



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 08 FEBRUARY 2012

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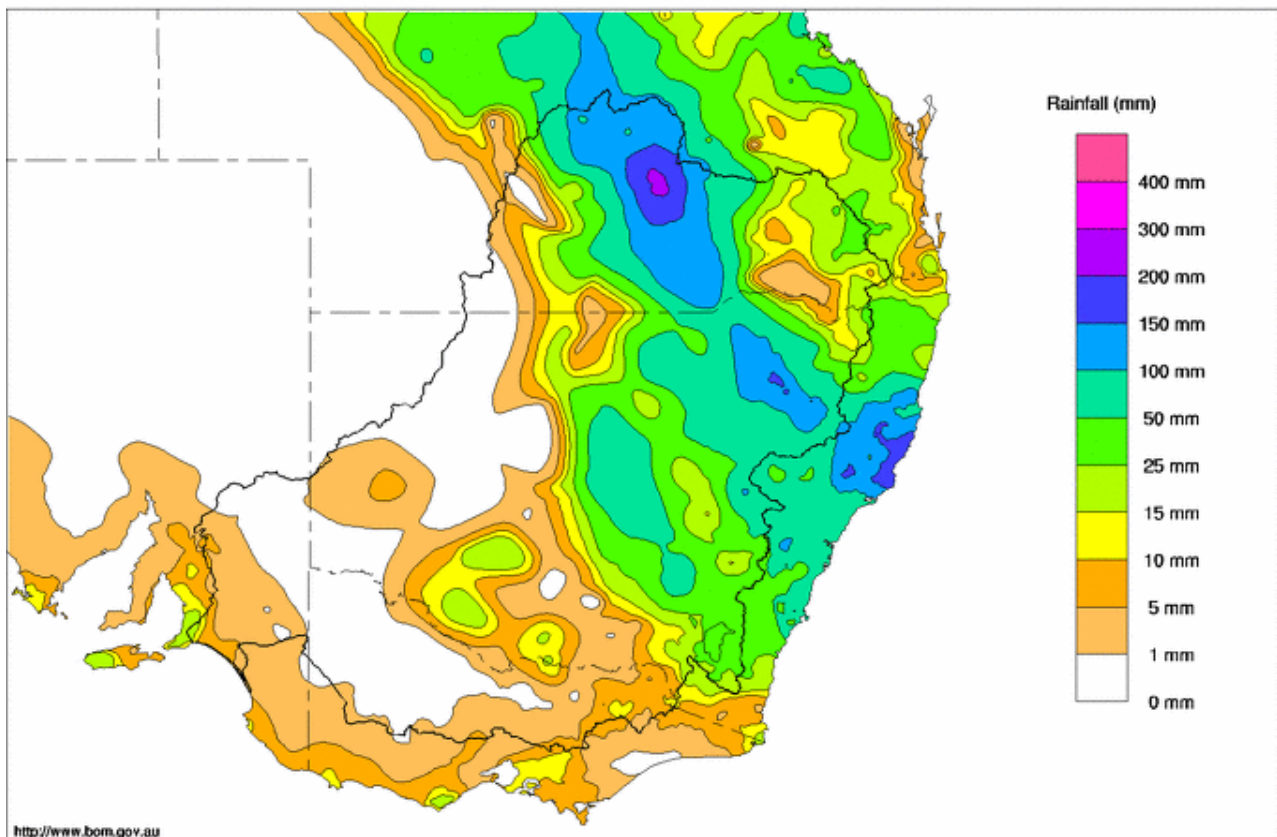
Rainfall and Inflows

Following weeks of persistent rain across much of the northern Basin, heavy rain during the last few days of January and the first few days of February has fallen on saturated catchments triggering major flooding in several Barwon-Darling tributaries. There have been several record peaks observed along the Maranoa and Balonne Rivers, with very high river levels also recorded along the Paroo, Warrego, Moonie, Weir, McIntyre, Gwydir and Namoi Rivers. The large number of rivers flooding simultaneously means that renewed flooding now developing along the Barwon River upstream of Bourke is expected to generate peaks in the Darling River considerably higher than any observed since drought conditions came to an end late in 2009.

