



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

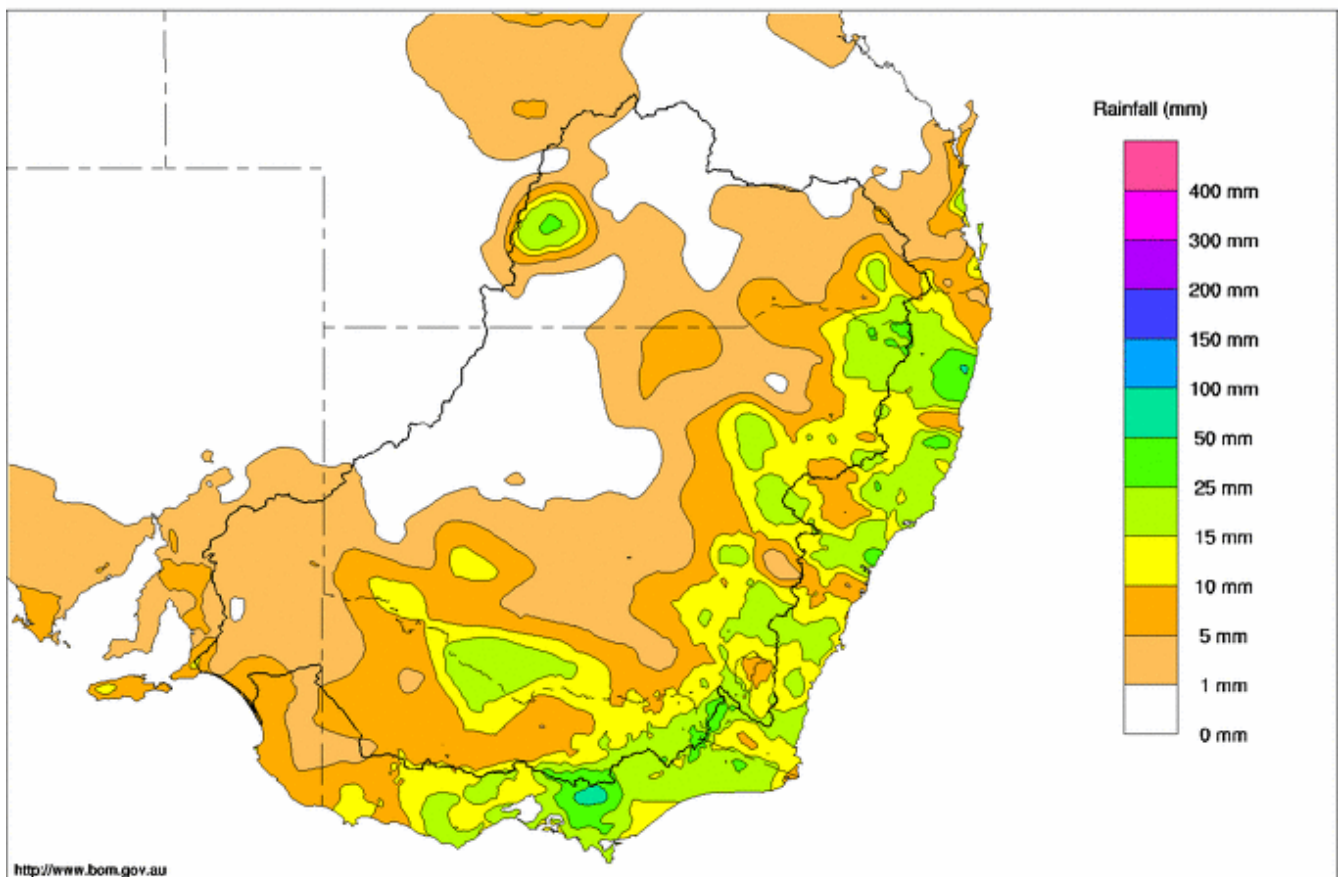
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Rainfall and Inflows

