



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 06 JULY 2011

Trim Ref: D11/20866

## Rainfall and Inflows

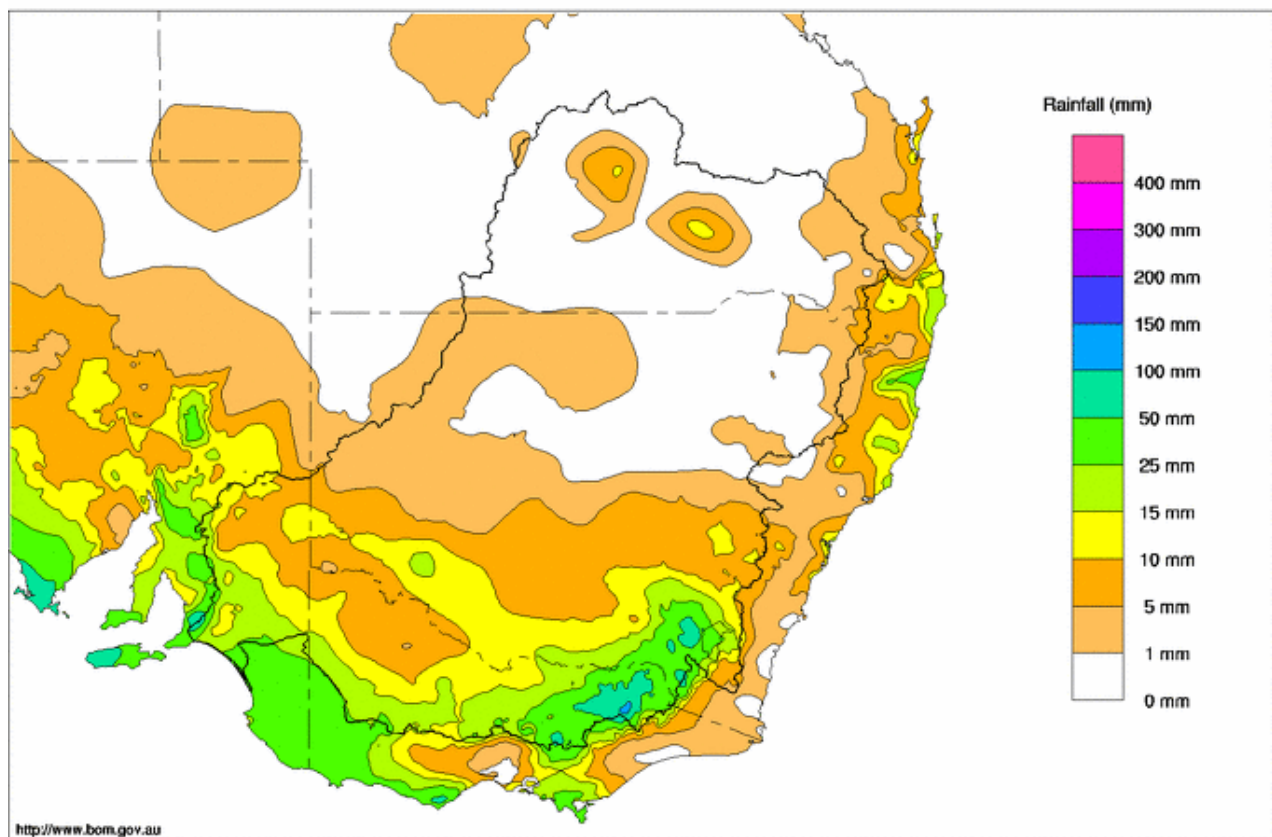
A spell of fine and dry weather ended on the weekend as a frontal rain-band moved across the southern Murray-Darling Basin. The rain and cold weather that affected the upper catchments during the last few days is set to continue, with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting a series of cold fronts to cross the region this week.

