



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 09 MARCH 2011

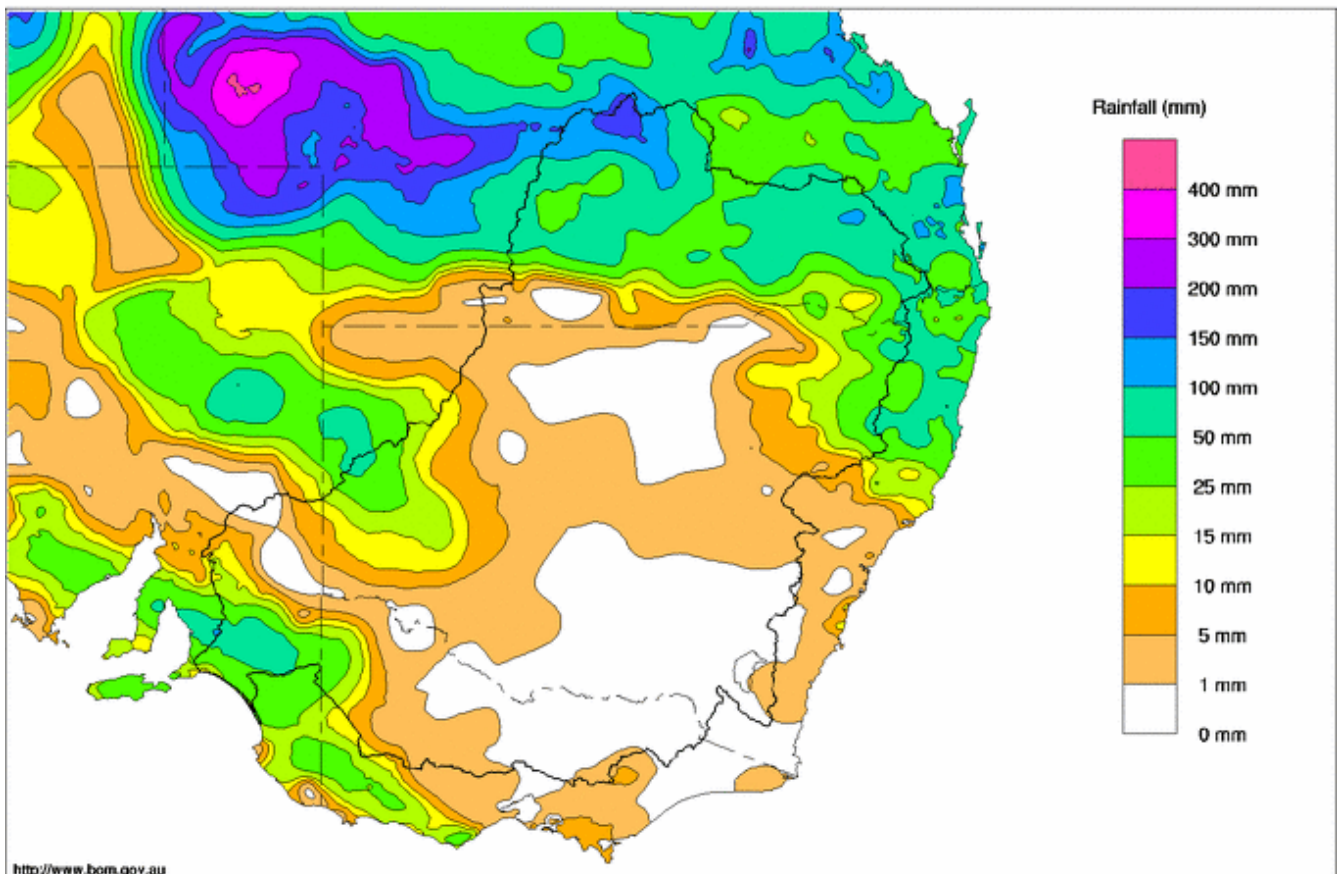
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was varied across the Murray-Darling Basin over the last week, with dry conditions experienced over most regions, including in the south-east, for the second consecutive week. Areas where rain was recorded include the northern Basin in Queensland and north-eastern NSW; and in western NSW and south-eastern South Australia where a rain system late in the week delivered falls of between 25 and 100 mm (Map 1).

