



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 01 FEBRUARY 2012

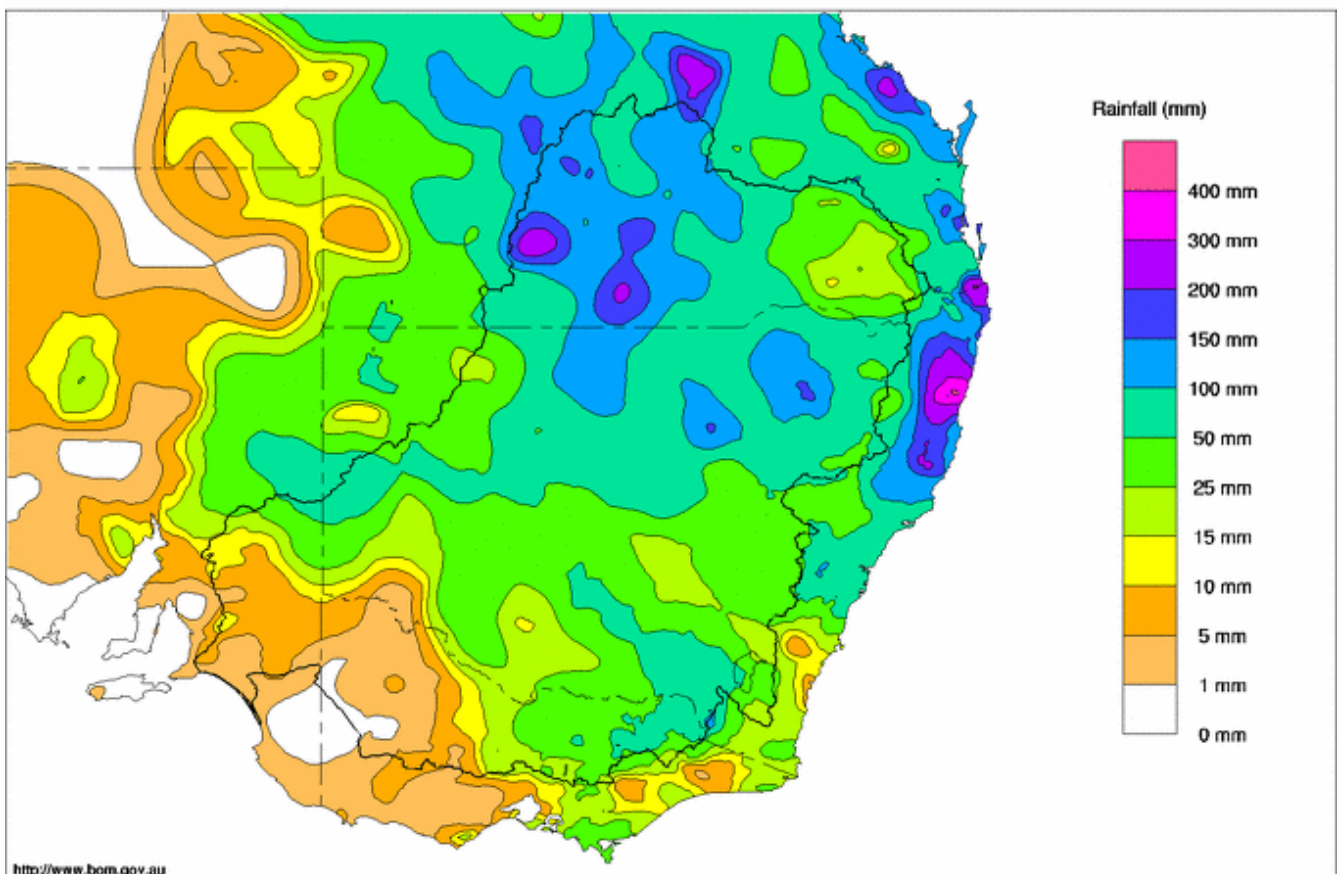
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Rainfall and Inflows

There was widespread rainfall again during the past week with heavy flooding rain across many parts of the northern Basin and high totals also recorded in the south-east (Map 1). An on-going influx of tropical moisture through Queensland and into northern NSW provided the trigger for most of the rain with a trough system that crossed the region during the week leading to rainfall in the south. At the time of writing, there is on-going widespread rainfall across parts of northern NSW and southern Queensland resulting in rapidly rising rivers and major flooding in several Darling tributaries, most notably the Gwydir, Moonie and Namoi Rivers. While it is still too early to predict the exact magnitude of this event, considerable additional inflows to the Darling River are expected over the coming days and weeks.

