



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2012

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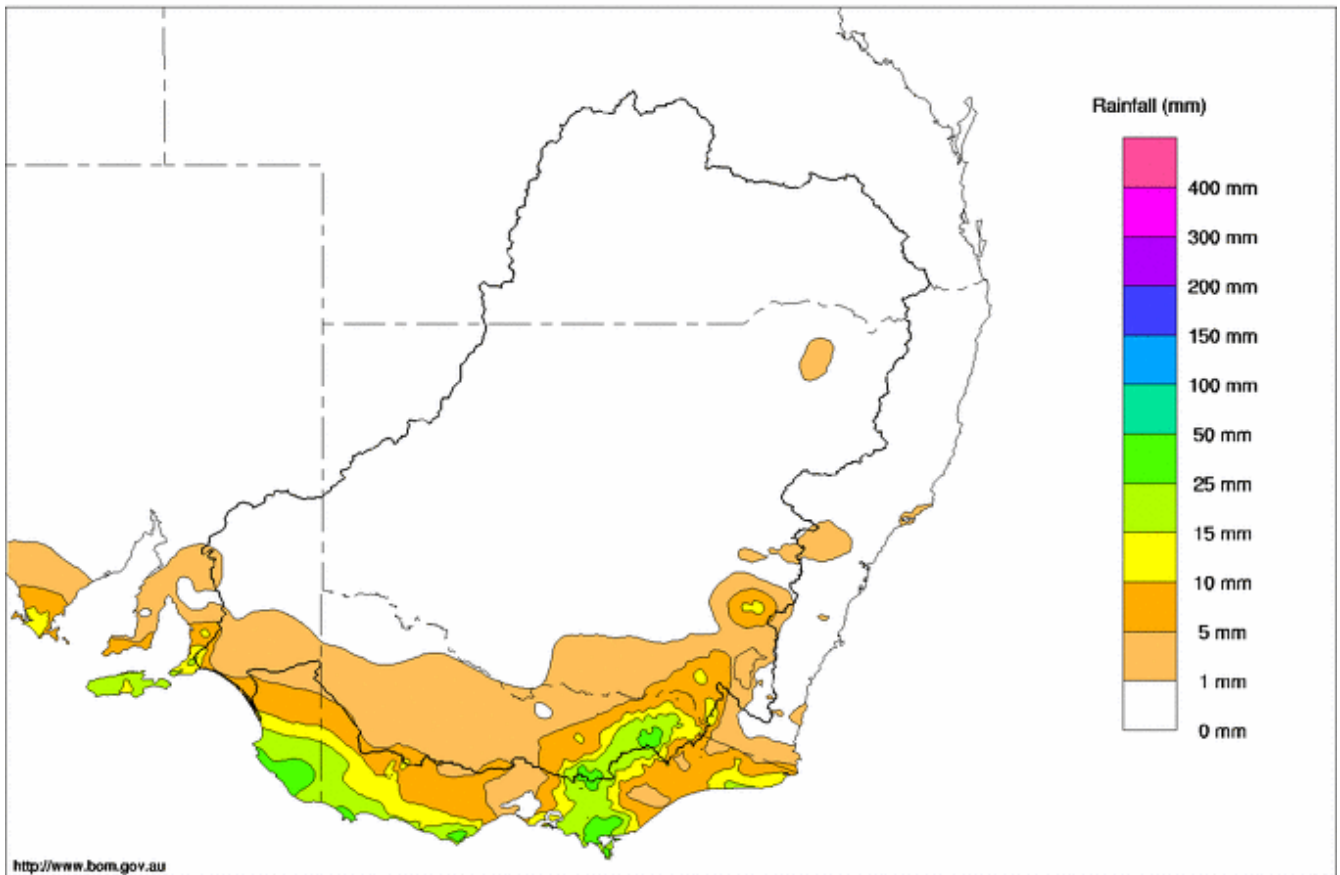
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was confined to southern areas of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with a ridge of high pressure to the north and a series of weak cold fronts bringing winter westerlies and showers to the south. Precipitation was heaviest over the south-east ranges with only light falls recorded elsewhere (Map 1). Highest totals were relatively modest, including 31 mm at Mt Buller, 29 mm at Bright and 26 mm at Woods Point. There were similar totals over the NSW Snowy Mountains; while in Victoria's Grampian Ranges Mt William recorded 27 mm.

