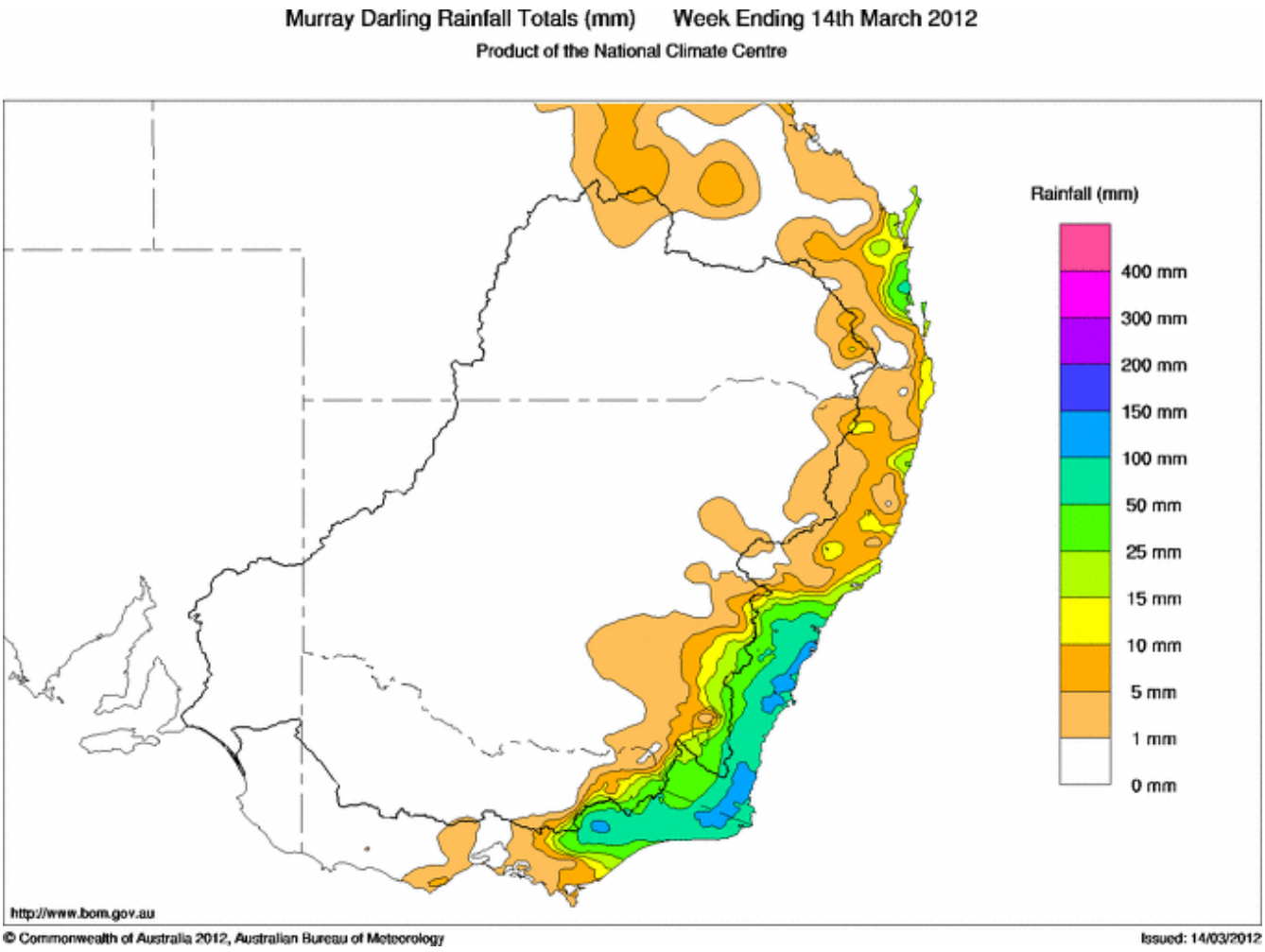
RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012

Trim Ref: D12/9446

Rainfall and Inflows

The rain cleared from most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with rainfall mainly confined to the eastern fringe. Highest totals were recorded in south eastern NSW and in eastern Victoria. In NSW, notable totals were 47 mm at Thredbo, 42 mm at Captains Flat, 35 mm at Cooma and 37 mm at Goulburn, while in Victoria, 33mm was recorded at Omeo and 22 mm at Mt Hotham AP.



