



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY 2012

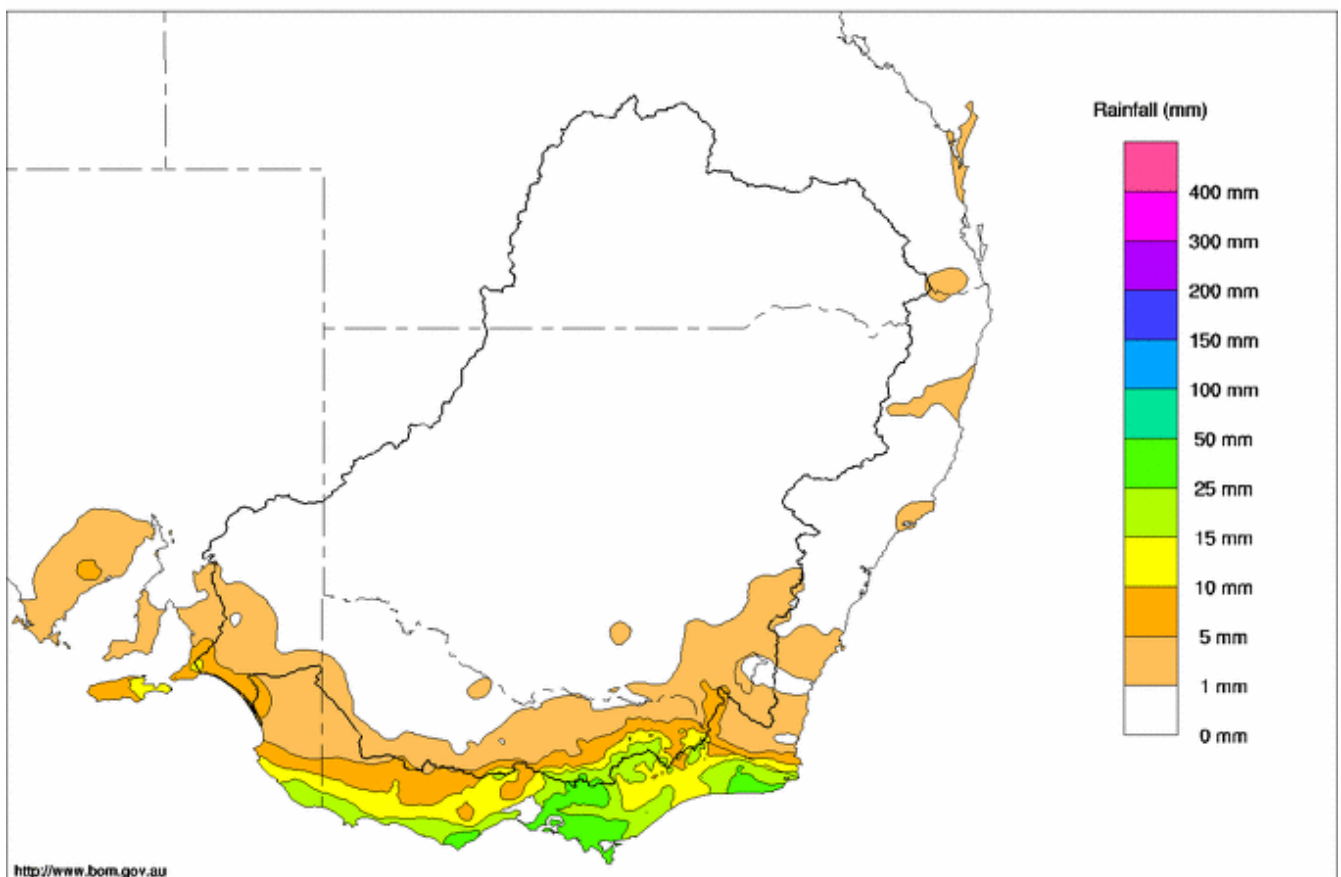
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions remained dry across most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin during the week with precipitation confined to the southern slopes and ranges (Map 1). The weather was influenced by a ridge of high pressure with a series of cold fronts moving along Australia's southern fringe bringing colder temperatures as the week progressed. These fronts brought light snowfalls to the Victorian and NSW alpine areas, where weekly totals included 26 mm at Mt Buller and 22 mm at Rocky Valley. Further dry and stable weather is forecast for the Basin for this week with high pressure set to dominate.

Flows in most tributaries in the upper Murray catchments were fairly steady or decreased only slightly over the week, with the light rain slowing recession rates. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie averaged just over 500 ML/day and on the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara has remained at around 1,150 ML/day during the week, while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 1,800 to around 1,600 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th May 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 16/05/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 16th May 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 5 GL this week and is now 7,524 GL (88%). At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage increased by 6 GL to 3,215 GL (83% capacity) and release remains at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 5 GL to 2,631 GL (88% capacity). The release has been cut back each day this week and is now at 1,800 ML/day. Further reductions are expected in the coming days with the release potentially decreasing towards the seasonal minimum of 600 ML/day.