Flows in the upper Murray tributaries are generally lower than a week ago, however small peaks were observed over the last few days. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara has been fairly steady, averaging 2,100 ML/day this week compared with 2,400 ML/day during the previous week. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point peaked at 4,600 ML/day on 6 August, but is now flowing at 3,800 ML/day, which is the lowest flow observed since 10 July.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke is currently peaking at around 15,600 ML/day. At Wilcannia, the flow has reached 9,400 ML/day and is expected to continue rising during the next 7-10 days.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 8th August 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 08 August 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



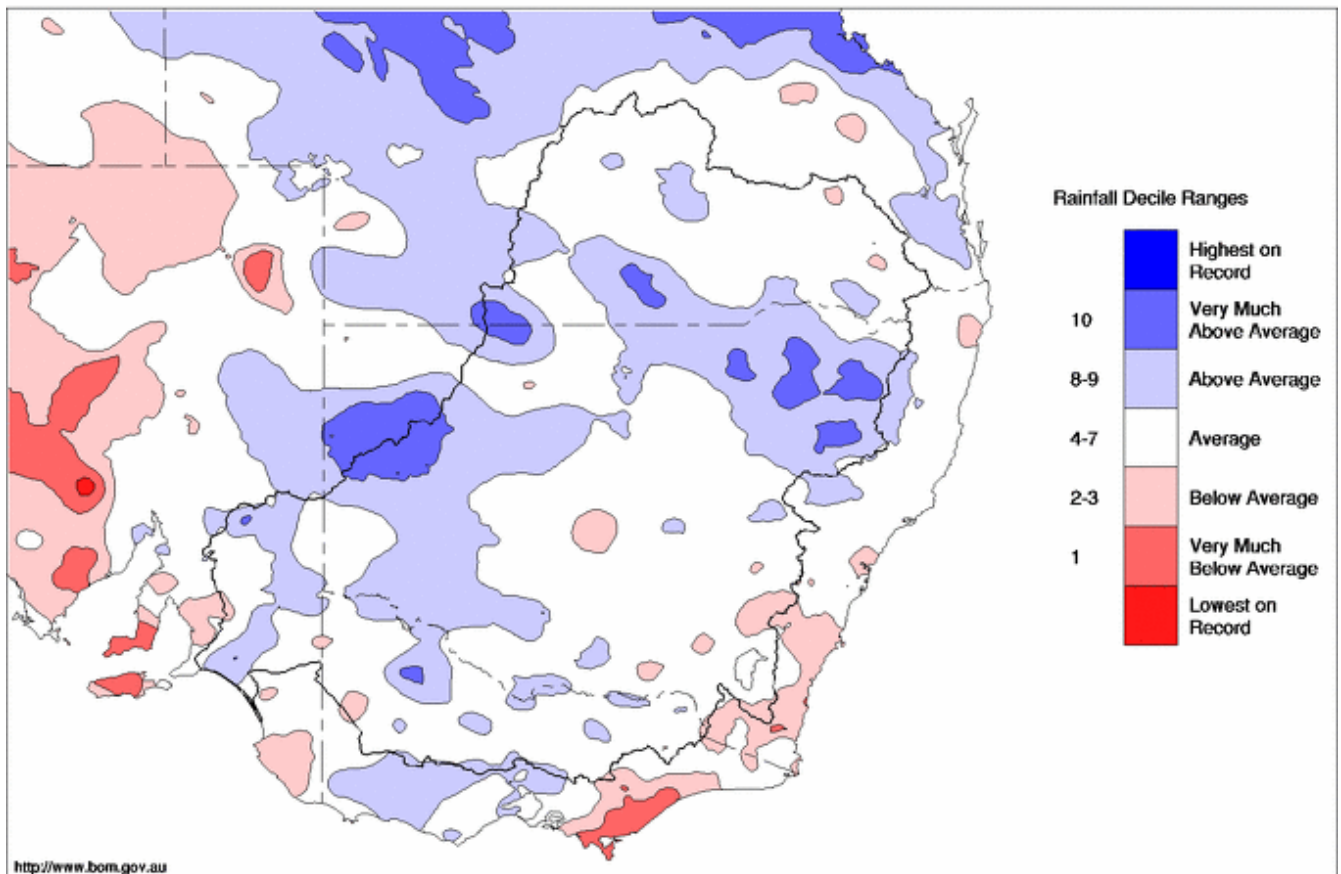
July Summary

Rainfall for July was close to the average for most of the Basin with the Bureau of Meteorology reporting a total of 42.3 mm for the region as a whole (6% above the mean). Upper catchments in the south and south-east received rainfall mostly close to average, with above average to 'very much above average' rain across parts of north-eastern NSW and in the far west. Very few areas recorded rainfall that was significantly below the long-term average (Map 2). Daytime temperatures for the month were generally slightly above the average, although some areas in the western Basin experienced cooler than average nights.

