



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2011

Trim Ref: D11/24500

Rainfall and Inflows

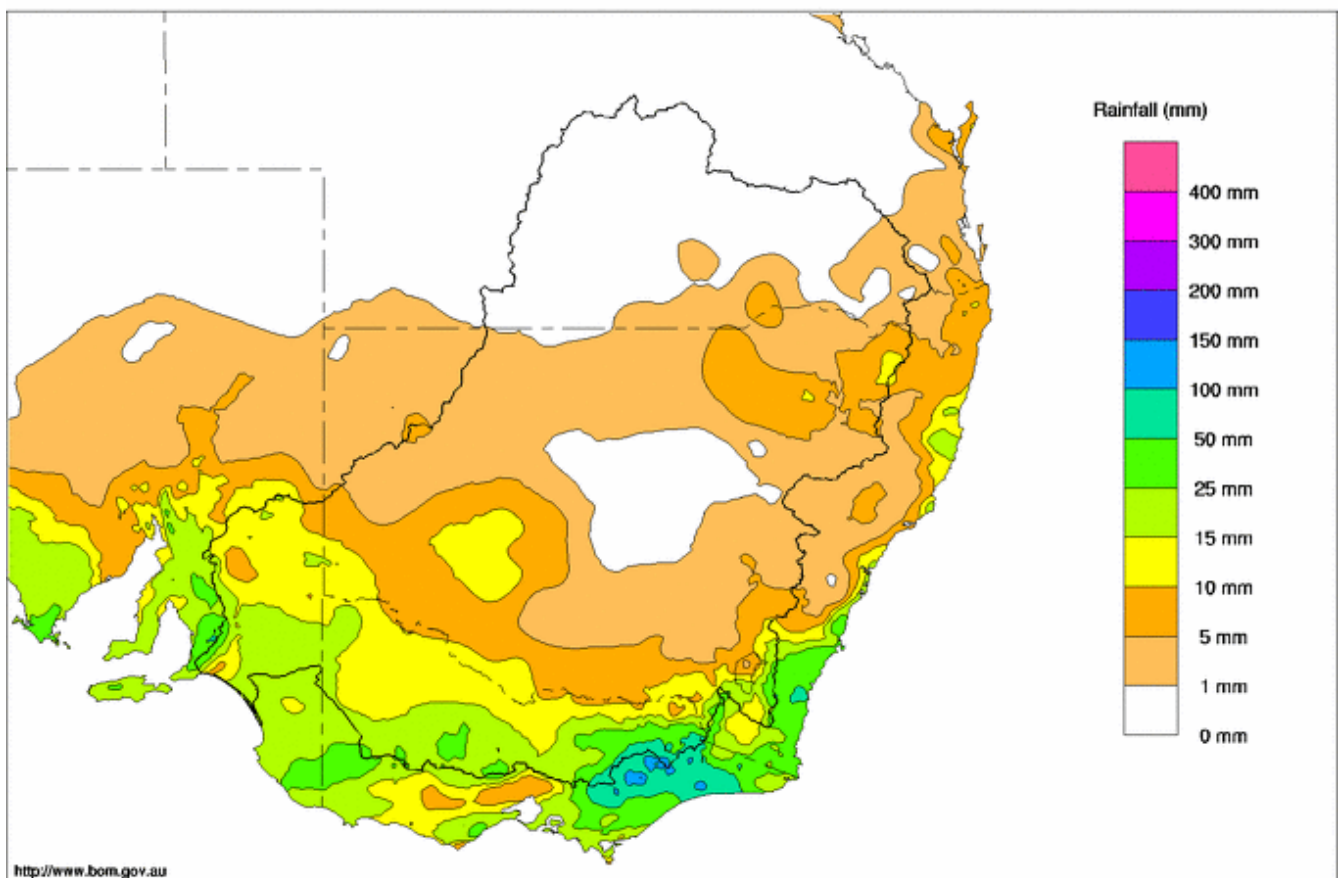
Rainfall was focused across the southern Murray-Darling Basin over the past week and was mostly associated with a Tasman Sea low that pushed wet weather over Gippsland and the NSW south coast and into the upper Murray System catchments early in the week. A strong frontal system that approached from the west late in the week has brought rain to South Australia and is expected to bring further significant rainfall to the upper Murray catchments in the coming days.

