



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2011

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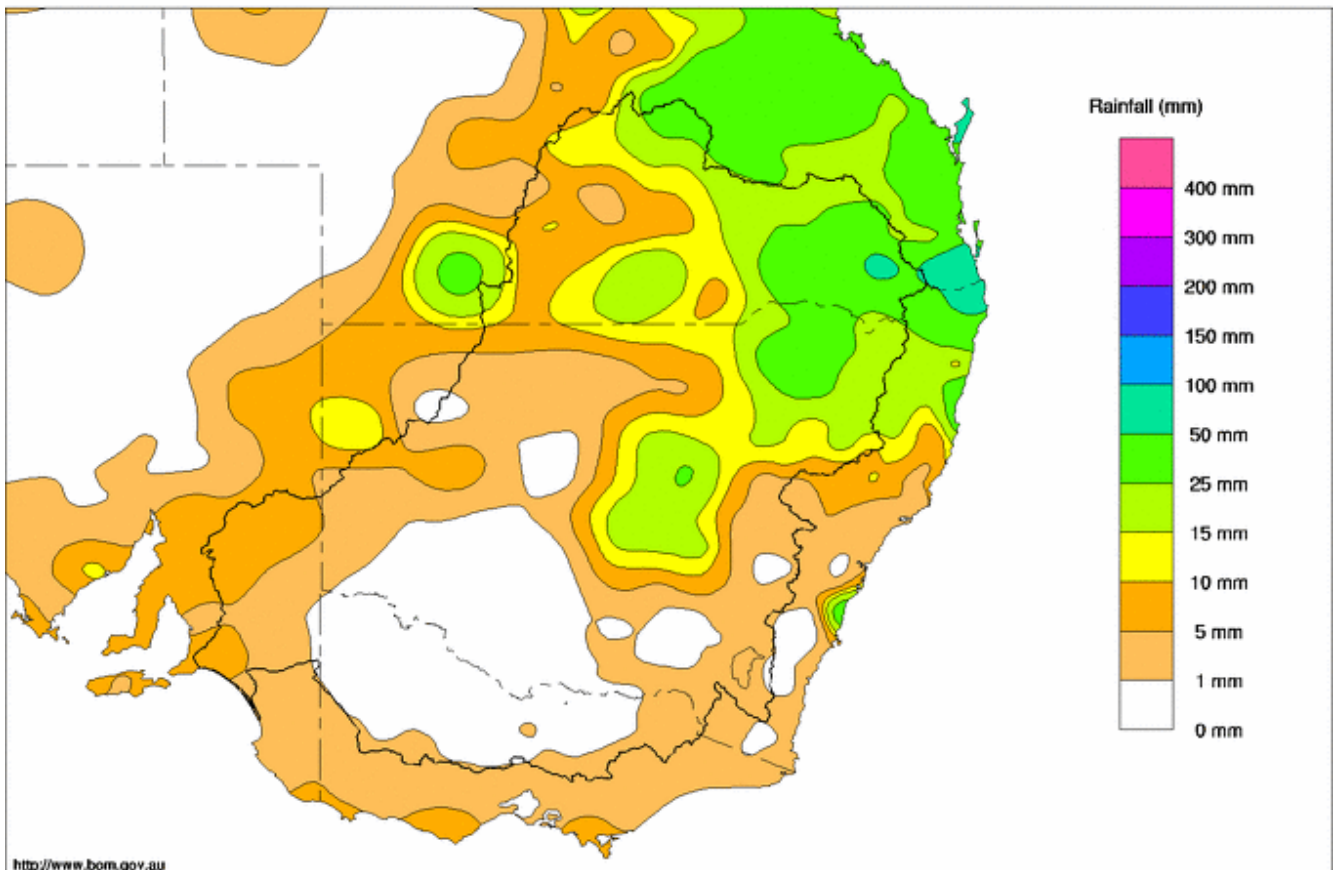
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall this week was focussed mainly over the north-east of the Murray-Darling Basin, with most of the central and southern Basin experiencing generally fine and dry conditions. The majority of the rain was associated with a trough that moved across the region on Friday and Saturday bringing some good falls to the upper Condamine catchment in Queensland as well as parts of the NSW western and north-western slopes and plains.