Map 1 – Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 March 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

In the upper Murray, this week's rain generated a third, smaller flow peak of around 9,000 ML/day at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth. Downstream of Dartmouth at Tallandoon the flow continued to slowly recede away and is currently 1,800 ML/day. On the River Murray at Jingellic the flow continued to fall away over the week, but is currently holding at around 10,000 ML/day.

In Victoria, the tributaries continued to contribute significant inflows to the River Murray downstream of Hume Dam. The flow in the Kiewa River held above 3,000 ML/day for the week and is currently 3,200 ML/day. The Ovens River at Wangaratta fell away over the week and is currently 3,300 ML/day. On the Broken Creek, flood flows upstream of Rices Weir are receding very slowly and inflows to the River Murray upstream of Barmah should hold on for several weeks. The Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge peaked at 28,000 ML/day during the week and is now receding (currently 10,200 ML/day).

Goulburn-Murray Water has commenced pre-releases from Eildon Reservoir in order to create airspace in the dam to mitigate potential future flooding in coming months. It is anticipated that without further rain the flow at McCoys Bridge will recede to around 4,000 to 6,000 ML/day and hold there for the coming weeks.

In NSW, earlier in the week the Murrumbidgee River peaked just below 9 m (263,000 ML/day) at Narrandera. This is the same level that it peaked at in 1974. The flood peak on the Murrumbidgee River is now approaching Carrathool where the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting the river to reach around 8.2 m (54,000 ML/day) on Thursday (15 March) night or Friday (16 March) morning with major flooding. Flooding at Carrathool and downstream is expected to be similar to the 1974 flood. The Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting that the Murrumbidgee River may peak near 7 m (about 44,000 ML/day) at Balranald in mid April with major flooding.

On the Darling River, the flood peaked during the week at Louth at around 142,000 ML/day with major flooding. The Darling River flood peak is now approaching Tilpa where the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting the level to reach around 12.9 m over the coming weekend with major flooding.

For information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au/.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 223 GL during the week and is currently 6,993 GL (81% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 40 GL and is now 3,129 GL (81% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, was 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 180 GL during the week and is now 2,581 GL (86% capacity). The release from Hume was held at the minimum 600 ML/day for the week.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.78 m AHD. Diversions at Mulwala Canal increased to 2,000 ML/day during the week however the majority of this water will be escaped to the Edward and Wakool Rivers to dilute the black water returning to these rivers from the forest and help maintain higher dissolved oxygen levels for fish populations (in particular the Murray Cod). Diversions at the Yarrawonga Main Canal are currently 450 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga Weir reduced from 62,000 ML/day at the start of the week to the current rate of 12,500 ML/day.

On the Edward-Wakool system, the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes are currently diverting 2,200 ML/day and 970 ML/day respectively. These flows will reduce over the coming week as the River Murray level falls away. The flow in the Edward River at Toonalook and inflow from Bullatale Creek are continuing to rise (currently 9,700 ML/day and 4,600 ML/day respectively), while the inflow from Tuppal Creek is now falling away (currently 2,000 ML/day). The flow in the Edward River at Deniliquin is currently around 15,000 ML/day and expected to peak at around 17,500 ML/day on the weekend. Inflow from Edward Escape will commence in the coming week. A total of around 3,200 ML/day is being diverted at the Wakool, Yallakool and Colligen Creek regulators. The gates at Stevens Weir were removed from the water on Monday 12th March. The flow downstream of the weir is currently 9,800 ML/day and is expected to rise to around 13,000 ML/day in the coming week. Inflow from the Billabong Creek is currently 2,900 ML/day and rising.

The flow in the River Murray at Torrumbarry Weir peaked late in the week at around 34,000 ML/day and is currently 32,500 ML/day. The flow at Swan Hill is 20,600 ML/day and forecast to peak at around 21,500 ML/day on the weekend. Further downstream, the inflows from the Murrumbidgee River (currently 8,900 ML/day measured at Balranald) and the Wakool River (estimated around 4,300 ML/day) have helped the River Murray downstream of Euston Weir rise almost two metres over the week to a flow of 23,000 ML/day.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased 20 GL to 1,455 GL (84% capacity) during the week. Releases from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) averaged around 34,800 ML/day. The gates are again free of the water at Lake Wetherell. They will be returned to the water when the higher flows arrive from upstream. When this occurs the operational intent is to maintain the release at 35,000 ML/day and capture and store the additional flow in the Lakes. On the lower Darling, the flow at

Burtundy rose 500 ML over the week and is currently 16,900 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/).