However, substantial natural attenuation of the flood peak can be expected in the mid and lower reaches of the Darling River, with further mitigation provided through the operation of Menindee Lakes. If conditions in the Murray, Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers remain relatively dry in the coming months it could be expected that the flood peak in South Australia will be a lot lower than that observed in early 2011. Progressive updates will be provided in the coming weeks and months.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 8th February 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 8 February 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Highest rain totals this week were focussed over the Maranoa, Warrego, Gwydir and Namoi catchments (Map 1) – falling mostly in the same areas that recorded heavy rain during the previous week. Some of the best totals in Queensland included 234 mm at Springfield, 229 mm at Havelock,



188 mm at Mitchell, 178 mm at Mungallala, 157 mm at Nindigully and 153 mm at St George. In NSW, there was 191 mm at Mogil Mogil, 153 mm at Tamworth, 139 mm at Bellata, 108 mm at Mudgee and 104 mm at Moree. Elsewhere, rain totals between 25 and 100 mm fell across many parts of the NSW slopes and ranges, while in the south-western half of the Basin, conditions were relatively dry.

Peak flows are now moving along the Maranoa, Balonne, Gwydir and Namoi Rivers and into the Barwon with considerable flood plain inundation across the region. The Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting a peak of 13.5 metres to arrive at Walgett early next week (corresponding to a flow in excess of 300,000 ML/day) and at this stage a peak at Bourke is expected in late February or early March with flows also forecast to go above 300,000 ML/day. For comparison, the highest flow recorded at Bourke during the early 2011 flood was 88,000 ML/day. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au/.

In the upper Murray catchments, flows have generally receded during the past week following the small peaks observed during the previous week. At Jingellic the River Murray is currently flowing at 2,100 ML/day after beginning the week at just under 10,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 2,200 to 900 ML/day. Some rainfall is forecast in the coming days for south-eastern Australia and possible stream rises in the upper Murray catchments are forecast.

River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 6,554 GL (76% capacity), which is an increase of 2 GL since last week. The total storage at Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 3 GL during the week and is now 2,963 GL (77% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, is 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the total volume is currently 2,063 GL (69% capacity), which is a decrease of 32 GL since last week. The flow past Doctors Point initially fell away to 8,500 ML/day earlier in the week due to reduce demand and a short period of higher inflows from the Ovens River, but rose to 9,900 ML/day on the weekend where it has held steady for the last few days.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the pool level was slowly drawn down over the week and is currently 124.8 m AHD. Diversions at the irrigation offtakes stayed low this week totalling around 25 GL compared with 44 GL last week and 63 GL a month ago. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced from 10,600 ML/day at the start of the week to 7,000 ML/day where it has been held steady for the last few days.

Diversions to Gulpa Creek were reduced this week due to the completion of the environmental watering of Reed Bed Swamp (Figure 1) - the final phase of the spring-summer Barmah-Millewa environmental watering event. There is now sufficient water in the wetland to enable fledging of the few remaining chicks. Isolating the wetland will allow the critical drying phase to continue. The flow to Gulpa Creek will reduce to the normal summer minimum of 350 ML/day over the coming week. Diversions to the Edward River were around 1,500 ML/day this week.

Downstream on the Edward River at Stevens Weir, the pool is currently 4.88 m on the local gauge. An environmental pulse of around 600 ML/day is currently flowing to the Colligen Creek. The flow will increase to around 800 ML/d in the coming week. Diversions at the Wakool Main Canal stayed low this week averaging only 700 ML/day compared with 1,400 ML/d last week. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged around 750 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 1,300 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir the pool level is steady at 86.05 m AHD, while diversions to the National Channel have increased from 2,000 ML/day to 3,000 ML/day during the unregulated flow access period. The flow downstream of the weir held relatively steady around 5,600 ML/day, but is expected to fall away toward 4,000 ML/day in the coming week.

Further downstream, inflow from the Murrumbidgee River increased to 1,400 ML/day and is expected to reach around 4,000 ML/day next week. At Euston Weir, the flow held steady at 5,700 ML/day, but will rise over the next two weeks under the influence of inflows from the Murrumbidgee River. At Mildura the flow averaged 5,600 ML/day and is expected to hold steady over the coming week.



