



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2012

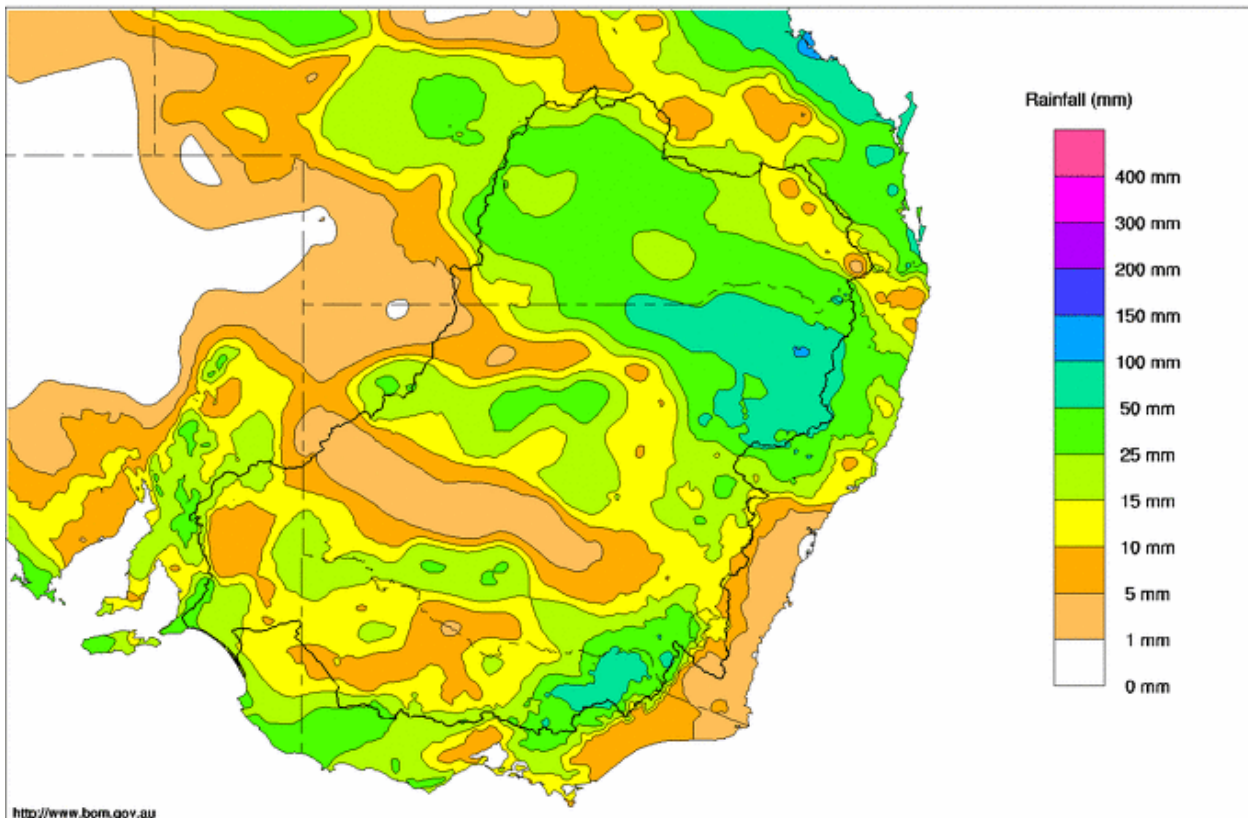
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall continued across the Murray-Darling Basin this week with catchments in the south-east and across north-eastern NSW particularly affected. The rain resulted from the passage of a complex trough system with a series of trailing fronts maintaining precipitation across the south-east ranges over the ensuing days. Highest totals fell across the upper McIntyre, Gwydir, Namoi and Macquarie catchments including 117 mm at Inverell, 112 mm at Granite Heights, 100 mm at Bingara, 91 mm at Guyra, 77 mm at Moree Airport and 71 mm at Coonabarabran. In north-eastern Victoria totals included 91 mm at Mt Buller, 87 mm at Mt Tabletop, 84 mm at Whitlands and 83 mm at Cheshunt, while further west, there were totals up to around 80 mm over the Grampian Ranges.

The persistent rain has resulted in flows building further across the upper Murray system as well as a rise in flows along several of the NSW Darling River tributaries. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic peaked at 22,000 ML/day and remains above 20,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point peaked at 17,200 ML/day and remains above 15,000 ML/day; and at Wangaratta the flow peaked above the minor flood level at 27,400 ML/day and has fallen only slightly since then. Strong responses in both the Kiewa and King Rivers have also contributed to system inflows and resulted in minor flooding at both Bandiana and Docker Road. Responses along the Darling River tributaries in north-eastern NSW have resulted in minor to moderate flooding at several sites on the Namoi and Gwydir Rivers. On the Gwydir, the flow at Pallamallawa peaked at over 33,000 ML/day and on the Namoi flows over 30,000 ML/day were reported at both Gunnedah and Boggabri. For information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th July 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 18 July 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 83 GL this week to 8,129 GL which is 95% of capacity and the highest active storage since October 1996 (see Figure 1).

Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found via the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.

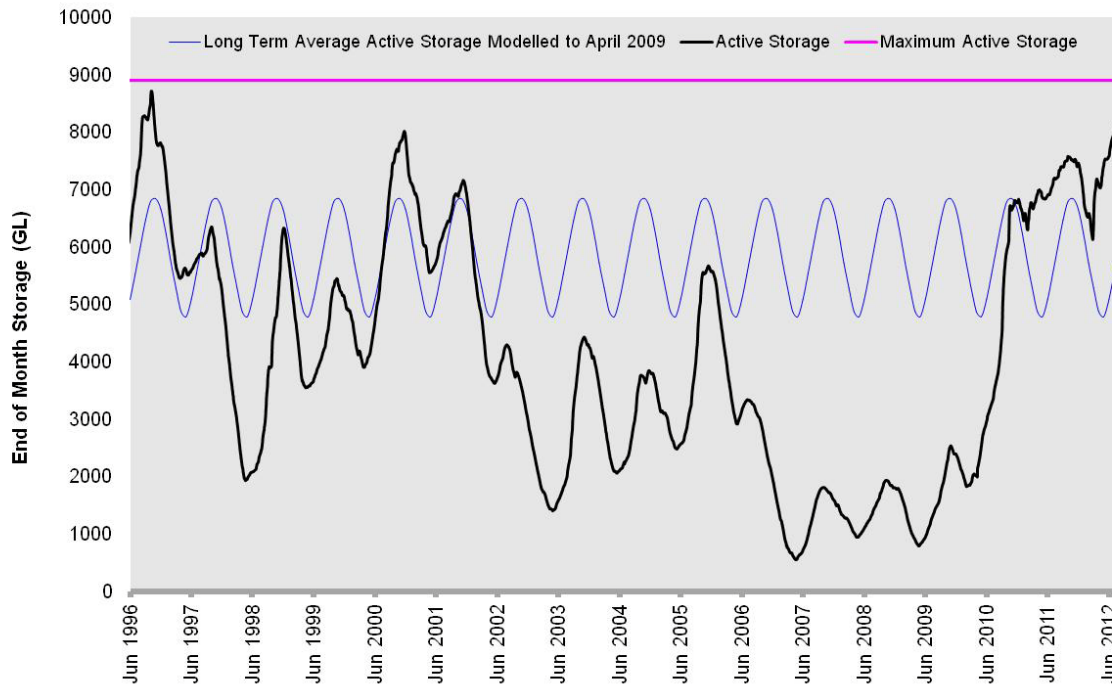


Figure 1 - MDBA active storage since June 1996.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, total storage rose by 57 GL to 3,439 GL (89% capacity) due to the increased inflows which peaked at around 10,000 ML/day over the weekend. At Hume Reservoir, peak inflows of around 32,000 ML/day arrived at the storage during Sunday and Monday. Total storage is now 2,929 GL (97 % capacity), a rise of 19 GL from last week. Release from Hume Reservoir reached 30,000 ML/day on Sunday and is currently being reduced as inflows recede. The level of Hume is currently being lowered to similar levels observed last week to provide limited airspace for flood mitigation.

The increased release from Hume Reservoir and higher inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers have led to peak inflows at Lake Mulwala of around 55,000 ML/day. At the time of writing the release from Yarrowonga Weir was 53,000 ML/day, which is expected to be close to the peak release. The release is expected to remain above 20,000 ML/day for at least another 10 days if the prolonged recessions in the upper tributaries continue as anticipated. The pool level is currently 124.76 m AHD and is expected to remain in the target range of 124.6 to 124.9 m AHD during this event.

Downstream on the Edward River, flows at Toonalook have been relatively steady at around 6,200 ML/day during the week but will increase as the higher flows arrive from upstream. Similarly, at Deniliquin, flows will rise during the coming week with peak flows expected to exceed 10,000 ML/day in late July. At Stevens Weir, the release has been steady at around 4,500 ML/day and the pool level has increased by 8 cm to 4.74 m. In the Wakool River at the Barham-Moulamein road, flows have increased from 100 to 700 ML/day in the last week and continued rises will occur in the Wakool over the coming weeks.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, flows have increased from around 14,000 to around 19,000 ML/day which is near the expected peak flow of about 21,000 ML/day. The Goulburn waters will combine with those from the Murray and at Torrumbarry Weir release is expected to exceed 30,000 ML/day over the coming weekend. At Torrumbarry Weir the gates are being lifted clear of the water in



order to allow free flow conditions for fish and to clear debris from the gates which has built up with the higher flows this week. In order to achieve this, the pool level immediately upstream of the weir will be temporarily lowered over the next 3-5 days, however with high flows, there should be little observable change in the upper weir pool level. Overbank flows have been entering the Koondrook-Perricoota Forest for over a week, and with the high flows past Torrumbarry expected into August, forest outflows will increase and contribute to higher flows in the Wakool River over the coming weeks.