Rainfall totals over the past week were highest over the Paroo, Warrego and Maranoa catchments with totals including 258 mm at Cowley, 175 mm at Dalmally, 145 mm at Roma and 125 mm at Cunnamulla. These totals followed heavy rainfall in the previous week and have resulted in flooding in these areas. In NSW, there were big totals across the northern and north-western areas including 165 mm at Coonamble, 150 mm at Bellata, 120 mm at Walgett and 99 mm at Broken Hill. In south-eastern areas, best totals fell over the Victorian and south-east NSW slopes and ranges including 121 mm at Rocky Valley, 119 mm at Mt Buffalo, 106 mm at Harris Lane and 72 mm at Wagga Wagga.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 1st February 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 01/02/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 1st February 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



As of 2 February, there have been very strong responses to the latest rain on several Darling River tributaries. At Gravesend, the Gwydir River has risen sharply and is currently around four metres above the major flood level. This corresponds to a flow of close to 300,000 ML/day, and the Bureau of Meteorology is warning of a flood comparable to the 1976 event at Moree over the coming days. Flows in the upper Barwon River have started rising again and are expected to continue climbing over the coming days. Downstream at Menindee Lakes, peak inflows from the late 2011 rain event are approaching. The flow at Wilcannia is now at 30,200 ML/day and should continue to increase slowly for at least another week. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

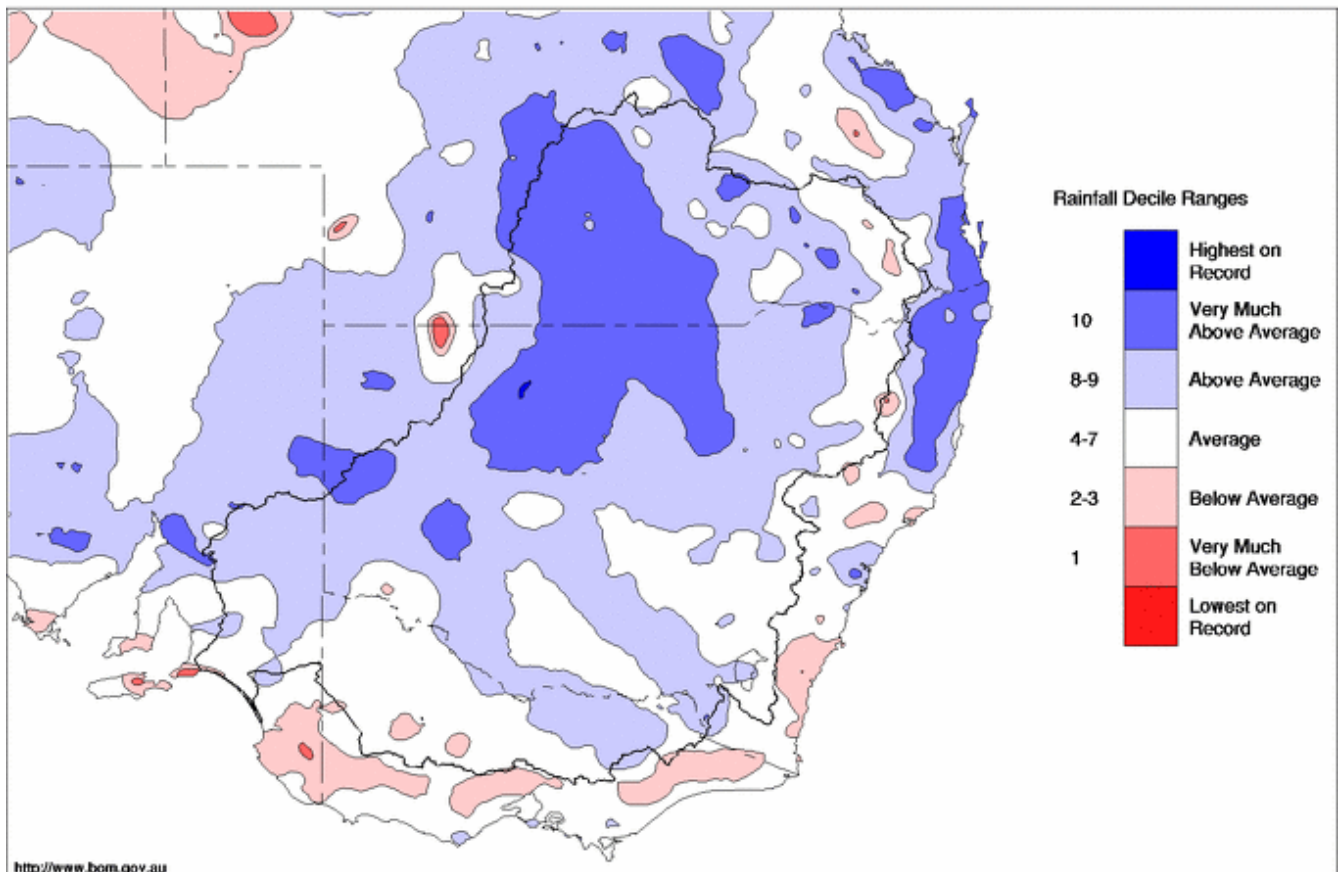
In the south-east, best responses to the rain were in the upper Murray and Ovens Rivers, but are relatively small. For example on the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic increased from a low of 1,800 ML/day to a peak of just under 10,000 ML/day, while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta increased from 700 to 2,200 ML/day.

