



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2012

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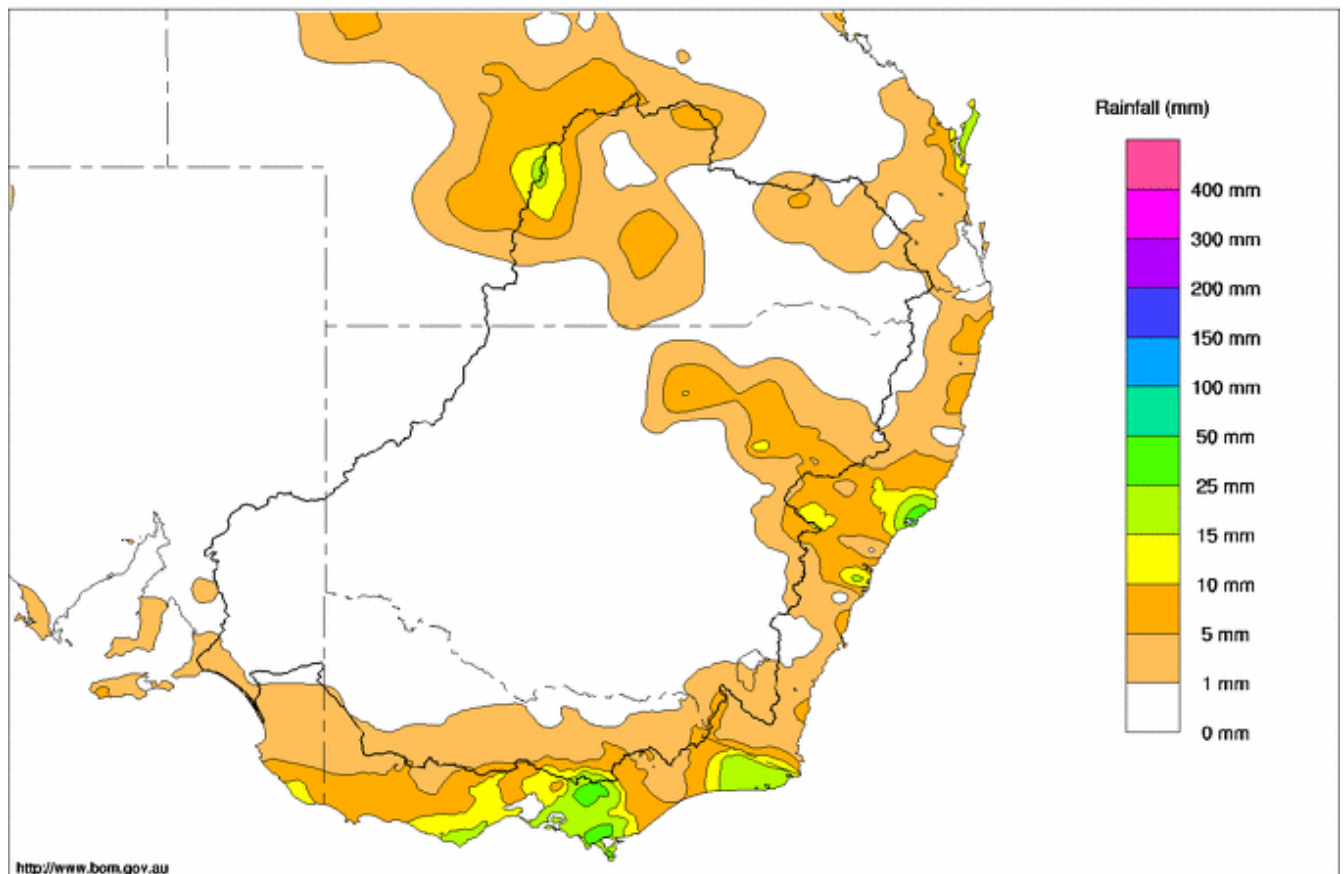
Rainfall and Inflows

There was a noticeable transition in conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin over the Easter period as lingering summer-like warmth was replaced by cold wintery air pushing up from the south behind a vigorous cold front. The change brought little in the way of rainfall, although in the south, there were showers and highland snow flurries across the Victorian and southern NSW slopes and ranges. Further north, an associated trough led to storms crossing parts of NSW and southern Queensland.