The highest totals were recorded in Queensland, including 82 mm at Tosari, 77 mm at Ellangowan and 65 mm at Pittsworth in the upper Condamine catchment. In NSW, there was 49 mm at Bellata, 45 mm at Wallangra and 36 mm at Condobolin. This rain has brought modest rises to rivers in the northern Basin – for example the McIntyre River recorded a peak of around 6,000 ML/day at Boggabilla during the week – and will result in only small increases to flows along the upper Barwon-Darling River in the coming weeks. In southern NSW and Victoria, most locations recorded less than 10 mm for the week, with many places recording no rain at all (Map 1).

With the weather remaining relatively dry over the upper Murray catchments, streamflows have continued receding. In the upper Murray, the flow at Bringenbrong averaged around 3,800 ML/day during the week, down from an average of 5,200 ML/day the previous week. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has eased from 3,700 to 2,600 ML/day; while at Mongans Bridge, the Kiewa River is currently flowing at around 600 ML/day, which is the lowest flow at this gauge since early June.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th October 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 19 GL during the week to 7,547 GL (88% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 13 GL to 2,831 GL which is 73% capacity. The release remained steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir the storage decreased by 34 GL to 2,921 GL which is 97% capacity. Releases increased over the week, starting at around 9,000 ML/day and reaching a peak of 18,000 ML/day towards the end of the week in response to increasing downstream demand.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the Lake level is currently 124.719 m AHD. During the week, demand increased significantly at the irrigation off-takes. Diversions to the Mulwala Canal increased from 3,900 ML/day to 6,400 ML/day. Diversions to the Yarrawonga Main Canal increased from 1,150 ML/day to 2,200 ML/day. Demand is forecast to remain at about these rates for the coming week. The release downstream of the Weir fell away during the week from 15,800 ML/day to a minimum of 11,000 ML/day and is currently at 11,500 ML/day. A release rate of between 11,000 and 12,000 ML/day is expected over the coming week in order to maintain overbank flows into the Barmah-Millewa forest to maintain bird breeding. Over bank flows are expected to continue for several months.

On the Edward River, demand increased at the Wakool Main Canal from 1,600 ML/day to 1,800 ML/day and is forecast to reach around 2,000 ML/day in the coming week. The release from Stevens Weir peaked during the week at around 6,100 ML/day and is currently 4,700 ML/day. Further downstream, the inflow from Billabong Creek (measured at Darlot) is 1,100 ML/day and expected to peak around 1,450 ML/day during the coming week. The flow on the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing is 1,900 ML/day and forecast to peak at around 2,800 ML/day next week.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to the National Channel is currently 1,300 ML/day, but forecast to rise to 1,800 ML/day in the coming week. Flow downstream of the Weir peaked at 16,100 ML/day and is currently 15,400 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow is expected to peak at Swan Hill at around 16,000 ML/day in the next few days. Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River has been falling away due to increasing upstream demand. Inflow (measured at Balranald) is currently at 1700 ML/day and falling, down from 3,000 ML/day at the start of the week. The flow at Euston Weir peaked at 20,500 ML/day during the week and is expected to remain above 19,000 ML/day for the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the total storage decreased by 14 GL, and remains surcharged at 1,883 GL (109% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, continues to be pulsed around an average of 500 ML/day to create variability in downstream flows in an effort to maintain water quality.

Lake Victoria recommenced filling this week. Total storage increased by 17 GL to 586 GL which is 87% capacity. It is forecast to be full by mid November so that it can assist in meeting downstream flow requirements over the coming summer. Flow to South Australia fell away over the week from 16,500 ML/day to 12,600 ML/day, but is expected to remain around 13,000 ML/day over the coming week.