July inflows to the River Murray system (excluding Darling River and Snowy inflows) totalled about 1,900 GL. This is above the long-term average of around 1,200 GL and, like June, is the month's highest system inflow since 1995. The high inflows were mostly the result of heavy rain over the upper catchments during the second week of the month that generated strong streamflow responses. On-going high flows along the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers have also added to the total.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles July 2012

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 27 GL this week to 8,183 GL (95% of capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage went up by 14 GL to 3,510 GL (91% capacity). Inflows averaged around 2,900 ML/day. The release from Dartmouth continued above minimums, with a flow of around 1,000 ML/day (measured at Colemans) throughout the week due to entitlement releases by AGL Hydro for electricity generation.

At Hume Reservoir, total storage is now 2,944 GL (98% capacity), 29 GL more than last week. Inflow eased slightly this week, averaging around 15,900 ML/day. Releases averaged 11,700 ML/day during



the week but will be increased over the coming weekend to near channel capacity (25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point). This will increase airspace in Hume storage ahead of a rain event that is currently forecast to occur mid to late next week. 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>.

At Yarrawonga Weir, diversions at both Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel have increased to a combined total of around 3,000 ML/day. The level of Lake Mulwala is currently 124.70 m AHD. The release downstream of the Weir decreased from 29,500 to 17,500 ML/day as inflows receded but will increase again over the coming week due to higher releases from Hume.

Downstream at the Barmah-Millewa forest, water levels have peaked and are now slowly receding. On the Edward River, the flow measured at Deniliquin is currently 13,000 ML/day after peaking at 18,500 ML/day on 1 August. At Stevens Weir the flow has receded from a peak of 12,100 ML/day to around 9,000 ML/day and the gates are still clear of the water. Diversions through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes have also fallen away with a current total diversion close to 3,500 ML/day compared with the peak rate of around 6,100 ML/day. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite has increased to 13,400 ML/day and is expected to continue rising to a peak expected in around a week's time.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys Bridge peaked on 4 August at around 17,500 ML/day and is now falling. Releases from Eildon Reservoir have been reduced and water is being diverted to Waranga Basin. Without further rain, the flow at McCoys Bridge is expected to reduce to around 6,000 ML/day by the end of the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow reached a broad peak late in the week of around 35,500 ML/day. The flow is now starting to recede and the weir gates, which are still clear of the water, will be reinstated later in the coming week.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald continues to creep up and is currently 10,700 ML/day. Inflows from the Murrumbidgee River will continue flowing strongly while upstream demands remain low and inflows are being passed through the main headwater storages at Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams. At Euston Weir the flow in the River Murray is now 38,000 ML/day with flows above 40,000 ML/day expected during the middle of August.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes is 1,971 GL (114% capacity), a decrease of just 2 GL from last week. Inflows increased during the week and will continue to do so for around two weeks. In response, releases from Menindee Lakes have increased to 4,000 ML/day (measured at Weir 32). The flow to the Great Darling Anabranch has also been increased, with a flow of around 2,000 ML/day being released via the Cawndilla Outlet (see attached media release issued by NSW Office of Water). Downstream on the lower Darling, the flow at Burtundy eased to a low of around 1,400 ML/day but has since increased to 1,900 ML/day and is expected to continue rising over the next few weeks.

At Lake Victoria, the volume decreased by 13 GL this week and is now at 432 GL (64% capacity). The storage level will continue to fall for a few more days before rising again, when higher flows arrive from upstream. The current flow to South Australia is 38,800 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this level over the coming weeks unless there is significant rainfall.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina has decreased to 0.75 m AHD. The level is expected to decrease further over the next two weeks to assist in drawing higher salinity water from Lake Albert.

