



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER 2012

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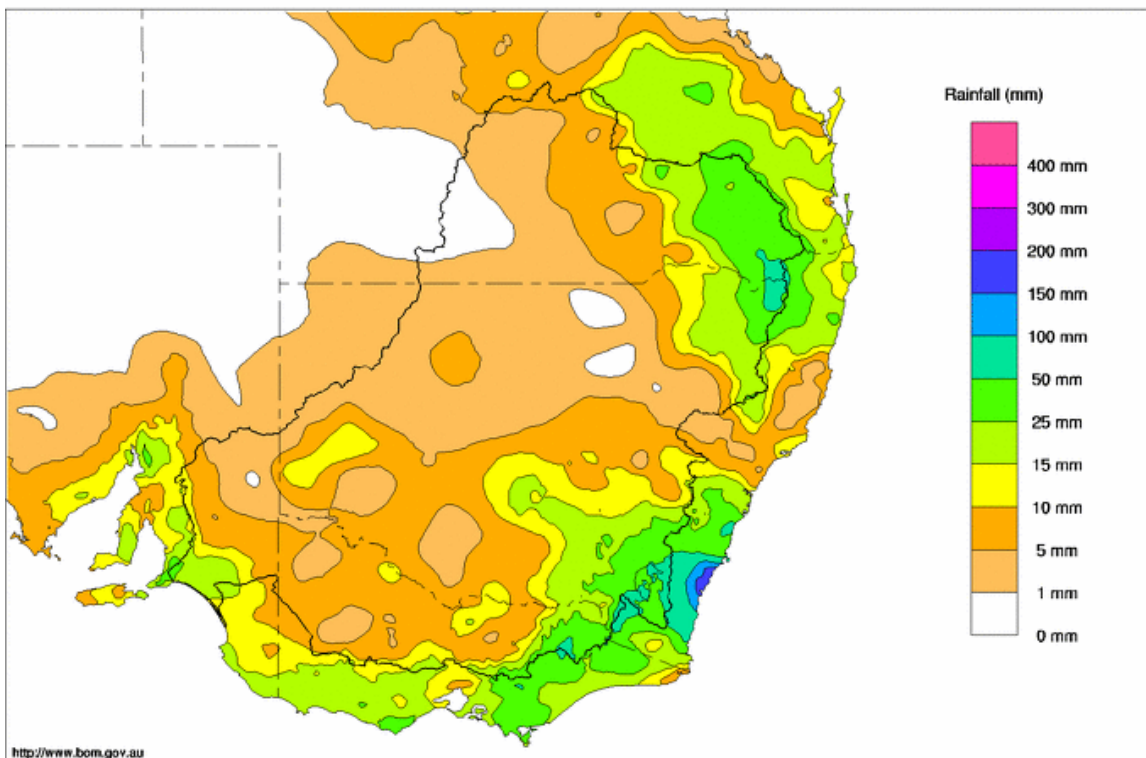
Rainfall and Inflows

Wild weather affected parts of the Murray-Darling Basin during the first half of the week, with thunderstorms, rain and unseasonal cold temperatures. Snowfalls were reported at some locations in South Australia's Mt Lofty Ranges as well as along the NSW eastern ranges all the way to southern Queensland. The rough weather was the result of a low pressure trough and series of cold fronts that brought a burst of cold southerly wind before developing into a complex low pressure system off the NSW south coast. Further lighter rain and strong winds affected the southern Basin - including upper Murray system catchments - late in the week with the passage of another cold front.

The heaviest rainfall was recorded over the upper Border River catchments along the NSW-Queensland border; and in the far south-east where totals between 50 and 100 mm were focussed mainly over the upper Murrumbidgee catchment (Map 1). Highest totals in the north included 84 mm at Wallangarra, 73 mm at Tenterfield, 63 mm at Stanthorpe and 60 mm at Emmaville. In the south-east, there was 73 mm at Captains Flat, 61 mm at Queanbeyan, 59 mm at Canberra Airport, and 38 mm at Burrinjuck Dam; while in Victoria, Mt Hotham recorded 49 mm.

