



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2012

Trim Ref: D12/34377

## Rainfall and Inflows

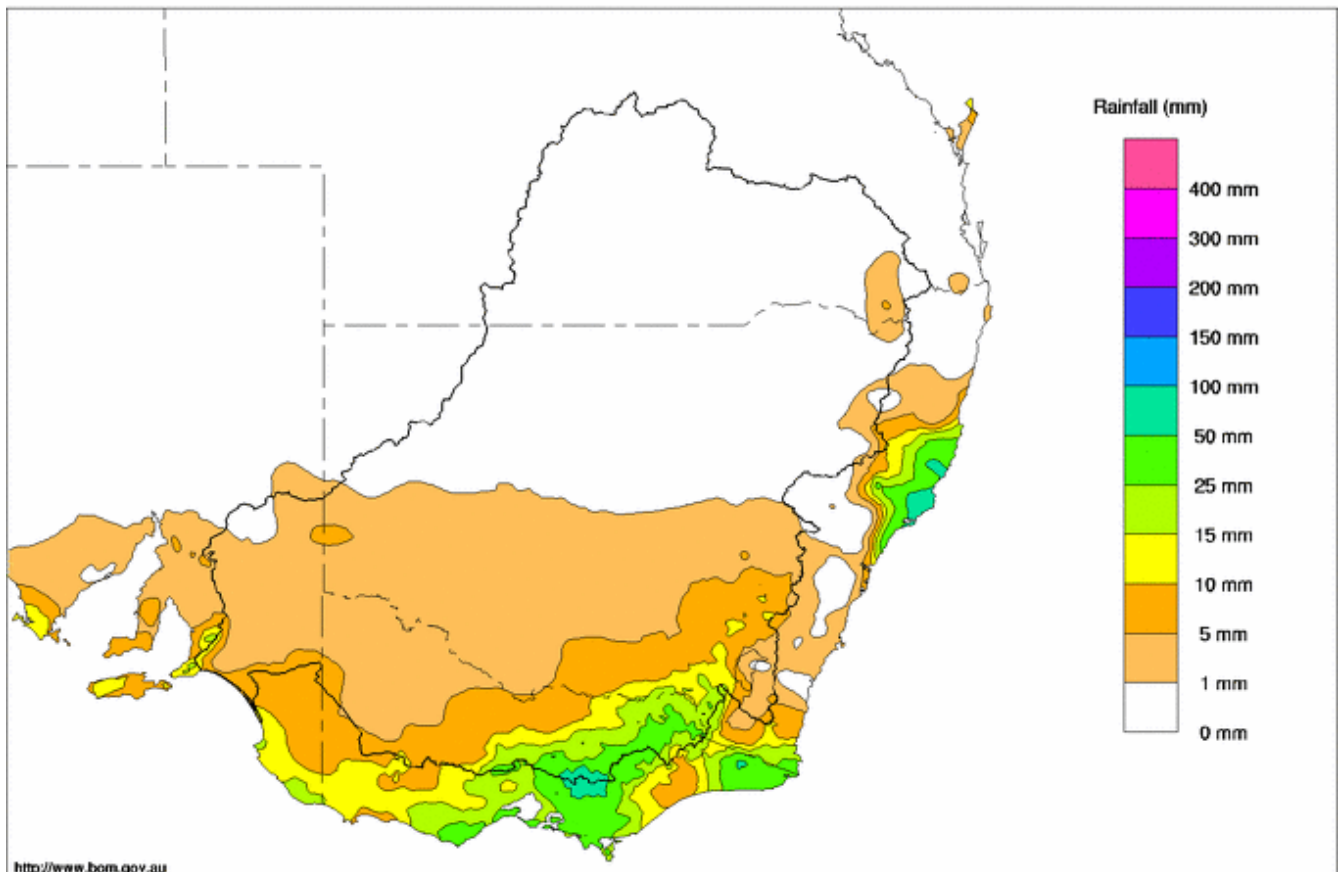
Rain fell over the south-east ranges once again this week following a cold front that generated showers and fresh southerly winds. There was only light rain away from the upper catchments and little or no rain recorded over northern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin (Map 1). Highest totals fell over the upper Goulburn River catchment and included 48 mm at Woods Point, 47 mm at Mt Buller and 35 mm at Jamieson. Other notable totals included 32 mm at Hunters Hill, 28 mm at Wrightley and 25 mm at Falls Creek. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting further rain over south-eastern areas in the coming days.