January 2012 Summary

January 2012 was a wet month across the Murray-Darling Basin, with rainfall mostly above average or very much above average. Wettest areas were in the north and north-west, while southern areas mostly had rain totals closer to average (Map 2). According to the Bureau of Meteorology January rainfall averaged 82.5 mm compared with the historical average of 55.1 mm, making it the wettest January since 1996. There were several particularly wet locations across the Basin where rain was more than double the long-term average. At Broken Hill, there was 159 mm for the month, which is more than six times the average, and at Louth, 107 mm fell on 25 January, the highest January one day rainfall recorded at this location.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles January 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for January 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



Conditions were also quite cool over most of the Basin during January. For example, NSW was 0.7 °C below the historic average and this was the first time since January 2000 that NSW has experienced below average temperatures during January.

Murray system inflows for January 2012 totalled 194 GL, which is slightly below the long-term average of around 231 GL, and a long way short of the January 2011 inflow of 1,725 GL.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 4 GL during the week to 6,552 GL (76% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 4 GL to 2,960 GL (77% capacity). Two environmental pulses were released to the Mitta Mitta River earlier this week. The first peak reached 2,800 ML/day (measured at Colemans). This was followed by a smaller peak of around 1,300 ML/day two days later. This double pulse is to assist in maintaining water quality in the Mitta Mitta River and follows similar short flow pulses released earlier in January and in December 2011. The release is currently around 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir the storage volume fell by 62 GL to 2,095 GL (70% capacity). Inflows reached around 8,400 ML/day following this week's rain. The rain also reduced downstream demand resulting in dam releases falling from 15,200 ML/day to 8,600 ML/day by the end of the week.

At Yarrowonga weir, the pool level rose to 124.88 m AHD, just short of the full supply level (124.9 m AHD), as surplus flow was captured. Diversions at Mulwala Canal reduced from 6,500 ML/day to 3,200 ML/day, while diversions at Yarrowonga Main Canal fell from 2,000 ML/day to 200 ML/day. In response to the reduced demand the release downstream of Yarrowonga Weir was increased and peaked at 10,500 ML/day at the end of the week. At this flow rate the River Murray remains within channel at the Choke. This is important so as to ensure red gum forests and wetlands have the opportunity to dry out following the recent period of inundation. Releases downstream of Yarrowonga are expected to decrease to around 7,000 ML/day over the coming week.

Diversions to the Edward River held steady at around 1,550 ML/day, while diversions to Gulpa Creek slowly receded to 530 ML/day. Diversion to Gulpa Creek will further reduce to 450 ML/day by this weekend, enabling the critical drying phase of the Reedbed Swamp wetlands to continue. Release from Edward Escape is currently 300 ML/day, down from 1,300 ML/day at the start of the week. This is in response to reduced demand at the Wakool Main Canal. At Stevens Weir, the pool is currently 5.14 m on the local gauge and the flow downstream is 740 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 1,340 ML/day, but is expected to reduce towards 1,100 ML/day over the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level remains at 86.05 m. while diversions through the National Channel were around 2,000 ML/day. The flow downstream of the weir held steady around 5,700 ML/day, but is expected to increase towards 6,500 ML/day during the coming week.