Flows along the upper Murray system tributaries remained fairly steady for most of the week as the heaviest rain associated with the initial weather system fell outside the key catchment areas. However, small responses were observed on 17 October following the most recent cold front. On the upper Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge, the flow averaged around 2,000 ML/day before rising to 4,800 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow averaged around 2,000 ML/day but has now increased to 2,300 ML/day. With relatively dry conditions forecast for the next few days, flows are expected to recede during the coming week.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 17th October 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 17 October 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 26 GL this week and is currently 8,741 GL, or 102% 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 release, measured at Colemans, has been decreased to the normal minimum of 200 ML/day following 12 days of entitlement releases at 1,200 ML/day for electricity generation by AGL Hydro. The storage volume increased by 19 GL to 3,792 GL (98% capacity) and current inflow forecasts indicate that Dartmouth Reservoir will reach 99% capacity before the end of the month. At this stage, increased releases to pass inflows and prevent unnecessary erosion from water flowing over the spillway are expected to begin by early November.

At Hume Dam, a fire broke out in one of Eraring Energy's power station transformers on 14 October. The fire was extinguished and the situation contained within a few hours, but required the shutdown of releases for a short period to ensure fire related pollutants were not released into the river. The incident resulted in a temporary drop in flows at the Heywoods gauge immediately downstream, but the impact on flow was considerably attenuated at gauges downstream of Albury. Construction works to upgrade the southern training wall at Hume Dam continue, with steady progress being maintained towards an expected completion date late in 2013 (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - The southern training wall upgrade construction site at Hume Dam - viewed from the dam wall. The works are taking place directly adjacent to the river downstream. Image: State Water Corporation.

The storage level at Hume Reservoir reached 99% capacity on 15 October. At this level, the storage is considered to be effectively full. Releases to meet downstream demand requirements commenced on 16 October, however at this stage, inflows have been sufficient to keep the storage level rising slightly and as of 17 October, the reservoir was storing 2,983 GL (99% capacity). Inflows have now receded to below 10,000 ML/day and with releases expected to increase this week, the storage level should begin to decrease soon. The current release from Hume Reservoir is 6,500 ML/day but is likely to be increased above 10,000 ML/day before the coming weekend.



At Yarrowonga Weir, diversions into Mulwala Canal and Yarrowonga Main Channel are once again on the rise following a period of reduced diversions due to the previous week's rain. Total diversion is currently around 5,900 ML/day, and expected to continue increasing this week with mostly dry weather forecast. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.77 m AHD and the release downstream has been decreased to 9,100 ML/day as inflows recede. A release between 8,000 and 10,000 ML/day is expected in the coming days.

On the Edward River system, combined inflows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes have been fairly steady over recent days, but up a little from late last week. A slight decrease is expected during the coming week. At Stevens Weir, the flow has dropped back to 2,300 ML/day and should continue to slowly fall in the days ahead. Downstream on the lower Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing has decreased to below 3,000 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River the flow at McCoys peaked at 2,100 ML/day during the week and has now receded to 1,500 ML/day. The flow at McCoys will now increase again in the days ahead following the release of a pulse of environmental water from upstream that commenced on 14 October. Flows above 4,000 ML/day should arrive at McCoys by early next week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow on the River Murray remained above 12,000 ML/day for most of the week but has now decreased to just below 12,000 ML/day. The flow is expected to fall only slightly further this week.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has decreased from 4,800 to 3,200 ML/day, but is now levelling out with the arrival of environmental water released from headwater storages that is aiming to maintain flows close to 4,000 ML/day through until early summer.

At Euston Weir the flow decreased from 36,800 to 23,600 ML/day. A slower recession is expected this week. At Mildura, the weir is now back in the water and the weir pool has almost been re-established. The current pool level is 34.35 m AHD, just 5 cm below the Full Supply Level.

On the Darling River, the flow at Wilcannia – just upstream of the Menindee Lakes – continues to slowly recede and is now at around 1,500 ML/day following a peak of 13,900 ML/day back on 18 August. Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 14 GL this week to 1,983 GL (115% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) has continued to follow a pattern varied around an average target of 500 ML/day, however an increase in the release is now planned to commence on 19 October with flows in excess of 5,000 ML/day expected for at least the next few weeks. The release will supplement flow in the River Murray to supply South Australian water entitlements and trade deliveries. Further details are in the attached Flow Advice. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has been averaging around 1,000 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria the volume decreased this week from 662 to 657 GL (97% capacity), but has been steady over the last few days. The lake level is expected to increase gradually during the coming week. The flow to South Australia has fallen away this week as upstream flows receded fairly steeply. The current flow is 28,000 ML/day – down from 49,500 ML/day one week ago. The flow to South Australia should level out above 20,000 ML/day during the next few weeks.

