



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2012

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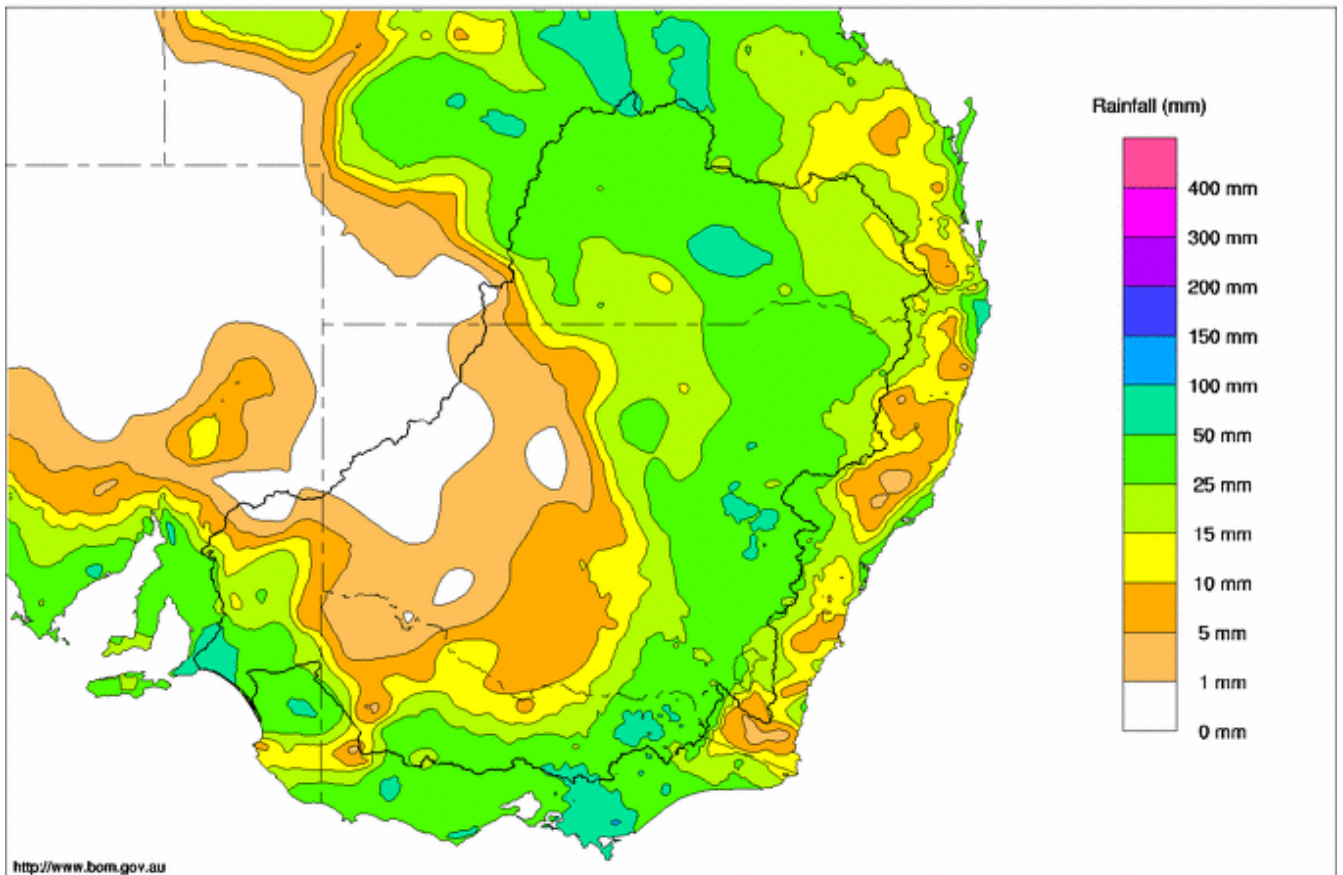
## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall returned to the Murray-Darling Basin this week with totals above 25 mm reported over a broad arc covering the northern, eastern and southern Basin regions (Map 1). The rain resulted from a large cloud band that formed on Friday as moisture interacted with a cold front and trough system that moved through from the west. The system also lowered temperatures across the region and delivered snowfalls to the alpine areas in the south-east.

