



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2011

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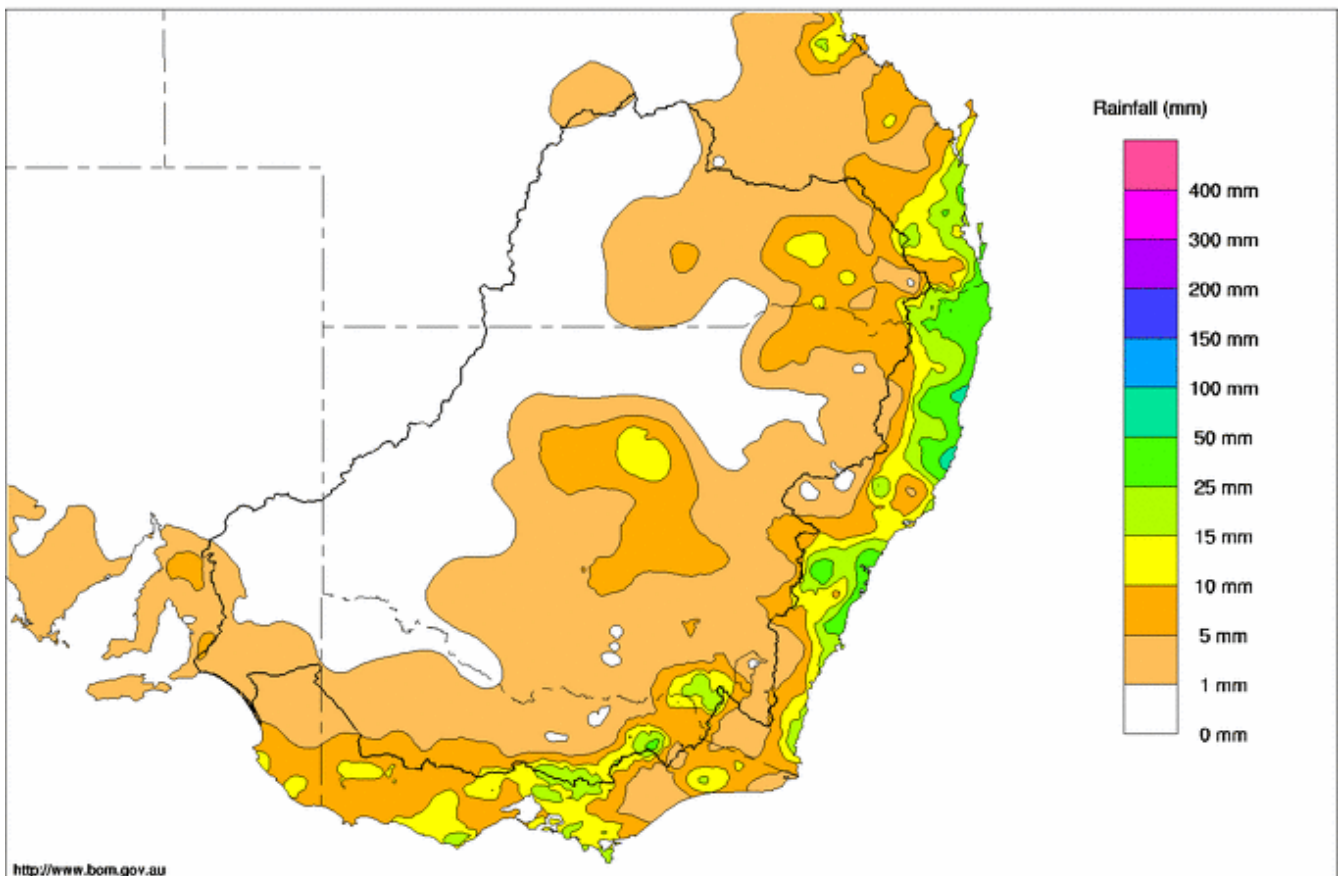
Rainfall and Inflows

Very little rainfall was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin over the past week with most precipitation over the Easter period restricted to the coastal fringe—outside the Basin (Map 1). The Basin’s wettest area was in the southeast, with totals up to around 30 mm in the Victorian Alps and the NSW south-west slopes. This rain mostly fell early in the week when a weak frontal system moved through, with the remaining days being generally fine and dry across areas inland of the divide.

