



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

## FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2011

Trim Ref: D11/9397

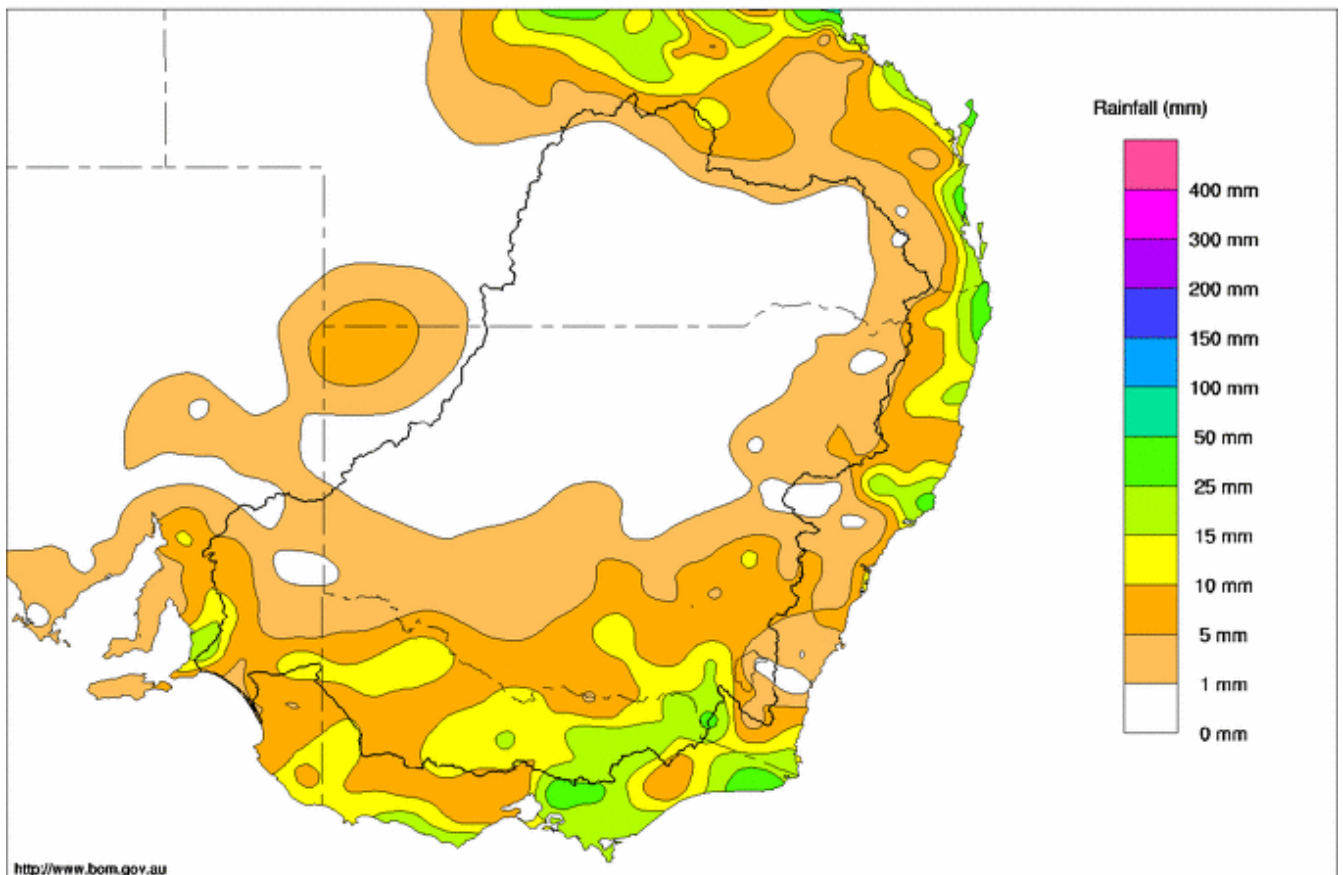
### Rainfall and Inflows

The Murray-Darling Basin experienced a much drier week over the last week. Little or no rain was recorded in the north of the Basin, while some light falls were recorded in the south.