Highest precipitation fell once again over the south-east ranges (Map 1) where totals included 151 mm at Rocky Valley in the upper Kiewa catchment, and 90 mm at Mt Buffalo and 84 mm at Bright in the Ovens catchment. Similar totals were recorded in the NSW Snowy Mountains, and blizzard conditions are continuing in alpine areas. Good falls were also recorded across the south and south-west of the Basin, including the Mt Lofty Ranges where Mt Barker received 69 mm. The northern Basin remained relatively dry with the majority of areas north of the NSW Riverina recording less than 10 mm.

Streams have responded well to the rain with flows in most upper tributaries rising again. On the upper Murray the flow at Biggara started the week at 1,100 ML/day and has now increased to 4,000 ML/day (on 7 July), while further downstream, the flow at Jingellic had decreased to 5,400 ML/day early in the week but is now 15,300 ML/day (on 7 July), with further rises expected. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta was averaging around 4,000 ML/day early in the week but has now increased to 9,700 ML/day (on 7 July), with further rises also expected.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 6th July 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



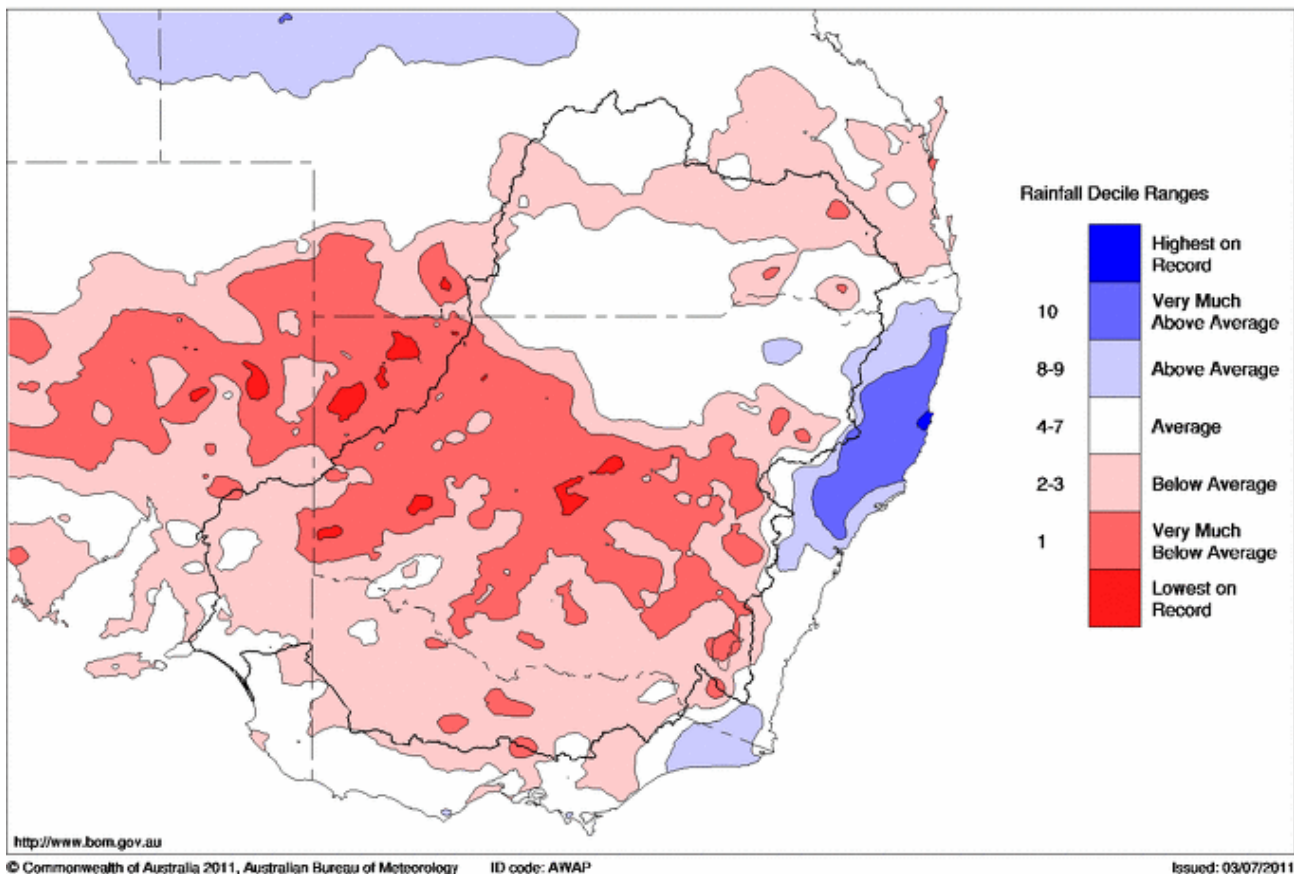
Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 06 July 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

