



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

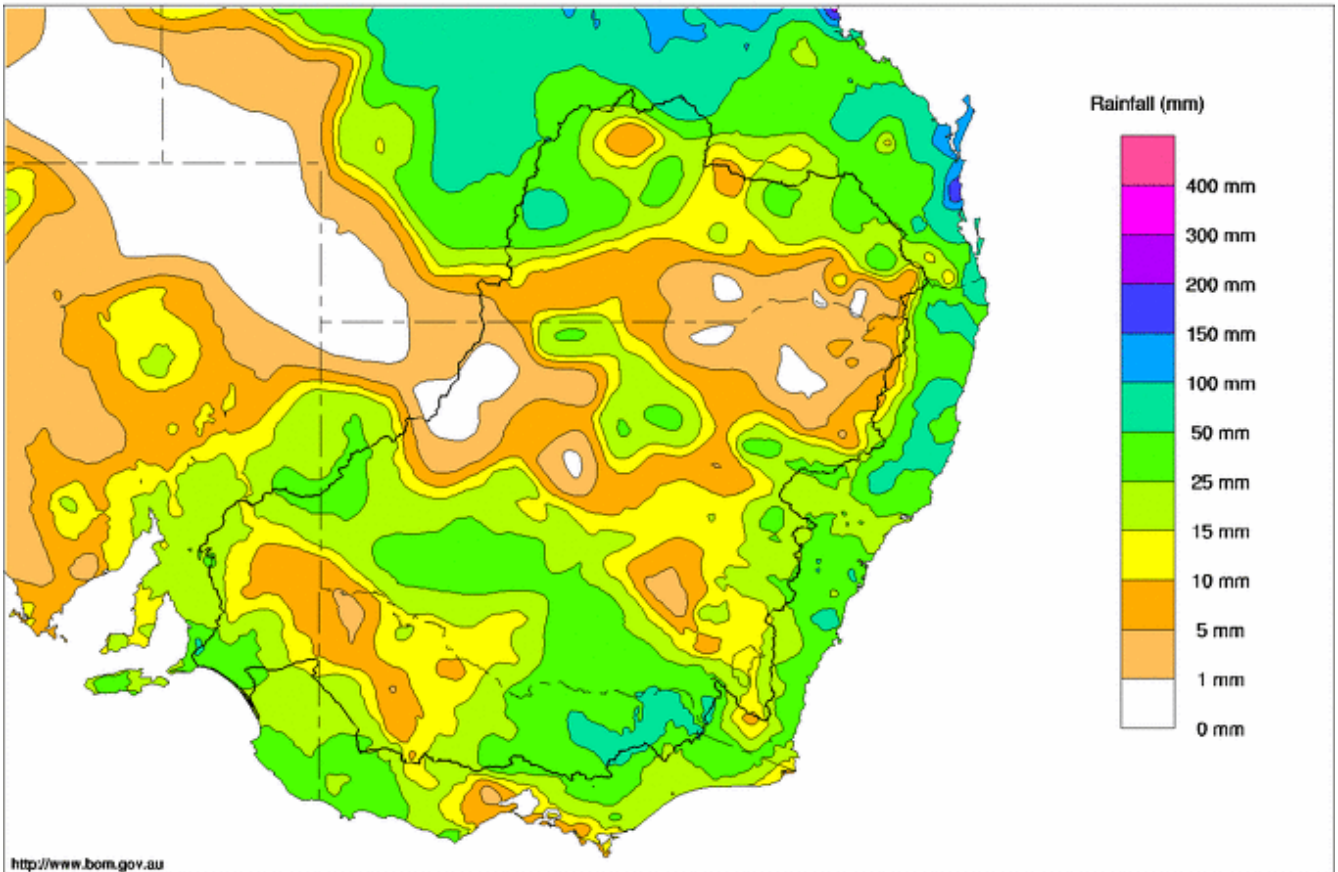
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2012

Trim Ref: D12/10449

Rainfall and Inflows

There were many parts of the Murray-Darling Basin that recorded rainfall of around 50 mm or more during the past week; including the far north of the Basin, through western NSW and the Riverina, the Mt Lofty Ranges in South Australia and across the eastern and south-east ranges including the upper Murray catchments (Map 1). Some of the highest totals were in Victoria, including 94 mm at Moroka Park, 89 mm at Lake William Hovell, 81 mm at Mt Buller and 70 mm at Broken Weir. In NSW, there was 80 mm at Darlington Point and 48 mm at Hume Reservoir.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 21st March 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 21 March 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

In the upper Murray catchments, rain fell mainly in the early part of the week and resulted in renewed stream flow rises in most tributaries over the weekend. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic increased from 9,100 ML/day to a peak of 16,200 ML/day and is now flowing at 8,800 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta peaked at 8,600 ML/day before receding to 4,800 ML/day; while on the Kiewa River, Bandiana reached a peak of 6,300 ML/day.



