



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 06 APRIL 2011

Trim Ref: D11/10009

Rainfall and Inflows

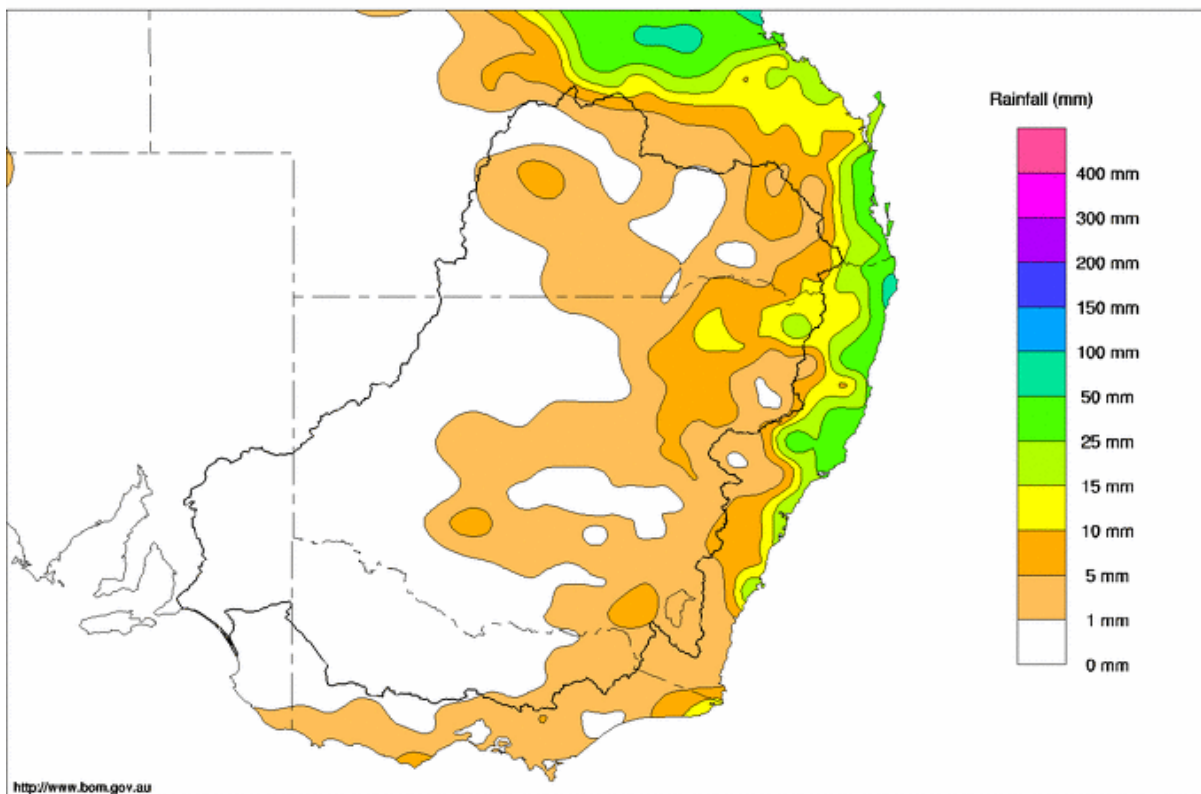
A week of fine stable weather over most of the Murray-Darling Basin resulted in little to no rainfall across the region (see Map 1). The highest totals for the week were recorded in the upper catchments of northern NSW, while across the upper Murray, there were no totals higher than 10 mm recorded for the week.

The most notable totals for the week included an isolated fall of 40 mm at Narrandera, and higher up in the Murrumbidgee catchment, Batlow received 20 mm. On the NSW northwest plains, Bellata recorded 28 mm.