On the Murrumbidgee River, release from Burrinjuck dam peaked at 12,000 ML/day on 17 July and is now at around 8,000 ML/day. Downstream at Gundagai, the flow is now a little over 20,000 ML/day. These flows mean that high flows now at Balranald (currently around 10,000 ML/day) will persist for several weeks to come. At Euston Weir the flow increased from 25,000 to 30,000 ML/day and is expected to rise steadily during the coming week.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes is now 1,966 GL (114% capacity), up 18 GL from last week and is expected to continue slowly increasing during the coming week. The release is currently targeting an average daily release of 500 ML/day, however, with renewed stream rises in several Barwon-Darling tributaries, it is likely that modest releases above minimums will be required in the coming months. Downstream of the lakes at Burtundy, the flow continued to fall gradually during the week, with a reduction from 2,250 to 2,000 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the level continues to be slowly decreased, as there is sufficient water in transit to enable a delay in the filling of Lake Victoria. The total storage has decreased this week by 11 GL to 469 GL (69% capacity). The flow to South Australia rose from around 26,000 to 31,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to continue gradually increasing in the coming days.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina increased to 0.79 m AHD and will be held around this level for the next 7-10 days as part of an on-going operation strategy to decrease salinity levels in Lake Albert. Salinity in Lake Albert has now remained at or below 4,000 EC units since the beginning of July.

Plots showing short term forecast flows and levels for selected key sites are updated each week and are available on the MDBA website at: [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/river\\_flows](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/river_flows).

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

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Executive Director, River Management





**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 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	479.42	3 439	89%	71	3 368	+57
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.62	2 929	97%	23	2 906	+19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.21	469	69%	100	369	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 966	114%	(480 #)	1 486	+18
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 803</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 129</b>	<b>+83</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							95% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	992	97%	3	989	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 571	96%	24	1 547	+31
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 071	92%	100	2 971	+58

\* 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 17 Jul 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 337	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+23	264
Snowy-Murray Component	871	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+9	51
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	15	212
			Murray 1 Release	+30	316

**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)	8.8	10	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.9	7
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	1
Licensed Pumps	0.2	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>11</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	108.5 *
Flow this week	210.4
Flow so far this month	453.6
Flow last month	642.1

(30 100 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	80	80	120
Euston	130	130	140
Red Cliffs	130	160	170
Merbein	130	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	390	380	350
Lock 9	110	140	190
Lake Victoria	280	280	230
Berri	230	250	260
Waikerie	270	320	290
Morgan	270	280	290
Mannum	320	350	300
Murray Bridge	380	410	310
Milang (Lake Alex.)	470	480	550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	460	440	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 900	3 930	4 810
Goolwa Barrages	870	950	1 940



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 18 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	-	-	-	5 680	F	6 390	7 740
Jingellic	4.0	3.29	209.81	20 300	R	19 840	11 840
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.26	219.15	3 240	F	2 890	1 990
Heywoods	5.5	4.15	157.78	30 000	S	26 400	11 890
Doctors Point	5.5	4.65	153.12	34 740	F	32 030	14 570
Albury	4.3	3.86	151.30	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	5.02	131.04	31 380	R	24 750	12 970
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.88	119.92	45 050	R	31 790	19 760
Tocumwal	6.4	4.78	108.62	35 070	R	25 860	19 590
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.44	84.98	26 530	R	24 740	20 580
Swan Hill	4.5	3.35	66.27	19 730	R	19 040	17 050
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.03	55.15	22 850	R	21 170	17 190
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.25	46.09	30 260	R	27 730	22 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	27 490	F	23 340	21 720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.64	29.40	30 800	R	26 710	19 340
Rufus Junction	-	6.11	23.04	31 380	R	29 830	21 540
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.99	-	27 920	R	25 350	20 890
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.89	156.12	5 140	F	5 470	2 660
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	12.08	149.76	26 630	F	20 590	5 600
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.99	99.41	18 940	R	16 220	13 160
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.29	83.06	4 560	F	4 450	4 120
Edward at Liewah	-	3.30	58.68	3 030	R	2 550	860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.35	55.85	2 450	R	1 620	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.59	61.55	10 090	S	10 070	9 660
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.33	-	320	F	310	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.44	-	2 580	S	2 460	2 270
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.40	-	1 950	F	2 180	2 260