In northern Victoria, flows along Broken Creek have continued to gradually recede. On the Goulburn River, the flow at Shepparton increased to 14,600 ML/day and is now flowing at 11,600 ML/day. Goulburn-Murray Water advise that pre-releases from Eildon Reservoir have been increased to 8,000 ML/day, and will help sustain on-going high inflows from the Goulburn River over the coming weeks.

In NSW, flood waters continue moving along the Murrumbidgee River with the peak passing through Hay during the week where the river reached 8.99 m with major flooding. The Bureau of Meteorology is now forecasting the peak to arrive at Balranald around 12 April, reaching a peak close to 7 metres.

On the Darling River, the flood peak passed Tilpa during the week reaching 12.9 m with major flooding. The peak is now forecast to reach Wilcannia during early April.

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

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 187 GL during the week and is currently 7,180 GL (84% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 24 GL and is now 3,153 GL (82% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, was 190 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 125 GL and is now 2,706 GL (90% capacity). The release from Hume was increased to 3,100 ML/day early in the week but was subsequently cut back to the minimum release of 600 ML/day following the rain. The release is expected to be increased again over the coming days to balance late season demands and transition to pre-release mode of operation to manage airspace through autumn and winter given the relatively early re-filling of the storage in March.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.81 m AHD. Diversions through the Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel have remained relatively low during the week, while additional flow through the Mulwala Canal has been maintained and escaped to the Edward and Wakool Rivers to help maintain higher dissolved oxygen levels downstream. The release at Yarrawonga was decreased during the week and is currently at 9,500 ML/day.

On the Edward-Wakool system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes continued to fall away with flows currently at around 1,700 and 700 ML/day respectively. At Toonalook, the flow peaked at around 12,000 ML/day over the weekend and is now receding, while downstream at Stevens Weir the flow peaked at around 12,000 ML/day but has now decreased to 7,700 ML/day. On the Billabong Creek, the flow continues to rise at Darlot and is now at 3,500 ML/day, while downstream on the Wakool River, flows are rising at all gauges and a peak flow at Kyalite may exceed 15,000 ML/day during early April.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has remained at around the 28,000 ML/day mark for most of the week and a slight rise to above 30,000 ML/day is expected over the coming weekend. At Swan Hill, the flow has crept higher and is now at 21,600 ML/day; while downstream at Euston, the river has continued rising with increasing input from the Murrumbidgee expected to push up the flow for several more weeks. The flow at Euston is now edging 30,000 ML/day and current forecasts suggest a flow in excess of 50,000 ML/day by mid April, depending on the timing and magnitude of flood inflows from the Murrumbidgee River. A similar flow rate is expected at Mildura in mid April. The proposed lowering of the Mildura Weir in April has now been re-scheduled for 2013 (see attached Media Release).

At Menindee Lakes, high inflows continue and are expected to start rising further as the main flood peak on the Darling arrives in early April. The storage volume eased by 9 GL this week and will likely not decrease by much more before re-commencing to fill over the coming weeks. The release (measured at Weir 32) remains at around 35,000 ML/day and the gates at Main Weir remain fully raised. Downstream on the lower Darling, the level at Burtundy continues to gradually rise and the river is now flowing at 17,500 ML/day. Flows are also increasing along the Great Darling Anabran with return flow into the Murray River expected over the next several months.

The flow in the Murray at Wentworth has increased to 45,000 ML/day and may increase to about 65,000 ML/day by mid April.



Storage volume in Lake Victoria rose by 48 GL, to 550 GL during the week as water was captured to allow the demobilisation of works at Lock 4 and at Chowilla. The demobilisation has now finished and Lake Victoria is now expected to begin falling during the week as water is released from the lake in order to target less than 500 GL in storage by the end of March.