In South Australia, the flow over Lock 1 has also started to recede – decreasing from 44,600 to 43,700 ML/day over the last few days. A faster recession is expected during the coming week.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina has increased to 0.72 m AHD. Operations in the coming weeks will aim to raise the lakes to at least 0.8 m AHD ahead of the expected inflow recession in order to maximise water storage leading into the summer months.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 17 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	485.02	3 792	98%	71	3 721	+19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.89	2 983	99%	23	2 960	+26
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.84	657	97%	100	557	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 983	115%	(480 #)	1 503	-14
Total		9 269		9 415	102%	--	8 741	+26
Total Active MDBA Storage							102% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 015	99%	3	1 012	+18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 499	92%	24	1 475	+9
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 319	100%	100	3 219	+0

* 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 16 Oct 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 402	+19	Snowy-Murray	+0	471
Snowy-Murray Component	876	+36	Tooma-Tumut	+3	162
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-3	309
			Murray 1 Release	+11	673

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)	38.3	298	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.6	62
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.4	135
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	16
Licensed Pumps	4.4	51	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	5
Lower Darling	3.8	92	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	44
TOTAL	47.0	444	TOTAL	15.9	262

* 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	273.6	(39 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	769.4	
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	80	130	120
Euston	150	150	120
Red Cliffs	110	120	120
Merbein	150	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	450	430	420
Lock 9	140	130	130
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	190	180	200
Waikerie	240	220	220
Morgan	180	190	210
Mannum	190	190	200
Murray Bridge	-	-	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	350	370	420
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	200	220	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 550	3 530	3 410
Goolwa Barrages	520	810	2 630



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 17 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	-	-	-	5 020	R	3 020	6 770
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	6 640	F	8 590	12 280
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.92	218.81	1 740	F	1 940	1 990
Heywoods	5.5	2.28	155.91	6 490	F	8 430	12 200
Doctors Point	5.5	2.53	151.00	9 330	S	9 140	14 940
Albury	4.3	1.51	148.95	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.59	128.61	11 330	R	14 190	15 160
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.53	116.57	9 110	F	14 420	15 150
Tocumwal	6.4	2.73	106.57	12 770	F	16 140	16 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.70	82.24	11 950	F	12 540	10 800
Swan Hill	4.5	2.33	65.25	12 780	S	12 290	13 390
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.29	54.41	18 590	F	19 510	28 040
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.58	45.42	23 560	F	27 090	42 490
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	24 340	F	31 850	42 090
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	267.47	292.23	28 200	F	35 790	50 060
Rufus Junction	-	5.78	22.71	26 170	F	38 830	49 510
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.90	-	43 700	S	44 060	42 530
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.13	155.36	2 340	R	2 440	2 970
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.79	146.47	2 690	R	2 690	3 320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.84	93.26	1 520	S	1 770	1 640
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.20	81.98	2 300	S	3 110	3 260
Edward at Liewah	-	3.00	58.38	2 560	R	2 550	3 300
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.18	55.67	2 960	F	3 460	6 920
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.15	59.11	3 200	F	3 760	5 850
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	10	F	20	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	740	F	880	1 200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.05	-	1 120	S	1 050	1 190

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15 450	18 330
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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	+0.86	+3.52
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+2.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.11	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+2.00
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.05	+1.41	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.30	+3.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.14	+264.83	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.27	+2.86
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+1.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.43	+3.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+1.76	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.28	+2.15