Highest precipitation over the week to Wednesday was recorded over north-east and central Victoria, while good rainfall fell once again over the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia (Map 1). Some of the best totals included 63 mm at Harrierville and 54 mm at Mt Hotham Airport in north-east Victoria, while 55 mm fell at Woods Point in the upper Goulburn catchment. On the northern Victorian plains, there was 29 mm at Avoca and 20 mm at Donald, while in South Australia, there was 48 mm at Mt Lofty and 30 mm at Mt Barker. Further north in the Basin, there was generally only light rain with most Queensland locations staying dry.

As at Thursday 18 August further significant falls of rain had been recorded overnight resulting in some minor flooding in upper Murray tributaries and details will be provided in next week's report.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 17th August 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 17 August 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



Stream responses last week were variable across the upper catchments, with the most significant rises observed on the upper Mitta Mitta, Ovens and King Rivers. On the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie climbed from 1,600 to almost 6,000 ML/day early in the week with areas of minor flooding experienced upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from 4,400 to 11,700 ML/day before receding to 6,300 ML/day; while on the King River, the flow at Cheshunt peaked at 2,500 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage has increased 16 GL since last week and is now 7,336 GL (85% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage rose by 33 GL during the week to 2,656 GL, with inflows peaking at just under 10,000 ML/day. The release, measured at Colemans, remains at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows receded during the week, and have averaged around 13,000 ML/day. However, rainfall at the time of writing is expected to cause significant rises to inflows over the coming days. Releases were increased early in the week ahead of forecast rain, and a pre-release of 25,000 ML/day has been maintained over the last few days in order to gain additional air space to assist in managing potential high inflows over the coming week. Storage has consequently decreased by 56 GL during the week to 2,876 GL (96% capacity). Overnight on Wednesday 17 August, releases were reduced to 22,000 ML/day to limit river level rises downstream of the confluence of the Kiewa River.

At Lake Mulwala, the lake level remained fairly steady during the week at around 124.75 m AHD and inflows increased from around 20,000 to 40,000 ML/day. In order to lower the pool level ahead of expected peak flows from Wednesday night's rain, release from Yarrowonga weir was increased to 45,000 ML/day during the week. At this early stage, releases in the coming week are expected to rise to around 50-60,000 ML/day – well below the minor flood level downstream of Yarrowonga of 81,000 ML/day.

On the Edward River, the flow at Toonalook has begun to rise as higher inflows from upstream arrive and is currently at 5,000 ML/day. The flow at Stevens Weir is now around 4,000 ML/day and initial forecasts suggest that flow at Stevens Weir will peak above 10,000 ML/day before the end of August due to this week's rain. On the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing, the flow peaked during the week at around 7,500 and is now receding.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release is now at around 20,000 ML/day and inflow from the Goulburn River, measured at McCoys Bridge, peaked during the week slightly above 12,000 ML/day and is now around 10,500 ML/day. Further downstream at Euston Weir, flow is currently peaking at around 36,700 ML/day and will slowly recede over the coming week. Updates of the impacts of the recent rain will be provided in coming weeks.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes remains fairly steady with an increase of only 2 GL during the week. Currently the storage holds 1,960 GL (113% capacity) and is likely to remain steady as inflows closely balance the total of releases (averaging 500 ML/day) and current evaporation rates.