In the Warrego, Maranoa, Condamine and Border Rivers catchments, there were widespread totals over 50 mm for the week. In the Condamine catchment, Chinchilla recorded 84 mm, while 78 mm fell at Dalby. At Minnie Downs in the upper Warrego catchment, 129 mm was recorded, while just outside the Basin, a major tropical rain event delivered totals in excess of 300 mm to parts of western Queensland. Further south in NSW, there were some good falls along the New England tablelands, while in the far west, 64 mm was recorded at Broken Hill and 32 mm at Menindee. In South Australia, the best weekly totals were recorded along the Mt Lofty Ranges and around the lower Murray, including 82 mm at Mannum, 53 mm at Murray Bridge and 100 mm at Palmer.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 9th March 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 09/03/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 9 March 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



With the dry conditions in the southeast, stream flows in the upper River Murray catchments have continued receding. For example at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow has decreased from 1,050 to 695 ML/day during the week and, at Jingellic on the upper Murray River, flows have reduced from just over 10,000 to around 6,400 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 8,300 to around 5,000 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke continues to recede and has now fallen below 30,000 ML/day. At Wilcannia, the flow continues to slowly increase towards an expected peak in mid-March as flood waters continue flowing down to the Menindee Lakes.

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,670 GL (78%). During the week, the volume stored in Dartmouth Reservoir rose by 11 GL and the current storage is 2,371 GL (61%). At Hume Reservoir, the volume fell by 48 GL with the current storage being 2,905 GL (97%).

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release has reduced from 28,800 ML/day last week to 19,090 ML/day. The release may need to rise again in the next few days, depending on the response of the catchment to the rainfall forecast for 9–10 March.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flows have reduced from 25,720 ML/day last week to 22,440 ML/day. This flow is expected to fall slowly to about 20,000 ML/day over the next few days. At Swan Hill, the flow is 25,850 ML/day and is expected to continue falling slowly during the next week.

On the Edward River, the flow past Steven's Weir is currently 12,000 ML/day and falling. On the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing, the flow is 23,960 ML/day and is expected to fall to about 20,000 ML/day by mid-March. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald has reduced slowly to 11,460 ML/day and this slow reduction is expected to continue for the next week or so.

The volume stored in the Menindee Lakes continues to fall. The Lakes are currently storing 1,604 GL (93% capacity), which is a reduction of 8 GL since last week. The flow past Weir 32 is currently about 35,000 ML/day and is expected to remain about this rate until refilling of the Lakes commences.

On the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow is currently 74,480 ML/day and is expected to remain steady for the next few days before receding again.

Lake Victoria is currently holding 464 GL (69% capacity), with the water level at 25.16 m AHD. The lake level has fallen 0.10 m (12 GL) during the week. The flow to South Australia averaged 78,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to remain higher than 70,000 ML/day for about the next two weeks.

On the River Murray in South Australia, the flow through Weir 1 is close to its peak at about 79,000 ML/day. The level in the Lower Lakes is 0.72 m AHD and high flows are continuing through the barrages and the Murray Mouth (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - A broad channel has formed at the Murray Mouth as large flows pass through the Barrages, into the Coorong and then out to sea.

Photo: Kate Sandles, MDBA.

Water Quality

Dissolved oxygen levels have been improving at many sites during the last few weeks, however levels are still less than 4 mg/L in most reaches of the River Murray downstream of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. For more information, please refer to the regular water quality bulletins which continue to be issued each week and are available from the MDBA website (<http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater>).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 09 Mar 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	459.94	2 371	61%	71	2 300	+11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.50	2 905	97%	23	2 882	-48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.16	464	69%	100	364	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 604	93%	(480 #)	1 124	-8
Total		9 269		7 344	79%	--	6 670	-57

* 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	983	96%	3	980	-13
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 620	99%	24	1 596	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 737	82%	100	2 637	+11