The flow to South Australia is now around 42,000 ML/day and expected to climb to around 60,000 or slightly above by mid to late April.

Due to the flow over Lock 1 now increasing to around 25,000 ML/day, the level in the Lower Lakes has remained fairly steady over the week with a fall of only 1 cm to 0.58 m AHD. The lakes have been targeting a level of around 0.5 m AHD in an effort to improve salinity in Lake Albert, but due to high inflows to the lakes and high water levels in the Coorong, increased releases have been difficult to achieve and hence the low target level has also not been possible to date.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 21 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	474.61	3 153	82%	71	3 082	+24
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.47	2 706	90%	23	2 683	+125
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.89	549	81%	100	449	+48
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 446	84%	(480 #)	966	-9
Total		9 269		7 854	85%	--	7 180	+188
Total Active MDBA Storage							84% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	951	93%	3	948	-67
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 567	96%	24	1 543	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 134	94%	100	3 034	-2

* 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 20 Mar 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	1 410		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)	4.1	950	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.1	211
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.1	432
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	80
Licensed Pumps	2.4	159	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	7.3	48
Lower Darling	8.5	221	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.3	240
TOTAL	15.3	1375	TOTAL	16.5	1011

* 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	198.2	(28 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	489.2	
Flow last month	607.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	160	160	130
Euston	140	140	130
Red Cliffs	140	160	140
Merbein	140	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	240	250	370
Lock 9	180	190	190
Lake Victoria	280	330	210
Berri	290	310	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	300	330	290
Mannum	400	410	440
Murray Bridge	480	390	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	710	740	530
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	330	380	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 980	4 990	5 280
Goolwa Barrages	3 990	8 130	1 430



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 21 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	-	-	-	-	F	5 330	4 060
Jingellic	4.0	2.19	208.71	8 790	F	13 220	17 590
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.74	218.63	1 330	F	1 630	2 410
Heywoods	5.5	1.28	154.91	600	S	1 290	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.79	150.26	2 830	F	4 860	5 450
Albury	4.3	0.86	148.30	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.39	127.41	4 960	F	5 780	8 450
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.58	116.62	9 520	S	9 770	29 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.35	106.19	9 860	F	11 470	43 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.62	85.17	28 670	R	28 410	31 110
Swan Hill	4.5	3.60	66.52	21 590	S	21 370	20 010
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.58	55.70	26 330	R	24 290	18 970
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.25	46.09	28 170	R	26 230	18 360
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	22 800	F	24 360	14 670
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.44	30.20	44 900	S	41 960	26 840
Rufus Junction	-	6.38	23.31	36 530	R	28 600	20 070
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.72	-	25 470	R	22 100	17 220
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.18	155.41	2 430	F	4 070	3 870
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.45	147.13	4 840	F	5 770	8 180
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.50	97.92	12 700	R	8 790	20 300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.87	84.64	9 410	S	10 970	6 890
Edward at Liewah	-	4.59	59.97	5 820	R	4 740	2 060
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.07	56.56	4 660	R	3 400	1 060
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.40	61.36	9 150	R	8 940	7 950
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	40	F	180	840
Darling at Bourke	-	12.16	-	72 080	F	92 090	174 880
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.96	-	17 560	R	17 290	16 720

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 080	28 730
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.19	+4.01
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.25	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+1.90
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.13	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+1.59
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+1.50	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.05	+2.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+2.80	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+1.81
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+1.95	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.07	+1.79
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.34	+2.68	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.07	+0.97

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.58
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Barrages