In the north of the Basin, inflows from rain in Queensland during the previous week have created a fresh in the Balonne River. The flow at St George peaked on 25 April at around 45,000 ML/day and has now receded to 32,000 ML/day. Flow rates and levels in the upper reaches of the Culgoa River are rising as the water flows towards NSW.

Further south, flows in the upper Murray catchments have continued to slowly recede. For example, in the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic has decreased from 4,600 to 3,300 ML/day, while on the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded from 1,500 to 1,250 ML/day over the week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 27th April 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 27 April 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) decreased by 77 GL during the week to 6,894 GL (or 80% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage has increased by 7 GL to 2,430 GL (63% capacity) and the release remains at around 200 ML/day.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 4 GL to 2,805 GL (93% capacity). The release from Hume Reservoir has decreased slightly during the week to 5,300 ML/day and, if conditions remain dry, the release is expected to continue decreasing slowly. With releases matching inflows, about 200 GL airspace will be maintained within the reservoir.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 9,500 ML/day on 27 April, and this higher release will result in the gradual lowering of Lake Mulwala. The lake level is expected to be at about 124.0 m AHD by next week, and this first phase of the lowering will continue until the level is about 123.5 m AHD. A second phase of lowering, to about 122.2 m AHD, is scheduled to commence in mid-May. This lowering of Lake Mulwala is aimed at controlling the invasive aquatic weed, *Egeria densa*, by drying out the shallower parts of the lake where the weed is present.

At Torrumbarry Weir, a partial lowering of the weir pool is also planned. This lowering will assist to minimise bank erosion caused by holding the pool level steady. Lowering of the weir pool is expected to commence on 4 May, with the pool level falling by about 5 cm/day. The pool level will be lowered to about 40 cm below full supply level and will be raised again in early June. For more information, see the attached media release.

Flows past Euston, Mildura and Wentworth are all receding gradually. However, with the higher releases from Yarrawonga and Torrumbarry Weirs, these recessions will be slowed with the potential for flows to increase slightly at some locations in coming weeks.

Flows downstream of Menindee Lakes are also falling as the release from the lakes is being gradually reduced. The flow past Weir 32 has declined from 17,980 ML/day last week to 13,200 ML/day currently. In the lower Darling River, the flow past Burtundy peaked last week at 19,890 ML/day but is still high at 19,780 ML/day. The Menindee Lakes are currently storing 1,929 GL (111% capacity), which is a decrease of 32 GL since last week.

At Lake Victoria, the lake level has fallen from 25.04 m AHD last week to 24.58 m AHD currently (404 GL storage, 60% capacity). A lake level of 24.3 m AHD is being targeted by early May.

On the River Murray, downstream of the inlet to Lake Victoria, all weirs which were removed due to high flows have been re-instated, except for Weirs 2 and 7. Lock and Weir 2, which has been closed to river traffic for several months due to construction works, is expected to re-open in late April. Lock and Weir 7 is open to river traffic through the navigable pass, but the weir will not be re-instated until flows recede to less than 30,000 ML/day in early-mid May.

At the Lower Lakes, the water level has remained between 0.75 and 0.8 m AHD during the week. The level is likely to remain about this range for the next week or two. The salinity at Milang Jetty in Lake Alexandrina is currently about 530 EC units while, near Waltowa Swamp in Lake Albert, the salinity is 6,500 EC units.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 27 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	461.14	2 430	63%	71	2 359	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.99	2 805	93%	23	2 782	-4
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.58	404	60%	100	304	-48
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 929	111%	(480 #)	1 449	-32
Total		9 269		7 568	82%	--	6 894	-77
Total Active MDBA Storage							80% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		996	97%	3	993	-1
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 577	97%	24	1 553	-4
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 799	84%	100	2 699	+11