The rain led to small stream flow peaks to the upper Murray tributaries early in the week, with most rivers subsequently receding to levels slightly lower than one week ago. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara reached 2,600 ML/day before receding to around 2,000 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana has averaged 2,500 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point peaked at 4,900 ML/day on 9 August, but has now decreased to 3,800 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke receded to 11,300 ML/day following last week's peak of 15,500 ML/day. At Wilcannia, the flow increased from 9,400 to 13,400 ML/day with a peak expected in the coming week.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 15th August 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 15/08/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 15 August 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 25 GL this week to 8,208 GL (95% of capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage rose 16 GL to 3,526 GL (91% capacity) with inflows averaging around 3,200 ML/day. The release from Dartmouth continued above minimums due to entitlement releases by AGL Hydro for electricity generation. The flow, measured at Colemans, averaged around 1,000 ML/day during the week and is now at 800 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, the release was increased to 18,500 ML/day as additional airspace was targeted in response to forecast rainfall. Over the past week the storage volume fell 16 GL to 2,928 GL (97% capacity). The aim is to have the storage at a level where it can be quickly filled to maximise resources should conditions turn dry but to also provide some airspace to manage higher inflows from potential rain events. As such, the storage volume may be increased or decreased over the coming weeks depending on forecast rain and diversions. 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, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.77 m AHD. Combined diversions at Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel currently total around 3,400 ML/day. The downstream release increased over the week from 17,500 ML/day to 26,000 ML/day.

On the Edward-Wakool system the gates have returned to the water at Stevens Weir, and the downstream flow has receded to 6,300 ML/day. Diversions through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes have also fallen with a current total diversion close to 1,000 ML/day. Downstream on the Edward River, the flow at Leiwah is close to peaking near 6,700 ML/day, while the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing is expected to peak at around 14,000 ML/day in the coming week.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys Bridge averaged around 11,000 ML/day for the week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the gates were returned to the water and the downstream flow is currently 27,500 ML/day and falling. Further downstream, the flow at Swan Hill peaked late in the week at 22,100 ML/day. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald continues to creep up and is currently 11,000 ML/day. At Euston Weir the flow is now 42,500 ML/day and is expected to peak at around 45,000 ML/day in a week's time.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes is 2,000 GL (116% capacity), an increase of 28 GL from last week, with inflows averaging close to 11,000 ML/day during the week. The flow upstream is expected to peak on the Darling River at Wilcannia next week with high inflows to the lakes continuing for the next few weeks. Releases are currently 4,000 ML/day at Menindee (measured at Weir 32), however they will be increased to 7,000 ML/day by next weekend (see attached media release issued by NSW Office of Water). The flow to the Great Darling Anabranch is around 2,000 ML/day, released from Cawndilla Outlet. Downstream on the Darling River at Burtundy, the flow has increased to 4,200 ML/day and will continue rising over the second half of August.

At Lake Victoria, the volume decreased by 3 GL this week and is now at 428 GL (63% capacity). The storage level will rise over the coming weeks, as higher flows arrive from upstream, and water is stored to maintain the flow to South Australia at around 40,000 ML/day. The flow to South Australia is currently 39,700 ML/day.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina has decreased 10 centimetres over the week to 0.65 m AHD. The level is expected fall away further toward the target level of 0.55 m AHD over the next week 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](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 15 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	480.83	3 526	91%	71	3 455	+16
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.61	2 928	97%	23	2 905	-16
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.81	428	63%	100	328	-3
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 000	116%	(480 #)	1 520	+28
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 882</b>	<b>96%</b>	--	<b>8 208</b>	<b>+25</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							95% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 011	99%	3	1 008	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 600	98%	24	1 576	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 095	93%	100	2 995	+44

\* 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 14 Aug 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 200	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+37	395
Snowy-Murray Component	765	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+7	85
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	30	311
			Murray 1 Release	+40	470

