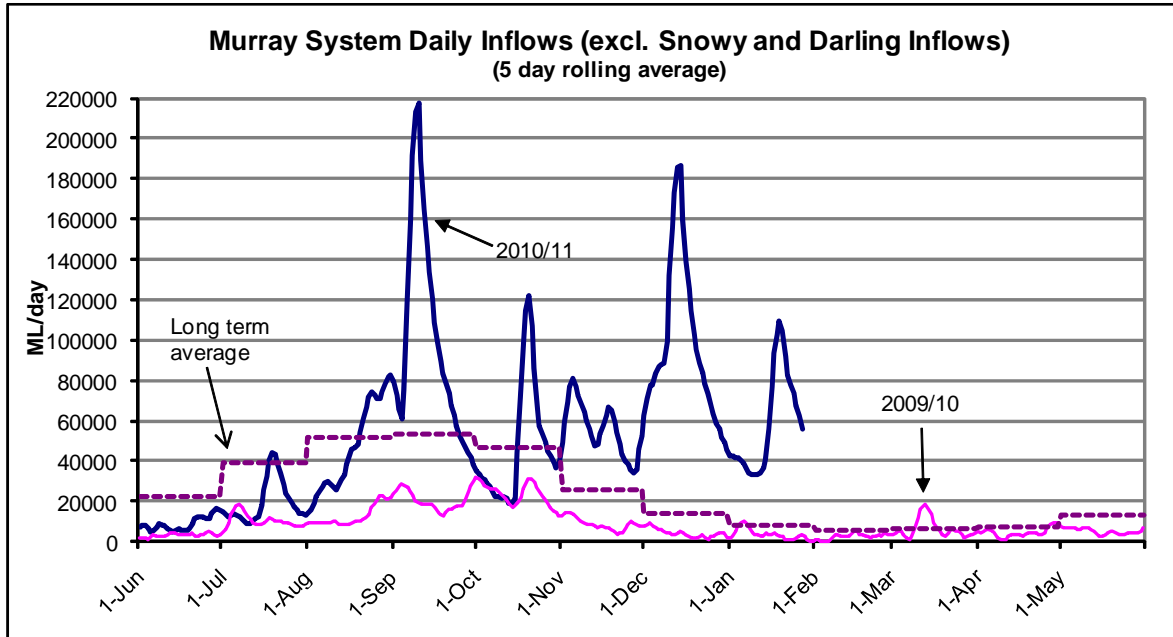
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	112	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.54	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	67	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.65	179	Open	Open



Week ending Wednesday 26 January 2011



State Allocations (as at 26 January 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	100%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
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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/>