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

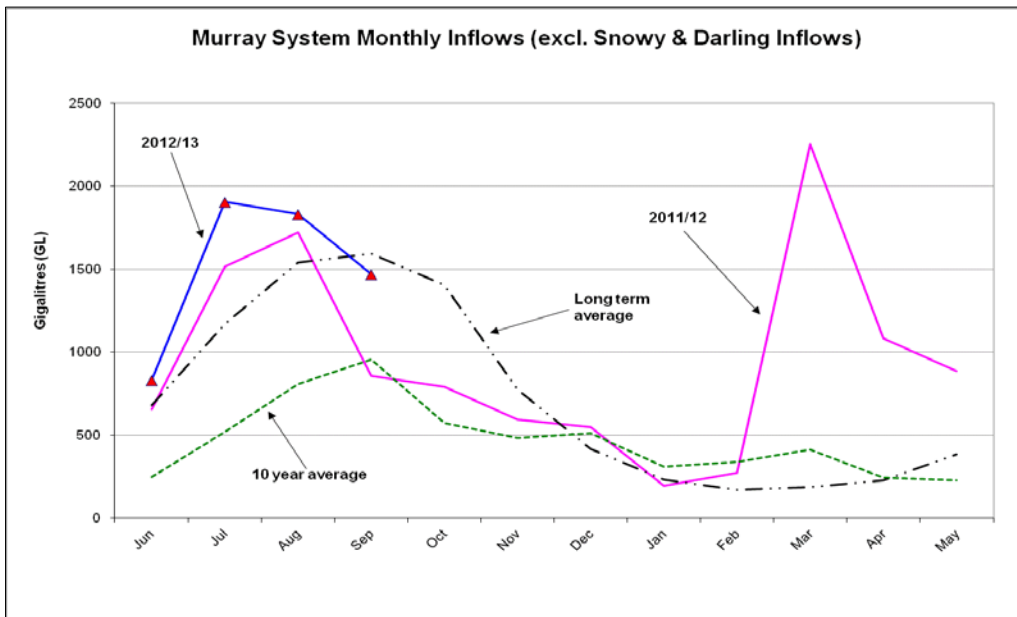
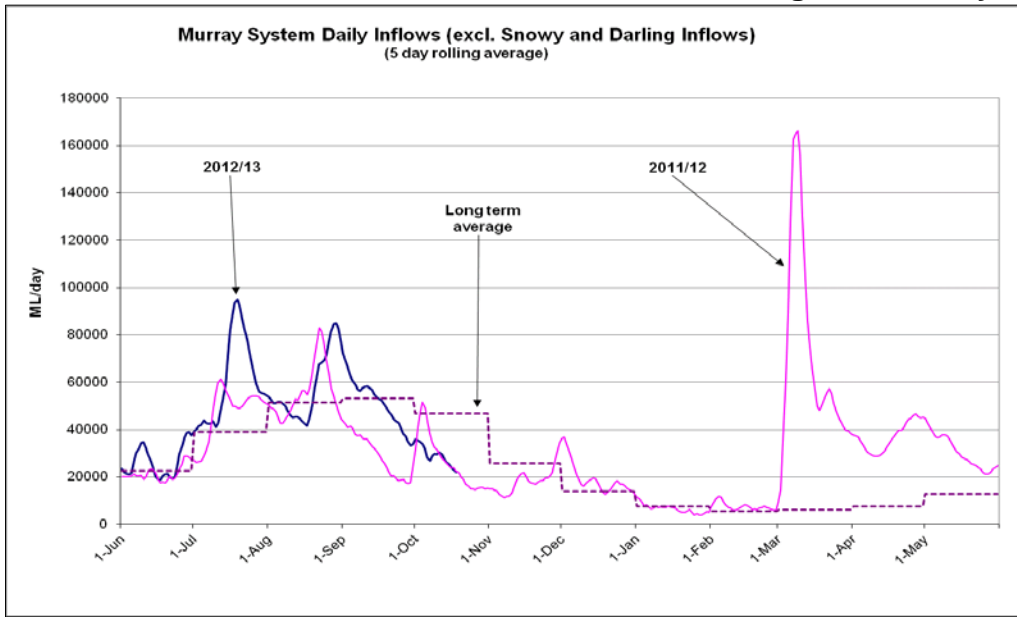
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.72
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.71	20	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.51	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	20	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	40	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 17 Oct 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	95%
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/>

FLOW ADVICE



16 October 2012

Menindee Lakes releases to increase

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority advises that increased releases of water from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River are expected to start on Friday 19 October.

At this stage it is expected that initial target flow rates will be in the order of 2,000 ML/day (gauge height 2.05 m) at Weir 32 by Monday 22 October, increasing to 5,000 - 7,000 ML/day (gauge height 2.5 - 2.7 m) by Friday 26 October.

When water orders are confirmed later this week, the MDBA will provide specific details of dates, flow rates and expected river levels in the lower Darling River.

Releases may change in response to weather and demand conditions as well as the possibility of higher inflows from the upper reaches of the Darling River.

The releases from Menindee Lakes will supplement flow in the River Murray to supply South Australian water entitlements and trade deliveries.

Landholders, river users and pumpers should take into account any announced increase in flow rates along the lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

The MDBA will provide regular updates over the coming months.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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