Highest rain totals were recorded in South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges and Lower Lakes region, the Victorian and NSW alpine areas, and across the NSW central tablelands. In South Australia there was 85 mm at Goolwa and 76 mm at Mt Barker, in Victoria there was 69 mm at Mt Buffalo and Rocky Valley and in NSW, there was 62 mm at Hill End and 57 mm at Orange Airport.

Streamflows in the upper Murray tributaries are generally receding again after an initial response over the weekend. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie increased from 400 to 1,050 ML/day and is now flowing at 650 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 1,800 ML/day on 26 May and is now flowing at 1,200 ML/day, while on the Ovens River the flow at Rocky Point increased from 800 to 2,500 ML/day before receding to 1,550 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 30th May 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 30 May 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 28 GL this week and is now 7,557 GL (88%). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 11 GL to 3,230 GL (84% capacity). The release remains at 200 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the storage increased by 53 GL to 2,713 GL (90% capacity). The release remains at the minimum value of 600 ML/day; while just downstream of the Kiewa River confluence, the flow at Doctors Point peaked at 2,800 ML/day on 27 May.

At Yarrawonga, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.77 m AHD. The release at Yarrawonga Weir was increased due to higher inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers during the week and is currently 5,000 ML/day. The release is expected to be decreased during the week as inflows recede.

On the Edward-Wakool System, flow has been decreased to 200 ML/day through the Edward offtake and 80 ML/day through Gulpa offtake. This is helping to provide low flow conditions at Stevens Weir to facilitate maintenance works being undertaken at the structure. The flow at Stevens Weir fell away during the week and is currently 800 ML/day and should ease back to around 600 ML/day in the coming days. On the Billabong Creek, the long recession following flooding in March and April continues, with the flow at Darlot now down to 750 ML/day. Downstream at Moulamein, the Edward River has increased slightly due to extra flow arriving from the end of season drainage of irrigation channels. The flow here is currently 2,700 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys decreased to around 1,300 ML/day during the week but has since started rising again following the rain. A peak in excess of 3,000 ML/day is expected later this week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has decreased to 5,300 ML/day but is now expected to increase back over 6,000 ML/day as higher Goulburn River inflows arrive in the coming days.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald decreased this week from 12,200 to 10,000 ML/day. At Euston, the Murray receded from 24,000 to 20,900 ML/day, with the recession expected to continue for several weeks to come.

On the Darling River, inflow to the Menindee Lakes has averaged just under 6,000 ML/day and the total storage volume decreased by 34 GL to 1,930 GL (111% capacity). Release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) continues to be decreased and is now at 8,000 ML/day. A slow and steady rate of reduction in release will be maintained at Menindee to minimise the chance of bank slumping on the lower Darling following the recent prolonged period of high flows.

Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy decreased from 19,200 to 17,800 ML/day and should continue to fall away in the weeks ahead. 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, flood waters entering along the Darling River continue adding to the flow in the Murray downstream of the Murray-Darling confluence (Figure 1). The flow downstream of Wentworth Weir has now decreased to 42,800 ML/day with flows receding in both rivers.

At Lake Victoria, the storage volume was held relatively steady during the week with a net decrease of only 1 GL. The current storage volume is 358 GL (53%). The lake level will start to increase again over the coming week. The flow to South Australia has now decreased to 40,500 ML/day, and will continue receding during the week ahead.