Figure 1 - North Reed Bed swamp in the Barmah-Millewa forest, late January 2012. The recently completed environmental watering event at Barmah-Millewa forest has benefitted vegetation and wildlife, while improving flows downstream on the river.

At Menindee Lakes the storage volume peaked during the week at 1,653 GL and is now falling (currently at 1,638 GL (95% capacity)). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 20,000 ML/day. The NSW Office of Water advises that the release will increase to 29,000 ML/day by Tuesday 14 February to manage the storage level in anticipation of a sustained period of high inflows in the coming months resulting from recent rainfall and flooding in the northern Basin. On the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy slowly receded to 13,700 ML/day. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au).

Downstream on the Murray at Wentworth, the flow has been relatively steady at around 17,000 ML/day. At Lake Victoria, the storage level is currently 26.06 m AHD (564 GL, 83% capacity). The flow into South Australia is currently 17,600 ML/day and forecast to rise towards 25,000 ML/day next week. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level fell by 6 cm to 0.62 m AHD and the target release through the barrages is 5,500 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 08 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	471.27	2 963	77%	71	2 892	+3	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	186.80	2 063	69%	23	2 040	-32	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.06	564	83%	100	464	+4	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 638	95%	(480 #)	1 158	+28	
Total		9 269		7 228	78%	- -	6 554	+2	
Total Active MDBA Storage							76% ^		

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	781	76%	3	778	-14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 322	81%	24	1 298	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* 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 07 Feb 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A	N/A	Snowy-Murray	N/A	N/A
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A	N/A	Tooma-Tumut	N/A	N/A
Target Storage	N/A		Net Diversion	N/A	N/A
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

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)	21.0	862	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.7	188
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.8	14	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.1	373
Western Murray Irrigation	0.9	16	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.6	70
Licensed Pumps	4.9	134	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	5.6	37
Lower Darling	10.6	149	Licensed pumps - LMW	10	191
TOTAL	40.2	1175	TOTAL	42	859

* 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	115.4
Flow so far this month	130.5
Flow last month	543.1

(16 500 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	130	120	130
Red Cliffs	160	170	130
Merbein	190	190	130
Burtundy (Darling)	330	330	380
Lock 9	270	270	180
Lake Victoria	210	220	200
Berri	330	320	260
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	320	330	280
Mannum	420	420	300
Murray Bridge	430	400	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	570	530	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	550	510	340
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 920	4 840	5 370
Goolwa Barrages	1 740	980	1 290



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 08 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	-	-	-	960	F	970	2 430
Jingellic	4.0	1.34	207.86	2 090	F	3 040	3 610
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	580	F	650	1 580
Heywoods	5.5	2.55	156.18	9 400	S	8 630	13 210
Doctors Point	5.5	2.58	151.05	9 860	S	9 440	14 080
Albury	4.3	1.54	148.98	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.38	128.40	9 590	R	9 690	14 560
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.25	116.29	6 930	F	8 390	8 320
Tocumwal	6.4	1.92	105.76	7 250	F	8 510	7 930
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.85	80.40	5 580	F	5 650	5 690
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	4 770	F	4 930	4 960
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.78	51.90	7 560	S	7 520	7 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.35	43.19	5 980	R	5 740	5 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 500	F	5 600	5 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.72	28.48	16 910	S	16 890	17 080
Rufus Junction	-	4.91	21.84	16 790	R	15 640	14 270
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.11	-	13 940	S	13 890	12 600
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.23	154.46	890	R	1 020	1 010
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.09	145.77	930	F	1 170	1 000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.73	93.15	1 320	F	1 300	1 430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.71	80.48	450	F	760	750
Edward at Liewah	-	1.85	57.23	1 170	F	1 310	1 400
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.47	54.97	470	R	440	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.90	57.86	1 430	R	1 040	360
Barwon at Mungindi	-	7.35	-	17 300	S	13 820	3 600
Darling at Bourke	-	8.08	-	23 200	R	22 040	26 500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.09	-	13 650	F	13 930	14 200

Natural Inflow to Hume	6 830	6 820
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(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+2.52
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.82
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.62
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.04	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+1.58
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+1.08	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.07	+0.81
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.91
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.67	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.36