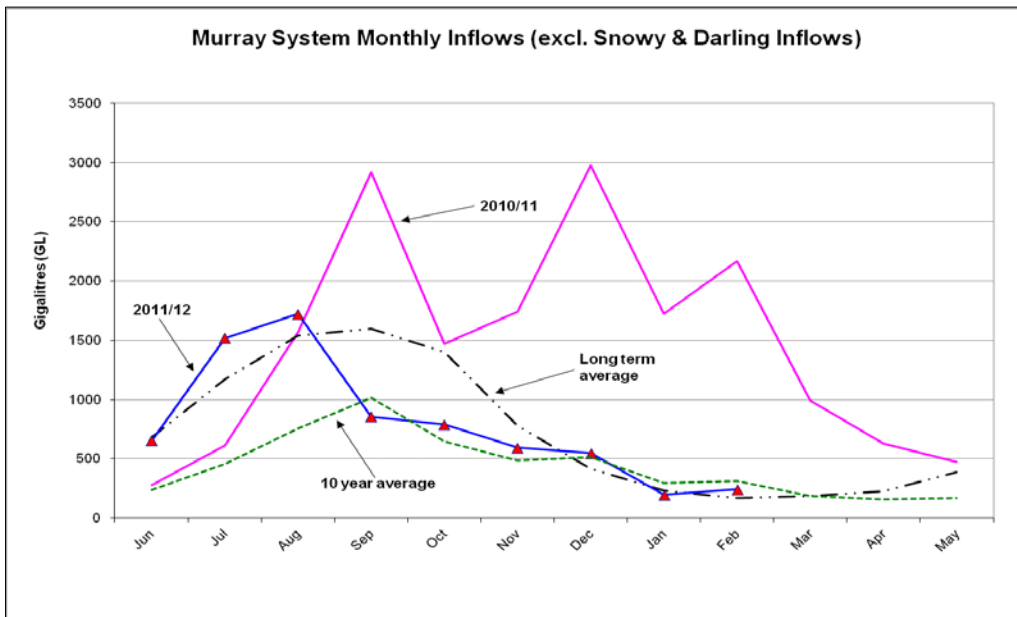
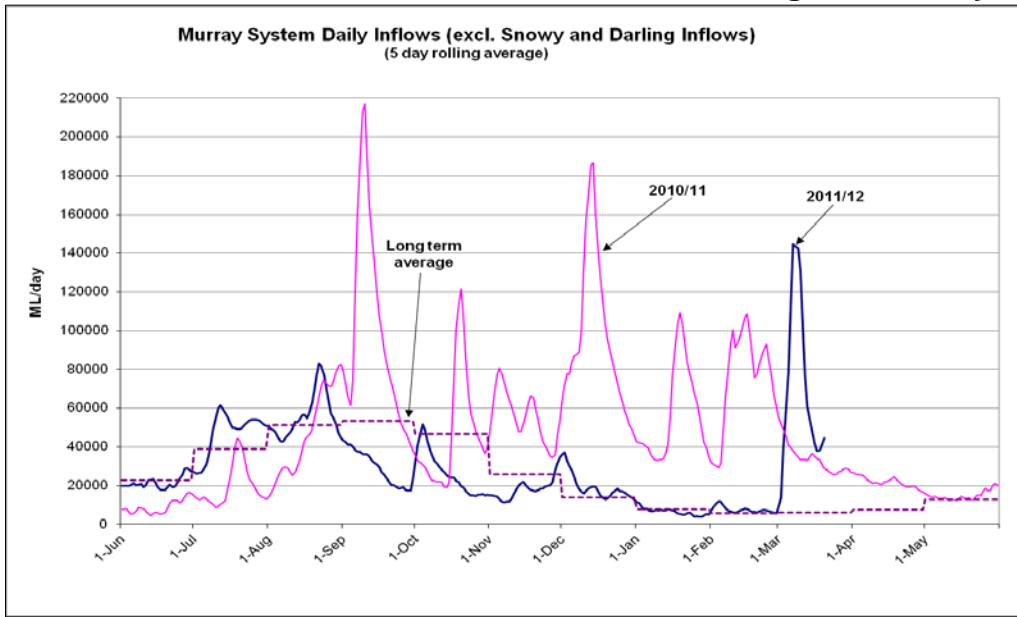
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.43	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.38	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	40	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.36	45	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 21 Mar 2012



State Allocations (as at 21 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%
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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/>

MEDIA RELEASE



21 March 2012

Lowering of Mildura Weir pool now scheduled for 2013

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water advised today that the planned lowering of the Mildura weir pool in May 2012, for weir maintenance works, will now take place in May 2013, subject to suitable river conditions.

The precise timing and duration of next year's drawdown is not yet known, however it may be for up to two months.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water will issue further advice with more specific dates and details closer to next year.

Recent upstream rainfall may result in the weir being withdrawn from the river in the next few weeks if necessary. Further advice will be issued when more information is available.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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