* 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 26 Apr 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A	N/A	Snowy-Murray	N/A	N/A
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A	N/A	Tooma-Tumut	N/A	N/A
Target Storage	N/A		Net Diversion	N/A	N/A
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

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)	8.1	480	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2	98
Wakool Sys Allowance	-1.5	1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.8	156
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	47
Licensed Pumps	1.1	70	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	14
Lower Darling	0.5	302	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.3	248
TOTAL	8.5	865	TOTAL	6.5	563

* 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	364.5
Flow so far this month	1,649.2
Flow last month	2,367.5

(52 100 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	-	250	210
Euston	170	170	170
Red Cliffs	380	240	160
Merbein	140	160	170
Burtundy (Darling)	360	350	290
Lock 9	290	310	230
Lake Victoria	240	230	190
Berri	260	250	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	310	290	330
Mannum	280	280	320
Murray Bridge	-	300	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	530	470	2 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	300	300	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 500	6 510	8 290
Goolwa Barrages	470	530	4 770

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 27 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	-	-	-	-	F	-	3 360
Jingellic	4.0	1.53	208.05	3 330	F	3 990	6 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.56	218.45	850	R	880	960
Heywoods	5.5	2.05	155.68	5 330	S	5 390	4 500
Doctors Point	5.5	2.33	150.80	7 420	F	7 780	6 800
Albury	4.3	1.34	148.78	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.99	128.01	8 390	F	8 750	7 490
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.39	116.43	8 010	S	8 220	9 590
Tocumwal	6.4	2.11	105.95	9 470	F	9 940	10 680
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.20	81.75	10 520	F	11 880	13 740
Swan Hill	4.5	2.15	65.07	11 980	S	11 400	10 360
Wakool Junction	8.8	-	-	14 690	F	16 930	22 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.40	45.24	18 600	S	19 780	27 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	18 650	F	21 100	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.41	30.17	45 300	F	47 460	57 790
Rufus Junction	-	6.93	23.86	49 830	F	52 120	58 110
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.89	-	68 800	F	70 860	74 090
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.48	154.71	1 250	F	1 530	1 500
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.67	146.35	2 710	F	2 970	3 710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.83	94.25	3 480	R	4 030	4 250
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.87	81.65	1 810	S	1 900	1 830
Edward at Liewah	-	3.17	58.55	2 830	F	3 090	4 510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.10	55.59	3 500	F	4 360	-
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.40	59.36	3 680	R	3 500	4 550
Barwon at Mungindi	-	-	-	-	F	470	600
Darling at Bourke	-	-	-	-	F	7 500	8 220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.38	-	19 780	S	19 830	19 890

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 990	7 600
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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	-0.24	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.92	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+2.91
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.14	+2.74
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+1.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.83	+4.08
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+2.77	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.45	+3.99
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.64	+2.07	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.58	+4.28
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.68	+3.08	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.84	+3.14

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.78
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Barrages