As a result of the drier conditions in the upper Murray, streamflows have been receding. For instance, at Rocky Point, on the Ovens River, the flow fell from around 1,700 to 1,300 ML/day over the past week. Similarly at Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow receded from 620 to 460 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th April 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 06/04/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 6 April 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

March 2011 Summary

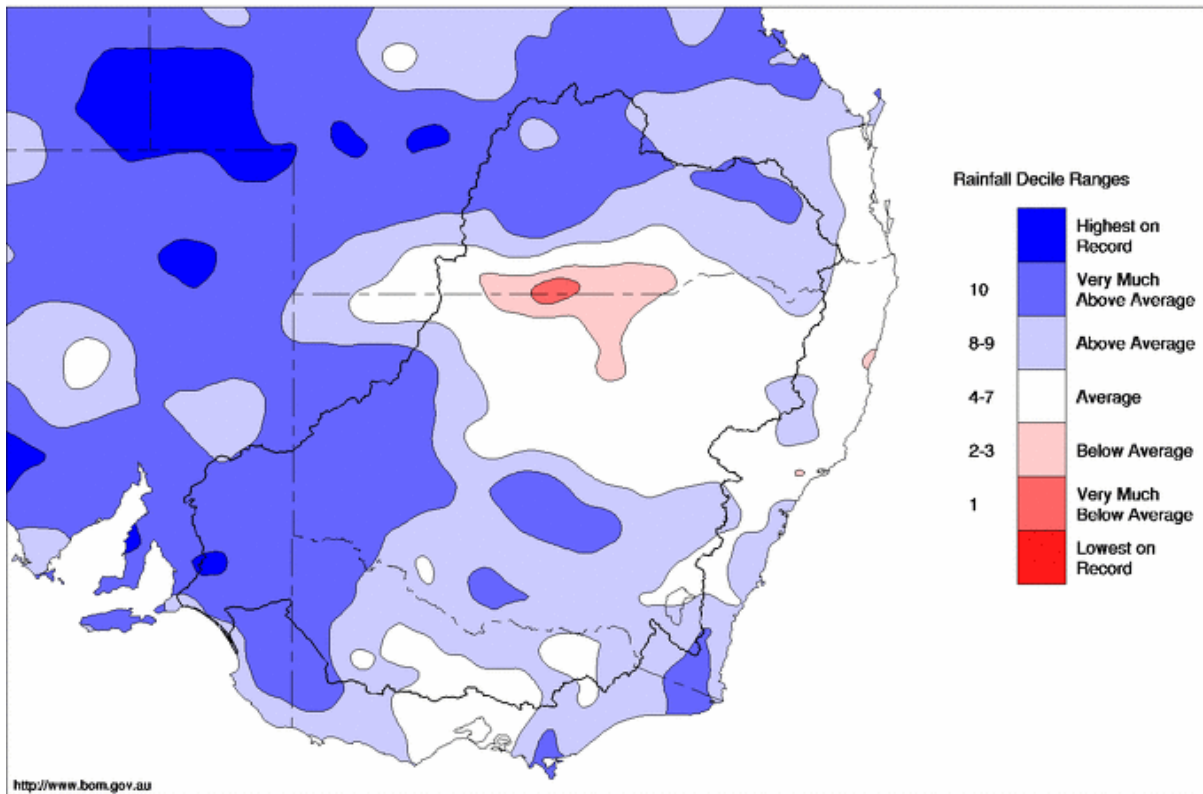
The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that for March, the Murray-Darling Basin recorded the seventh highest rainfall total since records began and South Australia received the fourth highest March rainfall on record. Rainfall across the majority of the southern Basin was either above, or very much above average (see Map 2). Mildura received 120 mm, which is over 6 times the average rainfall for March and the second highest March total (the highest being 128 mm in 1969). Broken Hill received a total of 130 mm, well above the March long term average of around 21mm.