The highest totals were recorded in the south-east of the Basin. In the upper Ovens and Kiewa catchments, Mt Buffalo recorded 42 mm for the week, while 38 mm fell at both Mt Hotham and Rocky Valley Dam. Just outside the Basin, in the NSW Snowy Mountains, Perisher Valley received 34 mm for the week.

With these small rainfall totals, upper tributaries continued to recede. On the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, the flow began the week at 720 ML/day and has dropped slowly to 600 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara has receded from about 1,500 ML/day to 930 ML/day over the past week while, on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta began and ended the week at around 3,600 ML/day after peaking at 4,500 ML/day during the week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th March 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 30/03/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 30 March 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,897 GL (80% capacity), which is an increase of 89 GL since last week. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage has increased by 8 GL to 2,402 GL (62% capacity), while at Hume Reservoir, the storage has reduced by 19 GL to 2,811 GL capacity (94% capacity).

The flow past Doctors Point, downstream of Hume Reservoir, has declined from 16,750 ML/day to 12,110 ML/day during the week as releases from Hume Reservoir have been cut back. However, this flow is expected to remain above 10,000 ML/day during the next week to supply downstream demand and to provide for a slow recession downstream of Yarrawonga Weir.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the release during the week has dropped from 19,000 ML/day to 13,330 ML/day. This is the first time since mid-October 2010 that the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been less than 15,000 ML/day. The release is expected to continue to fall slowly during the next week and, if higher than expected demands eventuate, the pool level in Lake Mulwala may drop to 124.6–124.7 for a few days.

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir is 5,120 ML/day and falling. Flow in the Billabong Creek at Darlot during the last week has averaged 3,100 ML/day. Downstream on the Edward River at Moulamein, the flow has receded to 8,200 ML/day, but is expected to remain fairly steady during the next week.

On the River Murray, the flows past Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all receding and are expected to continue receding for at the least the next few weeks, unless there is moderate-heavy local rain. Re-instatement of the weir at Mildura will commence early next week (see attached media release) and there will be no passage possible through the lock at Mildura from 4 April until possibly 14 April. Re-instatement of Euston Weir is also likely to commence within the next week or so and, to allow the removal of debris accumulated during the recent flooding, the pool level may need to be lowered below full supply level. Further information will be provided in a media release early next week.

Rain in mid-March near Menindee Lakes has boosted local inflows, as well as the water level in the Lakes. Therefore, the flow past Weir 32 has increased to 29,800 ML/day. For more information regarding management of Menindee Lakes, refer to the NSW Office of Water website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/)) On the lower Darling, the flow past Burtundy is currently 19,220 ML/day and is likely to remain close to this rate for at least the next few weeks.

At Lake Victoria, the water level is currently 25.04 m AHD with a stored volume of 452 GL (67% capacity). The water level in the Lake is being gradually lowered to target a level of 24.3 m AHD by late April as part of the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy and to allow for vegetation and erosion surveys around the lake edge.

The flow into South Australia averaged 75,200 ML/day during the week and the flow past Lock 1 is currently 76,700 ML/day and falling. The water level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.82 m AHD and likely to remain in the range 0.7–0.8 m AHD for the next 1–2 weeks as high water levels in the Coorong are restricting water flow through the Barrages.

## Water Quality

There has been an improvement in dissolved oxygen levels at most monitoring locations in the River Murray system. For more information, please refer to the latest water quality bulletin and dissolved oxygen status map available from the MDBA website ([www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater](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 30 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	460.59	2 402	62%	71	2 331	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.02	2 811	94%	23	2 788	-19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.04	452	67%	100	352	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 906	110%	(480 #)	1 426	+106
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 571</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 897</b>	<b>+89</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **80%**

# 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		1 003	98%	3	1 000	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631			0%	24	- 24	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 766	83%	100	2 666	+9

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Mar-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 239	+15	Snowy-Murray	+8	929
Snowy-Murray Component	449	+8	Tooma-Tumut	+3	386
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	4.7	542
			Murray 1 Release	+8	1 385

