



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 MARCH 2012

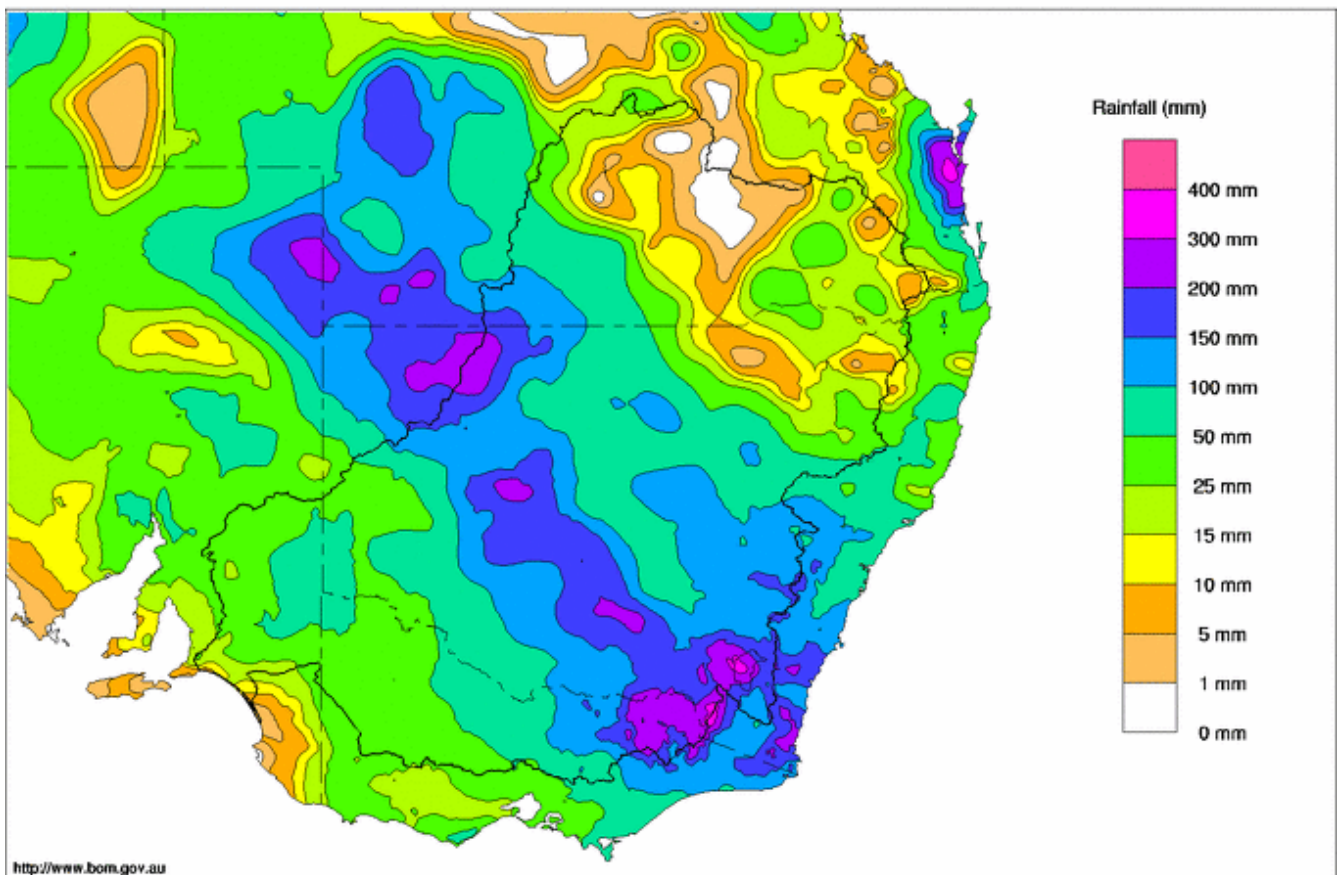
Trim Ref: D12/8591

## Rainfall and Inflows

Further heavy rain across large areas of the Murray-Darling Basin this week (Map 1) has contributed to major flooding in areas of northern Victoria, and along parts of the Murrumbidgee, Macquarie, Lachlan and upper Murray Rivers. The rain also increased flows along reaches of the already flooded Darling River.