**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)	20.7	58	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.1	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.3	31
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	2
Licensed Pumps	0.7	5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	13.4	28	Licensed pumps - LMW	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>40</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	124.0 *
Flow this week	279.7
Flow so far this month	584.8
Flow last month	911.4

(40 000 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	90	100
Euston	100	110	110
Red Cliffs	110	110	110
Merbein	110	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	440	410	400
Lock 9	120	110	100
Lake Victoria	250	240	260
Berri	180	190	190
Waikerie	210	220	220
Morgan	210	220	230
Mannum	210	210	220
Murray Bridge	250	250	260
Milang (Lake Alex.)	450	390	440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	370	410	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 510	3 520	3 640
Goolwa Barrages	480	470	520

**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 15 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	-	-	-	7 030	F	6 830	6 760
Jingellic	4.0	2.44	208.96	11 230	F	11 970	12 030
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.96	218.85	1 870	F	2 100	2 170
Heywoods	5.5	3.32	156.95	18 400	F	17 340	11 710
Doctors Point	5.5	3.49	151.96	20 850	S	20 330	14 310
Albury	4.3	2.56	150.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	4.08	130.10	22 030	S	18 110	16 180
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.32	118.36	25 060	R	20 540	23 860
Tocumwal	6.4	3.78	107.62	22 970	R	19 830	27 410
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.52	85.07	27 530	F	32 020	35 170
Swan Hill	4.5	3.66	66.58	21 950	F	21 980	21 750
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.89	57.01	37 400	R	35 180	29 800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.35	47.19	42 480	R	40 640	36 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	40 700	F	40 700	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.42	30.18	45 500	R	42 410	37 650
Rufus Junction	-	6.53	23.46	39 690	F	39 960	38 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.56	-	36 400	F	36 510	35 520
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.04	155.27	2 180	R	2 520	2 500
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.64	147.32	5 600	F	6 110	6 210
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.84	97.26	10 810	R	10 960	16 490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.92	83.69	6 300	F	7 890	11 180
Edward at Liewah	-	4.87	60.25	6 620	R	6 220	4 690
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	5.00	58.49	12 850	R	11 320	7 310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.75	61.71	11 000	R	10 930	10 650
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	-	580	S	550	570
Darling at Bourke	-	5.49	-	11 290	F	13 720	14 760
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	4 150	R	3 530	1 570

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 280	13 200
---	--------	--------

**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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.37	+4.26
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.55	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.15	+2.38
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.26	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.19	+2.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+2.26	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+3.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+2.78	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.07	+2.58
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+1.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+2.73
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.27	+2.71	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+1.81