The average level at the Lower Lakes is currently 0.74 m AHD. The operational target is to raise the Lower Lakes to around 0.8m AHD over the coming weeks.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Oct 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	468.88	2 831	73%	71	2 760	+13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.58	2 921	97%	23	2 898	-34
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.22	586	87%	100	486	+17
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 883	109%	(480 #)	1 403	-14
Total		9 269		8 221	89%	--	7 547	-19
Total Active MDBA Storage							88% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 000	97%	3	997	-25
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 521	93%	24	1 497	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 324	100%	100	3 224	+16

* 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 18 Oct 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 796	n/a	Snowy-Murray	-0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	532	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	178
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-5	96
			Murray 1 Release	+10	492

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)	48.4	261	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.7	59
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5	118
Western Murray Irrigation	0.6	3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	14.3	26
Licensed Pumps	4.5	42	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	6
Lower Darling	0.2	11	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.2	45
TOTAL	53.7	315	TOTAL	38.6	254

* 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 September due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	170.0 *	
Flow this week	104.5	(14 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	338.7	
Flow last month	910.4	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	140	150	150
Euston	160	180	130
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	120	130	100
Burtundy (Darling)	370	360	350
Lock 9	150	140	120
Lake Victoria	190	190	200
Berri	240	240	190
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	300	290	230
Mannum	250	230	220
Murray Bridge	200	190	210
Milang (Lake Alex.)	510	510	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	230	240	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 200	5 370	5 570
Goolwa Barrages	510	540	1 630

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 Oct 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	-	-	-	2 640	F	2 740	3 880
Jingellic	4.0	1.91	208.43	6 140	F	7 000	10 090
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.59	218.48	930	F	990	1 150
Heywoods	5.5	3.21	156.84	17 920	R	14 030	15 320
Doctors Point	5.5	3.37	151.84	18 550	R	15 220	16 710
Albury	4.3	2.41	149.85	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.44	129.46	16 480	R	14 350	20 900
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.78	116.82	10 970	S	12 220	24 290
Tocumwal	6.4	2.50	106.34	12 220	F	15 120	26 030
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.54	83.09	15 360	F	15 500	16 020
Swan Hill	4.5	2.67	65.59	15 670	R	15 890	14 910
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.20	54.32	19 950	S	20 270	17 760
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.33	45.17	20 470	S	20 320	17 510
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	17 600	F	17 420	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.87	28.63	18 020	R	17 250	15 340
Rufus Junction	-	4.30	21.23	11 630	F	13 820	15 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.12	-	14 300	F	14 540	19 440
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.52	154.75	1 310	F	1 910	2 320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.77	146.45	2 630	F	3 110	4 440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.84	93.26	1 580	F	3 230	6 080
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.34	83.11	4 690	F	5 620	3 380
Edward at Liewah	-	2.91	58.29	2 450	R	2 150	1 960
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.91	55.40	1 870	R	1 400	1 160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.16	58.12	1 710	F	2 500	2 880
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.52	-	910	S	1 090	790
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 430	S	1 270	1 250
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	270	S	380	500

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	13 730	15 690
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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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.31	+2.00
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.14	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.57
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.61
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.99	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.08	+1.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+1.23	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.81
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.33	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.89
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.77	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.37