Highest precipitation totals were only light within the Basin, with most areas staying completely dry (Map 1). In the upper Goulburn River catchment, there was 19 mm at Woods Point and 10 mm at Mt Buller. Through southern Queensland and inland NSW, the storms were isolated, but resulted in 19 mm falling at Coonabarabran and 15 mm at Gwabegar.

Inflows from the upper tributaries have continued receding during the week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased gradually from around 1,500 to 1,400 ML/day; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 2,300 to 1,800 ML/day. Downstream on the mid Murray, the main flood peak from the Murrumbidgee River has begun arriving at Balranald. An increasing flow is expected through here and into the River Murray over the coming weeks, adding to the flow along reaches downstream of Boundary Bend.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 11th April 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 11th April 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 39 GL during the week and is currently 7,032 GL (82% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 6 GL and is now 3,184 GL (83% capacity). The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, remained at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage decreased by 34 GL during the week and is now 2,633 GL (88% capacity). The release from Hume was decreased over the Easter period and is currently targeting a flow downstream at Doctors Point of 10,200 ML/day. The target flow is expected to remain in the range of 10,000 to 11,000 ML/day over the coming days.

At Lake Mulwala, the pool level is currently 124.81 m AHD. The weir was operated to maintain a pool level close to 124.8 m AHD over the Easter period but the level should now ease back towards 124.7 over the coming days depending on any variation from the expected diversions. Diversions from Lake Mulwala have remained fairly steady over the past two weeks averaging around 6,800 ML/day over the last 7 days compared with 6,700 ML/day during the preceding week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 7,000 ML/day, and is expected to remain steady over the coming week.

Downstream at the Edward River and Gulpa Creek Offtakes, diversion into the Edward River has remained steady at around 1,600 ML/day through the Edward River offtake and 350 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek Offtake. Along the Bullatale Creek, the flow has now dropped back to 80 ML/day, well down from the peak of 4,800 ML/day observed on 15 March. At the Edward escape, water continues to be delivered from Mulwala Canal to the Edward River, while the additional flow being added to the Wakool system is now being reduced. At Stevens Weir, the release has averaged around 2,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to remain above 2,000 ML/day over the coming days. On the Billabong Creek, very high flows are continuing at Darlot. The level has remained fairly steady over the past week with the flow at around 5,600 ML/day. Downstream on the Edward River, the flow at Moulamein has crept back up and is now flowing at 9,200 ML/day following the arrival of flood flows from the Billabong Creek. On the lower Wakool River the flow at Kyalite peaked at around 18,000 ML/day last week and has now receded to 15,800 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge receded from 4,400 to 3,000 ML/day, but should rise slightly in the coming days. At Torrumbarry Weir the flow in the Murray has receded for most of the week and is now at 9,900 ML/day. The flow should decrease only slightly over the coming days. At Swan Hill, the flow fell away as expected, decreasing from 19,700 to 11,200 ML/day.

Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River began increasing more rapidly over the last few days as the main flood waters started to arrive at Balranald, where the flow is now 12,500 ML/day and rising. The Bureau of Meteorology is now forecasting a peak close to 6.8 m on 20 April with minor to moderate flooding. For information regarding flood warnings please refer to the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.

At Euston, the flow peaked late in the week at 37,300 ML/day. This peak has come in well under previous expectations and is due to the delayed arrival of flood water from the Murrumbidgee River, which is now forecast to arrive well after the River Murray peak has passed. However, a slow and extended recession is now expected, and should maintain good flows through the Sunraysia region and into South Australia for many weeks to come. The level at Euston rose to just above normal pool level over Easter but has now dropped back slightly. The weir will now be re-instated, with stop logs being added gradually over the coming days in order to hold the pool relatively steady.

At Mildura, the final stages of the weir removal will not be required due to the lower peak. The level continued rising slowly over the Easter period and is now 33.54 m AHD or 86 cm below normal pool level. Drop bars will be added back to the weir resulting in the level rising back towards normal pool level during the coming days.