Further downstream, inflow from the Murrumbidgee River increased to 620 ML/day this week, and is expected to exceed 1,000 ML/day next week. At Euston Weir, the flow held steady at 5,800 ML/day, while at Mildura the flow rose slightly to 5,700 ML/day.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume increased by 49 GL during the week and is now at 1,610 GL (93% capacity). The release, as measured at Weir 32, was 15,000 ML/day during the week. The NSW Office of Water advises that the release will increase to 20,000 ML/day over the coming week to manage the storage level during the period of high inflows and until the impact of rain currently falling in the northern Basin is understood. On the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy peaked around 14,300 ML/day, and is now expected to slowly recede over the coming two weeks before starting to rise again. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au/).

At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 26 m AHD (561 GL, 83% capacity), and the flow into South Australia is currently 15,100 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level increased by 0.03 m to 0.68 m AHD. The targeted release through the barrages reduced from 7,000 ML/day to 5,500 ML/day during the week.



Australian Government



For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 01 Feb 2012

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	471.22	2 960	77%	71	2 889	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	186.99	2 095	70%	23	2 072	-62
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.02	561	83%	100	461	+13
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 610	93%	(480 #)	1 130	+49
Total		9 269		7 226	78%	--	6 552	+4
Total Active MDBA Storage							76% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	796	78%	3	793	-22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 341	82%	24	1 317	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 138	94%	100	3 038	-15

* 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 31 Jan 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 137	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+5	299
Snowy-Murray Component	711	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+7	255
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	-2	44
			Murray 1 Release	+6	620

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)	38.2	841	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.5	183
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.4	11	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.4	355
Western Murray Irrigation	0.7	15	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.9	66
Licensed Pumps	6.2	128	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.4	31
Lower Darling	10.7	134	Licensed pumps - LMW	10	181
TOTAL	59.2	1129	TOTAL	38.2	816

* 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 February due to Additional Dilution Flow and water trades to SA.

Entitlement this month	194.0 *
Flow this week	104.9
Flow so far this month	14.8
Flow last month	543.1

(15 000 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	110	100	130
Euston	110	120	130
Red Cliffs	170	160	130
Merbein	180	190	130
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	380
Lock 9	260	260	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	200
Berri	310	310	250
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	370	400	280
Mannum	410	380	290
Murray Bridge	350	340	340
Milang (Lake Alex.)	530	530	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	480	470	330
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 720	4 710	5 390
Goolwa Barrages	740	650	1 300

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 01 Feb 2012

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	-	-	-	4 710	F	2 260	2 060
Jingellic	4.0	2.29	208.81	9 660	R	3 610	2 990
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.58	218.47	900	F	1 580	680
Heywoods	5.5	2.44	156.07	8 610	F	13 210	15 840
Doctors Point	5.5	2.67	151.14	10 870	F	14 080	16 430
Albury	4.3	1.62	149.06	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.91	128.93	12 770	F	14 560	16 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.58	116.62	9 520	R	8 320	8 380
Tocumwal	6.4	2.12	105.96	8 250	R	7 930	8 020
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.89	80.44	5 720	F	5 690	6 470
Swan Hill	4.5	1.17	64.09	4 880	S	4 960	5 980
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.78	51.90	7 520	S	7 620	7 990
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.32	43.16	5 840	R	5 830	5 660
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 730	F	5 640	4 520
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.82	28.58	18 120	R	17 080	15 530
Rufus Junction	-	4.64	21.57	14 360	R	14 270	14 940
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.19	-	13 940	R	12 600	13 550
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.17	155.40	2 430	R	1 010	730
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.61	146.29	2 190	R	1 000	870
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.74	93.16	1 340	R	1 430	1 550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.01	80.78	740	S	750	1 290
Edward at Liewah	-	2.04	57.42	1 370	F	1 400	1 290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	380	R	310	270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.99	56.95	620	R	360	340
Barwon at Mungindi	-	4.24	-	3 520	F	3 600	1 880
Darling at Bourke	-	7.92	-	22 530	F	26 500	53 400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.22	-	14 220	S	14 200	13 810

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 160	6 560
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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	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+2.25
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.66
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.58
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+1.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+1.18	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.10	+0.80
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.41	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.83
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+0.68	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.44