Natural Inflow to Hume	34 790	11 540
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(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

**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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.92	+3.77
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+1.87
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.30	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+1.66
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+1.54	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+2.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+2.00	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+2.07
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.99	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+2.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.14	+1.86	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.00	+1.24

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.79
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**Barrages**

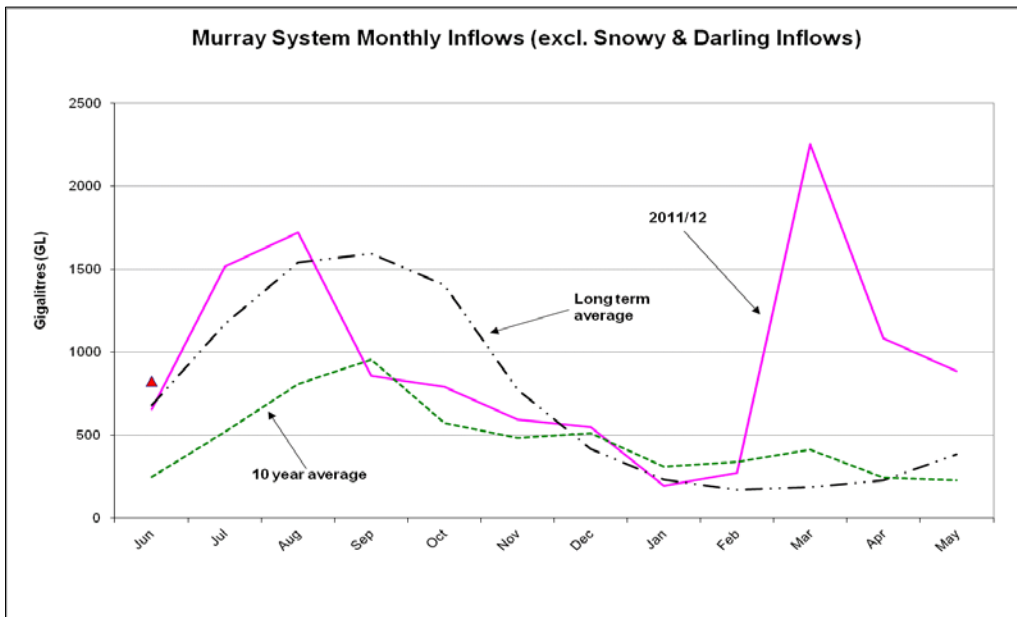
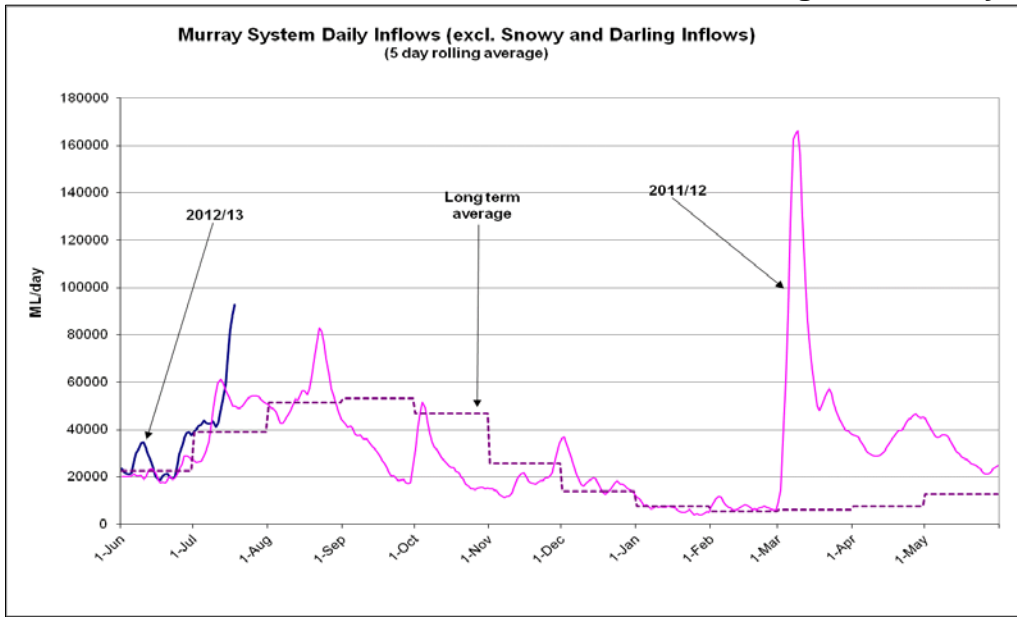
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	15	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.69	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	36	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	40	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 18 Jul 2012



State Allocations (as at 18 Jul 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	34%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	74%
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/>