At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth, the flow is currently 34,800 ML/day and rising. Further downstream, the storage volume at Lake Victoria increased by 24 GL over the week to 502 GL (74% capacity) as water was captured to maintain the flow to South Australia at around 21,000 ML/day in order to allow essential construction works at Chowilla and Lock 4. Over the next few days, the flow to South Australia will increase to around 24,000 to 25,000 ML/day, however this will be exceeded next week when higher flows arrive and the re-regulation capacity of Lake Victoria storage is exceeded. It is expected that the flow will gradually increase over the coming weeks and be between 40,000 and 60,000 ML/day by mid April. It is possible that the flows may increase above 60,000 ML/day as flow estimates improve. At this stage, the flow to SA is not expected to reach the 93,800 ML/day observed in mid February 2011, but this could change if there is further significant rainfall.

The average level of the Lower Lakes fell by 14 cm to 0.59 m AHD during the week. The Lakes will be drawn down to around 0.5 m AHD for a few weeks, before refilling in an effort to improve the salinity of Lake Albert. The release from the Barrages is currently targeting a flow of around 26,600 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 14 Mar 2012

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage (%)	Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	474.20	3 129	81%	71	3 058	+40
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	189.79	2 581	86%	23	2 558	+180
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.48	502	74%	100	402	+24
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 455	84%	(480 #)	975	-20
Total		**9 269**		**7 667**	**83%**	**- -**	**6 993**	**+223**
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		1 019	99%	3	1 016	-62
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 573	96%	24	1 549	+62
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		3 138	94%	100	3 038	-1

* 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 13 Mar 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 359	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+3	306
Snowy-Murray Component	931	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+19	305
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	-15	1
			Murray 1 Release	+13	687

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)	5.0	946	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.4	211
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.3	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.6	430
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	80
Licensed Pumps	2.1	156	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	40
Lower Darling	7.5	211	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.3	233
TOTAL	**15.3**	**1358**	**TOTAL**	**10.4**	**994**

* 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, water trades to SA and significant unregulated flow.

Entitlement this month	186.0 *
Flow this week	149.0
Flow so far this month	292.8
Flow last month	607.2

(21 300 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	160	170	130
Euston	150	150	130
Red Cliffs	130	150	140
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	270	280	370
Lock 9	210	230	190
Lake Victoria	290	290	210
Berri	330	340	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	330	390	290
Mannum	340	330	440
Murray Bridge	340	340	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	810	740	520
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	420	420	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 060	4 950	5 300
Goolwa Barrages	650	610	1 220

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Mar 2012

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge Height local (m)	Gauge Height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 010	F	4 090	13 290
Jingellic	4.0	2.35	208.87	10 380	F	17 590	49 950
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.88	218.77	1 790	F	2 410	5 460
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	600	S	600	730
Doctors Point	5.5	1.96	150.43	3 990	S	5 450	12 490
Albury	4.3	1.00	148.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.43	127.45	5 140	F	8 450	18 070
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.98	117.02	12 530	F	29 010	47 510
Tocumwal	6.4	3.49	107.33	19 690	F	43 950	32 400
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.91	85.46	32 490	F	31 110	21 250
Swan Hill	4.5	3.47	66.39	20 650	S	20 010	10 000
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.81	54.93	21 470	R	18 970	8 480
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.67	45.51	23 140	R	18 360	8 290
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	21 190	F	14 670	8 830
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.88	29.64	34 800	R	26 840	21 070
Rufus Junction	-	5.46	22.39	22 340	R	20 070	19 680
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.33	-	18 130	R	17 220	22 110
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.57	155.80	3 230	F	3 870	13 280
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.39	147.07	4 600	F	8 180	26 020
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.64	97.06	10 260	F	20 300	15 810
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.97	84.74	9 770	S	6 890	2 280
Edward at Liewah	-	3.37	58.75	3 150	R	2 060	890
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.09	55.58	2 600	R	1 400	920
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.33	61.29	8 870	R	7 950	2 900
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.42	-	580	F	840	1 300
Darling at Bourke	-	13.08	-	126 640	F	174 880	210 550
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.84	-	16 910	S	16 720	15 970

Natural Inflow to Hume	28 230	92 120

(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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.31	+3.12
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.56	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+1.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.10	+0.85
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.90	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+1.82
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+2.24	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+1.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.32	+1.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+1.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.28	+1.35	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.58