Some of the highest rainfall totals during the week included 386 mm at Thredbo, 351 mm at Mount Buffalo, 299 mm at Burrinjuck Dam, 275 mm at Mt Ginini AWS, 247 mm at Grong Grong, 231 mm at Osbournes Flat, 210 mm at Wilcannia, 207 mm at Albury, 198 mm at Trunkey Creek, 166 mm at Chiltern, 164 mm at Parkes, 163 mm at Crookwell, 132 mm at Narromine and 123 mm at Bourke. Some of these locations had also recorded more than 100 mm in the previous week, for example 525 mm was recorded at Mount Buffalo from this event.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 7th March 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>  
© Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Issued: 07/03/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 7th March 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

On the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic peaked above the major flood level at 132,000 ML/day, which has contributed to daily inflows to Hume Reservoir of more than 100,000 ML/day. At Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth, the flow reached 14,500 ML/day and daily inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir exceeded 20,000 ML on a couple of days.



In Victoria, the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 38,300 ML/day, which caused moderate flooding. There is also major flooding along Broken Creek and these waters will enter the River Murray upstream of Barmah. High flows along the Broken and Goulburn Rivers contributed to a flow at McCoys Bridge of 23,000 ML/day on 7 March with slightly higher flows expected over the next few days. For River Murray, the Bureau of Meteorology has issued a minor flood warning at Barham but indicated that river levels at other locations, such as Echuca, Swan Hill, Robinvale, Echuca, and Wentworth, are currently expected to remain below their respective minor flood levels unless there is further significant rainfall.

On the Murrumbidgee River, Gundagai recorded a peak flow (above major flood level) of around 445,000 ML/day while further downstream at Wagga Wagga, the peak flow was around 425,000 ML/day. Flood peaks are expected to be slightly below the 1974 flood event at Narrandera and downstream. The Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting that the Murrumbidgee River may peak near 6.9 m (about 37,000 ML/day) at Balranald in mid April with major flooding.

At Bourke on the Darling River, the flow has peaked at about 237,000 ML/day (above major flood level). Further downstream at Wilcannia, there was a sharp rise in the river level on 3 March due to local rainfall and the flow reached 31,500 ML/day. The flow at Wilcannia is now slowly receding ahead of an expected peak above the major flood level in early April.

For information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au/](http://www.bom.gov.au/).

## February 2012 Summary

February 2012 was a wet month across much of the Murray-Darling Basin, with rainfall mostly above average (Map 2). According to the Bureau of Meteorology, February rainfall averaged 79 mm which is about double the historical average and the 13th wettest February out of 113 years of records.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 6,769 GL (79% capacity) and increased by 610 GL during the week. There was a 492 GL increase at Hume Reservoir and a 115 GL increase at Dartmouth Reservoir while at Menindee Lakes there was a 7 GL decrease in storage to create further airspace.

There were minimum releases from Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs during the week, being 200 ML/day from Dartmouth and 600 ML/day from Hume. However, despite these minimum releases, the high rainfall in the Kiewa catchment resulted in a flow at Doctors Point of 22,000 ML/day while at Tallandoon, downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow reached 12,000 ML/day.