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

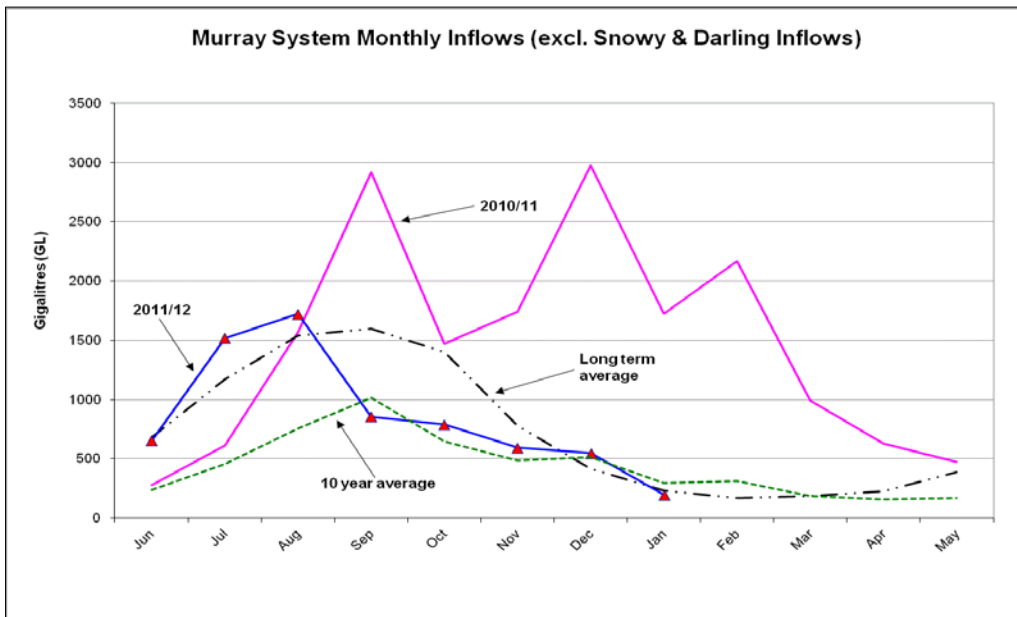
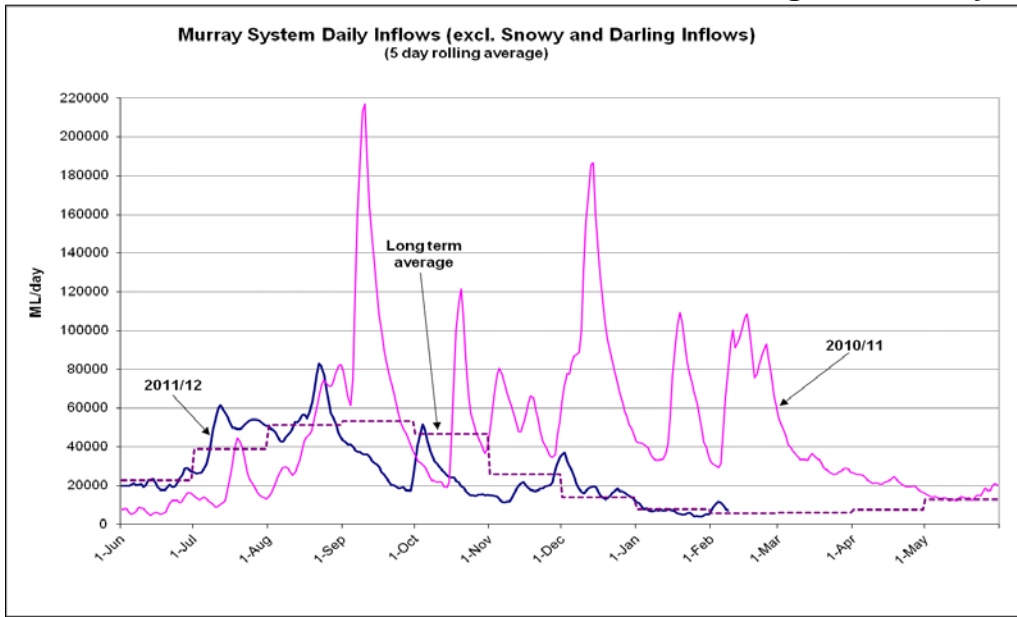
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.62
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.67	13	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 08 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/>