



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2011

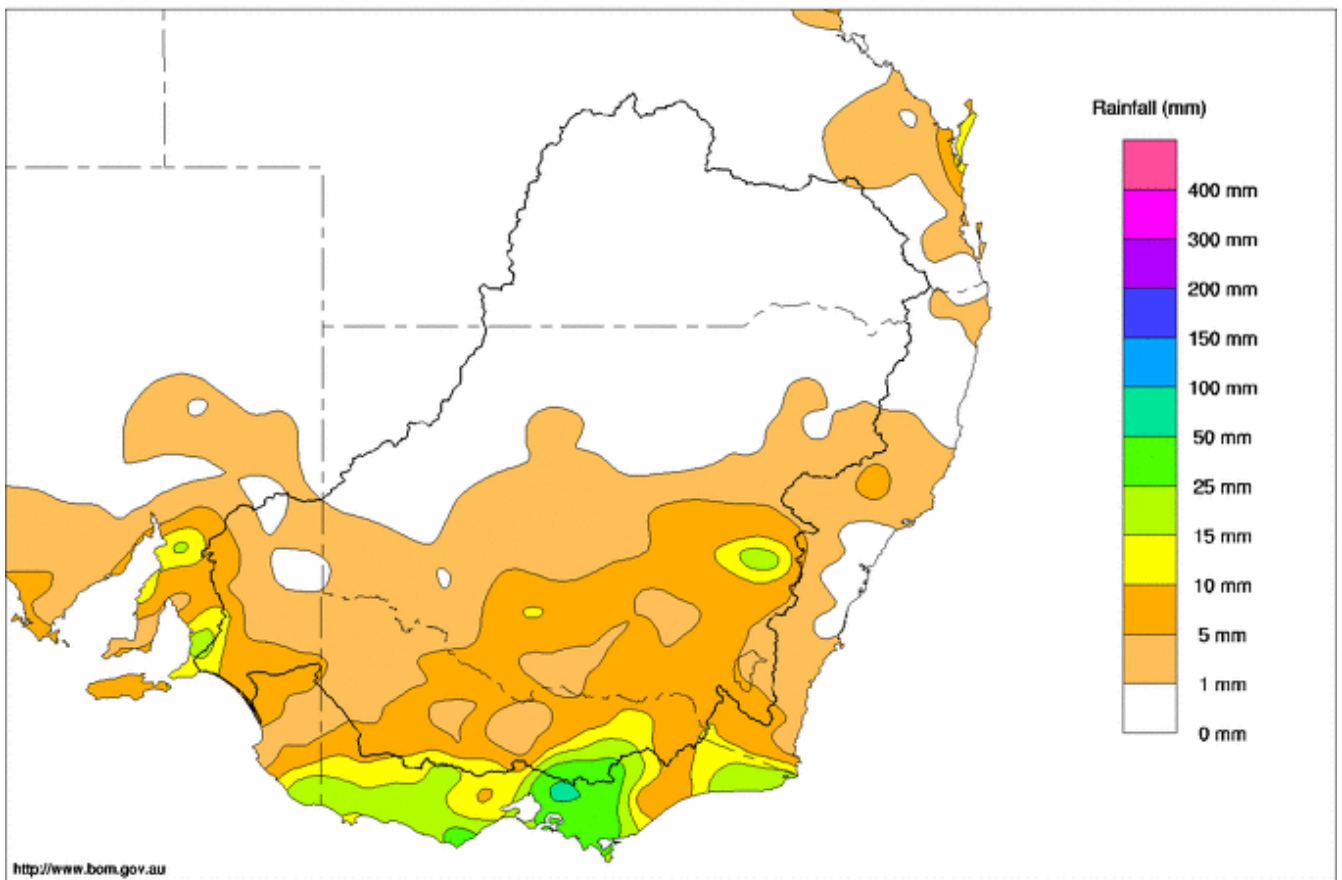
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## Rainfall and Inflows

During the week, fine and dry conditions were experienced across the northern Murray-Darling Basin. In the southern Basin, rainfall was mostly limited to less than 10 mm (see Map 1). The highest totals occurred in Victoria in the upper Goulburn catchment where Taggerty, west of Lake Eildon, received 37 mm and Lake Eildon itself received 31 mm. In NSW, an isolated fall of 28 mm was recorded in the Snowy Mountains at Perisher.

Very little rainfall was recorded in the upper Murray and its tributaries and, as a result, streamflows have slowly receded. At Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River flow fell from 460 to 380 ML/day during the week and similarly, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River, flow during the week fell by around 250 ML/day to about 1,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th May 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1- Murray Darling Basin Rainfall for the week ending 18 May 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) decreased by 4 GL during the week to 6,836 GL (80% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 4 GL to 2,441 GL (63% capacity) and the release remains on the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. Hume Reservoir total storage increased by 4 GL to 2,784 GL (93% capacity) and during the week the release has been increased 7,000 ML/day to maintain around 200 GL of airspace at Hume Reservoir. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting moderate rainfall over the Hume catchment in the coming week and release from Hume Reservoir can be expected to increase in response to any boost in runoff within the catchment.