## June 2011 Summary

Rainfall for June averaged 16.9 mm across the Murray-Darling Basin and was the lowest since 1986 and the 8th driest out of 112 years of record. The southern parts of the basin were generally below average (Map 2). The mid-basin was very much below average with some areas recording the lowest June total on record. The northern basin had generally average rainfall with some parts of southern Queensland below average.

Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) for June were approximately 650 GL. Despite the low rainfall, this inflow is close to the long-term average of 680 GL demonstrating that catchments are relatively wet; however June was the first month since July 2010 during which inflows have fallen below the long-term average.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2011  
Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

## River Operations

MDBA active storage has increased this week by 68 GL to 7,124 GL (83% capacity). Dartmouth storage level rose by 19 GL to 2,507 GL, which is 65% capacity.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage has increased by 10 GL to 2,817 GL (94% capacity) and, on 7 July, the release was increased to 15,000 ML/day. Further increases to the release from Hume Reservoir are likely in the next few days and, together with higher inflows from the Kiewa River, the flow downstream of Doctors Point could exceed 25,000 ML/day by the weekend.



At Yarrowonga Weir, the release was increased to 17,500 ML/day on 7 July and is expected to be further increased during the next week. At the same time as releases are increasing, the level in Lake Mulwala will be slowly raised by about 10–15 cm/day from the current level of 122.1 m AHD. The lake is expected to be close to its normal operating level of 124.7 m AHD by early August (see attached media release).

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir is expected to slowly rise from 5,600 ML/day to about 7,000 ML/day in about 2 weeks' time. Flows will be rising at most other locations along the Edward-Wakool river system.

Inflow from the Goulburn River will also increase during the next week, as the flow past McCoys Bridge is expected to rise from 4,300 ML/day to about 7,000 ML/day. On the River Murray at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently 16,000 ML/day and likely to increase to about 20,000–22,000 ML/day during the next week.

At Euston Weir, the flow is currently 21,200 ML/day and is expected to increase during the next 2 weeks. Similarly, the flow past Wentworth Weir, which is currently 24,600 ML/day, is also expected to rise during the next week.

Storage in Menindee Lakes decreased by 4 GL during the week. Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo are currently close to full supply level, while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla are surcharged (see Figure 1). Together, the lakes are currently surcharged to 1,955 GL (113% capacity). The level in the lakes is expected to remain approximately steady for most of July. The release from the lakes is being slowly returned from 1,500 ML/day at the beginning of the month to 500 ML/day (measured at Weir 32, see Figure 2).



**Figure 1 - Birds nesting at Lake Wetherell - currently at full supply, 1 July 2011.**

Photo: Andrew Bishop, MDBA.

The storage volume in Lake Victoria is currently 519 GL, which is an increase of 43 GL since last week. As there is sufficient water in transit upstream of Lake Victoria to fill the lake at a later date, the level will be maintained or even lowered a little during the next week to assist with the establishment of foreshore vegetation.

The flow to South Australia is currently about 17,500 ML/day and this flow will rise during the next few days to about 22,000 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the level is currently 0.74 m AHD. Near Meningie, on Lake Albert, the salinity has decreased to less than 5,000 EC units this week, and is currently 4,500 EC units.