At Lake Mulwala, the pool level was lowered to 124.62 m AHD during the week ahead of the cessation of diversions to Mulwala Canal and the Yarrawonga Main Channel which occurred late in the week. These channels are now being drained and will remain closed for around three months. The level of Lake Mulwala, currently 124.73 m AHD, is now expected to rise above 124.8 m AHD in the coming days. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced to 4,000 ML/day with further reductions expected in the coming week.

On the Edward-Wakool System, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has been decreased and will continue to fall as the River Murray recedes upstream. The flow in the Edward River at Toonalook is now 1,300 ML/day, while downstream at Stevens Weir, the flow increased to almost 2,000 ML/day as the end of season drainage of irrigation channels continued bringing return flows back to the river.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge decreased as expected, dropping from 6,500 to 3,600 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow receded to as low as 7,700 ML/day during the week, but is currently back up at 8,900 ML/day following the seasonal closure of National Channel. A recession in flows is now expected to re-commence as the coming week unfolds. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 14,500 ML/day and falling each day by around 500 ML/day. At Euston, the Murray decreased to below 30,000 ML/day on 14 May and is now flowing at 27,500 ML/day. The flow is expected to keep falling away here for several weeks to come.

On the Darling River, inflow to the Menindee Lakes receded considerably this week, averaging around 18 - 20,000 ML/day during the last 7 days. The combined volume of the lakes topped out on 11 May at 2,028 GL, or 22 GL below the maximum surcharge level. The volume has since eased back and is currently at 2,003 GL (116%). Release from Menindee (measured at Weir 32) has held at around 17,000 ML/day for most of the week, but is now at around 16,000 ML/day and will now be reduced further as inflows continue to drop away. Downstream on the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy, currently 19,500 ML/day, has begun to recede slowly from its peak of around 20,000 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](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)) with details available at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Flood-management/>.

At Wentworth, the flow has receded to 51,800 ML/day and the pool is now back close to the normal operating level. Storage at Lake Victoria is fairly steady; however inflow to the lake will be increased resulting in a slight rise in lake levels next week. Flow to South Australia has decreased to 50,600 ML/day, and will gradually reduce to 45,000 ML/day early next week.

At the Lower Lakes, adverse tidal and wind conditions forced gate closures at Goolwa and Mundoo at times throughout the week. Average lake levels have increased following these closures and the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina is now 0.81 m AHD which is 10 cm higher than this time last week and 6 cm above FSL. The average level should gradually reduce in the coming days.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 16 May 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	475.67	3 215	83%	71	3 144	+6	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.06	2 631	88%	23	2 608	+5	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.04	349	52%	100	249	-1	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 003	116%	(480 #)	1 523	-5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 198</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 524</b>	<b>+5</b>	
Total Active MDBA Storage							88% ^		

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	945	92%	3	942	-18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 526	94%	24	1 502	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 797	84%	100	2 697	-4

\* 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 15 May 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 479	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+7	45
Snowy-Murray Component	881	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	7
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	6	38
			Murray 1 Release	+12	48

**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)	10.1	1065	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.6	204
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.9	26	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.2	547
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	22	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	90
Licensed Pumps	2.3	186	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	56
Lower Darling	7.0	288	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	262
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>1587</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>1159</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 this month due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

Entitlement this month	93.0 *
Flow this week	375.0
Flow so far this month	871.6
Flow last month	1,752.1

(53 600 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	80	90	130
Euston	170	180	140
Red Cliffs	170	180	160
Merbein	140	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	310	300	350
Lock 9	240	240	190
Lake Victoria	270	260	220
Berri	270	270	250
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	290	280	280
Mannum	260	260	300
Murray Bridge	310	300	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	510	520	570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	300	290	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 550	4 660	4 930
Goolwa Barrages	430	500	1 440



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 16 May 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	-	-	-	2 690	F	2 070	5 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.69	208.21	4 410	R	4 050	8 490
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.48	218.37	640	S	660	710
Heywoods	5.5	1.64	155.27	1 810	F	4 160	6 990
Doctors Point	5.5	1.87	150.34	3 280	S	5 330	8 280
Albury	4.3	0.92	148.36	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.44	127.46	5 140	F	6 790	8 590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	115.84	4 000	S	4 690	6 680
Tocumwal	6.4	1.48	105.32	0	F	4 920	7 100
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	81.32	8 890	R	8 730	10 090
Swan Hill	4.5	1.55	64.47	7 200	F	8 200	8 780
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.69	53.81	15 440	F	16 340	18 420
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.00	45.84	27 590	F	30 250	36 110
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.78	30.54	51 800	F	54 770	58 230
Rufus Junction	-	6.96	23.89	50 670	F	53 570	55 050
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.34	-	54 100	S	53 800	53 590
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.59	154.82	1 420	R	1 110	1 110
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.36	146.04	1 560	S	1 640	1 780
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.00	94.42	3 620	F	4 620	6 360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.98	81.76	1 970	F	1 470	1 880
Edward at Liewah	-	3.19	58.57	2 860	F	3 180	3 910
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.73	55.22	1 150	R	1 220	1 420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.21	-	14 500	F	16 200	20 380
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	120	R	90	90
Darling at Bourke	-	4.48	-	2 920	S	3 200	4 400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.34	-	19 490	S	19 650	19 910

