



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22ND AUGUST 2012

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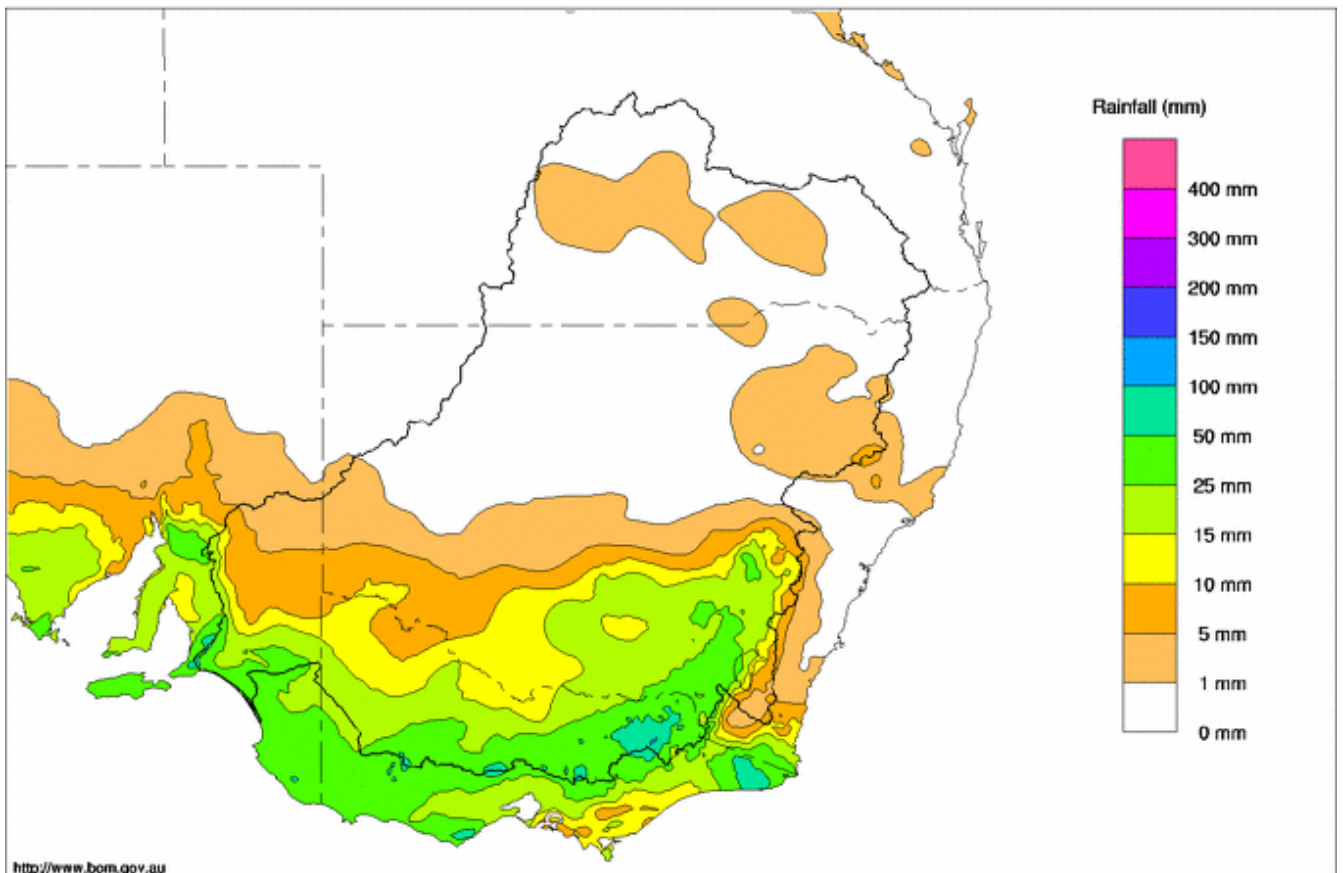
Rainfall and Inflows

The recent winter pattern of cold fronts and rainfall over the southern Murray-Darling Basin continued this week with a strong system crossing the region over the weekend. The highest rain totals were recorded along the Victorian ranges with heavy snowfalls across the alpine areas of Victoria and NSW and lighter snow on the NSW Central Tablelands. Rainfall above 25 mm was recorded over the adjacent slopes as well as in southern South Australia. There was lighter rain over the NSW Riverina and the northern Victorian plains, while northern parts of the Basin were mostly dry (Map 1).