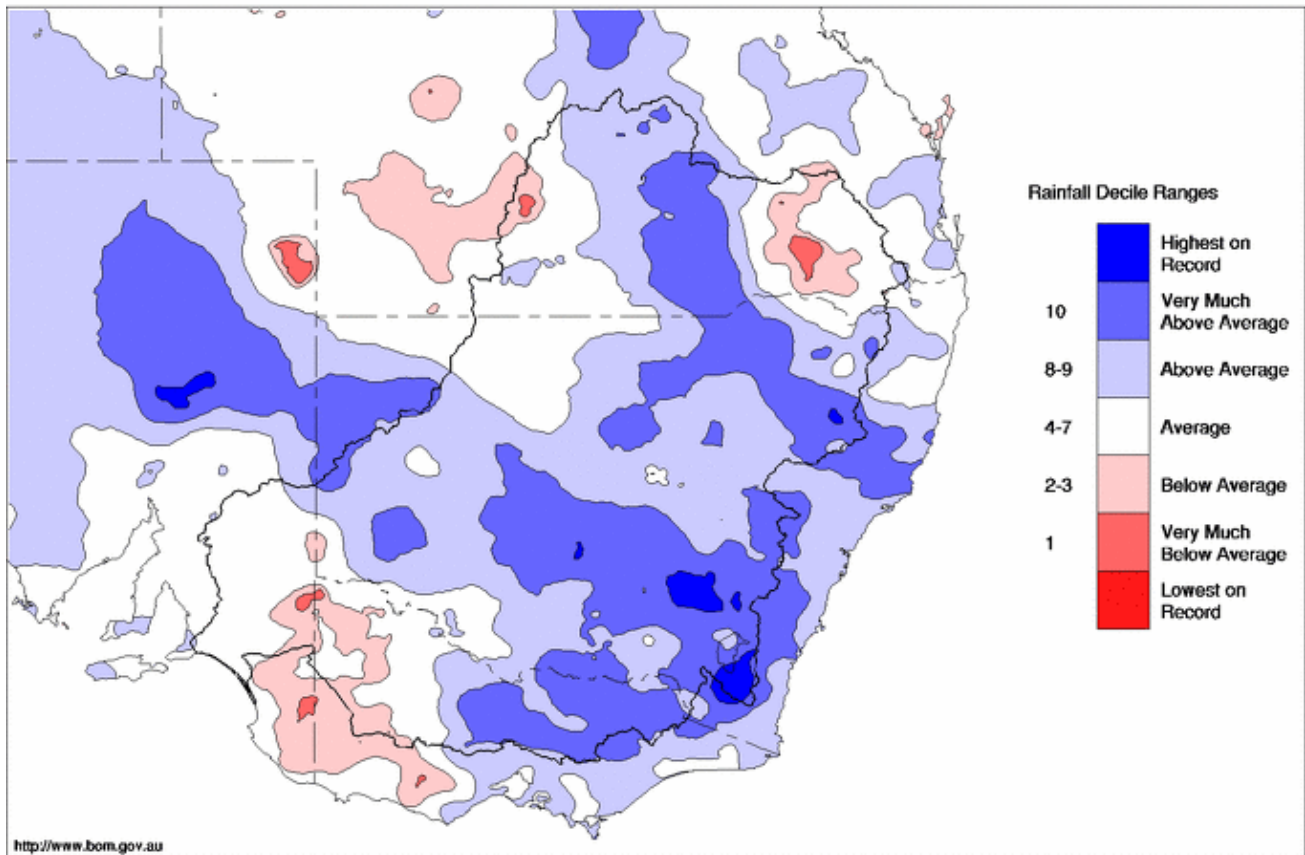
At Yarrowonga Weir, intense rainfall on Thursday morning, 1 March, resulted in a rapid rise in inflow and the release that day was increased from 18,000 to 32,000 ML/day. As the first peak of the flood waters arrived, the release was gradually increased to 60,000 ML/day on 5 March. The second peak of the inflow, on 7 March, was matched by a release of 62,000 ML/day. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently 51,000 ML/day (on 8 March) and expected to recede over the coming week. Irrigation diversions at the Weir are currently 100 ML/day. Downstream of the weir NSW and Victorian agencies have opened regulators within the Barmah-Millewa Forest ahead of the high flow. It is expected that around half the Forest area will be inundated at these flow rates.

The gates at Edward River and Gulpa Creek off-takes have been lifted from the water and flows have increased to 2,050 ML/day and 860 ML/day respectively in response to the rising River Murray. A flow of around 2,000 ML/day from Tuppal Creek is currently supplementing the flow in the Edward River near Deniliquin which is expected to continue rising toward 18,000 ML/day by mid March as flows arrive from the Barmah-Millewa Forest and from Bullatale creek. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 3,300 ML/day and will rise over the coming week.



Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles February 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology ID code: AWAP

Issued: 03/03/2012

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

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is 24,500 ML/day and expected to peak around 28,000 ML/day on Friday, 9 March. The flow in the River Murray at Torrumbarry is currently 27,300 ML/day and expected to increase toward 35,000 ML/day over the coming week. The high river level will provide a good watering for the Gunbower and Koondrook Forests.

Further downstream, the Murrumbidgee River is flowing at 4,300 ML/day past Balranald and is expected to continue rising over the coming weeks. As mentioned previously, the Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting that the Murrumbidgee River may peak at around 6.9 m (about 37,000 ML/day) at Balranald in mid April with major flooding. At Euston Weir the flow was relatively steady averaging around 8,200 ML/day for most of the week, but is now starting to rise (currently 8,900 ML/day).

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased 7 GL to 1,475 GL (85% capacity) during the week. Releases from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) averaged around 36,000 ML/day. On the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy continued to slowly rise and is currently 16,400 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/](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/)).