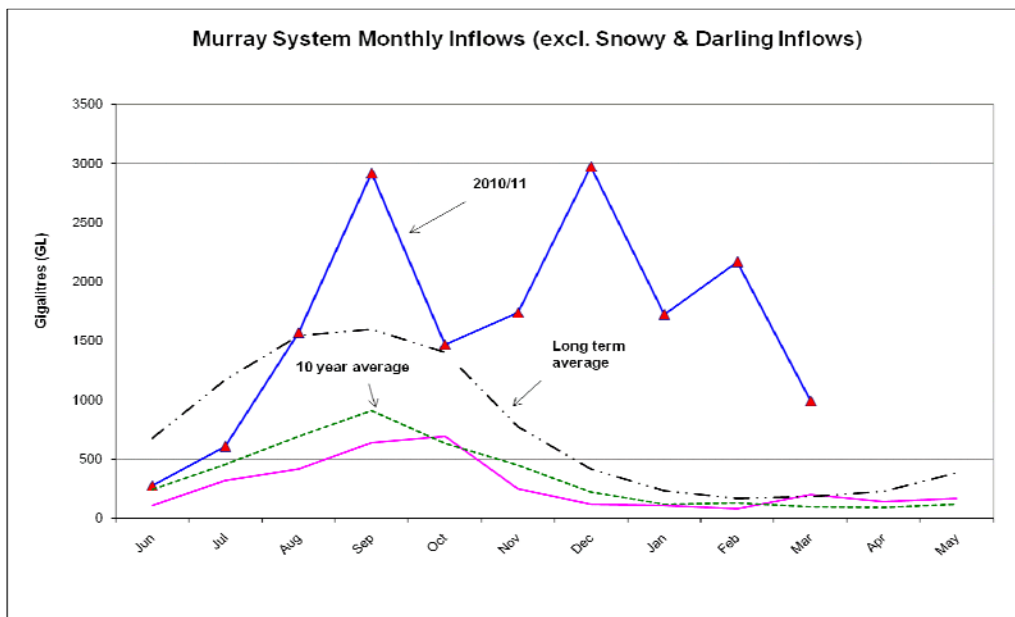
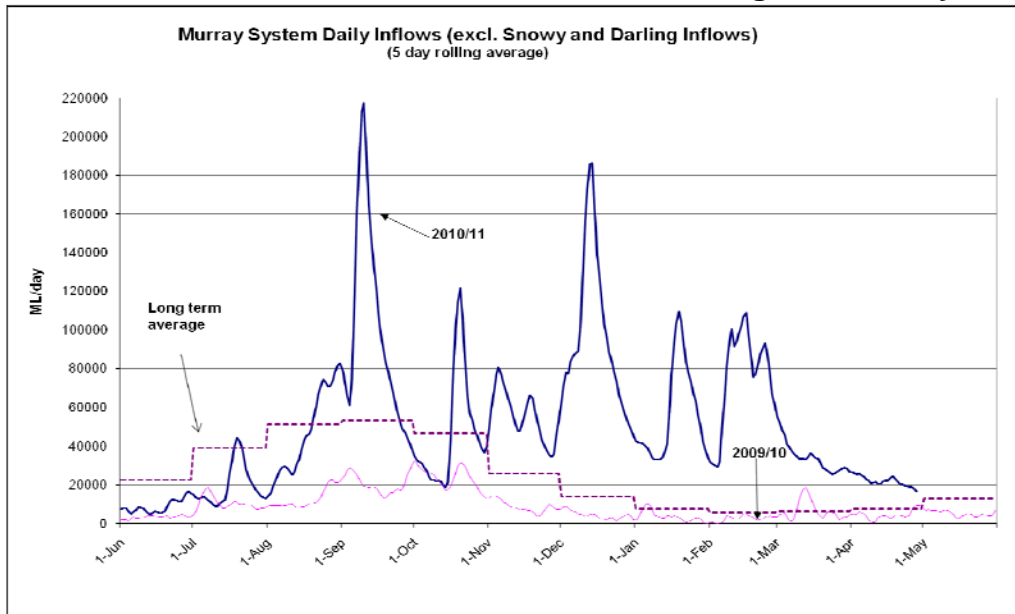
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.50	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.75	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 27 Apr 2011



State Allocations (as at 27 April 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



28 April 2011

Torrumbarry Weir pool to be partially lowered

The level of the Torrumbarry Weir pool will be gradually lowered below the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 86.05 m AHD by up to 40 cm.

The partial drawdown is expected to commence on Wednesday 4 May and be fully lowered by around 12 May, before being refilled by early June.

Variation in the weir pool level has been implemented in recent years to assist a long-term goal to reduce bank erosion caused in part by holding the weir pool steady.

The weir pool will be lowered by around 5 cm/day measured immediately upstream of the weir, however larger variations may be observed at other locations due to local impacts.

The river level at Echuca Wharf (82 km upstream of Torrumbarry Weir) will be dependent on both the weir pool level and river flow rates over the coming weeks. The river level at Echuca Wharf may fall as low as 85.70 m under dry conditions.

River pumpers, boat operators and other river users upstream of Torrumbarry Weir are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments in response to the lower weir pool level.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will continue to issue further advice via the MDBA's Weekly report which can be viewed at www.mdba.gov.au.

ENDS

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

 Receive MDBA updates via http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

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