



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2012

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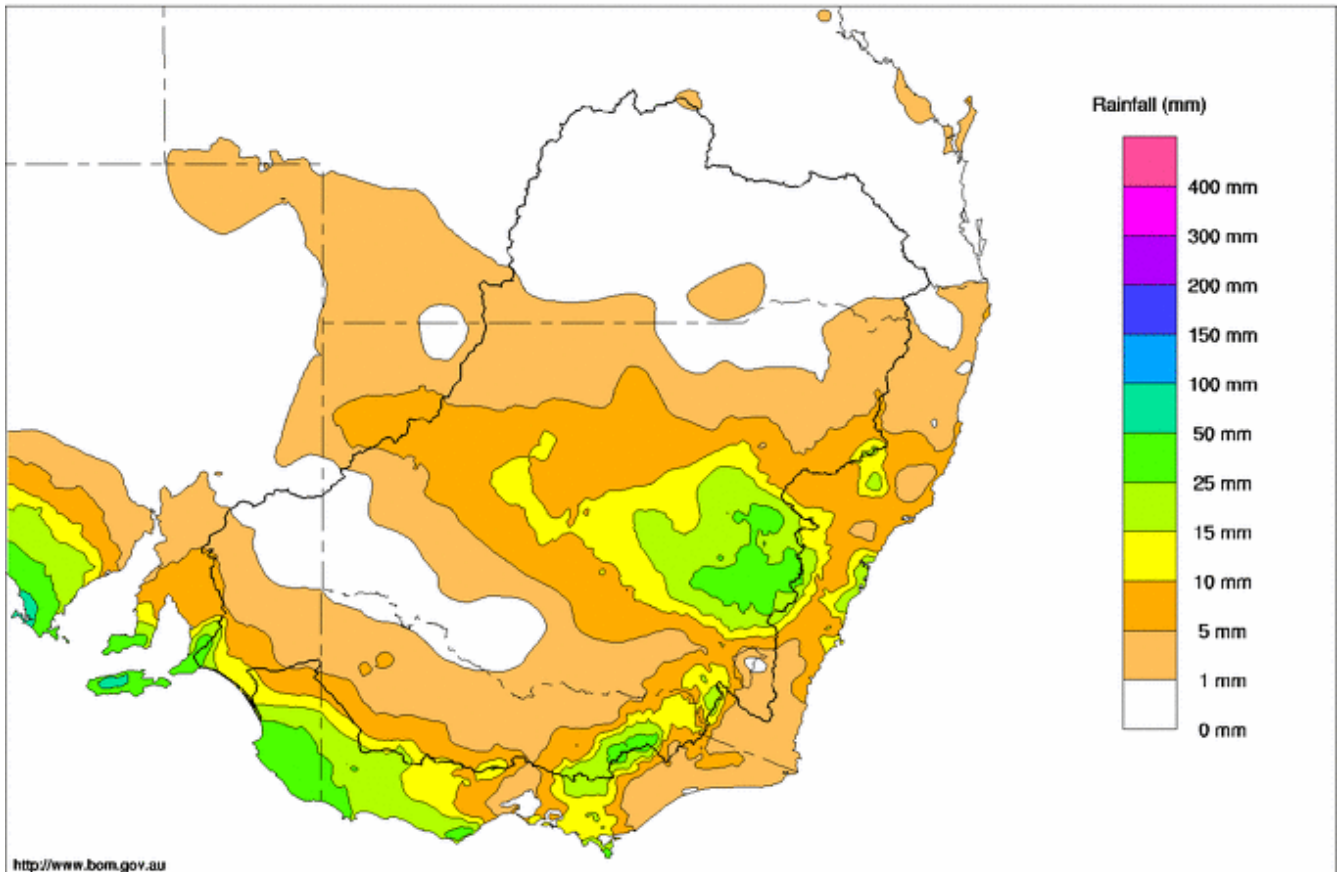
Rainfall and Inflows

A series of troughs and cold fronts moved across the Murray-Darling Basin this week with the heaviest rain falling over the southern and south-eastern ranges and the NSW central western slopes and plains. There was also rain recorded in southern South Australia with totals of between 25 and 50 mm across the Mt Lofty Ranges (Map 1). Most areas in the north of the Basin were quite dry.

Highest totals in Victoria included 48 mm at Mt Buller, and 35 mm at both Mt Hotham and Woods Point. In NSW, there was 38 mm at Oberon, 37 mm at Orange Airport and 34 mm at Cowra Airport. Further fronts are expected in the days ahead with the heaviest rain again forecast to affect the south-east ranges including the upper Murray system catchments.