**Figure 2 - Weir 32 on the Darling River passing 1,500 ML/day, 1 July 2011.**

Photo: Andrew Bishop, MDBA.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 06 Jul 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	462.69	2 507	65%	71	2 436	+19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.05	2 817	94%	23	2 794	+10
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.63	519	77%	100	419	+43
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 955	113%	(480 #)	1 475	-4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 798</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 124</b>	<b>+68</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							83% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	913	89%	3	910	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 586	97%	24	1 562	+6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 928	88%	100	2 828	+22

\* 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 Jul 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 214	+27	Snowy-Murray	+8	227
Snowy-Murray Component	380	+4	Tooma-Tumut	+8	48
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	-1	179
			Murray 1 Release	+14	277

## Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \*

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2011	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2011
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	0
Licensed Pumps	0.8	1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.2	2
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.8	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3</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 July due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *
Flow this week	127.0
Flow so far this month	108.1
Flow last month	633.9

(18 100 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	120	130	200
Euston	140	140	170
Red Cliffs	130	130	160
Merbein	100	100	170
Burtundy (Darling)	330	340	300
Lock 9	120	120	230
Lake Victoria	250	200	200
Berri	300	240	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	310	340	330
Mannum	390	360	330
Murray Bridge	330	340	330
Milang (Lake Alex.)	580	540	1 920
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	500	430	920
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 480	5 350	7 900
Goolwa Barrages	23 070	10 890	5 460

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 06 Jul 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	-	-	-	6 780	R	3 380	4 770
Jingellic	4.0	2.37	208.89	10 480	R	7 130	10 060
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.86	218.75	1 710	R	1 190	1 180
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	155.83	6 500	S	7 280	11 100
Doctors Point	5.5	2.61	151.08	10 180	R	9 900	13 950
Albury	4.3	1.57	149.01	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.34	128.36	9 360	S	10 420	12 970
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.31	117.35	15 210	F	17 040	16 640
Tocumwal	6.4	3.02	106.86	16 480	F	18 950	15 600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.42	82.97	15 950	F	16 170	14 420
Swan Hill	4.5	2.64	65.56	15 450	R	14 670	14 570
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.46	54.58	21 310	R	20 710	21 790
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.68	45.52	21 200	F	20 260	21 450
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	19 440	F	19 440	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.21	28.97	24 600	S	24 810	27 970
Rufus Junction	-	4.93	21.86	16 970	F	17 540	19 910
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.48	-	15 710	R	15 940	17 260
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.45	155.68	2 970	R	2 030	2 170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.25	147.93	8 260	R	5 040	5 720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.21	94.63	4 310	R	5 450	5 420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.67	83.44	5 570	F	4 330	3 720
Edward at Liewah	-	3.14	58.52	2 770	F	2 880	3 130
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.02	55.51	2 280	F	2 460	3 150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.37	61.33	9 030	S	7 380	2 890
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.32	-	310	R	510	870
Darling at Bourke	-	4.25	-	1 150	S	1 070	1 000
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.20	-	1 490	R	1 290	1 470

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 850	12 300
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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	-2.80	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.00	+2.67
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.95
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.87
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+1.27	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+1.78
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.03	+1.57	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+1.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.60	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+1.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.98	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.73

### Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.74
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### Barrages

