RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

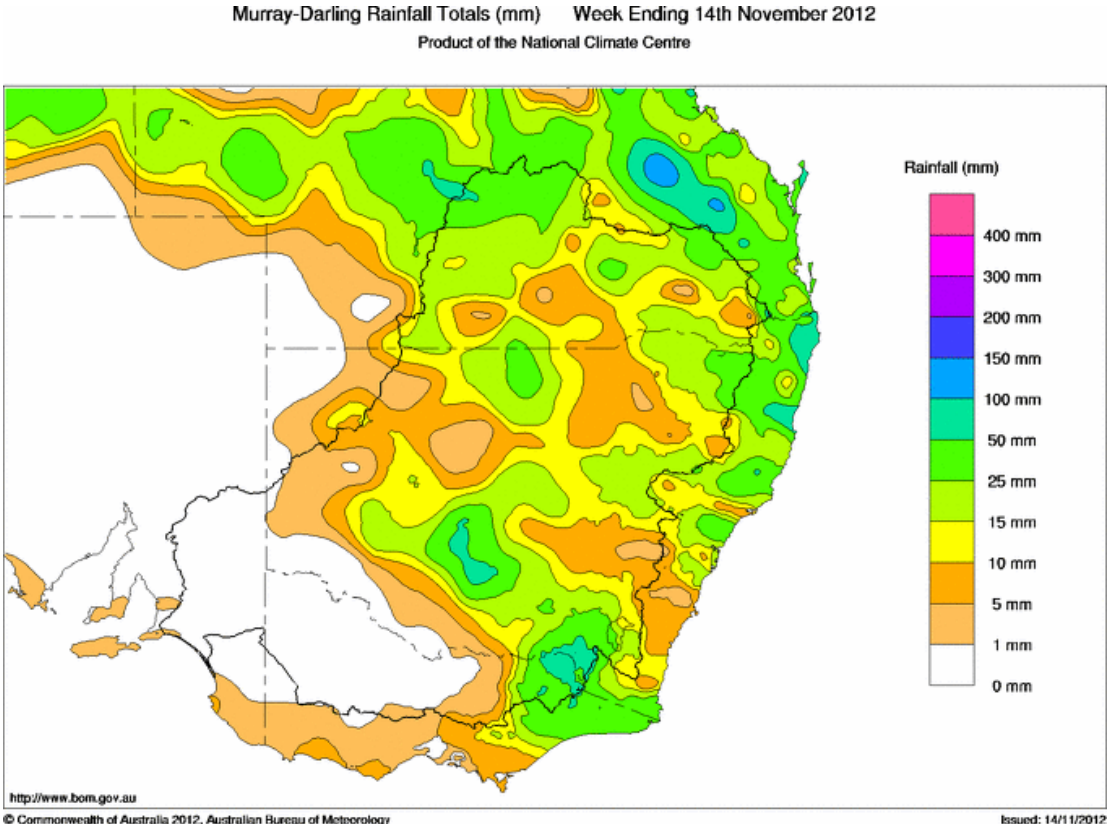
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2012

Trim Ref: D12/47508

Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread rainfall was recorded across much of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. The rain mainly resulted from a slow moving trough and associated cloudband, that generated rain and storms as it crossed eastern Australia in the first half of the week. Highest totals were recorded in the upper River Murray system and parts of the Riverina, although isolated higher totals occurred elsewhere (Map 1). In north-eastern Victoria there was 94 mm at Burrowye, 85 mm at Koetong, 69 mm at Hunters Hill and 68 mm at Berringama. On the south-western slopes of NSW, 61 mm was recorded at Khancoban AWS and 58 mm at Tumbarumba, while in the Riverina, 67 mm was recorded at Griffith and 57 mm at Goolgowi. Also in NSW, 52 mm was recorded at Gulgong in the central tablelands, 60 mm at Guyra and Ben Lomond in the northern tablelands and 37 mm at Bourke in the far west. In Queensland, totals of around 60 mm were recorded at Oakington and The Head in the Darling Downs and Bayswater in the Warrego catchment.

There were moderate responses to the rain across the upper Murray catchment this week. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge peaked at 3,000 ML/day early in the week, and has now receded to 900 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara peaked at 4,200 ML/day and is now 1,500 ML/day, while downstream at Jingellic the flow peaked at 18,000 ML/day and is currently 6,900 ML/day. On the Kiewa River, the flow at Mongans Bridge peaked at 2,300 ML/day and on the Ovens River the flow at Rocky Point peaked at 2,900 ML/day.