Highest precipitation totals occurred in the Victorian high country, with 108 mm at Falls Creek, 78 mm at Mt Hotham, 63 mm at Wrightley and 61 mm at Lake Buffalo. In central Victoria, there was 64 mm at Daylesford and in the Grampian Ranges 100 mm was recorded at Mt William.

Best stream flow responses occurred in the Ovens catchment, where the Ovens River flow increased to a peak of 11,000 ML/day at Rocky Point and almost 20,000 ML/day at Wangaratta. On the King River, there was moderate flooding at Docker Road. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana peaked at 4,900 ML/day with minor flooding. There were smaller responses on the upper River Murray, where the flow at Jingellic increased from 6,100 to 10,700 ML/day. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting more rain over south-eastern catchments in the days ahead with renewed stream rises expected.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 22nd August 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



http://www.bom.gov.au © Commonwealth of Australia 2012, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Issued: 22/08/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 22 August 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 62 GL this week to 8,270 GL (96% of capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage volume increased by 26 GL to 3,552 GL (92% capacity). Release from Dartmouth continues above minimums due to entitlement releases by AGL Hydro for electricity generation. The current flow (measured at Colemans) is 800 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows peaked at around 24,000 ML/day with an average of 20,000 ML/day for the week. The release has been increased in the last few days to target a flow of around 30,000 ML/day at Doctors Point in order to gain additional airspace ahead of rain forecast over the coming week. The storage volume is currently 2,915 GL, a decrease of 13 GL. 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 Yarrowonga, the pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.62 m AHD. Diversions at Mulwala Canal and Yarrowonga Main Channel decreased during the week following the rain, with the current total diversion around 1,400 ML/day. The downstream release was increased as higher inflows arrived and is currently at 38,200 ML/day with releases above 40,000 ML/day expected in the coming days.

On the Edward-Wakool system flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has started to increase once again as higher flows arrive from upstream. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the flow has also begun to increase. After reaching a low of 5,500 ML/day, the flow rose to 6,100 ML/day and is expected to continue rising during the coming week. Downstream on the Edward River, flows at Moulamein and Leiwah are declining slowly from the previous peak. River levels at these sites should continue decreasing for a few days before the arrival of renewed higher flows from Stevens Weir. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing has edged up to 14,700 ML/day and appears to be reaching its peak.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys Bridge has started rising again with the flow now at 16,000 ML/day. The river is expected to increase towards 20,000 ML/day in the coming days. At Torrumbarry Weir the flow reached a minimum of 25,800 ML/day before starting to rise again. Flows in excess of 30,000 ML/day are expected later this week and the weir pool is being temporarily lowered again in anticipation of higher flows during the coming weeks. Flows below Torrumbarry are continuing to enter the Gunbower and Koondrook-Perricoota forests

At Swan Hill, the Murray is holding steady at 22,200 ML/day. The flow is expected to remain close to this level over the coming week, but further rises are possible with additional water now in transit along the Murray and Loddon Rivers. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has reached 11,500 ML/day and will continue contributing significant inflow to the Murray for at least the next few weeks. At Euston Weir, the flow is now 46,000 ML/day and appears close to a peak. However, continuing tributary inflows and renewed rises upstream mean the flow is unlikely to fall much before further flow increases take place in the weeks ahead.

Downstream at Mildura Weir, rising river flows and rainfall forecast over the coming week have resulted in the decision to temporarily remove the weir commencing 25 August 2012. See the attached media release for more details.

On the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia peaked on 18 August at 13,900 ML/day, but with relatively slow rates of recession upstream, inflows to Menindee Lakes are expected to decrease only slowly during the coming week. Total storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 14 GL to 2,014 GL (116% capacity), with inflows averaging almost 12,000 ML/day. Releases into the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32), have been increased to around 7,000 ML/day, with around 2,000 ML/day being released from the Cawndilla Outlet into the Great Darling Anabranche. The NSW Office of Water advises that releases of 7,000 ML/day will continue for another week before a reduction begins. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has now reached 4,700 ML/day and will continue rising this week.