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

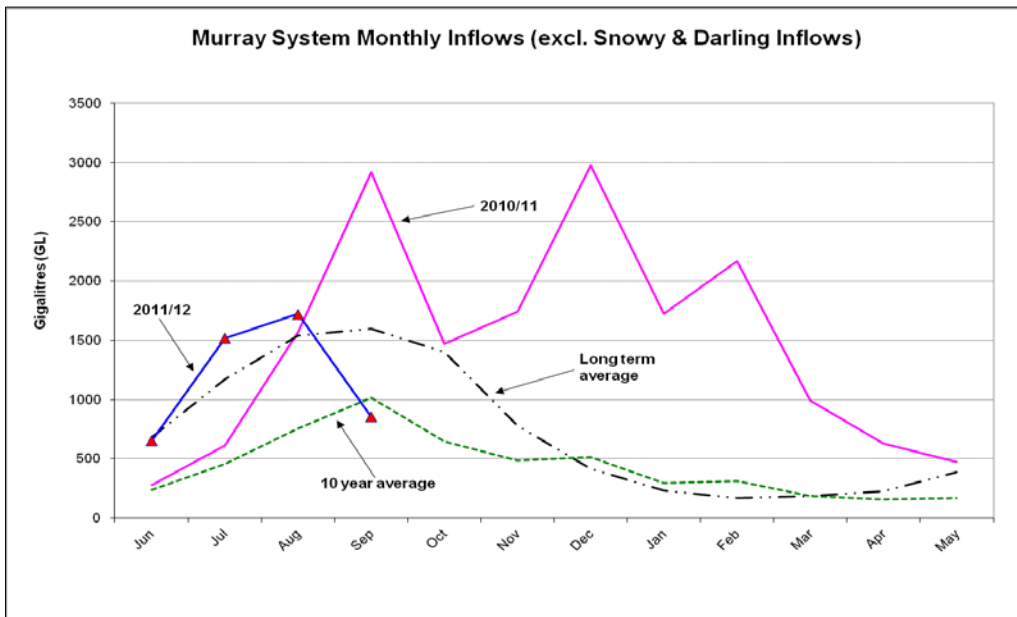
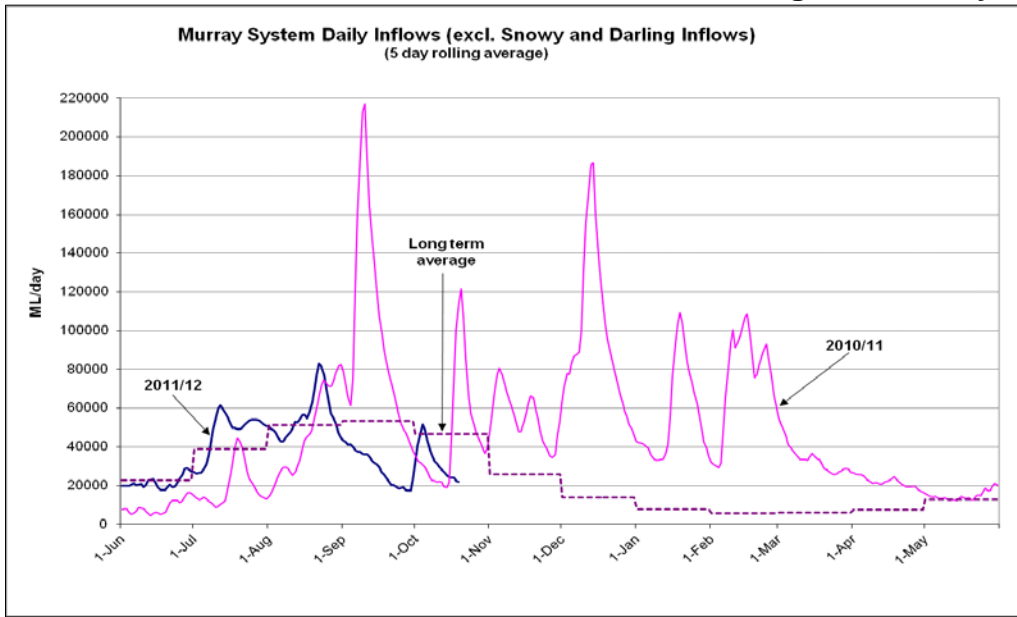
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.74
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.81	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	4	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.83	10	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 19 Oct 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	26%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	86%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	65%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
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/>