There was a distinct shift in weather and rainfall patterns this week, and an early taste of spring-summer storms across eastern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin. Winter westerly winds and cold fronts were replaced with moist easterly winds that fed into a trough that developed over eastern Australia. The system brought mild conditions and afternoon showers and thunderstorms that predominantly affected the NSW and eastern Victorian slopes and ranges (Map 1). Rainfall was patchy and totals were generally only modest, although welcome in many areas that had previously remained quite dry for a number of weeks. Some of the best weekly totals included 37 mm at Tenterfield and 32 mm at Inverell in northern NSW. In the NSW Riverina there was 20 mm at Moulamein, while in Victoria, Woods Point received 33 mm. Falls between 20 and 40 mm were also reported across the Victorian high country and the NSW Snowy Mountains.

There has been a slow recession in flows along most tributaries in the upper Murray catchments. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 3,100 ML/day to 2,600 ML/day; while downstream at Jingellic the flow has averaged around 11,200 ML/day, which is slightly lower than the previous week. On the Ovens River the flow at Rocky Point decreased from 6,400 to 4,700 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Bandiana averaged around 2,900 ML/day, down from 3,200 ML/day one week ago.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th September 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 19/09/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 19 September 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 79 GL this week and is currently 8,634 GL, or 100% capacity. Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found on the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage increased by 29 GL to 3,698 GL (96% capacity). The storage level at Dartmouth has continued to rise throughout the winter months and the water is now less than 2.5 m below the Full Supply Level (Figure 1). One or two more reasonable rain events could effectively fill the storage. As the water level nears the Full Supply Level, inflows will be passed through the high level outlet works, with significant flows over the spillway only likely if inflows exceed the flow capacity of the high level outlet. The release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day throughout the week.



Figure 1 - The water level at Dartmouth Reservoir is now less than 2.5 metres below the top of the spillway - the highest level recorded since February 1997. Photo: Peter Liepkalns, Goulburn-Murray Water.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows decreased slightly, averaging about 15,000 ML/day for the week. The current release from Hume is 10,500 ML/day and this may be decreased slightly in the days ahead if inflows continue to recede. Storage in Hume Reservoir has increased by 23 GL and is now 2,956 GL (98% capacity).

At Yarrowonga Weir, diversions have decreased slightly since last week, with an average of 3,200 ML/day at Mulwala Canal and 1,700 ML/day at Yarrowonga Main Channel. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.77 m AHD and the release is 18,500 ML/day, where it has remained for the last few days. The release should decrease only slightly in the days ahead.

On the Edward River system, inflows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are falling slowly. At Toonalook, the flow has decreased from 9,300 to 7,200 ML/day and at Stevens Weir, the flow has decreased to 6,000 ML/day. Downstream at Moulamein, the Edward River appears to be peaking at around 6,500 ML/day, while further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow continues to rise at both Stoney Crossing and Kyalite, with a peak above 20,000 ML/day expected at Kyalite in the coming week.



Inflow from the Goulburn River has receded steadily this week, with the flow at McCoys Bridge decreasing from 10,200 to 7,000 ML/day. A continued slow recession in flows is expected in the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, flow on the River Murray has receded to 24,000 ML/day with 3,300 ML/day diverted through the National Channel. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry will continue to fall away in the coming days. The Torrumbarry pool level has increased slightly to 85.82 m AHD, and will be increased towards the Full Supply Level of 86.05 m AHD in the coming week or two as flows return to more normal (lower) levels.

At Swan Hill, the flow is steady with the current flow of 21,800 ML/day being the same as one week ago. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has eased from 12,400 to 12,100 ML/day and a slow recession is now expected here for several weeks.

At Euston Weir the flow has increased from 45,500 to 47,100 ML/day, and is heading towards a peak that may exceed 48,000 ML/day during the next week to 10 days.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 5 GL this week and is now at 2,006 GL (116% capacity). The release to the Darling River (measured at Weir 32) has been further decreased and is now measuring 2,100 ML/day. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has receded from 5,800 to 4,100 ML/day.