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.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 08 Aug 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	480.57	3 510	91%	71	3 439	+14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.69	2 944	98%	23	2 921	+29
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.86	432	64%	100	332	-13
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 971	114%	(480 #)	1 491	-2
Total		9 269		8 857	96%	--	8 183	+27
Total Active MDBA Storage							95% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 004	98%	3	1 001	+8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 597	98%	24	1 573	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 051	92%	100	2 951	-8

* 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 07 Aug 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 251	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+38	358
Snowy-Murray Component	796	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+6	78
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversions	32	280
			Murray 1 Release	+40	430

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)	12.3	37	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7	24
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	1
Licensed Pumps	1.1	4	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	0
Lower Darling	11.5	15	Licensed pumps - LMW	1	6
TOTAL	25.0	56	TOTAL	8.3	31

* 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	124.0 *	
Flow this week	268.6	(38 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	305.1	
Flow last month	911.4	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	110	110
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	120	110	110
Merbein	110	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	400	400	400
Lock 9	100	100	100
Lake Victoria	250	270	270
Berri	200	200	200
Waikerie	240	230	230
Morgan	230	230	230
Mannum	220	220	230
Murray Bridge	250	250	260
Milang (Lake Alex.)	450	480	480
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	290	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 790	3 740	3 750
Goolwa Barrages	520	550	570



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 08 Aug 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	-	-	-	8 080	F	6 660	8 080
Jingellic	4.0	2.59	209.11	12 850	R	12 030	13 490
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.00	218.89	2 060	F	2 170	2 550
Heywoods	5.5	2.63	156.26	10 650	S	11 710	17 630
Doctors Point	5.5	2.86	151.33	13 110	F	14 310	21 050
Albury	4.3	1.86	149.30	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.08	129.10	14 620	S	16 180	23 190
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.73	117.77	18 990	F	23 860	34 990
Tocumwal	6.4	3.66	107.50	21 570	F	27 410	41 540
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.11	85.65	35 550	S	35 170	32 360
Swan Hill	4.5	3.65	66.57	21 950	S	21 750	21 080
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.31	56.43	31 980	R	29 800	26 510
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.96	46.80	38 000	R	36 630	34 250
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	36 590	F	36 590	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.06	29.82	38 400	R	37 650	35 490
Rufus Junction	-	6.49	23.42	38 790	R	38 370	36 210
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.54	-	36 000	F	35 520	34 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.24	155.47	2 540	F	2 500	2 940
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.71	147.39	5 880	F	6 210	8 400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.01	98.43	14 290	F	16 490	16 490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.96	84.73	9 770	S	11 180	10 470
Edward at Liewah	-	4.44	59.82	5 450	R	4 690	3 480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.24	57.73	9 100	R	7 290	4 670
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.71	61.67	10 710	S	10 650	10 510
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	-	580	R	570	1 440
Darling at Bourke	-	6.35	-	15 560	R	14 760	9 450
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.37	-	1 910	R	1 570	1 760

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 870	10 400
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.32	+4.17
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.37	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.13	+2.31
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.16	+2.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+2.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+3.12
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+2.42	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.10	+2.50
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	+1.53	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+2.66
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+2.48	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.11	+1.79