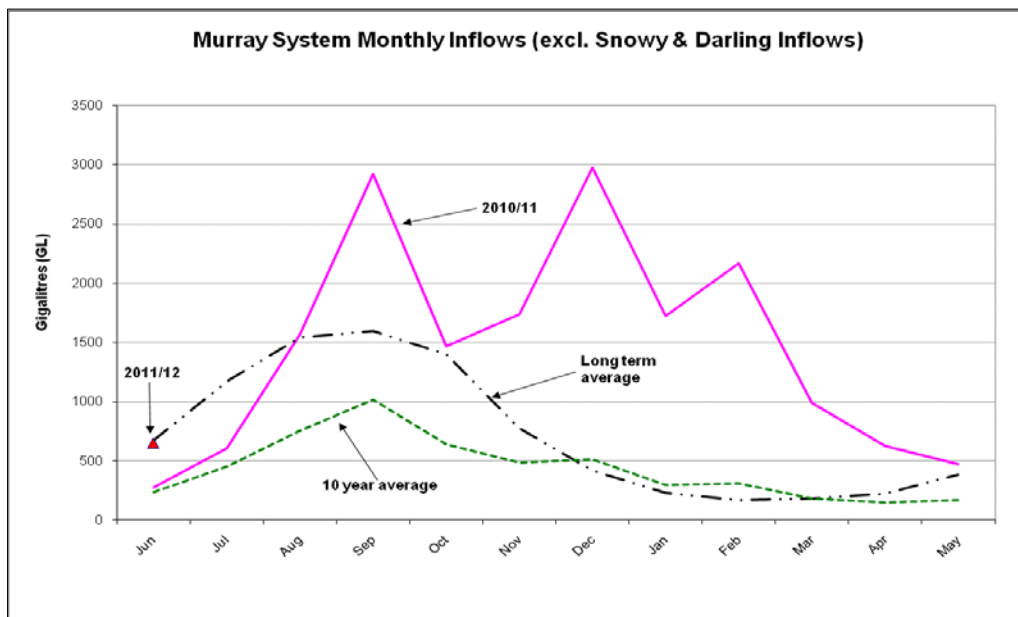
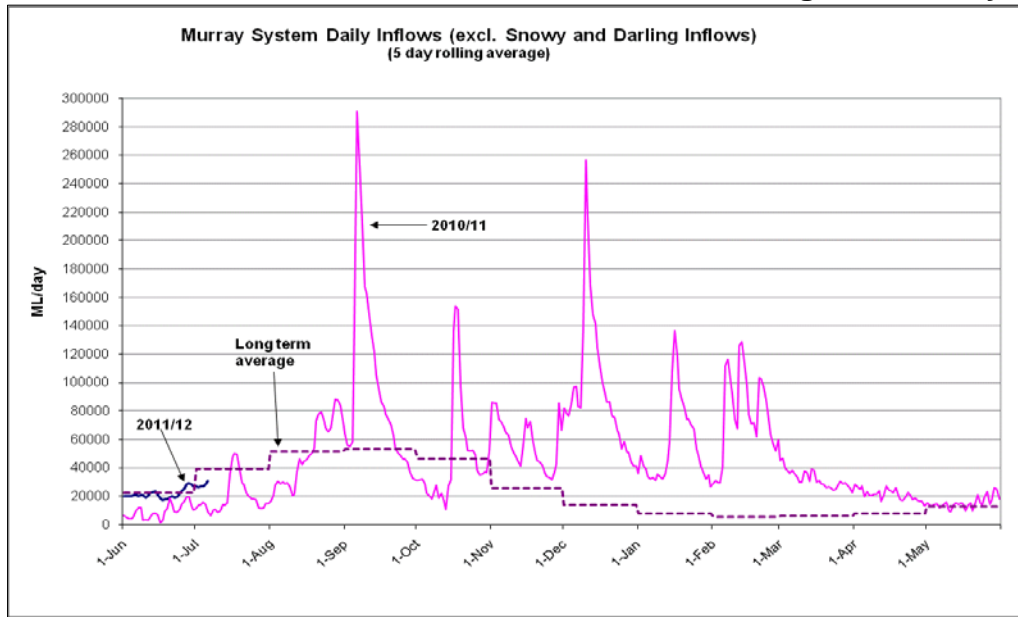
### Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	4	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	12	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	10	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 06 Jul 2011



State Allocations (as at 06 Jul 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	21%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	44%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	48%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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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



8 July 2011

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## Refilling of Lake Mulwala to begin

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, in conjunction with Goulburn-Murray Water, has announced that the refilling of Lake Mulwala will begin on Friday 8 July 2011.

Inflows upstream of Yarrawonga Weir will be partially captured over the coming weeks to gradually raise the lake by about 15 cm per day. At this stage, it is anticipated the lake will reach 124.7 m AHD by early August, in readiness for the irrigation season.

The immediate raising of the lake level means that irrigation channels can also begin filling as early as mid-July.

Lowering of the lake was successful in controlling the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa* by exposing it to the air.

The lowering began on 27 April 2011, reaching a low point of 121.86 m AHD on 19 June 2011.

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)

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