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 November 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 40 GL this week and is currently 8,593 GL, or 100% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 1 GL to 3,814 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, has been around 3,500 ML/day for most of the week passing inflows

and maintaining the storage at 99% capacity. Inflows are now receding and in order to hold the storage at 99% capacity the release will be reduced. See the attached flow advice for more details.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 64 GL to 2,928 GL (97% capacity). Total inflows for the week were around 130 GL with a peak daily inflow of 29,600 ML/day. Earlier in the week, the release was relatively low at 6,200 ML/day. However, in response to increasing demand the release has increased over the week and is currently 10,300 ML/day.

At Yarrawonga Weir, daily diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel increased this week. Total diversions are currently around 8,000 ML/day, up from 4,100 ML/day at the start of the week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala was lowered this week from 124.8 m AHD to the current level of 124.74 m AHD. The downstream release is now 8,100 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this flow rate over the coming week.

On the Edward River system, inflow through the Edward offtake eased slightly as the River Murray level at Picnic Point fell away, and is currently 1,440 ML/day. Inflow through the Gulpa offtake is being held at around 500 ML/day, enabling water to enter Reed Bed Swamp where a waterbird breeding event is currently taking place. Inflow from the Edward Escape has averaged around 1,150 ML/day, while diversion to the Wakool Main Canal has averaged around 1,000 ML/day. Downstream of Stevens Weir, the flow has averaged around 1,200 ML/day and similar flows are expected in the coming week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge remained close to 1,000 ML/day throughout the week. The flow is expected to rise toward 5,000 ML/day at the end of next week due to the release of environmental water from Eildon Storage. The higher flows are expected to continue at McCoys Bridge for around two weeks. At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion through National Channel was 3,200 ML/day. Downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the release remained fairly steady between 5,500 and 6,000 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged around 4,700 ML/day but is expected to rise above 7,000 ML/day over the coming week. The flow in the Murray at Euston is now about 12,000 ML/day and expected to remain steady over the coming week.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 17 GL this week to 1,862 GL (108% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) was steady during the week at 2,600 ML/day, but is expected to be increased to 7,000 ML/day over the coming week (see attached flow advice). Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy receded during the week and is currently 3,100 ML/day.

At Wentworth Weir, the flow decreased over the week from 19,000 ML/day to 13,400 ML/day. The flow is expected to remain relatively steady over the coming week. At Lake Victoria the volume peaked during the week at 672 GL (26.96 m AHD, 99%capacity). It is currently at 663 GL (26.89 m AHD, 98% capacity) and expected to continue falling away over the coming weeks.

The flow to South Australia is well above the entitlement flow at present due to the delivery of significant volumes of environmental water from upstream storages. The flow to South Australia decreased over the week from 17,800 ML/day to around 16,000 ML/day and will be gradually reduced to 14,000 ML/day over the coming week.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina increased by 4 cm to 0.80 m AHD. Operations aim to hold the lake around this level prior to summer. Inflows to the Lakes continue to recede and only a small number of Barrage gates remain open with an estimated release of around 5,000 ML/day to the Coorong.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 Nov 2012

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	485.35	3 814	99%	71	3 743	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.62	2 928	97%	23	2 905	+64
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.89	663	98%	100	563	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 862	108%	(480 #)	1 382	-17
Total		**9 269**		**9 267**	**100%**	**- -**	**8 593**	**+40**
Total Active MDBA Storage							100% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		862	84%	3	859	-15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 516	93%	24	1 492	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		3 297	99%	100	3 197	-16

* 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 13 Nov 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 452	+12	Snowy-Murray	+3	478
Snowy-Murray Component	964	+21	Tooma-Tumut	+6	182
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	-3	297
			Murray 1 Release	+9	714

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	474	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	9.3	100
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.7	2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.6	197
Western Murray Irrigation	0.9	6	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	29
Licensed Pumps	4.6	77	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.9	8
Lower Darling	1.4	102	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.5	75
TOTAL	**35.5**	**661**	**TOTAL**	**43.5**	**409**

* 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 additional dilution flows and environmental flows.