The level of Lake Victoria is being lowered for a second time this winter, in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy, as improved upstream tributary flows permit the filling of the lake at a later time. The current total storage therefore will decrease in the coming weeks, but has increased this week by 36 GL to 518 GL (70% capacity). The flow to South Australia climbed from around 27,000 ML/day to 37,000 ML/day last week and this week is expected to increase to around 40,000 ML/day. The Lower Lakes level remained reasonably steady during the week and is now at around 0.63 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN

Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 17 Aug 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)	
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%				
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	465.59	2 656	69%	71	2 585	+33	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.35	2 876	96%	23	2 853	-56	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.65	518	77%	100	418	+36	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 960	113%	(480 #)	1 480	+2	
Total		9 269		8 010	86%	--	7 336	+16	
Total Active MDBA Storage							85% ^		

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	991	97%	3	988	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 593	98%	24	1 569	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 109	93%	100	3 009	+56

* 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 16 Aug 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 430	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+3	271
Snowy-Murray Component	416	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+15	105
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-11	166
			Murray 1 Release	+14	377

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)	6.6	53	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.7	3
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.7	15
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	2
Licensed Pumps	1.2	6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	2
Lower Darling	0.4	3	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.6	8
TOTAL	8.3	63	TOTAL	9.2	30

* 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 August due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	208.9	(29 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	523.9	
Flow last month	845.1	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	110	120	130
Euston	110	120	110
Red Cliffs	110	100	110
Merbein	90	90	90
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	340
Lock 9	110	100	110
Lake Victoria	150	200	210
Berri	340	230	210
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	340	260	230
Mannum	220	210	210
Murray Bridge	220	210	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	560	520	560
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	280	320	310
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 240	5 300	5 350
Goolwa Barrages	530	610	700



River Levels and Flows Week ending Wednesday 17 Aug 2011

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage	Gauge Height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
	(m)	local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 320	F	3 660	4 680
Jingellic	4.0	2.26	208.78	9 370	F	11 770	11 160
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.76	218.65	1 350	F	1 460	1 520
Heywoods	5.5	3.71	157.34	25 000	S	22 980	6 500
Doctors Point	5.5	4.09	152.56	26 870	F	25 650	9 960
Albury	4.3	3.25	150.69	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.62	130.64	26 960	R	21 640	8 420
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.46	119.50	38 990	R	29 490	11 850
Tocumwal	6.4	4.70	108.54	33 380	R	23 950	13 140
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.23	83.78	20 090	R	18 940	25 740
Swan Hill	4.5	3.29	66.21	19 970	F	21 070	21 620
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.22	56.34	33 070	F	33 100	30 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.10	46.94	36 690	S	35 840	33 180
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	32 430	F	32 060	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.14	29.90	39 230	R	37 830	35 290
Rufus Junction	-	6.38	23.31	36 530	R	29 560	29 740
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.06	-	26 430	F	28 930	31 110
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.49	155.72	3 060	F	3 360	3 060
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.73	148.41	10 960	F	14 400	6 990
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.66	97.08	11 720	F	9 600	9 740
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.08	82.85	4 040	F	4 100	5 570
Edward at Liewah	-	-	-	4 190	F	4 470	4 640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.95	57.44	7 200	F	7 360	5 700
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.90	59.86	4 840	F	7 490	9 150
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	80	F	130	220
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	970	S	980	1 100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.98	-	910	F	860	720

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	19 160	18 720
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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	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.29	+4.09
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+2.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+1.66
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+2.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+2.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+2.50	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.09	+1.92
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.18	+1.69	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.16	+2.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.16	+2.57	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.07	+1.31