The on-going light but regular rain during the week has helped slow recessions or maintain flows on upper system tributaries. For example, on the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 2,000 to 1,500 ML/day. Downstream at Jingellic, Snowy Scheme releases have continued boosting the flow, with the average this week at just under 10,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, flows have held up well with the Wangaratta gauge beginning and ending the week at around 2,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th June 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 20/06/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 20 June 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 108 GL during the week to 7,872 GL (92% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 15 GL to 3,319 GL, which is 86% capacity.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume has increased by 38 GL (95% capacity) and the release has been increased to 12,000 ML/day, with further increases expected over the next few days as inflows rise. Throughout the remainder of winter, Hume Reservoir will be managed to maintain a target level below Full Supply Level (currently 95%) in order to provide for a measure of flood mitigation. Generally it can be expected that the total volume of inflows to the dam from any significant rainfall event will be fully passed downstream within about 5–7 days. The reservoir will be used where possible to limit potential damage to downstream communities from larger rainfall events; however communities are advised to have their flood preparations in place. See the NSW SES website <http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/community-safety/floodsafe/> for further information.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased during the week to 8,500 ML/day and the pool level has risen slightly to 124.80 m AHD. Release will be increased in the next few days, perhaps to above 20,000 ML/day, if rainfall across the upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens Rivers occurs as currently forecast.

On the Edward-Wakool system, the total diversion through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has remained less than 300 ML/day throughout the week to assist with the construction of the fishway at Stevens Weir. The flow through these offtakes will need to increase in the coming week due to the higher flows now in transit from upstream. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently 9,300 ML/day and is expected to continue rising for at least the next two weeks.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has been slowly rising during the week and is currently 7,800 ML/day. This flow is expected to begin receding in the next few days. At Euston Weir, the long recession that has taken place since the 1 May peak has finished with flows now starting to rise again. It is expected that flow at Euston will rise slowly for at least the next week. The flow of 13,400 ML/day recorded on 19 June is the lowest flow since 8 March.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage increased by 16 GL, and the total storage remains surcharged at 1,916 GL (111% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, is currently 1,370 ML/day. This release continues to be slowly reduced and is expected to reach the normal minimum, for surcharged conditions, of 500 ML/day during the coming week.

Lake Victoria continues to fill and the storage increased by 40 GL during the week. The current volume is 447 GL (66% capacity). It may be possible in coming weeks to draw the level in Lake Victoria back down if there is sufficient volume in transit from upstream to fill the lake at a later date. Cycling of lake levels in this way will minimise wave erosion within the lake as well as provide for the watering of vegetation important for the protection of cultural heritage. The flow to South Australia has continued its rapid recession to the current flow of 14,400 ML/day, still well above the current entitlement rate of 6,000 ML/day (3,000 ML/day base entitlement plus 3,000 ML/day 'Additional Dilution Flow'). Flows to South Australia are expected to remain above entitlement rates for at least another month however this could be expected to be extended with further rainfall in coming months.

The 5-day average level at the Lower Lakes is currently 0.55 m AHD (0.2 m below FSL), which has increased from a low of 0.51 m AHD late last week, and operations aim to raise the lake level to around Full Supply Level (0.75 m AHD) over the coming weeks.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 20 Jun 2012

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	477.44	3 319	86%	71	3 248	+15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.29	2 864	95%	23	2 841	+38
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.96	447	66%	100	347	+40
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 916	111%	(480 #)	1 436	+16
Total		9 269		8 546	92%	--	7 872	+108
Total Active MDBA Storage							92% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	949	93%	3	946	-22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 550	95%	24	1 526	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 891	87%	100	2 791	+19

* 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 19 Jun 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 444	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+35	129
Snowy-Murray Component	972	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	30
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	31	99
			Murray 1 Release	+43	162

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)	0.0	1057	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	203
Wakool Sys Allowance	-1.2	30	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	546
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	92
Licensed Pumps	1.3	195	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	64
Lower Darling	0.0	293	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.8	267
TOTAL	0.3	1598	TOTAL	2.1	1172

* 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	90.0 *	
Flow this week	111.8	(16 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	482.9	
Flow last month	1,523.0	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	70	80	130
Euston	160	150	140
Red Cliffs	170	170	160
Merbein	180	190	140
Burtundy (Darling)	370	370	350
Lock 9	200	200	190
Lake Victoria	280	290	230
Berri	300	300	250
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	430	370	290
Mannum	320	300	290
Murray Bridge	390	390	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	380	390	560
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	300	300	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 410	4 400	4 880
Goolwa Barrages	3 250	20 350	1 770



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 20 Jun 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	-	-	-	7 630	F	6 650	5 980
Jingellic	4.0	2.34	208.86	10 170	R	9 710	12 260
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.54	218.43	760	R	740	790
Heywoods	5.5	2.58	156.21	8 580	R	5 050	3 220
Doctors Point	5.5	2.66	151.13	10 640	R	6 910	5 860
Albury	4.3	1.61	149.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	1.81	127.83	6 900	R	6 300	4 640
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.47	116.51	8 630	R	8 220	5 970
Tocumwal	6.4	2.04	105.88	8 050	R	7 660	5 360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	81.45	9 310	R	7 960	6 570
Swan Hill	4.5	1.40	64.32	6 820	R	6 100	6 580
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.21	52.33	8 670	R	8 810	9 980
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.42	44.26	13 690	R	14 500	16 210
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	15 130	F	16 040	17 820
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.95	28.71	17 450	F	18 600	24 860
Rufus Junction	-	4.48	21.41	13 030	F	14 520	20 810
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.26	-	18 810	F	22 510	36 280
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.52	154.75	1 310	F	1 450	2 350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.55	146.23	2 030	R	1 850	2 400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.86	93.28	1 570	F	1 810	1 550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.66	80.43	410	F	400	430
Edward at Liewah	-	1.65	57.03	990	F	1 120	1 700
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.40	54.89	340	F	380	570
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.02	60.98	7 810	S	7 480	6 720
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	70	R	20	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.41	-	2 390	R	2 210	2 360
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	4 500	F	5 280	7 900