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

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

**Barrages**

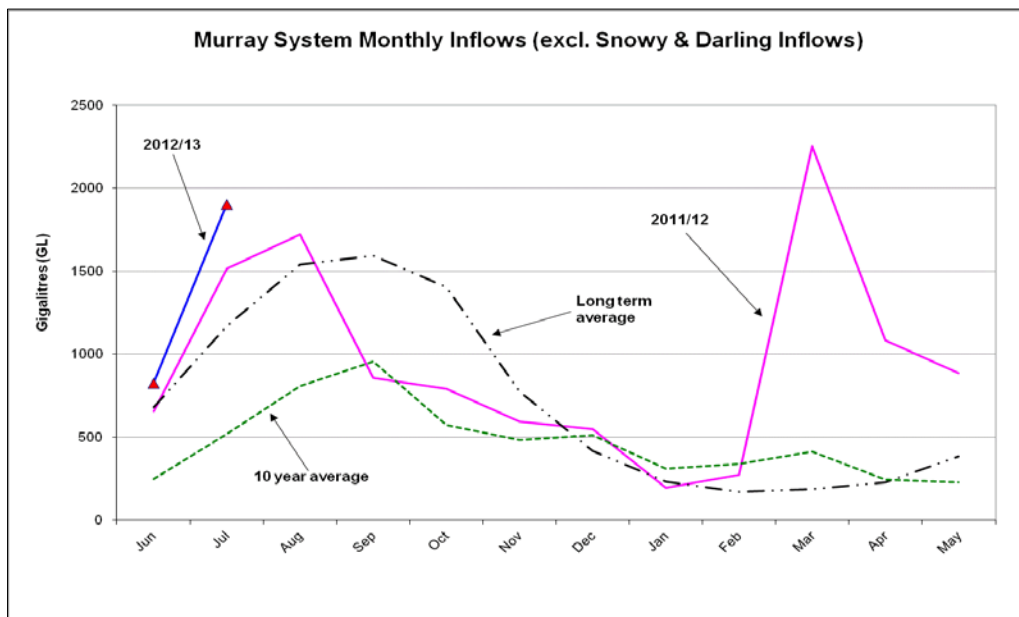
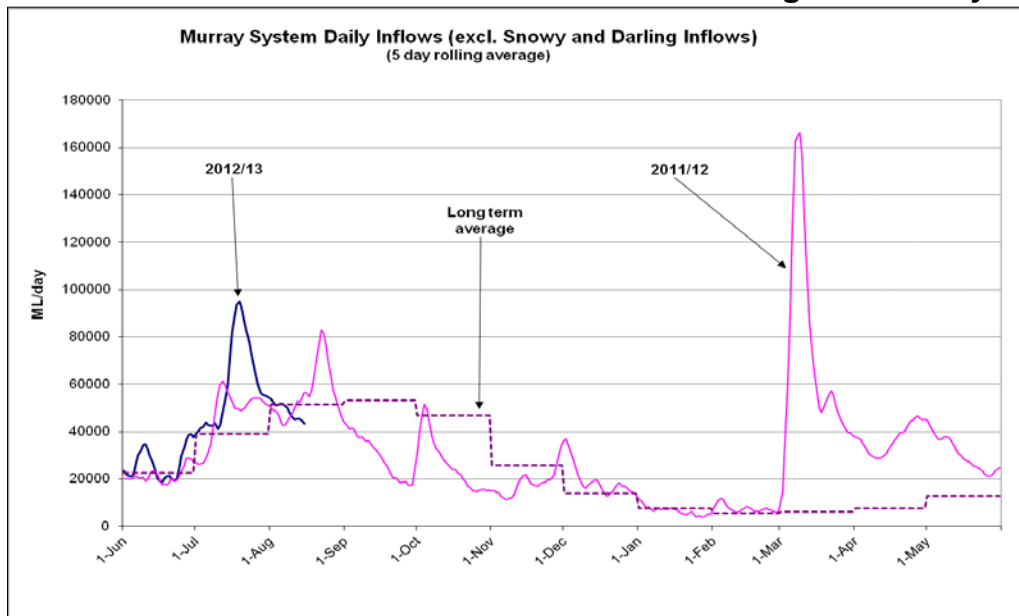
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	41	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.56	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.60	133	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 15 Aug 2012



### State Allocations (as at 15 Aug 2012)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	52%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

#### 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/>

Tuesday, 14 August 2012

## Updated flow advice for Lower Darling River

The NSW Office of Water today advised landowners and communities in the Lower Darling River Valley of increased flows to the Lower Darling River.

Releases from Weir 32 will increase to 7,000 megalitres per day by the weekend.

Acting NSW Water Commissioner, Tracey Barton, said that inflows of just over 12,000 megalitres per day are now arriving at Menindee Lakes.

“Releases need to be increased to ensure that the maximum surcharge level in the Lakes is not exceeded.”

“The total storage volume at the end of the event will also be maximised to supply downstream water requirements for the upcoming season.”

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 Anabranch.

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

Ms Barton said that these releases are still within the channel capacity of the Lower Darling River which is about 9,000 megalitres per day or 3.28 metres gauge height at Weir 32.

The NSW Office of Water is monitoring river flows in the Barwon-Darling and further advice regarding expected flows will be issued by Wednesday 22 August 2012.

### Expected River Levels and Flow Rates

Date	Estimated Weir 32 pool level (m)	Weir 32 flow (ML/day)
Wednesday 15 August	2.38	4,000
Thursday 16 August	2.38	4,000
Friday 17 August	2.50	5,000
Saturday 18 August	2.60	6,000
Sunday 19 August	2.70	7,000
Monday 20 August	2.70	7,000
Tuesday 21 August	2.70	7,000