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

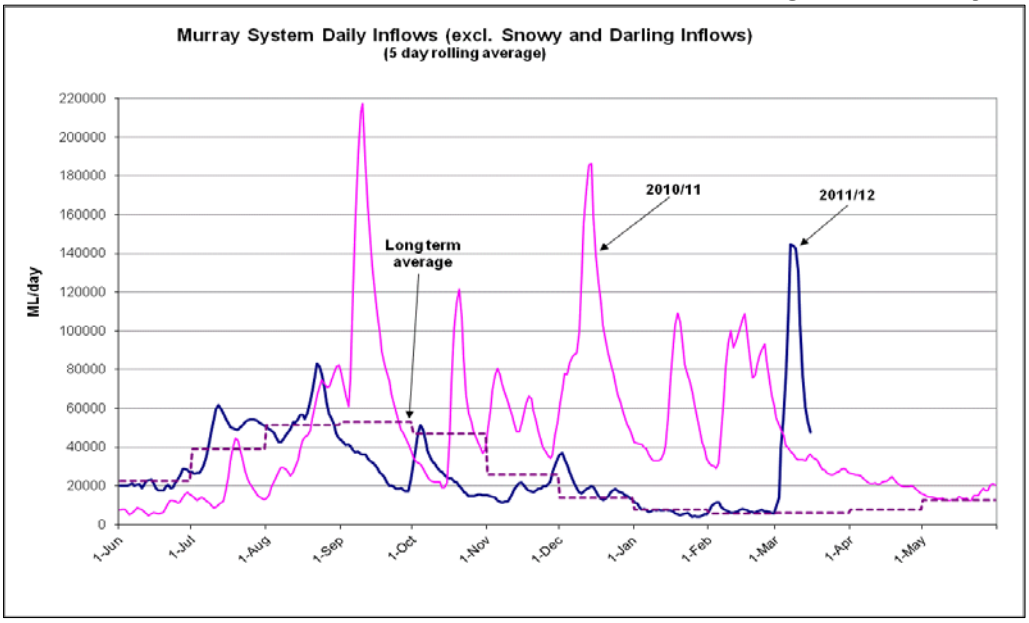
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.59

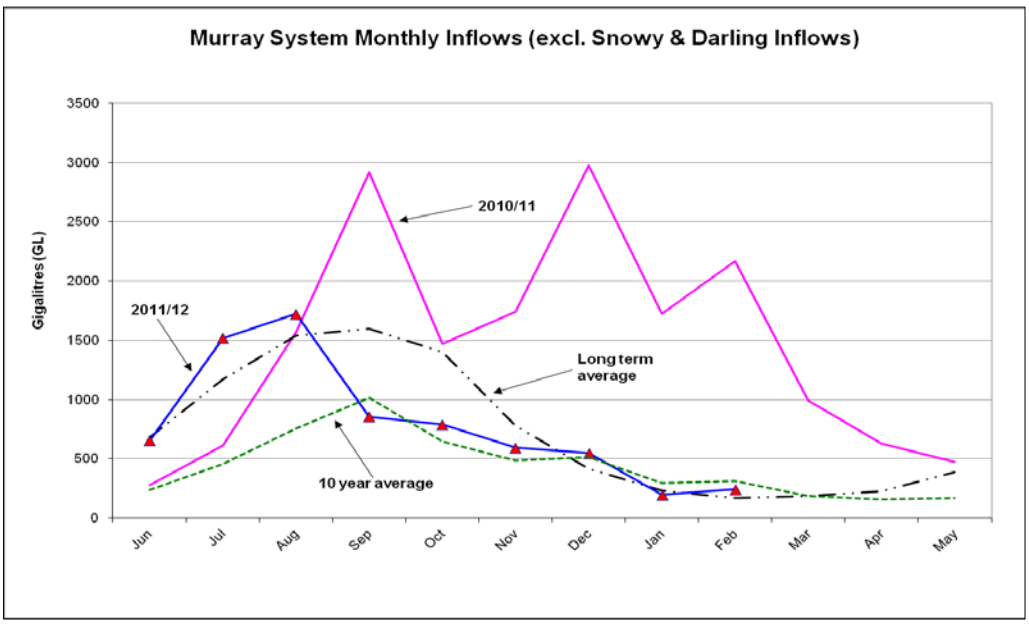
Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Fishways at Barrages: Rock Ramp	Fishways at Barrages: Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.51	75	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.53	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	20	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.59	25	Open	Open

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

Week ending Wednesday 14 Mar 2012





State Allocations (as at 14 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/