### 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)	6.6	444.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.7	78.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	1.4	133.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	11.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.6	45.0
Licensed Pumps	1.8	62.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	13.0
Lower Darling	7.8	270.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	236.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>790.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>505.0</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	186.0 *	
Flow this week	526.4	(75 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	2,294.2	
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	280	250	200
Euston	180	180	170
Red Cliffs	110	110	160
Merbein	210	210	170
Burtundy (Darling)	370	380	280
Lock 9	280	280	220
Lake Victoria	220	220	180
Berri	280	250	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	300	310	330
Mannum	310	320	330
Murray Bridge	340	350	320
Milang (Lake Alex)	530	460	2 500
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	360	370	1 130
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 890	6 600	8 490
Goolwa Barrages	520	1 500	5 100

## Week ending Wednesday 30 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	-	-	-	1 830	S	2 610	3 020
Jingellic	4.0	2.10	208.62	7 960	R	6 690	6 200
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.65	218.54	1 050	R	1 100	1 170
Heywoods	5.5	2.56	156.19	10 460	S	11 160	16 930
Doctors Point	5.5	2.80	151.27	12 110	F	13 100	18 690
Albury	4.3	1.79	149.23	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.80	128.82	13 800	F	16 950	23 290
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.08	117.12	13 330	F	15 970	20 790
Tocumwal	6.4	3.01	106.85	16 390	F	18 830	22 070
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.77	83.32	17 710	F	18 570	20 410
Swan Hill	4.5	2.97	65.89	17 760	F	19 450	22 380
Wakool Junction	8.8	-	-	40 000	F	42 030	45 970
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.04	47.88	50 360	F	52 570	57 550
Mildura Weir (d/s)	8.3	-	-	48 150	F	48 280	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.86	31.62	72 940	S	74 470	76 160
Rufus Junction	-	7.63	24.56	73 810	F	75 190	75 340
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.16	-	76 400	F	77 340	78 030
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.59	154.82	1 460	R	1 760	1 870
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.95	146.63	3 600	F	3 920	3 960
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.44	93.86	2 710	R	2 550	3 230
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.51	83.28	5 120	F	5 610	6 380
Edward at Liewah	-	5.26	60.64	7 830	F	8 260	8 470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	5.01	58.50	12 910	F	20 020	23 370
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	6.7	5.29	61.25	8 720	R	7 770	6 540
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.54	-	1 010	R	700	540
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.83	-	6 450	S	5 500	3 190
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	6.1	7.28	-	19 220	S	19 060	18 610

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 520	9 640
---	--------	-------

### 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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.58	-
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.16	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.69	+3.48
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.68	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.56	+2.80
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	+3.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.39	+4.51
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.93	+4.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+1.00	+4.46
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.98	+3.65	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+2.00	+4.72
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.85	-	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+1.08	+3.41

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-15.00	3.97	73.32	8705
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-14.60	4.94	66.24	8300