Entitlement this month	180.0 *
Flow this week	120.2
Flow so far this month	260.9
Flow last month	1,071.9

(17 200 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	120	120	120
Euston	130	130	120
Red Cliffs	130	120	110
Merbein	200	170	140
Burtundy (Darling)	420	420	430
Lock 9	200	200	140
Lake Victoria	240	230	240
Berri	260	240	200
Waikerie	260	260	250
Morgan	240	240	230
Mannum	330	390	230
Murray Bridge	430	460	260
Milang (Lake Alex.)	320	310	390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	240	260
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 580	3 480	3 430
Goolwa Barrages	500	500	2 060

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Nov 2012

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge Height local (m)	Gauge Height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 150	F	3 090	3 170
Jingellic	4.0	1.94	208.46	6 720	R	10 750	5 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.44	219.33	4 320	S	4 440	3 070
Heywoods	5.5	2.70	156.33	10 260	F	9 530	9 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.86	151.33	13 110	F	11 980	11 310
Albury	4.3	1.82	149.26	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.06	129.08	14 470	F	11 510	14 850
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.40	116.44	8 100	S	8 230	10 620
Tocumwal	6.4	2.09	105.93	8 370	F	8 800	10 760
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.03	80.57	5 690	R	5 740	5 710
Swan Hill	4.5	1.29	64.21	6 140	S	6 130	6 940
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.35	52.47	9 240	S	9 410	11 790
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.24	44.08	12 280	F	13 120	16 940
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	11 830	F	13 390	18 190
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.46	28.22	13 390	R	15 840	20 170
Rufus Junction	-	4.78	21.71	15 610	R	16 380	18 900
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.31	-	15 170	F	16 850	19 250
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.95	155.18	2 020	R	1 940	1 230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.32	146.00	1 430	F	2 040	1 430
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.58	93.00	1 020	R	1 020	1 020
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 060	S	1 270	1 340
Edward at Liewah	-	2.36	57.74	1 740	F	1 820	1 820
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.70	55.19	1 020	S	990	1 260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.95	59.91	4 950	R	4 710	4 980
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.14	-	0	S	10	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.13	-	500	S	520	500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	3 110	F	3 490	3 880

Natural Inflow to Hume	18 160	8 720

(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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+2.46
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.78
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.75
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.41	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+1.59
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.82	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.94
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.37	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.11	+0.93
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.63	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.56

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

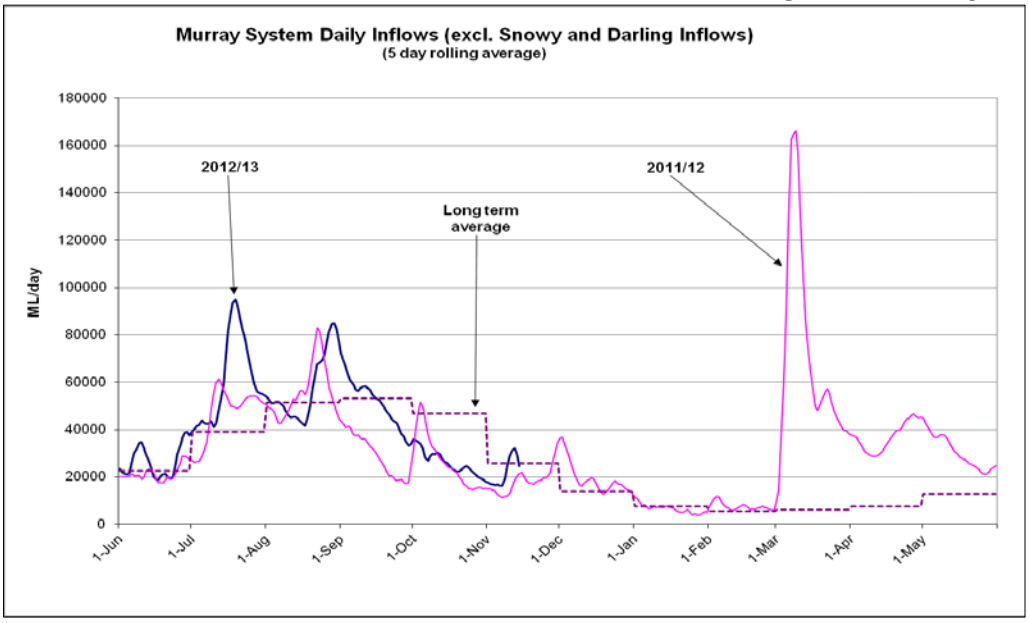
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.80

