



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012

Trim Ref: D12/42761

## Rainfall and Inflows

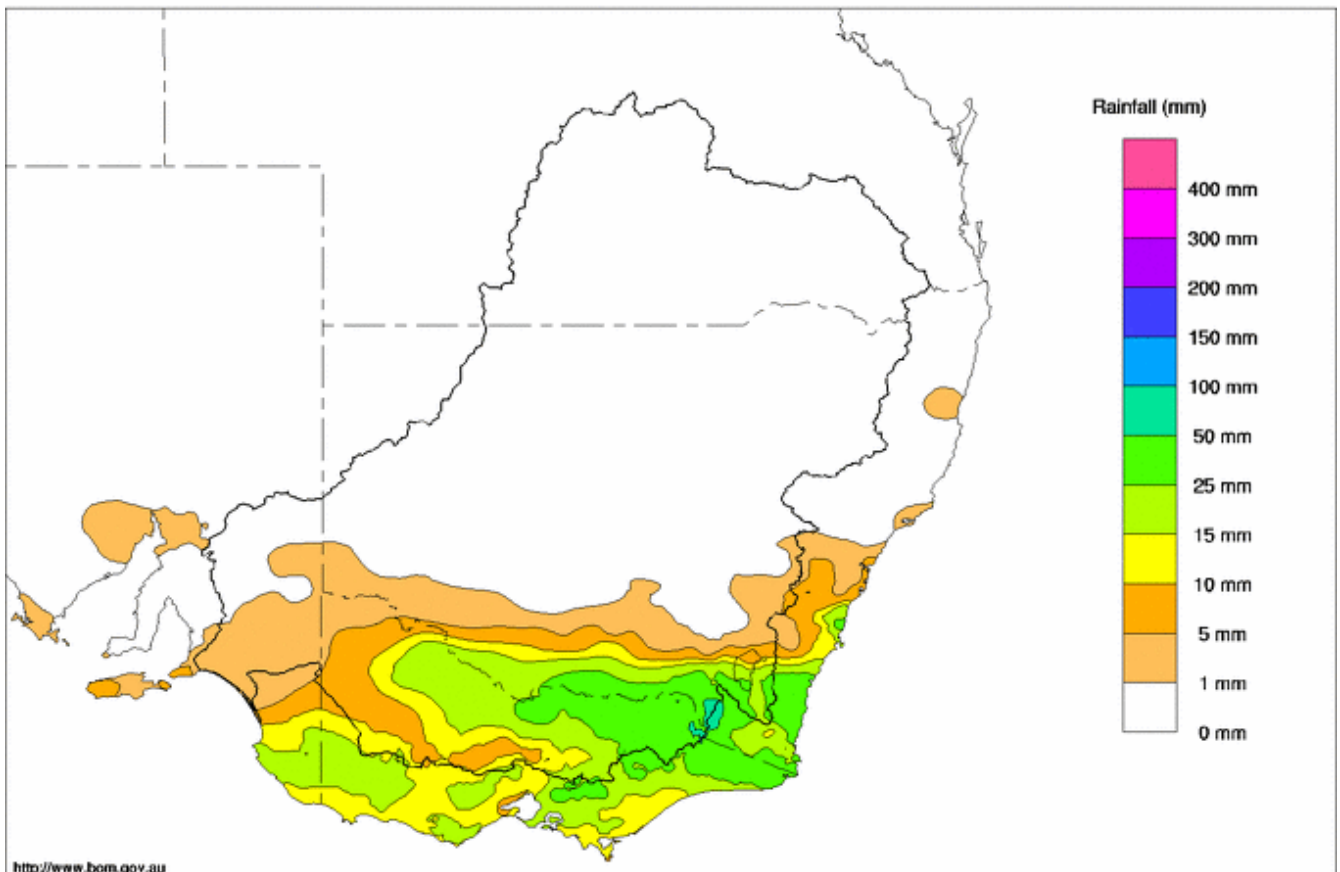
Rain fell over southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with the passage of a trough system over the weekend. The heaviest rain was recorded across a swathe of land either side of the River Murray from upstream of Barmah to the Australian Alps (Map 1).