For the fourth month in a row, Murray system inflows (excluding Darling and Snowy inflows) reached a new record. March inflows totalled 1005 GL compared with the previous March inflow record of 964 GL in 1939. The record March inflow was heavily influenced by receding flows from February rainfall.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2011

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for March 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 6,959 GL (81% capacity), which is an increase from last week of 62 GL. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 5 GL to 2,408 GL (62% capacity). At Hume Reservoir, total storage decreased by 23 GL to 2,788 GL (93% capacity). Release from Hume Reservoir has reduced from around 10,500 to 8,000 ML/day and is expected to continue to slowly decrease during the week. The slow reduction in release is to meet both downstream demand and to provide a slow recession downstream of Yarrowonga Weir, which will reduce the risk of bank slumping within the Barmah-Millewa Forest after the prolonged period of flooding.

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently 124.76 m AHD (14 cm below FSL) and is expected to remain around this level over the weekend before lowering to the normal target pool level of 124.7 m AHD. Planning has commenced to partially lower Lake Mulwala starting in May 2011, to help contain the spread of *Egeria densa* within the lake. Further information will be provided in future Weekly Reports and media releases. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently around 9,400 ML/day and, during the next week, will be lowered each day by around 300 ML/day.



On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir is 3,000 ML/day and is expected to remain around this rate during the week. The Edward River at Liewah is slowly falling from 7,600 ML/day last week, and is now at 6,900 ML/day. Further downstream on the Wakool River at Kyalite, flows have receded from 21,000 to 14,000 ML/day.

On the River Murray, the flow past Torrumbarry Weir is falling and is now around 16,000 ML/day and is expected to continue to fall. At Euston Weir, the flow is around 43,500 ML/day and is expected to fall to around 30,000 ML/day by the weekend of 16 April. The weir at Euston is expected to begin reinstatement commencing around the week beginning 11 April and during this operation the weir pool may drop below normal operating levels (see media release attached). Mildura Weir is currently being reinstated and by the time of publication this operation should be completed. All the weirs downstream of Mildura are expected to be reinstated in the coming weeks and updates will be provided.

The total storage in Menindee lakes has increased by 86 GL to 1,992 GL (115% capacity). Inflows to the lakes peaked last week at around 49,000 ML/day and are now receding. Release from the storage is easing and is now at around 28,500 ML/day. For more information regarding the management of Menindee Lakes, refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au) The flow at Burtundy, on the Lower Darling is currently around 19,500 ML/day and should remain at around this level in the coming week.

Lake Victoria's total storage decreased by 7 GL to 445 GL (66% capacity) and the water level is currently 24.98 m AHD. The lake level is expected to be decreased to a target level of around 24.3 m AHD by late April. The flow to South Australia has fallen from around 73,300 to about 70,500 ML/day during the week. This recession is expected to continue for many weeks to come, and will be noticeably slower than in previous flood events.

Flow past Lock 1 averaged 76,000 ML/day during the week and is now falling from the peak flow experienced in March. The water level in the Lower Lakes is now averaging around 0.73 m AHD and gradually falling. Further lowering and raising of the lower lakes is planned during the period of higher flows to reduce salinities in Lake Albert.

Water Quality

There has been ongoing 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 through the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au/water/blackwater)

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 06 Apr 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	460.70	2 408	62%	71	2 337	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.90	2 788	93%	23	2 765	-23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.98	445	66%	100	345	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 992	115%	(480 #)	1 512	+86
Total		9 269		7 633	82%	--	6 959	+62
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		1 001	98%	3	998	-3
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 581	97%	24	1 557	+2
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 767	83%	100	2 667	+1

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05 Apr 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 238	+1	Snowy-Murray	+10	943
Snowy-Murray Component	433	-6	Tooma-Tumut	+2	389
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	8	554
			Murray 1 Release	+10	1 400

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)	10.5	454	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.2	89
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.5	144
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	11	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	46
Licensed Pumps	2.0	65	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	13
Lower Darling	10.5	281	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.9	239
TOTAL	23.3	814	TOTAL	26.9	531

* 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 above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	115.0 *	
Flow this week	502.0	(71 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	428.7	
Flow last month	2,367.5	