**Figure 1 - There is currently a well defined contrast between the colour of River Murray flows and water entering from the Darling River (left) at their confluence as high flows continue entering the Murray from the Darling system (May 2012). Photo: Vic Hughes, MDBA.**

Downstream at Lock 1, the flow has averaged around 52,000 ML/day during the week but this should fall away at a faster rate during the coming week. At the Lower Lakes, conditions were affected by heavy local rain and strong westerly winds. The winds further increased water levels on the north-eastern side of both Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert, where particularly high local levels of around 1 m AHD were recorded. The 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina increased to 0.88 m AHD (13 cm above FSL) following the rain but has now decreased by 2 cm after wind and swell conditions abated enough to enable additional Barrage gates to be opened. The level should continue to decrease over 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 30 May 2012**

| MDBA Storages             | Full Supply Level | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Total Storage for the Week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|                           | (m AHD)           |                            | (m AHD)               | (GL)            | %          |                      |                        |  |
| Dartmouth Reservoir       | 486.00            | 3 856                      | 475.93                | 3 230           | 84%        | 71                   | 3 159                  | +11  |
| Hume Reservoir            | 192.00            | 3 005                      | 190.50                | 2 713           | 90%        | 23                   | 2 690                  | +53  |
| Lake Victoria             | 27.00             | 677                        | 24.14                 | 358             | 53%        | 100                  | 258                    | -1   |
| Menindee Lakes            |                   | 1 731*                     |                       | 1 930           | 111%       | (480 #)              | 1 450                  | -34  |
| <b>Total</b>              |                   | <b>9 269</b>               |                       | <b>8 231</b>    | <b>89%</b> | <b>--</b>            | <b>7 557</b>           | <b>+28</b>                                   |
| Total Active MDBA Storage |                   |                            |                       |                 |            |                      | 88% ^                  |  |

**Major State Storages**

|                      |       |       |     |     |       |     |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 955   | 93% | 3   | 952   | +13 |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 | 1 535 | 94% | 24  | 1 511 | +13 |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 334 | 2 814 | 84% | 100 | 2 714 | +13 |

\* 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 29 May 2012

| Storage                | Active Storage (GL) | Weekly Change (GL) | Diversions (GL)  | This Week | From 1 May 2012 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2 480               | n/a                | Snowy-Murray     | +7        | 58              |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 883                 | n/a                | Tooma-Tumut      | +3        | 14              |
| Target Storage         | 1 290               |                    | Net Diversion    | 4         | 44              |
|                        |                     |                    | Murray 1 Release | +15       | 73              |

**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)   | -1.0       | 1058             | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)   | n/a        | 212              |
| Wakool Sys Allowance      | 0.7        | 28               | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0          | 547              |
| Western Murray Irrigation | 0.1        | 22               | Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 0.5        | 91               |
| Licensed Pumps            | 1.6        | 190              | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.2        | 56               |
| Lower Darling             | 3.9        | 298              | Licensed pumps - LMW            | 1.2        | 265              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>5.3</b> | <b>1596</b>      | <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>1.9</b> | <b>1171</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 this month due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

|                        |         |                 |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 93.0 *  |                 |
| Flow this week         | 294.7   | (42 100 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 1,482.9 |                 |
| Flow last month        | 1,752.1 |                 |

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

|                         | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2011 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill               | 130     | 130                        | 130                         |
| Euston                  | 150     | 150                        | 140                         |
| Red Cliffs              | 160     | 160                        | 160                         |
| Merbein                 | 120     | 130                        | 140                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | 310     | 320                        | 350                         |
| Lock 9                  | 210     | 220                        | 190                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 270     | 260                        | 220                         |
| Berri                   | 290     | 280                        | 250                         |
| Waikerie                | -       | -                          | -                           |
| Morgan                  | 300     | 280                        | 280                         |
| Mannum                  | 280     | 260                        | 290                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 350     | 340                        | 360                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 520     | 520                        | 560                         |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 300     | 290                        | 350                         |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 4 400   | 4 430                      | 4 910                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 350     | 580                        | 1 400                       |