The highest totals fell over the NSW Snowy Mountains with isolated totals up to 60 mm recorded. Elsewhere there was 48 mm at Koetong, 47 mm at Hunters Hill, 43 mm at Corryong Airport, 41 mm at Hume Reservoir, 40 mm at Khancoban, 40 mm at Lake William Hovell and 37 mm at Tocumwal.

There were moderate responses to the rain across the upper Murray catchments, but like the previous week, most rises were only relatively short in duration. On the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge increased from around 2,000 to 4,000 ML/day and is now back at 2,000 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Bringenbrong increased to a peak of 13,000 ML/day boosted by additional releases from Snowy Hydro; while downstream at Jingellic the flow peaked at almost 17,000 ML/day before receding to 13,600 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point jumped to 4,400 ML/day but is now back at 2,100 ML/day, which is slightly lower than at the beginning of the week.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 10th October 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 10/10/2012

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 10th October 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 30 GL this week and is currently 8,716 GL, or 101% 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 a further 23 GL to 3,773 GL (98% capacity) with inflows once again rising above 5,000 ML/day. Following this week's rain, Dartmouth Reservoir is expected to reach 99% capacity by the beginning of November, and sooner if further rain falls. The release, measured at Colemans, was increased this week to 1,200 ML/day with AGL Hydro making an entitlement release for electricity generation, which is expected to continue during the coming few days.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows increased once again, reaching 20,000 ML/day on 9 October and maintaining 'spill mode' operations for at least the time being. The release peaked at 18,200 ML/day before decreasing to 15,500 ML/day. Further reductions to the release are expected over the coming days depending on catchment responses to any further rain that falls. Total storage at Hume Reservoir increased by 28 GL to 2,958 GL (98%).

Although Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs are close to full, inflows to both storages remain relatively low. As such, downstream flows are not expected to be high in the near future unless significant rain falls. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting mostly dry and warmer weather over the coming week.

At Yarrawonga Weir, total diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel were reduced sharply as rainfall put a dampener on irrigation demand along the Murray valley. Total diversion is currently around 3,400 ML/day, but is expected to gradually increase again once conditions dry out. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.75 m AHD and the release downstream has been increased to 17,000 ML/day – up from a low of 11,200 ML/day mid-week as inflows along the Murray, Kiewa and Ovens Rivers increased following the rain. The release is expected to peak between 17,000 and 18,000 ML/day in the coming days and then gradually reduce next week.

On the Edward River system, combined inflows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes decreased slightly during the week, but are expected to increase a little in the coming days as higher flows arrive from Yarrawonga. At Stevens Weir, the flow decreased to a low of 2,700 ML/day but has since increased to around 4,000 ML/day. Downstream of Stevens Weir, flows along the Edward and Wakool Rivers are generally receding slowly.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys has averaged around 1,600 ML/day with a small rise to above 2,000 ML/day expected in the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow on the River Murray has averaged around 10,500 ML/day, but has now increased to 12,500 ML/day following a reduction in diversion at National Channel from 3,200 to 1,400 ML/day.

At Swan Hill, the flow receded as expected, decreasing from 18,000 to 11,300 ML/day; however flows slightly above this level are expected later in the coming week. On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald continued to recede and is now at 4,800 ML/day. The flow is expected to continue receding at a slow rate before increasing again with the planned release of environmental water that will arrive in the lower reaches of the Murrumbidgee later in the month. At Euston Weir the flow decreased from 48,900 to 36,800 ML/day. The flow will continue receding in the days ahead with flows below 25,000 ML/day expected by the middle of next week.

At Mildura the re-instatement of Mildura Weir is underway, and the flow is now receding. The pool level is currently 33.28 m AHD (1.12 m below FSL) but will rise towards FSL over the coming week as the weir re-instatement process is completed (see attached media release).

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 17 GL this week with the lakes now storing 1,997 GL (115% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) continues to follow a pattern that is varied around an average target of 500 ML/day. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy decreased from 1,600 to 1,000 ML/day and will continue to ease this week.



On the River Murray at Wentworth, flows are now receding following a broad peak in excess of 50,000 ML/day from late August to early October. The flow is now at 47,600 ML/day with a more rapid recession expected over the coming week as upstream flows continue to fall away.