At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth, the flow is currently 22,200 ML/day and will continue to increase over the coming weeks.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level has slowly risen over the week to 25.26 m AHD (478 GL, 71% capacity). Water is being diverted to Lake Victoria to maintain the flow to South Australia at around 20,500 ML/day in order to allow essential construction works at Chowilla and Lock 4.

It is too early to accurately predict the peak flow to South Australia, however it is expected that the flow will increase gradually over the coming weeks and be between 40,000 and 60,000 ML/d by mid





April. It is possible that flows may increase above 60,000 ML/d as inflow estimates improve. At this stage, the flow to SA is not expected to reach the 93,800 ML/d observed in mid February 2011, but this could change if there is further significant rainfall and when further information becomes available.

The average level at the Lower Lakes rose by 4 cm to 0.73 m AHD during the week but has now started to fall and is currently 0.72 m AHD. In an effort to improve salinity levels in Lake Albert, SA Water will aim to draw down the Lower Lake levels by around 200 mm over the next month. The release from the Barrages increased from around 8,000 ML/day to 18,200 ML/day by the end of the week. The release will increase to around 22,600ML/d on Friday (9 March).

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 07 Mar 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	473.51	3 089	80%	71	3 018	+115
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	188.79	2 401	80%	23	2 378	+492
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.26	478	71%	100	378	+9
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 475	85%	(480 #)	995	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 443</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 769</b>	<b>+610</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							79% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 080	105%	3	1 077	+318
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 511	93%	24	1 487	+190
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 138	94%	100	3 038	+57

\* 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 06 Mar 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 285	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	303
Snowy-Murray Component	903	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+18	287
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	-18	17
			Murray 1 Release	+30	674

**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)	0.8	941	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.6	210
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.4	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.6	429
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	18	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	79
Licensed Pumps	2.4	153	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	40
Lower Darling	9.1	203	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.3	227
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>1341</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>985</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 March due to Additional Dilution Flow and water trades to SA.

Entitlement this month	186.0 *
Flow this week	144.5
Flow so far this month	144.5
Flow last month	607.2

(20 600 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	280	200	130
Euston	130	130	130
Red Cliffs	150	160	140
Merbein	170	190	140
Burtundy (Darling)	290	300	370
Lock 9	250	260	190
Lake Victoria	280	270	210
Berri	330	340	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	360	310	290
Mannum	340	340	440
Murray Bridge	340	350	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	640	600	520
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	430	430	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 700	4 670	5 300
Goolwa Barrages	610	660	1 240



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 07 Mar 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	-	-	-	9 760	F	13 950	2 720
Jingellic	4.0	4.65	211.17	37 110	F	49 950	2 700
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.37	219.26	4 130	F	5 460	910
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	600	S	730	5 510
Doctors Point	5.5	2.61	151.08	10 190	F	12 490	7 010
Albury	4.3	1.60	149.04	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.87	129.89	19 920	F	18 070	8 610
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	5.76	120.80	62 120	R	47 510	8 390
Tocumwal	6.4	5.78	109.62	52 340	R	32 400	8 110
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.50	85.05	27 310	R	21 250	5 520
Swan Hill	4.5	3.11	66.03	18 090	R	10 000	3 970
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.21	53.33	13 060	R	8 480	5 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.85	43.69	8 900	R	8 290	5 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	10 020	F	8 830	6 090
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.15	28.91	22 250	S	21 070	18 270
Rufus Junction	-	5.19	22.12	19 500	F	19 680	21 060
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.52	-	18 590	F	22 110	19 170
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.89	156.12	5 270	F	13 280	1 120
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.90	149.58	23 330	F	26 020	2 190
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	8.68	100.10	24 450	R	15 810	1 960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.73	82.50	3 260	F	2 280	710
Edward at Liewah	-	1.68	57.06	1 010	R	890	770
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.66	55.15	900	S	920	790
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.68	59.64	4 320	R	2 900	2 330
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.64	-	1 400	F	1 300	1 050
Darling at Bourke	-	13.75	-	226 490	F	210 550	85 530
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.73	-	16 380	R	15 970	14 950

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	90 970	4 980
---	--------	-------

**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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+2.76
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.18	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+1.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.15	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.11	+0.82
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+0.23	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.09	+1.75
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.51	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.08	+1.05
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.71	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.00	+1.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+1.11	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.77