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 30 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                        | -                     | -            | -       | 4 750         | F     | 3 130                           | 1 740                           |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                   | 1.99         | 208.51  | 7 000         | F     | 5 650                           | 3 510                           |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                   | 1.53         | 218.42  | 720           | F     | 820                             | 610                             |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                   | 1.30         | 154.93  | 600           | S     | 600                             | 680                             |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                   | 1.63         | 150.10  | 1 960         | R     | 2 090                           | 1 560                           |
| Albury                           | 4.3                   | 0.75         | 148.19  | -             | -     | -                               | -                               |
| Corowa                           | 3.8                   | 0.87         | 126.89  | 2 730         | F     | 2 430                           | 2 790                           |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                   | 0.97         | 116.01  | 5 050         | R     | 3 970                           | 3 740                           |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                   | 1.46         | 105.30  | 4 700         | R     | 4 190                           | 4 440                           |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                   | 1.74         | 80.29   | 5 190         | F     | 5 700                           | 7 740                           |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                   | 1.25         | 64.17   | 5 840         | F     | 6 330                           | 7 680                           |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                   | 3.92         | 53.04   | 11 660        | F     | 12 580                          | 14 230                          |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                   | 3.28         | 45.12   | 20 920        | F     | 22 180                          | 25 520                          |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                     | -            | 31.95   | 22 790        | F     | 24 010                          | 26 970                          |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                   | 5.28         | 30.04   | 42 800        | F     | 44 630                          | 48 760                          |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                     | 6.57         | 23.50   | 40 620        | F     | 42 100                          | 45 220                          |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                     | 3.17         | -       | 49 900        | F     | 51 670                          | 53 610                          |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                       |              |         |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                   | 1.57         | 154.80  | 1 390         | F     | 1 530                           | 950                             |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                  | 8.63         | 146.31  | 2 250         | F     | 2 060                           | 1 270                           |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                   | 1.98         | 93.40   | 1 800         | R     | 1 530                           | 2 730                           |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                     | 1.03         | 80.81   | 790           | F     | 1 170                           | 2 020                           |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                     | 3.12         | 58.50   | 2 740         | R     | 2 540                           | 2 440                           |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                     | 1.66         | 55.16   | 930           | S     | 890                             | 930                             |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                   | 5.59         | 61.55   | 10 090        | F     | 10 900                          | 13 460                          |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                     | 3.22         | -       | 80            | S     | 90                              | 150                             |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                     | 4.43         | -       | 2 580         | S     | 2 610                           | 2 700                           |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                     | 7.00         | -       | 17 760        | F     | 18 560                          | 19 320                          |

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume<br>(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 7 080 | 5 040 |
|---|-------|-------|

**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      | -0.13 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River     | 22.10       | +1.49 | +4.28 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | +0.01 | -     | No. 6 Murtho          | 19.25       | -0.03 | +2.46 |
| No. 15 Euston      | 47.60       | -0.04 | -     | No. 5 Renmark         | 16.30       | +0.00 | +2.22 |
| No. 11 Mildura     | 34.40       | +0.02 | +1.15 | No. 4 Bookpurnong     | 13.20       | +0.20 | +3.43 |
| No. 10 Wentworth   | 30.80       | +0.04 | +2.64 | No. 3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | +0.05 | +3.06 |
| No. 9 Kulnine      | 27.40       | +0.29 | +1.76 | No. 2 Waikerie        | 6.10        | +0.57 | +3.27 |
| No. 8 Wangumma     | 24.60       | +0.42 | +2.61 | No. 1 Blanchetown     | 3.20        | +0.19 | +2.42 |