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

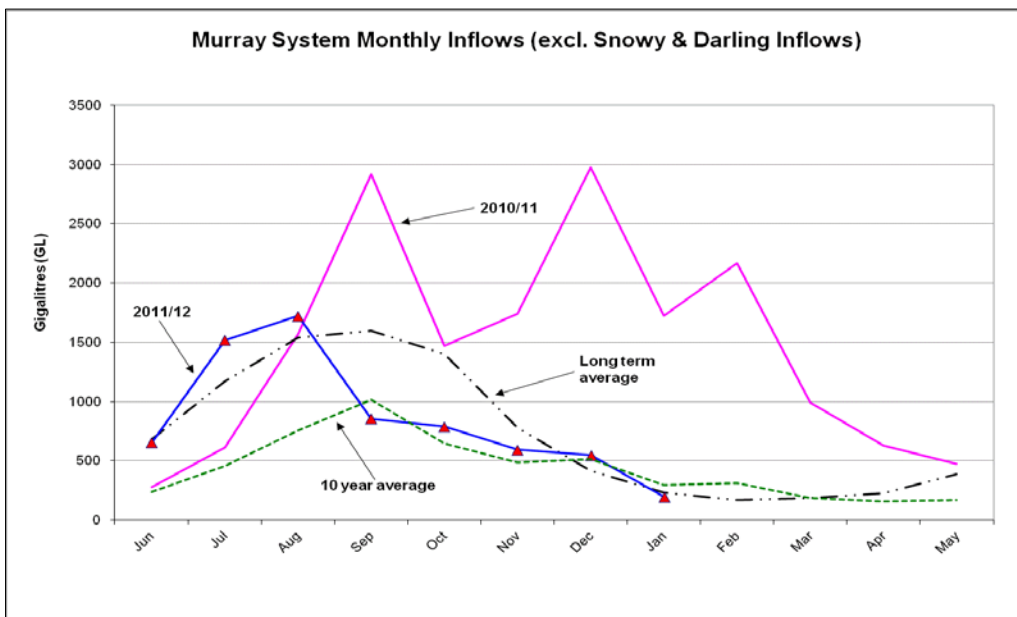
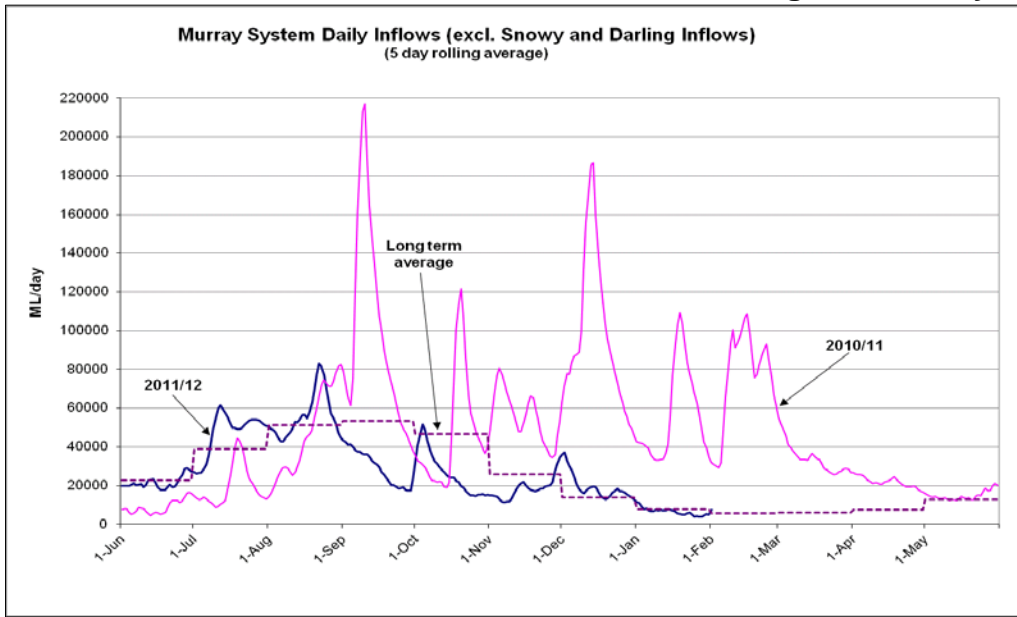
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.68
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.63	13	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 01 Feb 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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/>