Downstream on the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow is fairly steady at around 53,000 ML/day after decreasing from about 54,000 ML/day early in the week. At Lake Victoria the volume increased by a further 33 GL to 648 GL (96% capacity) with a current inflow of about 9,000 ML/day and close to 3,000 ML/day going out. The flow to South Australia has been held at around 45,000 ML/day to help protect downstream works at Chowilla wetlands. With only limited airspace now available in Lake Victoria, inflow and outflow to the lake will be balanced out in the days ahead meaning the flow to South Australia will rise further. A flow close to 50,000 ML/day may be possible in about one to two week's time.

At the Lower Lakes, improved weather and tidal conditions have enabled Barrage gates to remain open at Goolwa and Mundoo. The 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina decreased to 0.66 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Sep 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	483.56	3 698	96%	71	3 627	+29
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.76	2 956	98%	23	2 933	+23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.76	648	96%	100	548	+33
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		2 006	116%	(480 #)	1 526	-5
Total		9 269		9 308	100%	--	8 634	+79
Total Active MDBA Storage							100% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 024	100%	3	1 021	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 570	96%	24	1 546	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 251	98%	100	3 151	+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 18 Sep 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 235	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	461
Snowy-Murray Component	758	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+11	129
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-10	332
			Murray 1 Release	+16	585

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)	26.9	182	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.0	n/a
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.2	91
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	8
Licensed Pumps	7.3	29	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	3
Lower Darling	3.6	78	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	24
TOTAL	38.1	291	TOTAL	44.6	n/a

* 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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	316.0	(45 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	850.9	
Flow last month	1,249.6	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	120	110	120
Euston	120	120	110
Red Cliffs	130	130	110
Merbein	140	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	380	370	430
Lock 9	140	150	130
Lake Victoria	240	230	250
Berri	230	220	200
Waikerie	240	230	210
Morgan	230	220	210
Mannum	200	200	200
Murray Bridge	230	230	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	400	380	420
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	270	220	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 160	3 150	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	1 390	2 470	3 540



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 Sep 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	-	-	-	4 650	F	4 140	4 850
Jingellic	4.0	2.38	208.90	10 700	F	11 250	12 260
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.86	218.75	1 540	F	1 690	1 990
Heywoods	5.5	2.61	156.24	10 500	F	11 510	12 640
Doctors Point	5.5	2.87	151.34	13 230	R	14 430	16 060
Albury	4.3	1.86	149.30	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.12	129.14	14 820	F	15 470	18 170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.68	117.72	18 510	S	18 570	22 700
Tocumwal	6.4	3.43	107.27	19 100	R	19 410	26 470
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.12	84.67	23 990	F	25 450	28 230
Swan Hill	4.5	3.64	66.56	21 810	S	21 650	21 980
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.12	57.24	39 620	R	38 450	36 090
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.75	47.59	47 080	R	46 180	45 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	46 210	F	46 050	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.83	30.59	52 800	S	53 060	55 290
Rufus Junction	-	6.72	23.65	44 260	F	45 170	44 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.77	-	41 000	S	40 940	39 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.39	155.62	2 820	R	2 880	3 160
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.82	147.50	6 330	F	7 340	8 800
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.44	95.86	6 990	F	8 610	11 640
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.83	83.60	6 020	S	7 280	10 360
Edward at Liewah	-	4.73	60.11	6 230	R	5 900	5 020
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	5.17	58.66	13 750	R	13 080	11 100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.90	61.86	12 100	F	12 210	12 350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	50	S	70	120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.44	-	2 670	F	3 180	4 340
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.86	-	4 390	F	4 960	6 030

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 480	21 470
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.66	+4.46
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.22	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+2.57
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.69	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.09	+2.34
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.94	+2.66	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.18	+3.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.24	+3.19	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.12	+2.81
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.44	+2.36	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.33	+3.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.09	+3.02	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.19	+2.02

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.66
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Barrages