At Lake Victoria, the storage volume increased by 34 GL to 463 GL (68% capacity). The level is expected to continue rising over the coming week as additional water is captured to maintain the flow to South Australia below 45,000 ML/day whilst works continue downstream at Chowilla. The current flow to South Australia is 40,500 ML/day, slightly higher than one week ago.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina increased to 0.75 m AHD. The increase took place during very large swells that created a considerable reverse head and forced the closure of additional barrage gates for several days over the weekend. A return to difficult operating conditions is expected later this week with large swells and higher tides forecast.

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 22 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	481.25	3 552	92%	71	3 481	+26	
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.55	2 915	97%	23	2 892	-13	
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.13	463	68%	100	363	+34	
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 014	116%	(480 #)	1 534	+14	
Total		9 269		8 944	96%	- -	8 270	+62	
Total Active MDBA Storage							96% ^		

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 014	99%	3	1 011	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 597	98%	24	1 573	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 157	95%	100	3 057	+60

* 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 21 Aug 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 156	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+34	429
Snowy-Murray Component	738	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+6	90
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	28	339
			Murray 1 Release	+36	507

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)	11.9	70	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.7	-1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.4	36
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	2
Licensed Pumps	1.0	6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	1
Lower Darling	13.4	42	Licensed pumps - LMW	1	8
TOTAL	26.4	118	TOTAL	5.5	46

* 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	280.0	(40 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	864.8	
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	90	90	100
Euston	100	100	110
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	100	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	470	470	420
Lock 9	130	130	110
Lake Victoria	230	260	260
Berri	190	190	190
Waikerie	210	200	210
Morgan	190	200	220
Mannum	190	200	210
Murray Bridge	240	240	250
Milang (Lake Alex.)	430	440	440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	370	420	380
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 520	3 560	3 620
Goolwa Barrages	1 930	2 250	1 020



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 22 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	-	-	-	7 990	F	6 660	6 930
Jingellic	4.0	2.82	209.34	14 940	F	13 990	11 970
Tallandoo (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.10	218.99	2 420	F	2 610	2 100
Heywoods	5.5	4.02	157.65	28 290	R	22 070	17 340
Doctors Point	5.5	4.31	152.78	30 880	R	25 640	20 330
Albury	4.3	3.45	150.89	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	4.54	130.56	26 320	R	23 270	18 110
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.40	119.44	38 230	S	30 610	20 540
Tocumwal	6.4	4.71	108.55	34 090	R	28 220	19 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.41	84.96	26 310	R	26 450	32 020
Swan Hill	4.5	3.68	66.60	22 170	S	22 170	21 980
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.21	57.33	40 650	R	39 530	35 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.66	47.50	46 010	R	44 660	40 640
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.66	30.42	49 600	R	48 190	42 410
Rufus Junction	-	6.54	23.47	39 920	F	39 930	39 960
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.62	-	37 600	F	37 510	36 510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.46	155.69	2 990	R	3 380	2 520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.07	148.75	13 360	F	12 570	6 110
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.43	98.85	15 960	R	11 960	10 960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.87	83.64	6 130	S	5 850	7 890
Edward at Liewah	-	4.66	60.04	6 040	F	6 430	6 220
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	5.34	58.83	14 730	S	14 240	11 320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.83	61.79	11 540	R	11 270	10 930
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	50	F	270	550
Darling at Bourke	-	4.94	-	7 190	R	8 270	13 720
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.01	-	4 690	R	4 370	3 530

Natural Inflow to Hume	19 260	12 820
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.28	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.38	+4.27
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.45	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.10	+2.39
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.53	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.15	+2.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+2.50	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+3.23
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+3.02	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+2.63
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.07	+2.17	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.11	+2.80
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.49	+2.93	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+1.87