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Mar-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 197	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+6	888
Snowy-Murray Component	452	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	373
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	1.3	515
			Murray 1 Release	+14	1 342

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)	14.6	431.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	6.8	64.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	0.0	128.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	10.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	42.0
Licensed Pumps	2.4	56.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.8	10.0
Lower Darling	8.5	253.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	221.0
TOTAL	26.0	753.0	TOTAL	14.5	465.0

* 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	186.0 *	
Flow this week	546.0	(78 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	707.5	
Flow last month	2,410.7	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for March 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	330	330	200
Euston	220	220	170
Red Cliffs	180	200	160
Merbein	250	270	170
Burtundy (Darling)	380	370	270
Lock 9	300	310	220
Lake Victoria	220	220	180
Berri	290	290	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	400	410	330
Mannum	430	450	320
Murray Bridge	400	400	310
Milang (Lake Alex.)	500	500	2 690
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	400	380	1 200
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 150	6 850	8 650
Goolwa Barrages	470	450	5 510

Week ending Wednesday 09 Mar 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	-	-	-	3 170	F	2 560	5 420
Jingellic	4.0	1.94	208.46	6 420	F	6 990	13 270
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.77	218.66	1 410	S	1 570	2 560
Heywoods	5.5	2.76	156.39	12 900	F	15 780	21 990
Doctors Point	5.5	3.05	151.52	14 920	F	17 900	24 860
Albury	4.3	2.04	149.48	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.45	129.47	19 120	F	25 300	31 670
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.74	117.78	19 090	F	25 400	37 600
Tocumwal	6.4	3.80	107.64	23 720	F	28 610	38 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.65	84.20	22 440	S	23 070	26 760
Swan Hill	4.5	4.13	67.05	25 850	F	26 440	27 610
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.82	57.94	49 040	F	49 670	51 320
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.57	48.41	59 440	S	59 150	60 380
Mildura Weir (d/s)	8.3	-	-	57 170	F	57 000	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.93	31.69	74 480	S	75 230	78 880
Rufus Junction	-	7.70	24.63	77 090	S	78 120	81 480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.25	-	79 000	R	78 440	75 370
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.81	155.04	1 840	F	2 180	3 320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.39	147.07	5 090	F	6 130	11 270
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.25	93.67	2 370	F	2 610	7 140
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.30	85.07	12 000	F	12 090	11 500
Edward at Liewah	-	5.29	60.67	7 930	S	7 860	7 410
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.47	59.96	23 960	S	24 100	23 600
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	6.7	5.82	61.78	11 460	F	11 740	12 360
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.25	-	160	F	220	700
Darling at Bourke	9.0	9.04	-	27 420	F	42 400	71 580
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	6.1	7.07	-	18 060	S	17 950	17 830

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 230	19 240
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.60	-
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.10	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.69	+3.51
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.22	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.64	+3.49
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	+3.44	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.44	+4.57
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-	+4.29	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+1.10	+4.58
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.99	+3.67	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+2.12	+4.86
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.85	-	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+1.21	+3.50

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-	2.5	71.85	4143
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-	4.79	66.09	8030