On the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia – upstream of the Menindee Lakes – is now in excess of 40,000 ML/day and close to a peak causing major flooding. A similar flow rate is also passing along the Talyawalka Creek, an anabranch of the Darling River that flows during flood events. At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume has increased by 18 GL to 1,432 GL (83%). Release from the Lakes (measured at Weir 32) has been held at an average of 35,000 ML/day during the past week, and with inflows gradually increasing, the lakes will continue to rise over the coming weeks as peak flood flows arrive from upstream. On the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy continues to inch up and is now flowing at around 19,000 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 Wentworth, the flow continued rising over Easter, reaching 58,400 ML/day. With the weir dismantled, the river remains free flowing through the weir, however with a peak now expected at Wentworth during the coming week, the timing for re-instating the navigable pass will be under review early next week.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume decreased by 30 GL and is currently 434 GL (64% capacity). The flow to South Australia has averaged 59,400 ML/day over the past week and is expected to remain close to 60,000 ML/day over the next few days but may begin decreasing later in the week.

At the Lower Lakes, strong south-westerly winds combined with relatively high tides forced Barrage gates to be closed at times during the past week; and with increasing inflows, the average level rose by 9 cm to 0.74 m AHD (1 cm below full supply level).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 11 Apr 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	475.15	3 184	83%	71	3 113	+6	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.20	2 656	88%	23	2 633	-34	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.87	434	64%	100	334	-30	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 432	83%	(480 #)	952	+18	
Total		9 269		7 706	83%	--	7 032	-39	
Total Active MDBA Storage							82% ^		

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	947	92%	3	944	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 530	94%	24	1 506	-19
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 989	90%	100	2 889	-54

* 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 10 Apr 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 498	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	310
Snowy-Murray Component	906	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+4	347
Target Storage	1 340		Net Diversion	-4	-38
			Murray 1 Release	+2	718

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)	18.1	993	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.5	190
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.9	480
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	20	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	85
Licensed Pumps	4.2	169	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	49
Lower Darling	8.4	250	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.3	252
TOTAL	31.1	1458	TOTAL	31.9	1056

* 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 April due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	415.5	(59 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	652.8	
Flow last month	1,024.8	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	150	140	130
Euston	150	140	130
Red Cliffs	130	210	160
Merbein	120	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	250	250	350
Lock 9	170	180	190
Lake Victoria	240	240	220
Berri	250	270	270
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	290	300	290
Mannum	260	250	430
Murray Bridge	320	290	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	770	770	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	350	330	360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 790	4 770	5 250
Goolwa Barrages	670	980	1 550



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 11 Apr 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	-	-	-	2 770	F	1 410	1 390
Jingellic	4.0	1.88	208.40	5 960	R	4 330	5 110
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.55	218.44	780	F	840	1 000
Heywoods	5.5	2.45	156.08	8 230	S	9 530	10 580
Doctors Point	5.5	2.57	151.04	9 650	S	10 960	12 050
Albury	4.3	1.52	148.96	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.35	128.37	9 360	F	10 870	11 110
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.36	116.40	7 760	F	8 070	9 050
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	8 310	S	8 440	9 370
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	81.61	9 900	S	11 410	19 510
Swan Hill	4.5	2.14	65.06	11 210	F	15 450	20 350
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.91	56.03	28 820	F	31 750	32 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.12	46.96	36 920	F	37 110	35 490
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.11	30.87	58 400	R	57 370	54 830
Rufus Junction	-	7.26	24.19	59 740	R	59 410	58 910
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.05	-	47 160	R	43 170	37 460
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.37	154.60	1 080	F	1 310	1 590
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.44	146.12	1 750	S	1 920	2 700
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.66	94.08	3 000	F	3 200	5 780
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.09	81.87	2 130	F	1 970	2 270
Edward at Liewah	-	5.22	60.60	7 700	S	7 610	7 750
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.84	57.33	7 750	F	8 930	9 590
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.90	61.86	12 180	R	10 230	9 350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	180	F	170	130
Darling at Bourke	-	5.49	-	11 230	F	14 420	28 750
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.25	-	19 010	S	18 840	18 330

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 360	10 100
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.16	+4.96
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.13	+3.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.05	+2.74
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.86	+2.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.58	+3.91
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.17	+3.47	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+3.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+2.80	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.64	+3.32
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.04	+3.51	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+2.30