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

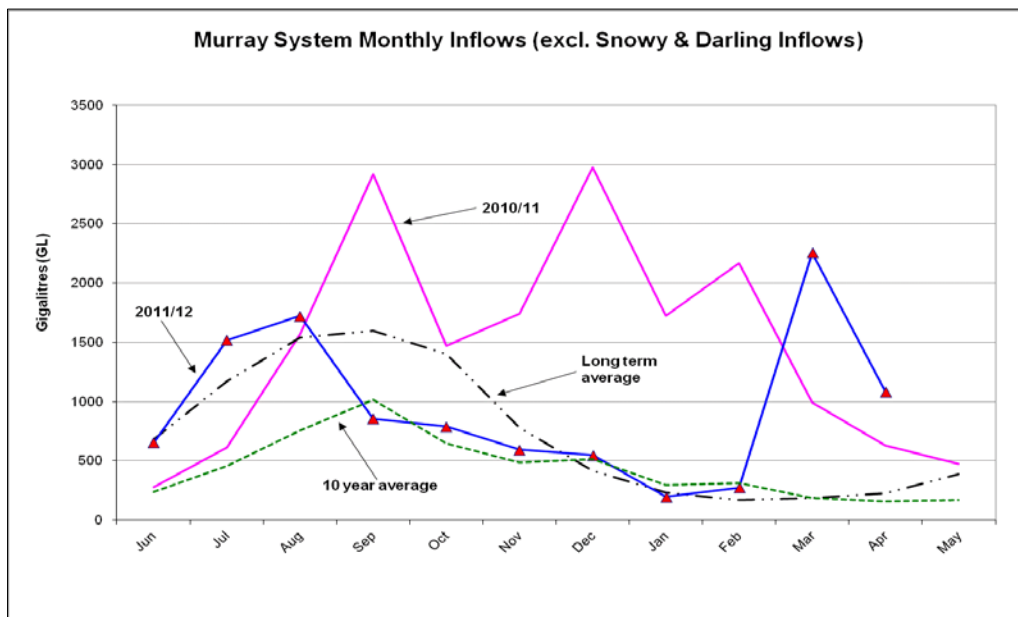
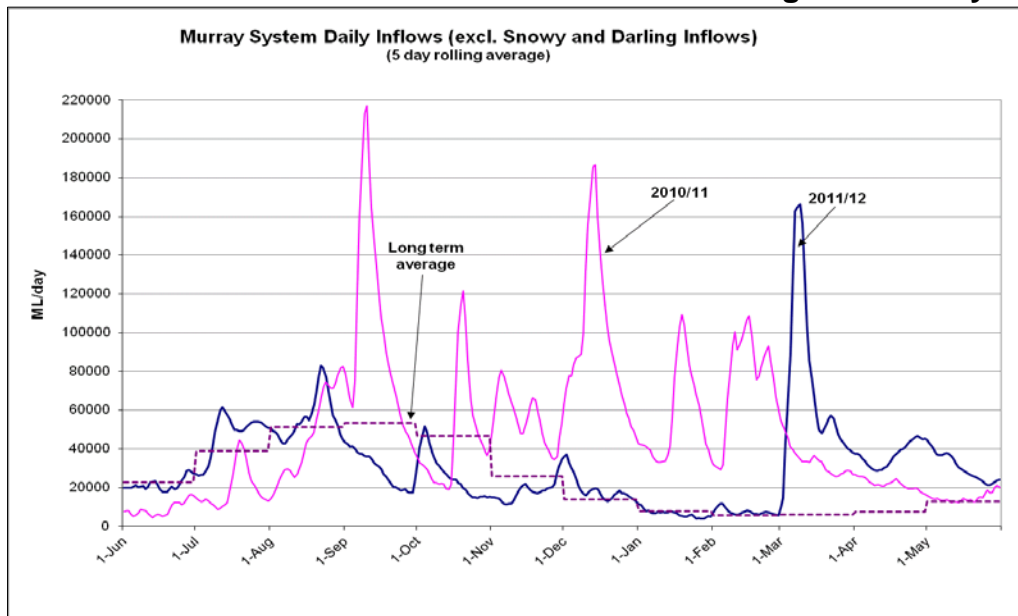
|  |      |
|--|------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD) | 0.86 |
|--|------|

**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

|                | Openings     | Level (m AHD) | No. Open | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa         | 128 openings | 0.67          | 100      | -         | Open          |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | 0.73          | 6        | -         | -             |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings   | -             | 1        | -         | -             |
| Ewe Island     | 111 gates    | -             | 105      | -         | -             |
| Tauwichee      | 322 gates    | 0.80          | 165      | Open      | Open          |

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



State Allocations (as at 30 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% |
|---------------|------|

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/>