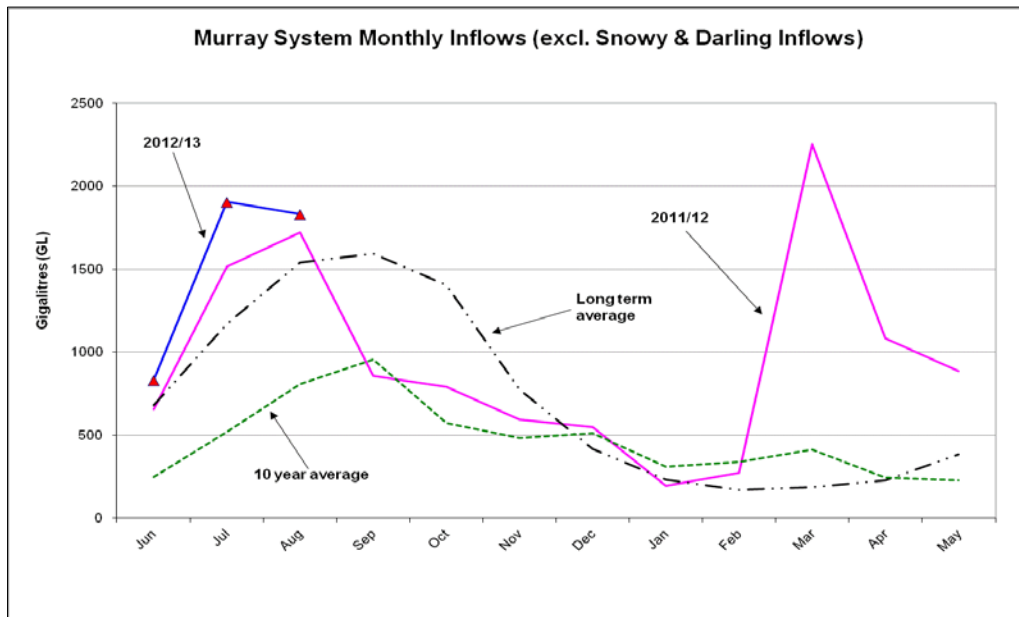
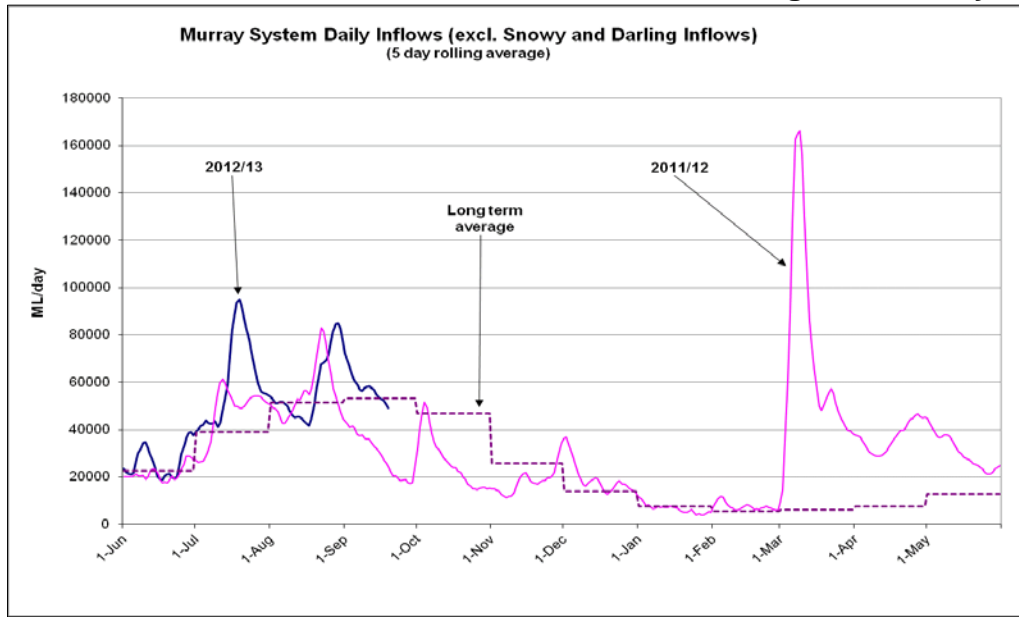
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	100	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	50	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	163	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 19 Sep 2012



State Allocations (as at 19 Sep 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	75%
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/>