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

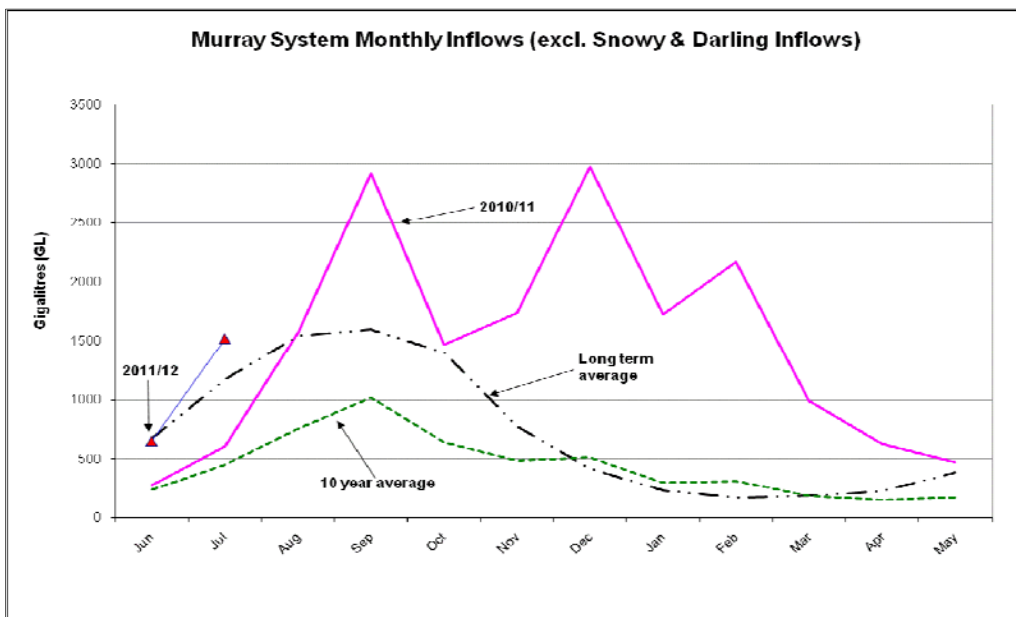
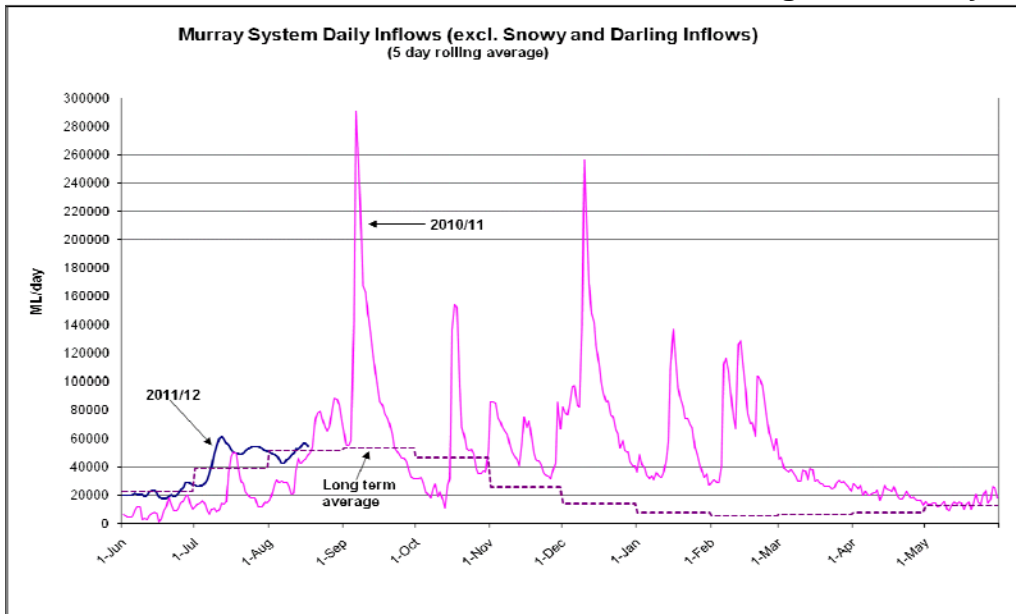
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.63
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	30	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.46	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	42	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.50	87	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 17 Aug 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	10%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	53%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	78%
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/>