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 510	6 670
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.89	+4.66
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+2.98
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.08	+2.73
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+1.66	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.64	+3.96
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+3.14	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.15	+3.52
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+2.68	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.93	+3.64
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.01	+3.45	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.36	+2.59

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.81
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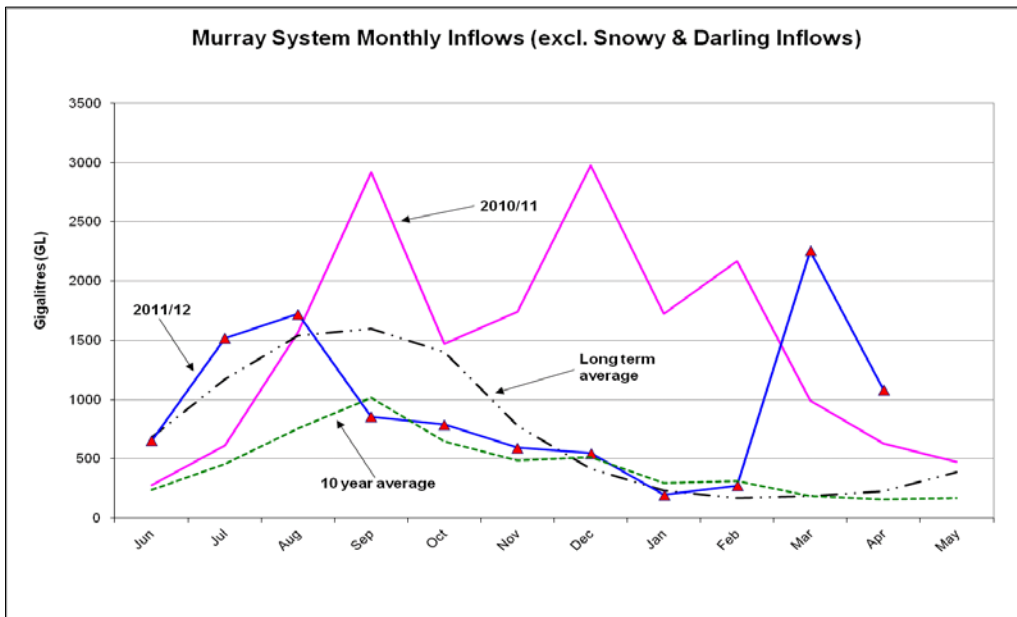
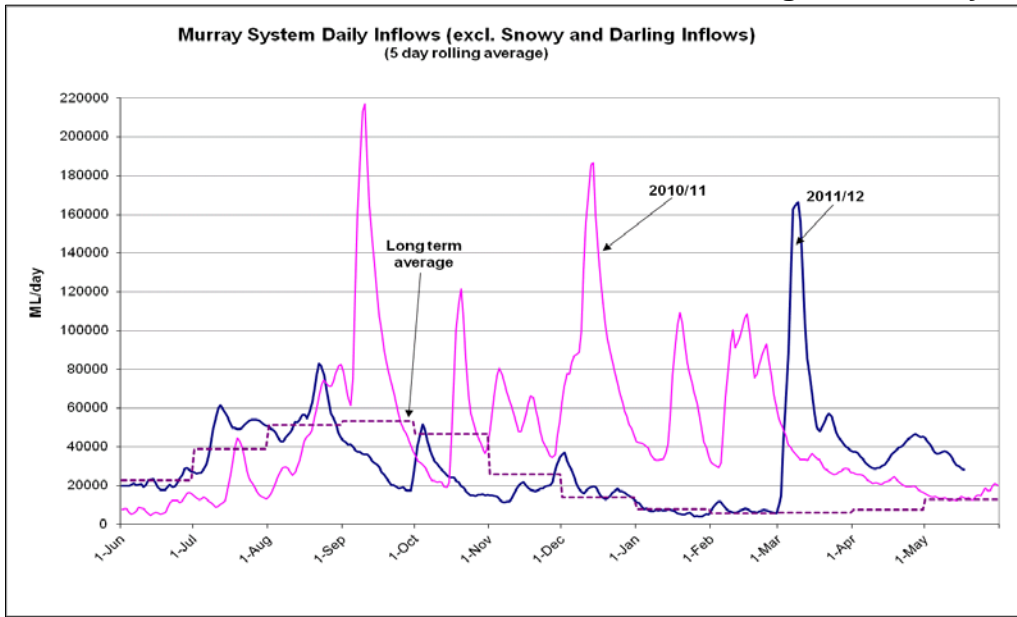
**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	52	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.77	85	Open	Open

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





State Allocations (as at 16 May 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/>