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.82

### Barrages

#### Fishways at Barrages

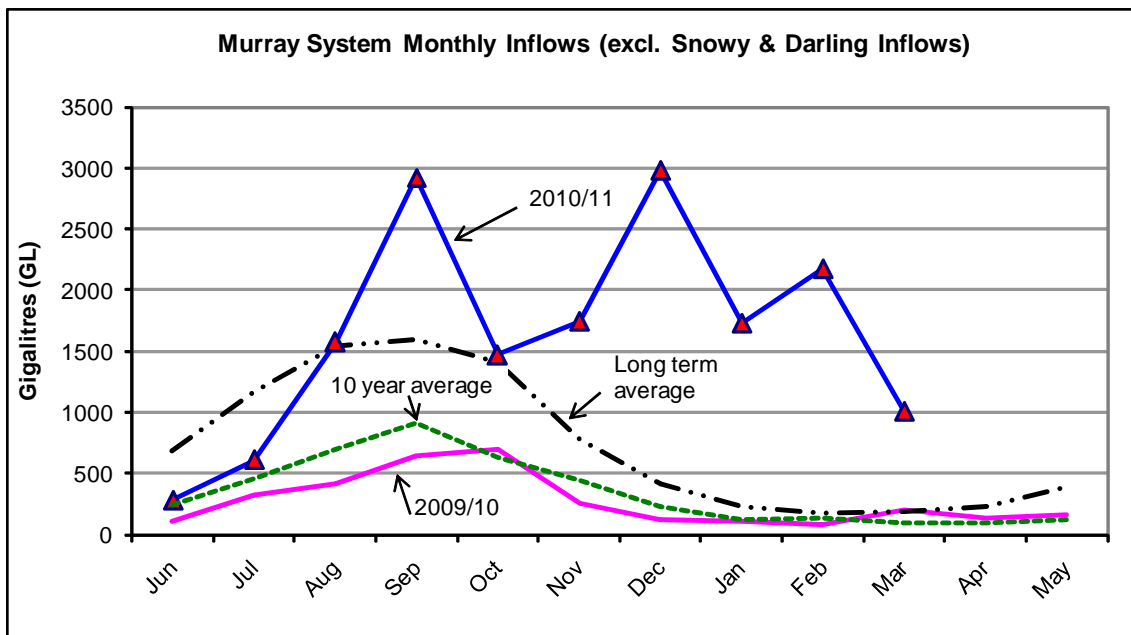
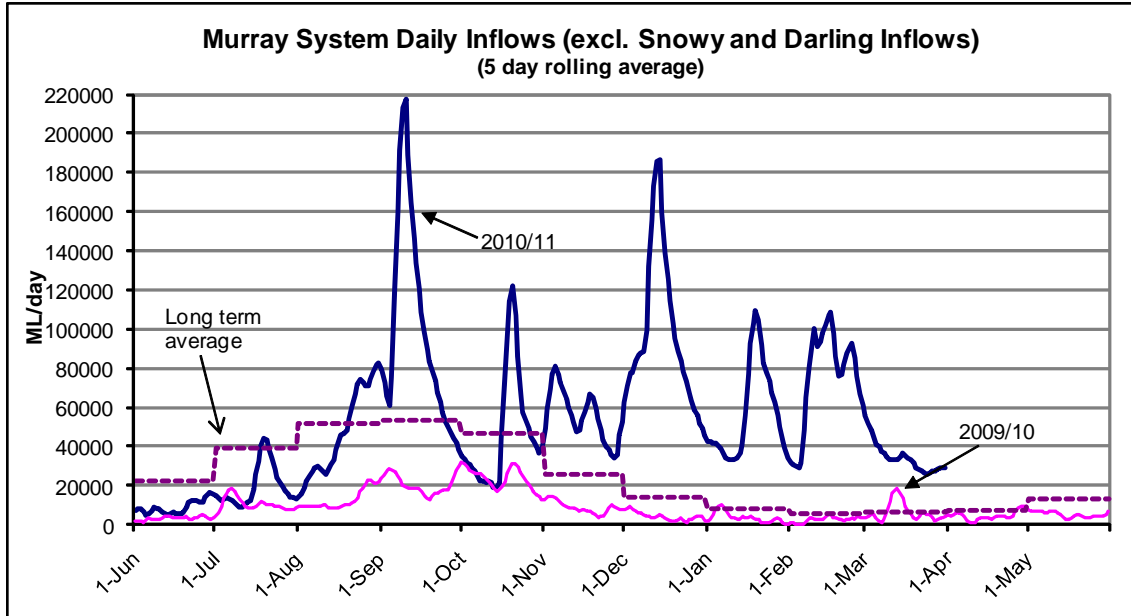
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.54	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.55	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.72	170	Open	Open

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





Week ending Wednesday 30 March 2011



State Allocations (as at 31 March 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
------------------	------

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
------------------	------

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	67%
---------------	-----

29 March 2011

---

## Mildura Weir re-instatement in early April

The Weir at Mildura is planned to be re-instated in early April as flows in the Murray continue to recede.

This work is expected to commence on Monday 4 April and be completed by Thursday 14 April.

The Weir has been withdrawn since mid-December 2010 due to high flows in the River Murray.

There will be no access to the Lock at Mildura while this work is being undertaken. It is therefore advised that Lock passage is unlikely to be available from 4 to 14 April 2011, inclusive.

However, as usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. The contact number is (03) 5023 1396.

There will be other lock closures along the River Murray in the next couple of months as weirs are re-instated due to falling river heights.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water apologise for any inconvenience to river users and will continue to issue further advice via the MDBA's Weekly report which can be viewed at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au)

 Receive MDBA updates via [http://twitter.com/MD\\_Basin\\_Auth](http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth)