



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 04 JULY 2012

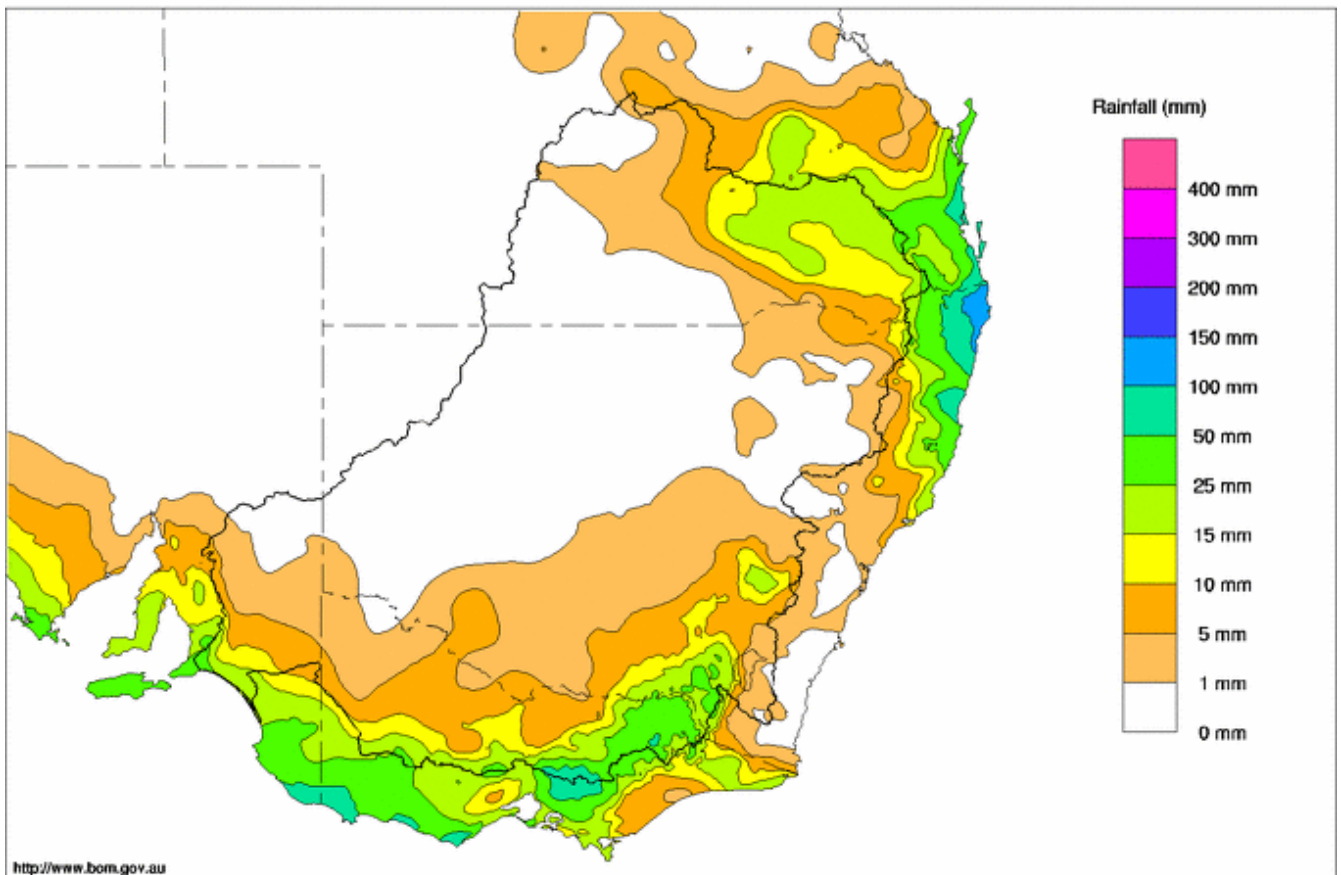
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Rainfall and Inflows

Cold weather has continued to affect the Murray-Darling Basin with precipitation following a similar spatial pattern to last week but with generally lower totals. A lingering trough brought rain to south-east Queensland while a slow moving low generated rain and highland snow across the south. Highest totals in Victoria included 40 mm at both Woods Point and Dohertys. In NSW, there was around 40 mm across the Snowy Mountains and 31 mm at Tumbarumba, and in Queensland's upper Condamine catchment there was 41 mm recorded at The Head. Across most western and north-western areas of NSW and Queensland conditions remained dry (Map 1).

Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries have held up over the week following the rain. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara has varied between 1,800 and 2,300 ML/day, while downstream at Jingellic, flows have varied under the influence of releases for power generation by Snowy Hydro. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point peaked at 5,600 ML/day and remains at 5,400 ML/day, while on the King River the flow at Cheshunt has averaged just over 1,100 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 4th July 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 04/07/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 4 July 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

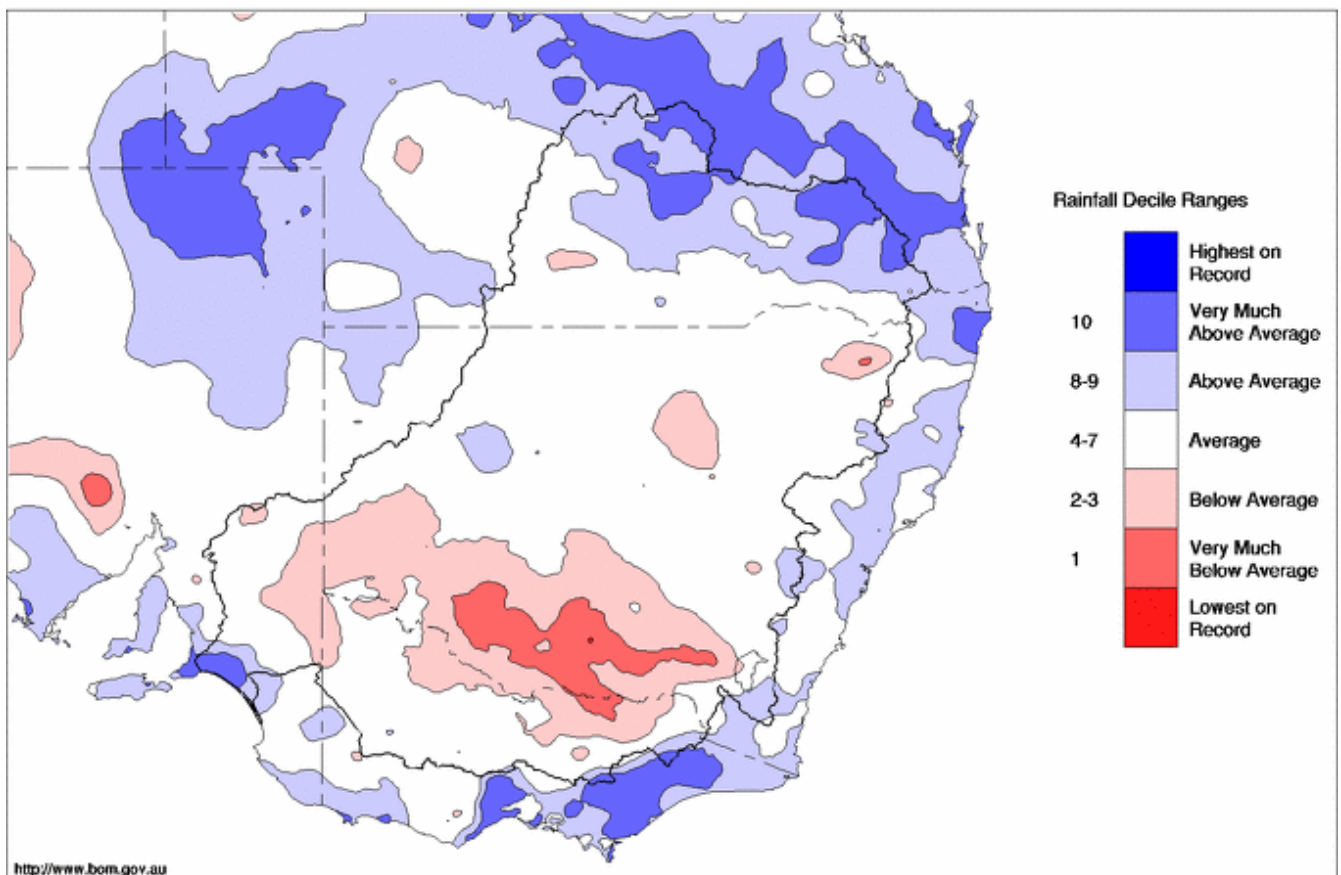


June Summary

Rainfall for June was close to the average for large parts of the Basin with the Bureau of Meteorology reporting a total of 35.0 mm across the region (4% above the mean). Areas that received higher than average rain lay mostly around the Basin fringe. These areas included several of the upper catchments of both the Darling and River Murray systems where 'above average' and 'very much above average' rain was recorded. Wet conditions also affected the upper Goulburn River catchment, and for the second month in a row, there was 'above average' to 'very much above average' rain over the Lower Lakes in South Australia. In contrast to this, conditions were quite dry over northern Victoria and very dry across the NSW Riverina including a small pocket with rainfall that was 'lowest on record' (Map 2). This dry weather follows below average rain for May across the Riverina and over the three months from April to June most districts in the south-west of the Basin recorded 'very much below average' rain.

June inflows to the River Murray system (excluding Darling River and Snowy inflows) totalled about 830 GL. This is slightly above the long-term average of around 700 GL and was the highest June system inflow since 1995.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2012
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



http://www.bom.gov.au © Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology ID code: AWAP Issued: 03/07/2012

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for June 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 56 GL during the week to 7,985 GL (93% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 23 GL to 3,365 GL, which is 87% capacity.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 17 GL to 2,883 GL (96% capacity) and the release has been reduced to 9,500 ML/day. Releases are now being managed to slowly increase the storage level following the latest review of the airspace target, which has been reduced due to the latest short and medium term rainfall forecasts. Operations are currently aiming to increase the storage to around 97% capacity by mid July (70-80 GL of airspace) however this target may change again and airspace re-gained if higher rainfall is forecast over the coming weeks.

Downstream at Yarrowonga, the pool level in Lake Mulwala has remained fairly steady throughout the week and is currently 124.73 m AHD. NSW has advised of an early start to the irrigation season with channel filling via Mulwala Canal to begin next week. Release from Yarrowonga Weir is fairly steady at 20,000 ML/day and is expected to remain close to this rate over the coming days.

Downstream at Barmah, the river is continuing to rise with over-bank flows passing into the Barmah-Millewa forest. The flow at Barmah gauge is now 9,200 ML/day and is expected to exceed 10,000 ML/day during the week ahead.

On the Edward-Wakool system, about 2,200 ML/day is passing through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes, while downstream at Toonalook the flow has increased to 5,500 ML/day and is expected to exceed 6,000 ML/day this week. At Stevens Weir, the weir pool has increased to 4.42 m on the local gauge and the downstream release is 2,800 ML/day, with 440 ML/day being passed through the Yallakool offtake and 840 ML/day through the Colligen Creek offtake. Downstream on the Edward River at Moulamein the river is still falling slowly however renewed rises are expected in just a day or two once higher flows arrive from upstream.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys has continued rising during the week and is now at 10,800 ML/day. Goulburn-Murray Water advises that the flow is expected to increase beyond 13,000 ML/day in about a week's time. At Torrumbarry Weir the pool has been lowered to 85.74 m AHD or 31 cm below the normal operating level in order to manage higher flows. The pool will be temporarily lowered further in the coming days. The flow has now reached 18,200 ML/day at Torrumbarry and will continue to steadily increase with a flow peak close to 22,000 ML/day likely in the week ahead.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has crept up slowly but is now fairly steady at around 9,500 ML/day. At Euston Weir, the flow is also increasing and should exceed 20,000 ML/day in a day or two with further rises over the next two weeks taking flows towards 30,000 ML/day. To assist with these higher flows, the pool level at Euston will be lowered by about 30 cm during the coming week and the level will be operated in a range between 47.6 m AHD (Full Supply Level) and 47.3 m AHD (0.3m below FSL) over the next few months (see attached media release).

At Menindee Lakes, the storage increased by 9 GL, and the lakes remain surcharged at 1,927 GL (111% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, returned to the normal minimum for surcharged conditions of 500 ML/day early in the week. However, the release will now be pulsed to provide a variable flow several hundred ML/day above and below the target to help maintain water quality along the lower Darling River.

At Lake Victoria the rate of filling has been slowed further in line with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy as there are now sufficient flows in transit to enable a later filling date. The storage increased by just 7 GL to 484 GL (71% capacity). The flow at Wentworth has remained fairly steady over the last few days at around 17,000 ML/day and the flow to South Australia has increased to 21,000 ML/day but should remain fairly steady over the next few days.



Figure 1 - On-going releases through the Barrages have maintained flows into the Coorong and out the Murray Mouth (above). Photo: Bryce Buchanan, SA Water. 16 May 2012.

The flow over Lock 1 is currently 21,700 ML/day and the 5-day average level at the Lower Lakes has risen to 0.65 m AHD (0.10 cm below FSL). On-going inflows to the Lower Lakes and recent local rain have resulted in a continuing slow decline in salinity levels in Lake Albert with values below 4,000 EC recorded for several days this week. Water flowing through the Barrages has also maintained flows into the Coorong and out to sea via the Murray Mouth (Figure 1).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 04 Jul 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	478.20	3 365	87%	71	3 294	+23
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.39	2 883	96%	23	2 860	+17
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.33	484	71%	100	384	+7
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 927	111%	(480 #)	1 447	+9
Total		9 269		8 659	93%	--	7 985	+56
Total Active MDBA Storage							93% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	969	94%	3	966	+12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 547	95%	24	1 523	+6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 007	90%	100	2 907	+11

* 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 03 Jul 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 378	-25	Snowy-Murray	+28	200
Snowy-Murray Component	912	-20	Tooma-Tumut	+1	37
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	27	163
			Murray 1 Release	+36	244

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.3	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.2	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	0
Licensed Pumps	1.7	1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.8	0
TOTAL	1.7	1	TOTAL	1.9	0

* 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	108.5 *
Flow this week	137.8
Flow so far this month	82.1
Flow last month	642.1

(19 700 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	120	120
Euston	150	150	140
Red Cliffs	330	270	160
Merbein	170	180	140
Burtundy (Darling)	390	390	350
Lock 9	170	180	190
Lake Victoria	290	290	230
Berri	280	300	260
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	360	390	290
Mannum	440	430	300
Murray Bridge	520	460	310
Milang (Lake Alex.)	440	490	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	360	340	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 920	3 960	4 850
Goolwa Barrages	7090	6060	1 950



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 04 Jul 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	-	-	-	8 940	F	6 210	7 900
Jingellic	4.0	2.71	209.23	13 940	R	10 850	11 760
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.74	219.63	6 420	R	2 200	1 060
Heywoods	5.5	2.55	156.18	9 500	F	10 670	12 710
Doctors Point	5.5	2.81	151.28	12 530	R	13 050	14 910
Albury	4.3	1.78	149.22	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.87	128.89	13 150	R	13 200	13 250
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.87	117.91	20 370	R	21 250	17 010
Tocumwal	6.4	3.48	107.32	19 590	F	21 220	12 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.17	83.71	18 190	R	16 280	9 560
Swan Hill	4.5	2.73	65.65	15 540	R	11 380	8 170
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.41	53.53	14 100	R	11 580	9 820
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.12	44.96	19 430	R	17 730	15 050
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	17 130	F	17 420	14 960
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.95	28.71	16 910	F	17 050	15 810
Rufus Junction	-	5.19	22.12	19 500	R	18 250	13 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.49	-	21 660	R	20 240	18 020
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.61	155.84	3 330	R	2 590	2 210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.98	147.66	7 010	F	6 640	7 150
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.85	97.27	10 830	R	10 850	3 580
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.48	82.25	2 760	F	1 530	320
Edward at Liewah	-	1.29	56.67	690	F	760	890
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.34	54.83	270	S	280	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.48	61.44	9 480	S	9 400	8 440
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	30	F	60	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.44	-	2 580	F	2 630	2 550
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.68	-	2 520	F	2 870	3 860

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 370	11 100
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.54	+2.90
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.31	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+1.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.28	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+1.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.78	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+1.92
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.09	+1.31	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.06	+1.39
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.56	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+1.30
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+1.15	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.74

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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Barrages

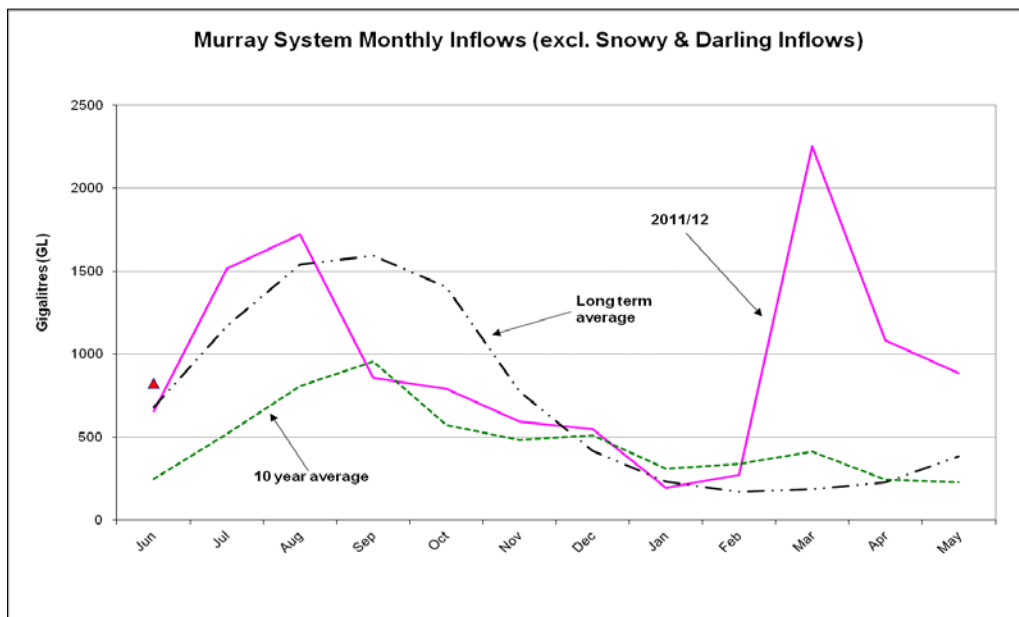
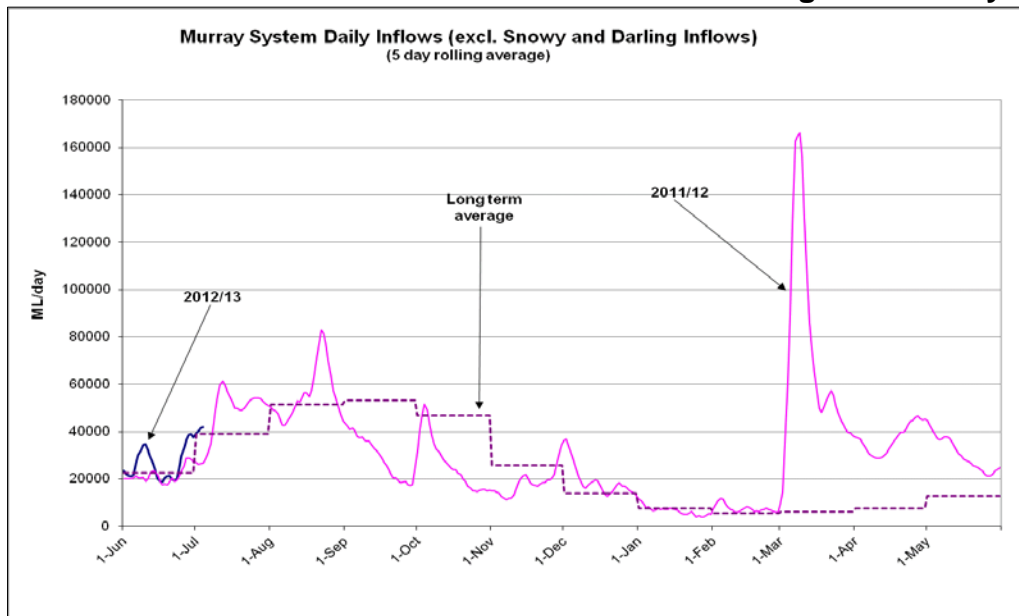
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	6	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.70	10	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 04 Jul 2012



State Allocations (as at 04 Jul 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	56%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	26%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	61%
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



29 June 2012

Euston Weir pool lowered

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has begun a temporary lowering of Euston Weir pool.

This will assist in operation of the weir as higher flows pass during winter and spring.

The level immediately upstream of the weir is expected to be lowered by up to 0.3 m over the next week.

The lowering of the weir will not result in a significant rise in downstream river levels.

It is expected that the level of the weir pool will vary between Full Supply Level (47.6 m AHD) and 0.3 m below Full Supply Level (47.3 m AHD) over the next few months.

River pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will continue to issue further advice via the MDBA's Weekly Report, which can be viewed at www.mdba.gov.au.

ENDS

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

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