At Lake Victoria the volume decreased slightly from 666 to 662 GL (98% capacity). The lake will now be filled gradually to Full Supply over the coming weeks. The flow to South Australia remained at 49,500 ML/day this week but will begin receding in the next few days.

In South Australia, the flow over Lock 1 has been steady near a peak of around 42,500 ML/day. At the Lower Lakes, the level has remained fairly steady during the week with a 5-day average at Lake Alexandrina of 0.65 m AHD. Forecast wind and swell conditions in the coming days may necessitate the closure of gates at Goolwa and Mundoo, meaning lake levels could rise during the coming week.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 10 Oct 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	484.73	3 773	98%	71	3 702	+23
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.76	2 958	98%	23	2 935	+28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.88	662	98%	100	562	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 997	115%	(480 #)	1 517	-17
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 390</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 716</b>	<b>+30</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							101% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	997	97%	3	994	-25
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 490	91%	24	1 466	-46
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 318	100%	100	3 218	+17

\* 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 09 Oct 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 383	+54	Snowy-Murray	+4	471
Snowy-Murray Component	840	+48	Tooma-Tumut	+9	159
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-5	312
			Murray 1 Release	+29	662

**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)	39.0	259	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.2	59
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.7	128
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	14
Licensed Pumps	5.5	45	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	5
Lower Darling	3.8	89	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>245</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	170.0 *	
Flow this week	346.6	(49 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	495.8	
Flow last month	1,383.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	120	110	120
Euston	140	140	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	110	110	130
Burtundy (Darling)	420	410	420
Lock 9	130	130	130
Lake Victoria	230	220	240
Berri	170	170	200
Waikerie	220	220	220
Morgan	200	200	210
Mannum	190	200	200
Murray Bridge	230	230	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	-	-	430
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	240	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 560	3 540	3 400
Goolwa Barrages	980	910	2 810





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 10 Oct 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	-	-	-	7 170	F	7 120	7 070
Jingellic	4.0	2.68	209.20	13 560	F	12 280	11 680
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.00	218.89	2 020	S	1 990	1 270
Heywoods	5.5	3.04	156.67	15 460	F	12 200	19 030
Doctors Point	5.5	3.27	151.74	18 080	F	14 940	21 710
Albury	4.3	2.32	149.76	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.80	129.82	19 750	R	15 160	22 160
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.52	117.56	17 020	R	15 150	20 340
Tocumwal	6.4	2.97	106.81	14 870	R	16 940	19 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.85	82.40	12 590	R	10 800	15 390
Swan Hill	4.5	2.10	65.02	11 280	F	13 390	20 080
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.01	55.13	22 730	F	28 040	37 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.85	46.69	36 800	F	42 490	48 800
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	42 090	F	43 290	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.54	30.30	47 600	F	50 060	52 600
Rufus Junction	-	6.93	23.86	49 830	R	49 510	49 510
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.88	-	43 200	R	42 530	41 540
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.42	155.65	2 900	F	2 970	2 780
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.92	146.60	3 070	F	3 320	4 050
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.94	93.36	1 720	F	1 640	2 750
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.07	82.85	4 010	F	3 260	3 920
Edward at Liewah	-	3.14	58.52	2 780	F	3 300	4 740
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.87	56.36	4 970	F	6 920	11 580
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.86	59.82	4 770	F	5 850	8 870
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	0	F	10	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 080	F	1 200	1 610
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	950	F	1 180	2 280

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 530	18 700
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.74	+4.64
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.10	+2.68
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.21	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+2.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-1.12	+2.45	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.41	+3.67
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.10	+2.90	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.23	+2.96
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.36	+2.29	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.47	+3.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.91	+3.05	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.28	+2.13