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is currently 123.67 m AHD (1.23 below FSL). Release from Yarrowonga Weir has been increased from 10,000 ML/day to 12,000 ML/day during the week in order to continue the lowering of Lake Mulwala. The lake drawdown is aimed at controlling the spread of the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa*.

The River Murray at Picnic Point is steady at around 2.58 m local gauge height and the combined flow into the Edward river from Edward and Gulpa offtakes has been reduced from 1,900 to 1,500 ML/day during the week. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is around 2,000 ML/day and Stevens Weir pool has continued to be lowered and is now at around 2.3 m local gauge height.

At Torrumbarry Weir, on the Murray, the flow has increased over the week from around 8,000 to 11,300 ML/day due to higher flows in both the Murray and Goulburn rivers. Further increases in release up to 15,000 ML/day are expected in the coming week. Further downstream on the Murray at Euston Weir, the release has been steady at around 12,500 ML/day and is projected to increase slightly in the next few days to around 13,500 ML/day. At Wentworth Weir, downstream of the Darling and Murray confluence, the flow has decreased from 37,500 to 27,900 ML/day as both the Murray and Darling Rivers recede. The flow is expected to fall to around 23,000 ML/day in the coming week.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes has decreased by 13 GL to 1,888 GL (109% capacity). Upstream of the lakes at Bourke, water from the Culgoa River has arrived and the flow at Bourke is around 7,000 ML/day and is close to the anticipated peak. Release from Menindee Lakes has decreased from 5,500 to around 3,500 ML/day and will continue to be reduced in the coming week. At Burtundy, on the lower Darling the flow fell from 15,500 ML/day to around 9,000 ML/day and will continue to recede during the week.

The level in Lake Victoria is steady at around 24.3 m AHD and is expected to remain at around this level until at least the end of May. Total storage has increased by 1 GL to 374 GL (55% capacity). In South Australia, the flow into the state averaged around 30,500 ML/day during the week and the flow over Lock 1 is currently 35,500 ML/day. The average level of the Lower Lakes is currently +0.70 m AHD and average release from the Barrages during the week is estimated to be around 51,000 ML/day.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 18 May 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	461.38	2 441	63%	71	2 370	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.99	2 807	93%	23	2 784	+4
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.29	374	55%	100	274	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 888	109%	(480 #)	1 408	-13
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 510</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 836</b>	<b>-4</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							80% ^	
<b>Major State Storages</b>								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		993	97%	3	990	+2
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 585	97%	24	1 561	-4
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 803	84%	100	2 703	+0

\* 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 17 May 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 241	-14	Snowy-Murray	+24	56
Snowy-Murray Component	487	-16	Tooma-Tumut	+3	6
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	21	50
			Murray 1 Release	+30	64

## 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)	-0.3	478	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.3	112
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.1	177
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	50
Licensed Pumps	1.8	75	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.9	19
Lower Darling	1.5	303	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	253
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>611</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 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 May due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	73.0 *
Flow this week	213.5
Flow so far this month	644.7
Flow last month	1,817.7

(30 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	320	200	210
Euston	170	180	170
Red Cliffs	-	-	160
Merbein	160	170	170
Burtundy (Darling)	320	340	290
Lock 9	300	320	240
Lake Victoria	240	220	190
Berri	300	300	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	350	360	330
Mannum	350	360	320
Murray Bridge	400	410	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	370	360	2 150
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	380	400	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 890	6 830	8 200
Goolwa Barrages	470	1 150	4 470

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 18 May 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	-	-	-	6 170	F	4 350	4 580
Jingellic	4.0	2.03	208.55	7 270	R	6 290	5 630
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.48	218.37	680	F	730	720
Heywoods	5.5	2.13	155.76	6 000	F	6 640	5 810
Doctors Point	5.5	2.41	150.88	8 210	R	8 670	8 000
Albury	4.3	1.38	148.82	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.15	128.17	9 430	F	9 090	8 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.92	116.96	12 030	S	11 760	10 030
Tocumwal	6.4	2.59	106.43	12 920	R	12 160	10 850
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.39	81.94	11 280	R	9 450	8 450
Swan Hill	4.5	1.87	64.79	10 270	F	9 320	8 780
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.36	53.48	15 330	R	14 720	15 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.66	44.50	12 550	R	12 750	15 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 300	F	10 190	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.45	29.21	27 900	F	32 610	40 860
Rufus Junction	-	5.81	22.74	26 620	F	30 340	36 810
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.57	-	36 600	F	42 030	55 670
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.58	154.81	1 390	R	1 490	1 440
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.53	146.21	2 310	R	2 410	2 410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.66	95.08	5 400	R	3 290	2 280
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.03	81.80	2 030	F	2 210	2 780
Edward at Liewah	-	3.07	58.45	2 680	R	2 650	2 510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.98	55.47	2 120	F	2 260	2 190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	-	-	1 500	F	1 560	-
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	100	R	90	-
Darling at Bourke	-	4.91	-	7 040	R	6 260	4 250
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.82	-	9 160	F	12 700	18 080