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	200	250	200
Euston	190	190	170
Red Cliffs	100	100	150
Merbein	190	200	170
Burtundy (Darling)	340	350	280
Lock 9	260	260	220
Lake Victoria	220	220	180
Berri	280	280	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	280	290	330
Mannum	290	290	320
Murray Bridge	310	320	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	510	500	2 440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	390	370	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 760	6 760	8 440
Goolwa Barrages	530	520	4 970

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 06 Apr 2011

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	-	-	-	0	F	1 760	4 010
Jingellic	4.0	1.82	208.34	5 360	R	5 560	6 690
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.60	218.49	950	F	990	1 100
Heywoods	5.5	2.32	155.95	8 090	F	9 810	11 160
Doctors Point	5.5	2.57	151.04	9 780	F	11 420	13 100
Albury	4.3	1.56	149.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.68	128.70	12 950	F	13 570	16 950
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.60	116.64	9 690	F	10 920	15 970
Tocumwal	6.4	2.44	106.28	11 780	F	13 270	18 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.44	82.99	16 050	F	16 690	18 570
Swan Hill	4.5	2.39	65.31	13 680	F	15 250	19 450
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.14	56.26	32 540	F	35 630	41 970
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.57	47.41	43 450	F	46 830	52 570
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	43 170	F	43 620	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.66	31.42	67 520	F	69 790	74 470
Rufus Junction	-	7.56	24.49	70 630	F	71 860	75 190
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.13	-	75 600	S	75 910	77 340
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.48	154.71	1 290	R	1 380	1 760
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.71	146.39	2 830	S	3 090	3 920
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.73	93.15	1 360	F	2 130	2 550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.61	82.38	3 000	F	3 810	5 610
Edward at Liewah	-	4.96	60.34	6 880	F	7 240	8 260
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.19	57.68	5 970	F	9 300	20 020
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.32	61.28	8 870	F	8 950	7 770
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.43	-	620	F	1 000	700
Darling at Bourke	-	4.69	-	4 880	S	5 120	5 500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.34	-	19 540	S	19 380	19 060

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 210	10 430
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.49	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.64	+1.42
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.15	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.51	+3.37
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+2.91	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.35	+4.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	N/A	+4.02	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.97	+4.43
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-36.40	+3.50	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.98	+4.79
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.74	-31.10	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+1.08	+3.38