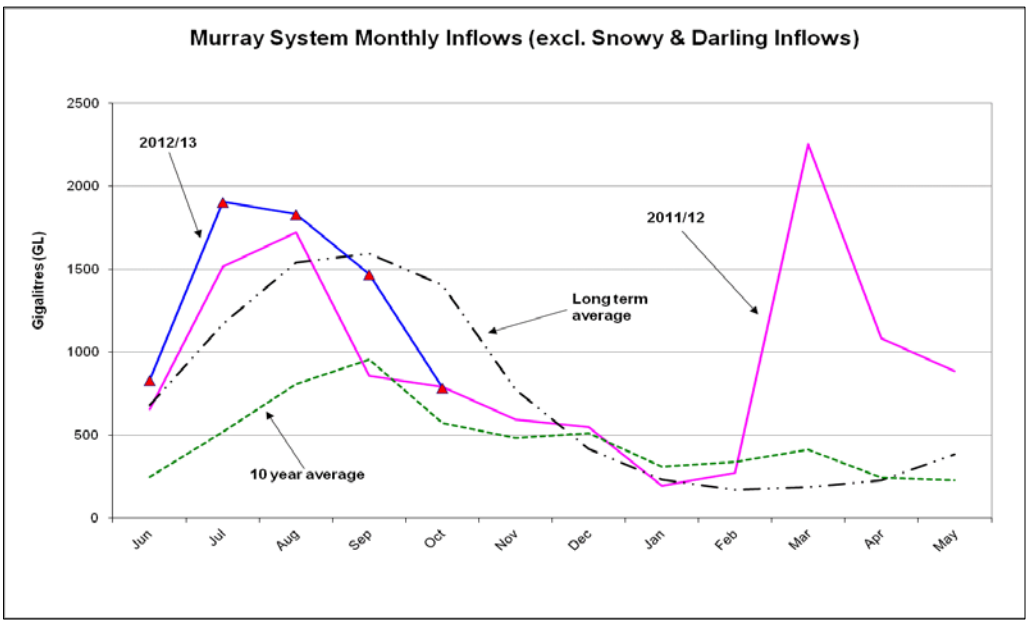
Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Fishways at Barrages: No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.83	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	2	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.83	13	Open	Open

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

Week ending Wednesday 14 Nov 2012





State Allocations (as at 15 Nov 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW – Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	68%

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/

Mitta Mitta River Flow advice

14 November 2012

Dartmouth releases reducing

The release of water from Dartmouth Dam will be gradually reduced over the coming week. Dartmouth Dam is currently at 99% capacity but inflows to Lake Dartmouth are receding.

The flow at Colemans is currently 3,500 ML/day. This flow will be gradually reduced to about 1,100 ML/day by 19 November. At Tallandoon, the flow is expected to recede from about 4,300 to 1,500 ML/day over the same period, depending on inflows from Snowy Creek.

The maximum rate of fall in the river level at Colemans will be 30 mm/hr.

In the next few weeks, releases are planned to maintain the water level in Lake Dartmouth at about 485.4 m AHD (60 cm [40,000 ML] below full supply level) which will reduce the likelihood of flows passing over the spillway. Therefore, during this period, the flow at Colemans is likely to remain in the range of 500–4,000 ML/day, depending on inflows to the lake.

MDBA will provide a flow forecast each Wednesday for the following week on the MDBA website at http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/storage_volumes.

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

ENDS

For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141. For other information contact MDBA at inquiries@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0100.

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Lower Darling River Flow advice

13 November 2012

Increase in release from Menindee Lakes

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that releases from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will increase due to operational demands and warming weather.

Currently, release measured at Weir 32 is at 2,500 ML/day (2.13 m). From Monday 19 November, this will be gradually increased to a flow of 7,000 ML/day (2.7 m). Releases are expected to reach 7,000 ML/day by Friday 23 November.

Higher flows, up to 9,000 ML/day (3.28 m), may be necessary however a flow advice will be issued prior to any change to the planned flow at Weir 32.

At Burtundy, the flow is expected to continue falling to about 2,500 ML/day (1.67 m) by the last week in November and then gradually increase to about 6,000 ML/day (3.63 m) in early December.

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

MDBA will provide regular updates in the River Operations Weekly Report http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/weekly_reports as release patterns vary over the coming months.

Forecast flows are also available on the MDBA website (see http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info (click on 'storage volumes & releases' for Menindee storage volume and Weir 32 flows or 'river flows & levels' for Burtundy flows).

Information on any significant variations to the planned releases will be made available in future flow advices.

ENDS

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