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 110	4 340
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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	-1.24	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.88	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.40	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.13	+1.82
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.10	+1.69
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.69	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.13	+2.75
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+1.81	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.17	+2.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+1.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.30	+2.49
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.27	+1.96	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.19	+1.82

### Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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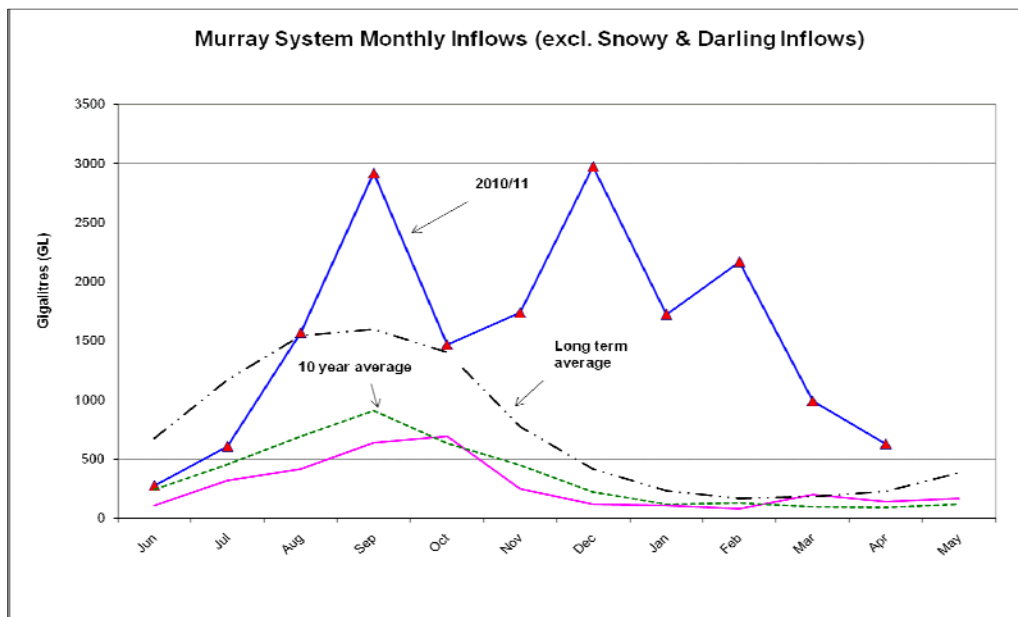
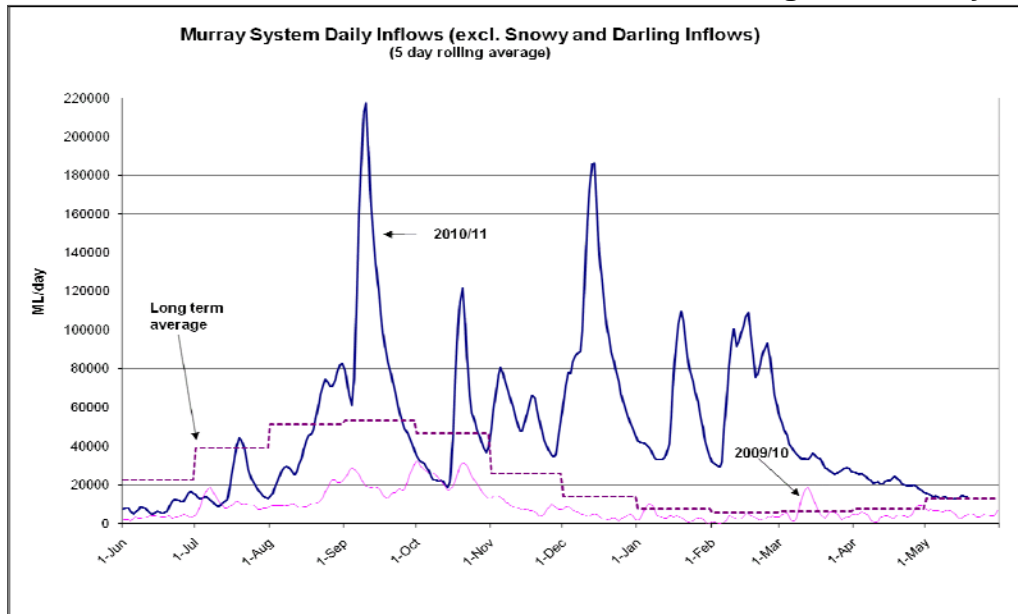
### Barrages

### Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.41	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.41	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.71	170	Open	Open

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





State Allocations (as at 18 May 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/>