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

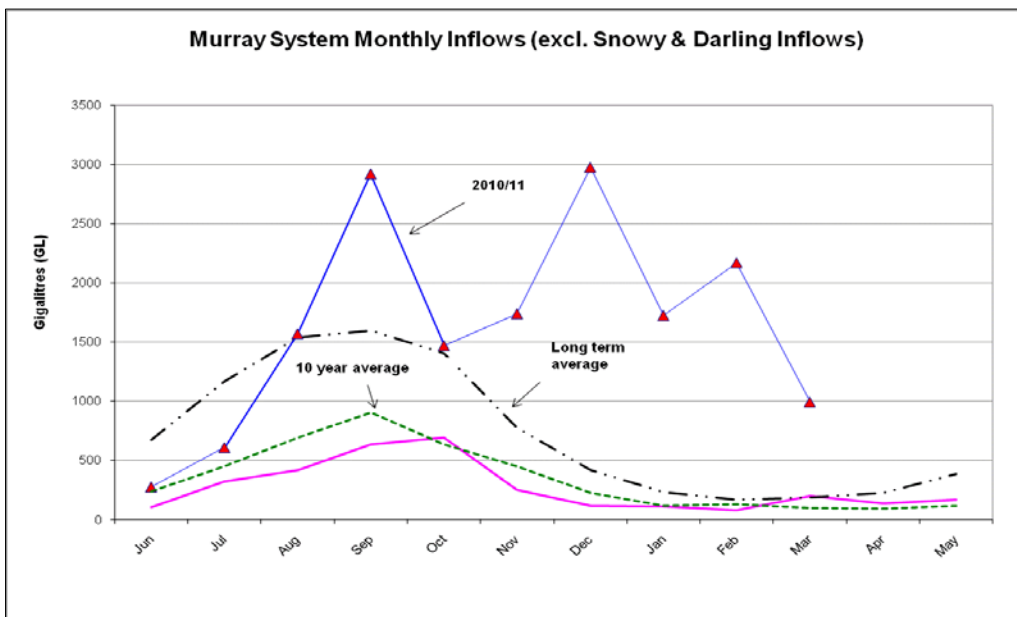
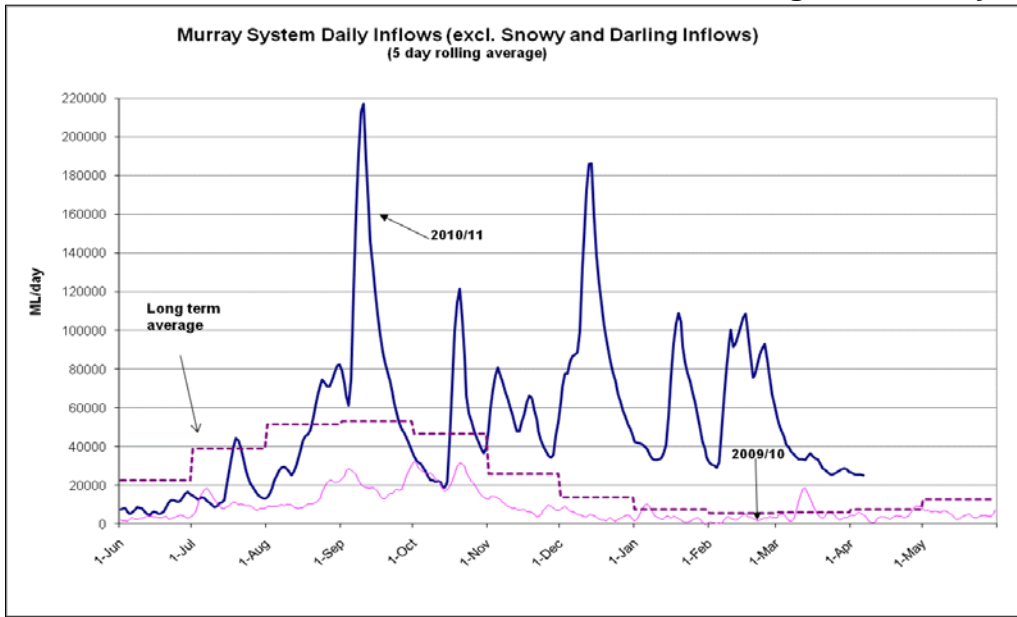
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.73
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.39	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.40	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



State Allocations (as at 8 February 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Murrumbidgee

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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VIC - Goulburn

High reliability	100%
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SA - Murray

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/>

MEDIA RELEASE



4 April 2011

Euston weir pool operation update

Flows in the River Murray continue to recede. As a result, Weir 15 at Euston will be reinstated with work commencing about the 11th of April, when the flow in the River Murray is expected to be less than 40,000 ML/day.

Part of the reinstatement process is the clearing of debris accumulated against the structure which has been deposited from the high flows. The debris accumulation is probably greater than experienced during previous floods due to the long period of drought prior to this flood.

Due to possible complications relating to debris removal, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and NSW State Water advise of the potential for the Euston Weir pool level to fall below its normal full supply level (FSL) of 47.6 m AHD during the reinstatement works. This may occur between 11th and 20th April.


While MDBA and State Water will make significant efforts to avoid a temporary lowering of the weir pool, river users should be prepared for and make allowance if this occurs.

Boat operators will have access to the Lock at Euston Weir while the weir is being reinstated. Lock passage will be available from about 11th April.

Further information will be provided, as the weir reinstatement progresses, through media releases and through the MDBA River Murray Weekly Report, which can be found at www.mdba.gov.au.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au

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