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

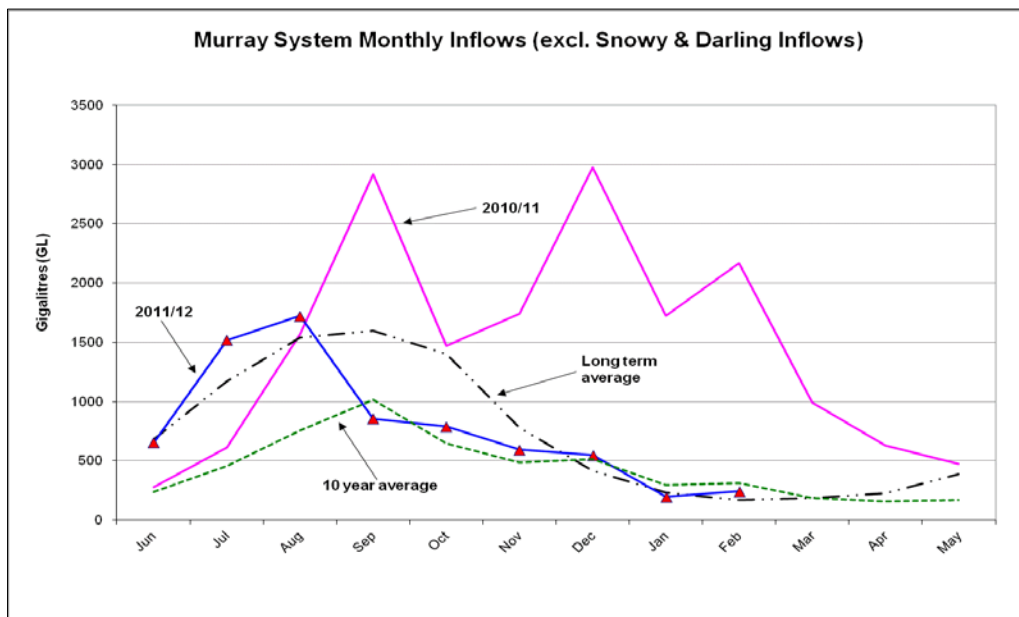
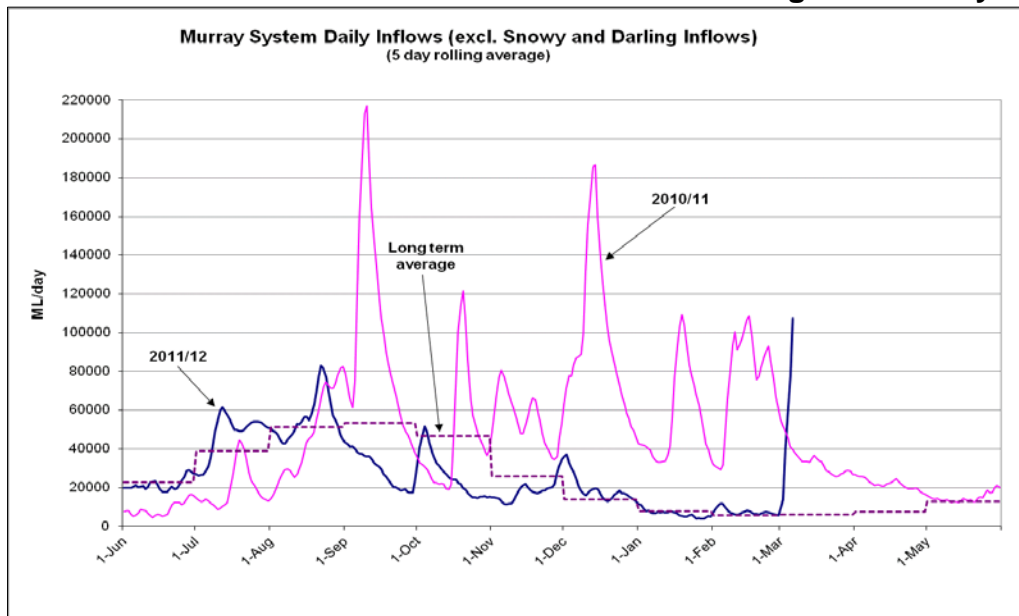
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.72
--	------

**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	23	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	11	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.73	20	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 07 Mar 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%
---------------	------

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/>