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

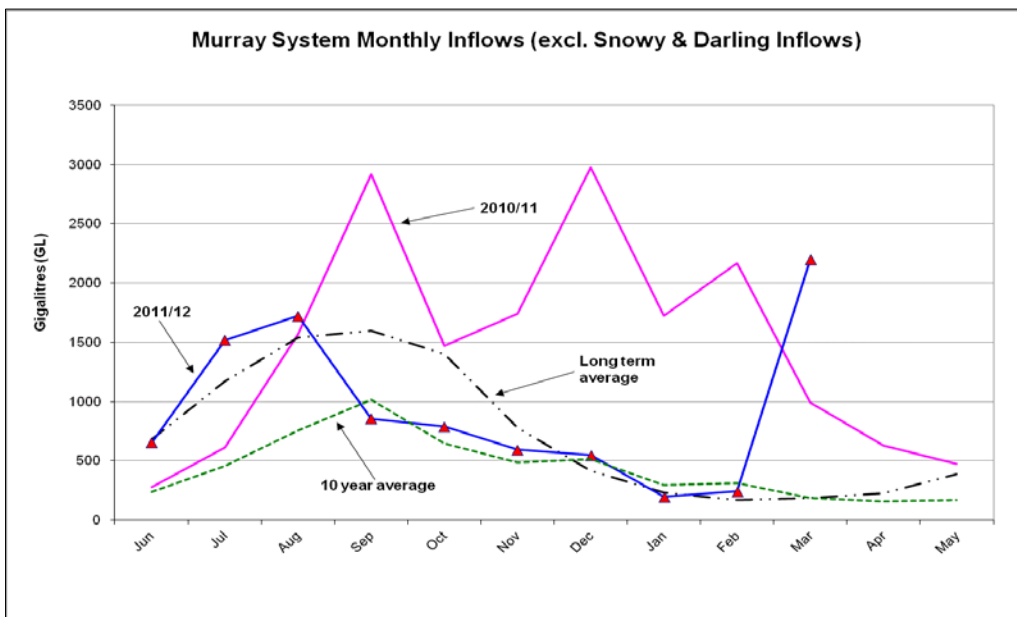
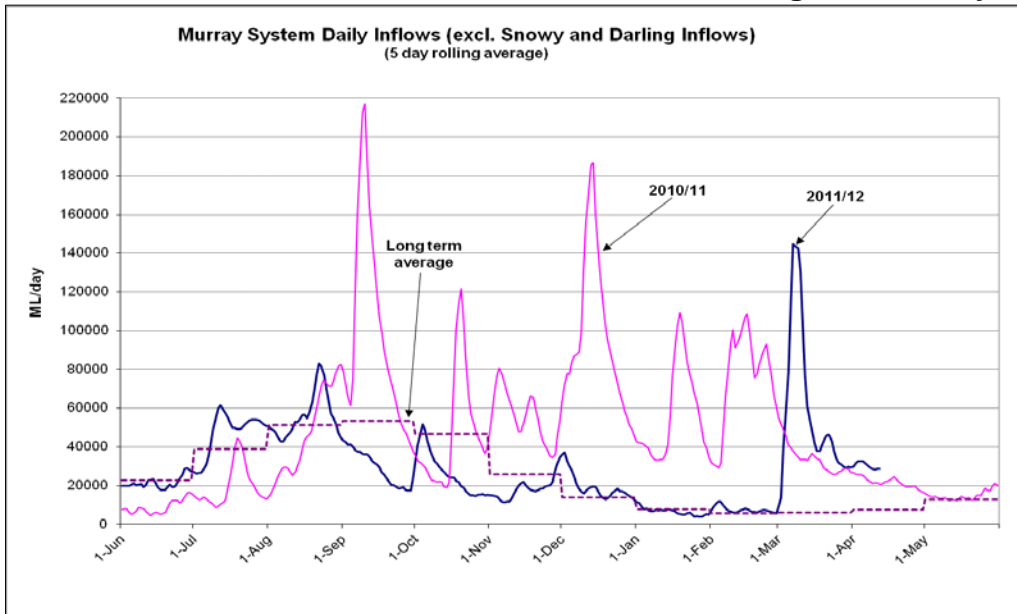
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.74
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.81	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.71	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	52	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	85	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 11 Apr 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/>