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.72

Barrages

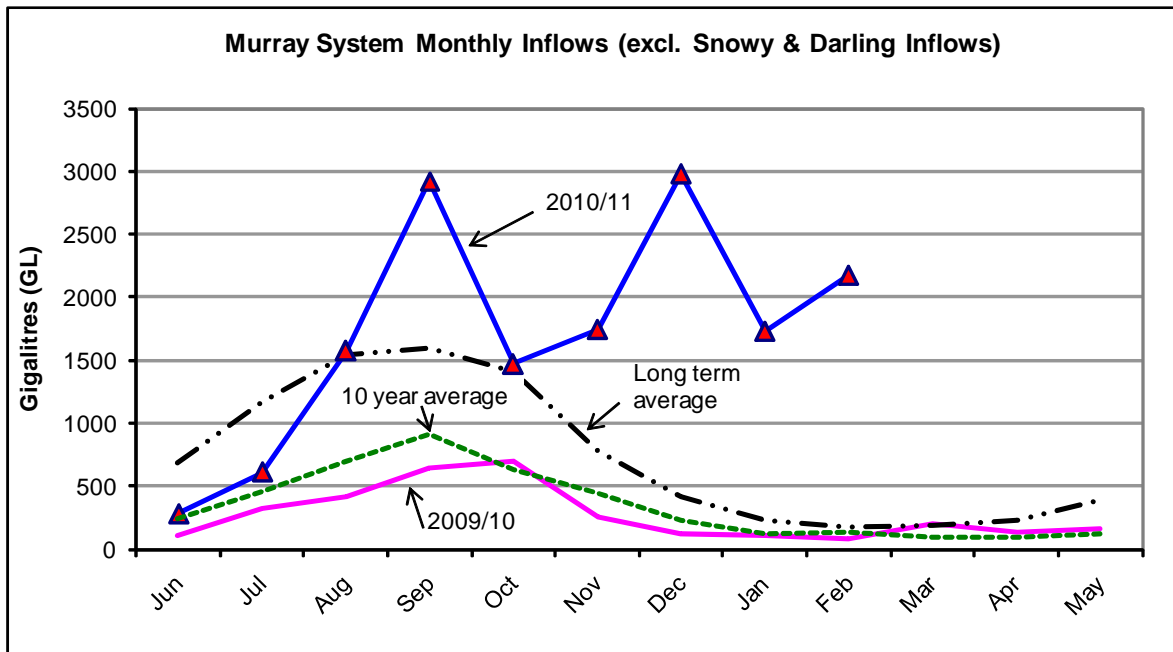
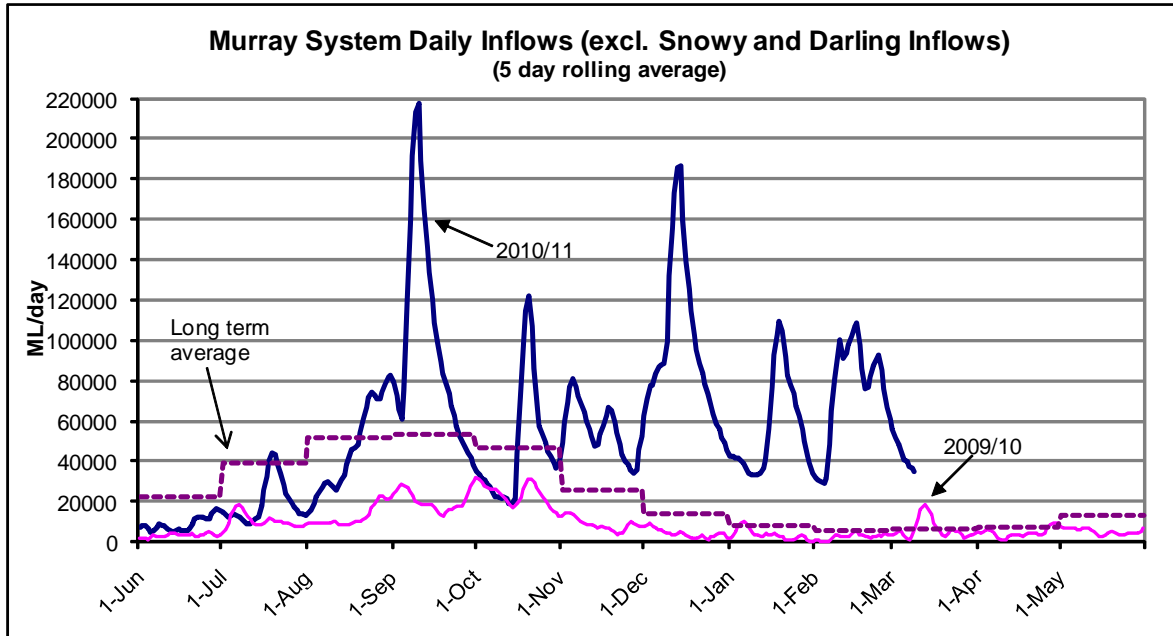
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.56	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.69	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 9 March 2011



State Allocations (as at 9 March 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
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.aspx>

SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>