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

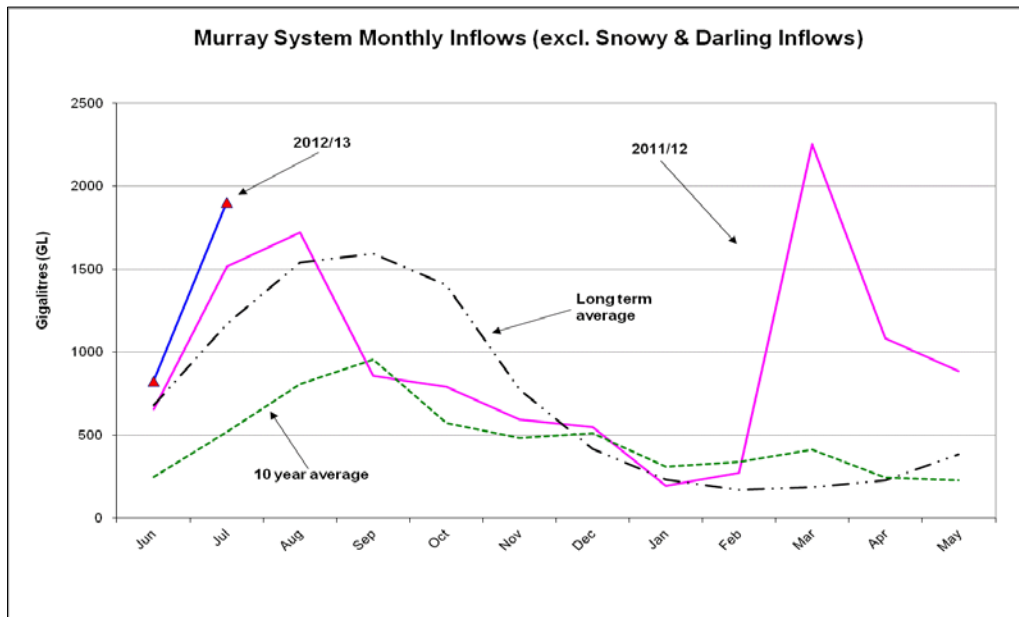
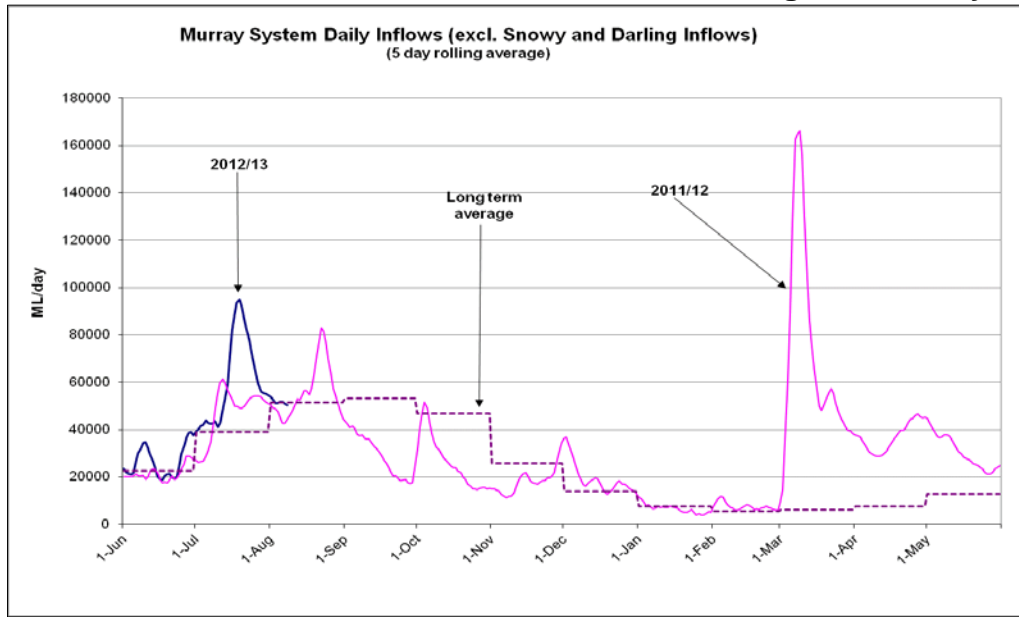
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.75
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	70	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.67	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.72	83	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 08 Aug 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	41%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	88%
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/>

Wednesday, 8 August 2012

Updated flow Advice for Lower Darling River

The NSW Office of Water today advised landowners and communities downstream of the Menindee Lakes that flows would increase to the Great Darling Anabranh from Lake Cawndilla.

The current releases to the Lower Darling River at Weir 32 will remain unchanged at 4000 megalitres per day with a height of 2.38 meters (at Weir 32).

“With the Cawndilla outlet now fully open, flushing flows through the lakes system will provide improved water quality benefits.”

“These flows are also an opportunity to draw water off the Lake Wetherell floodplain to enable it to dry, before refilling the lake to maximum surcharge volumes from forecast inflows.”

Currently, 4,000 megalitres per day is being released to the Lower Darling at Weir 32 and almost 2,000 megalitres per day, is flowing from Lake Cawndilla into the Great Darling Anabranh.

“These releases are likely to continue over the next few weeks.”

Mr Harriss said that the maximum releases for this event will be well within the channel capacity of the Lower Darling River, which is about 9,000 megalitres per day or 4.70 metres gauge height.

“The NSW Office of Water is monitoring river flows in the Barwon-Darling and further advice regarding expected flows will be issued by Wednesday 15 August 2012.”

The NSW Office of Water has produced a summary report describing the management of the significant floods in the Barwon-Darling River earlier this year.

A copy of this report is now available on the Office of Water’s website:
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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