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 920	16 030
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.51	+2.20
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.79
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.79
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.62	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+1.65
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.31	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+1.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.53	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.22	+1.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	+1.04	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.51

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

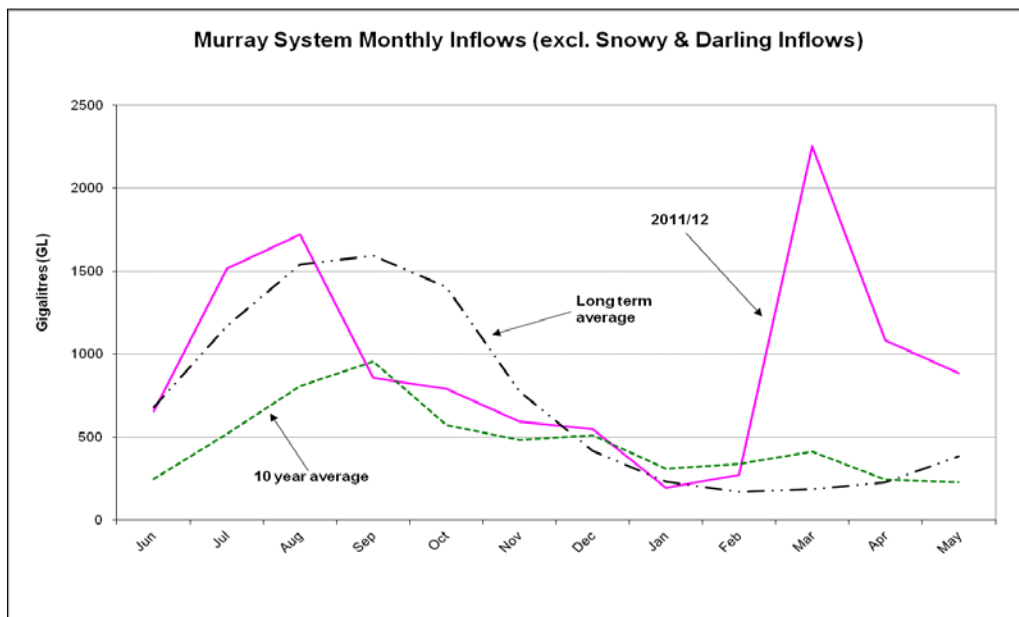
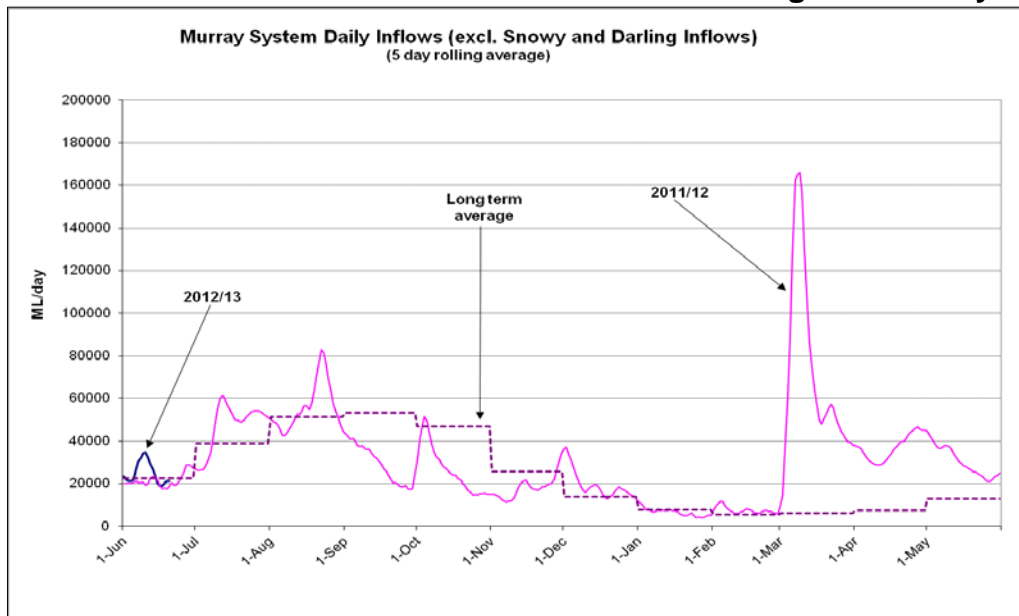
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.55
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.53	50	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.48	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	70	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.60	85	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 20 Jun 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/>