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

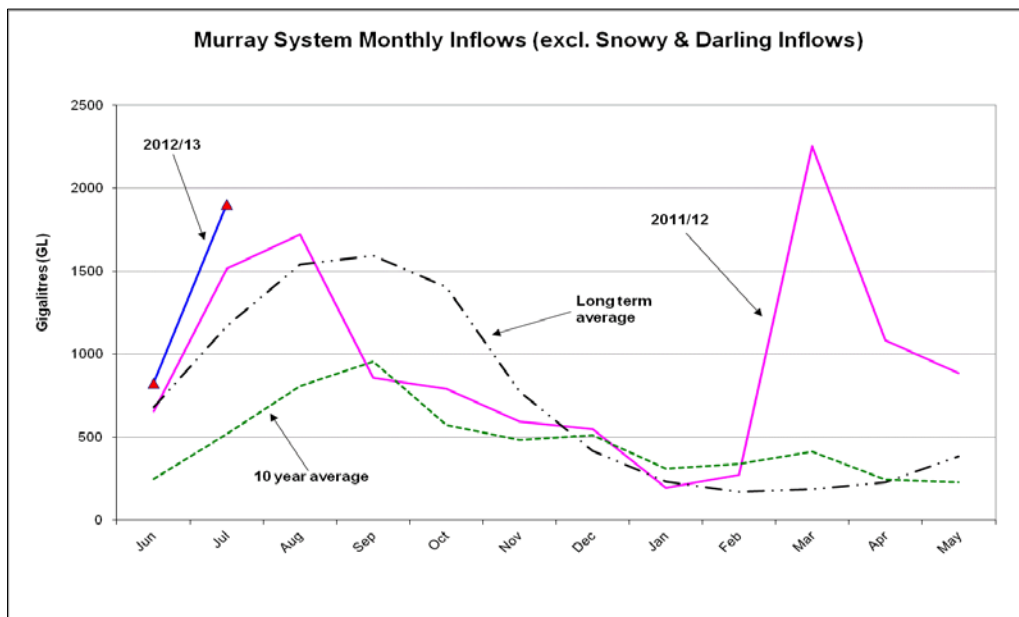
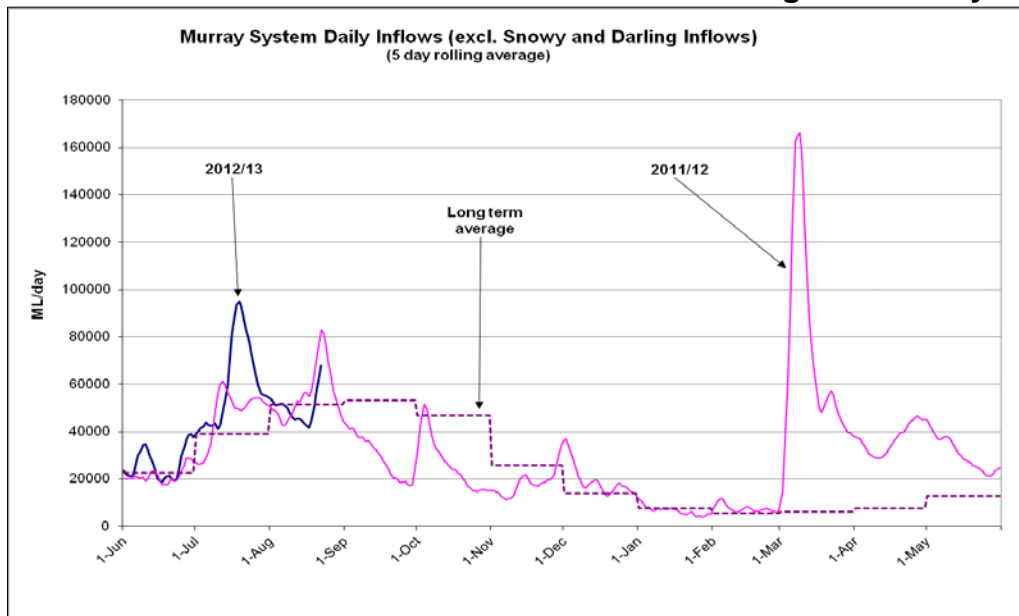
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.75
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-	80	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.75	133	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 22 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%
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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



22 August 2012

Mildura Weir to be removed

With rising river flows and further rainfall forecast over the coming week, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water advise that the temporary removal of Mildura Weir is expected to commence on 25 August 2012.

Passage upstream and downstream of Lock 11 will be unavailable between 24-30 August 2012. However, navigation via the river will be possible after this time.

The complete removal of the weir from the river is in preparation for higher flows that are expected over the next few weeks.

The removal will result in a short-term lowering of the water level immediately upstream of the weir of between 0.5-1m and a smaller change farther upstream. During the weir removal only small changes in the downstream river levels are expected.

As the higher flows arrive, the river will begin to rise again.

The weir will be reinstated once the higher flows pass, with the date dependent on future rainfall and inflows.

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

The MDBA will continue to issue further advice via the River Operations Weekly Report at 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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