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

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

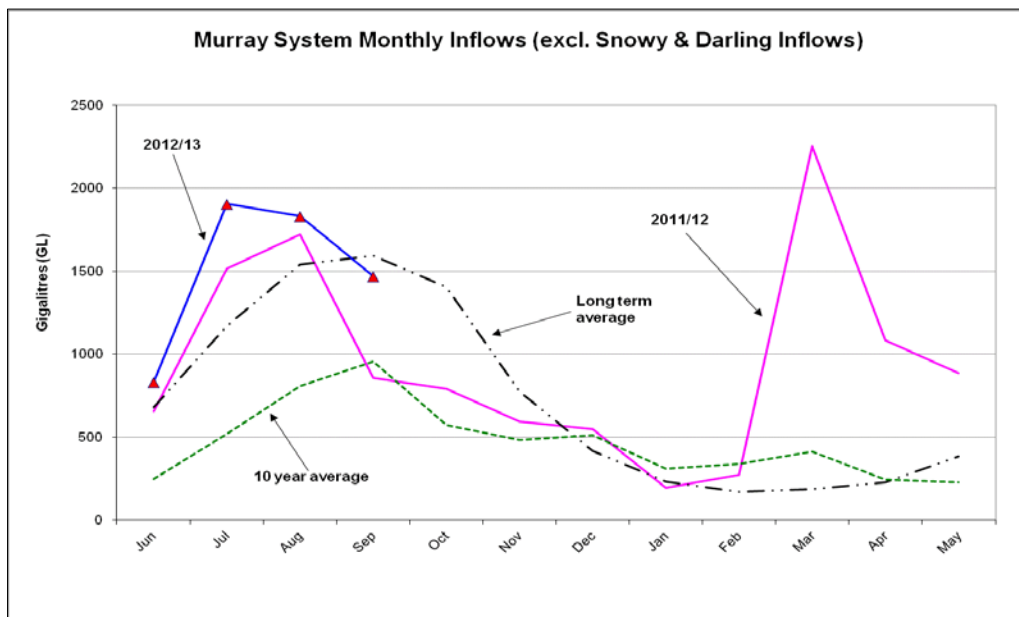
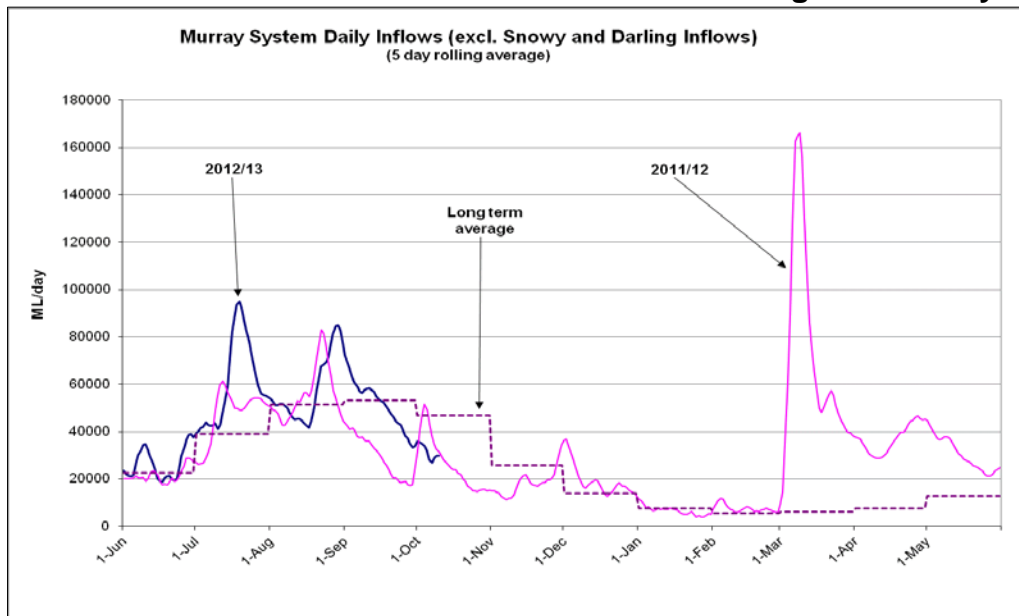
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	35	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	70	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 10 Oct 2012



### State Allocations (as at 10 Oct 2012)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	81%
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



5 October 2012

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## Mildura Weir to be reinstated

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority advises that the Mildura Weir will begin to be fully reinstated from the 9 October 2012 as flows in the River Murray recede.

There will be no access to Lock 11 while this work is undertaken from 9-13 October 2012, inclusive.

Boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance on (03) 5023 1396 to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a lockage.

The Weir has been withdrawn since late August 2012 due to high flows in the River Murray.

The MDBA will continue to issue further advice via the River Operations Weekly Report at [mdba.gov.au](http://mdba.gov.au).

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141.

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