



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

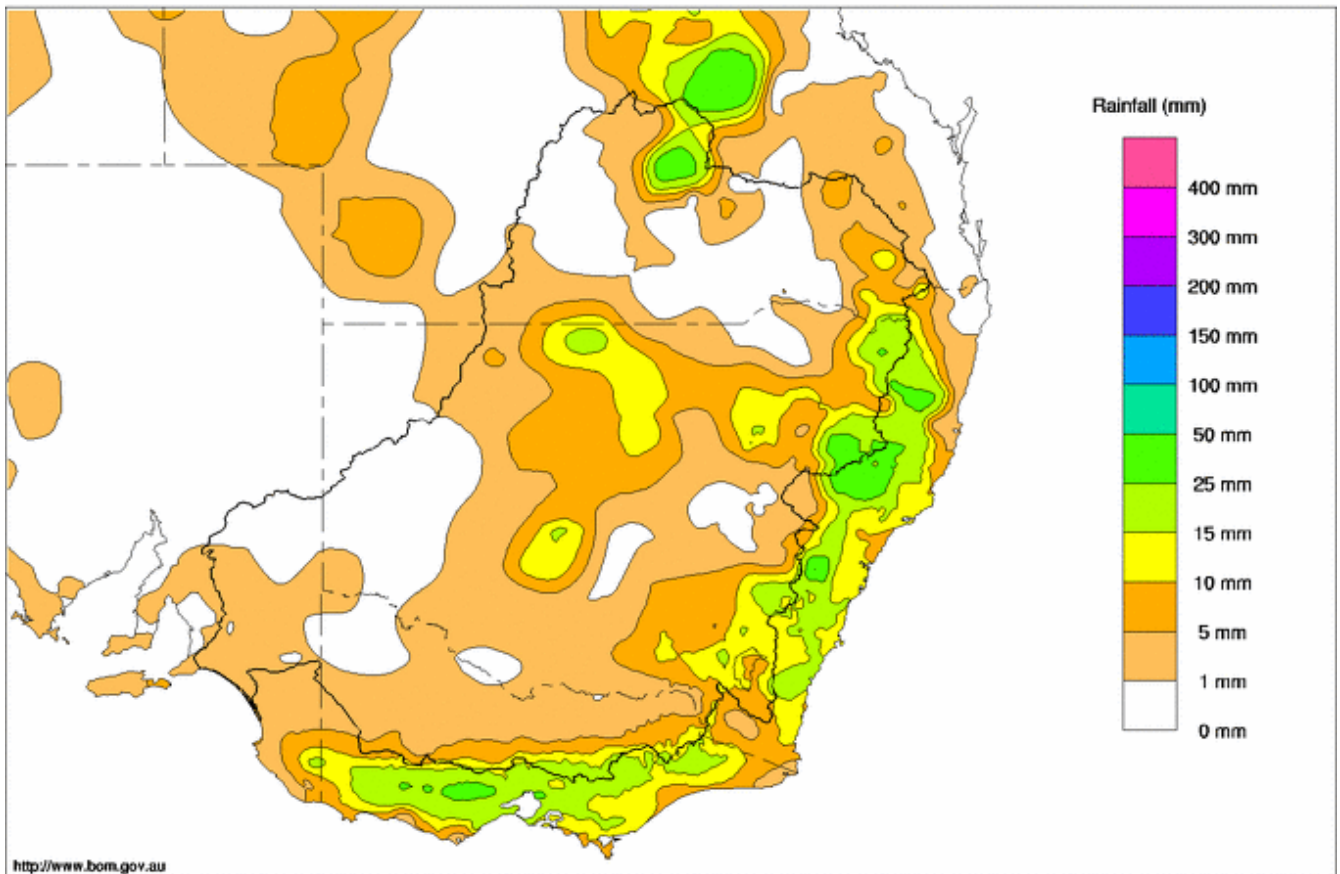
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2012

Trim Ref: D12/48767

## Rainfall and Inflows

There was hot weather across the Murray-Darling Basin this week under the influence of northerly winds and a broad lower pressure trough that also brought instability and thunderstorms to some areas. The highest rain totals were recorded over the NSW ranges along the eastern fringe of the Basin and in the far north (Map 1). In Queensland, there was 55 mm at Havelock and 24 mm at Glenlyon Dam. In NSW, totals included 44 mm at Deepwater, 43 mm at Woolbrook, 39 mm at Quirindi and 35 mm at Emmaville; while in Victoria there was 21 mm at Kilmore Gap and 18 mm at Mt Buller.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 28th November 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 28th November 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Tributaries in the upper Murray catchment have receded slowly for most of the week although some sites increased marginally during the last few days. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge averaged around 550 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased from 1,250 to just under 1,200 ML/day while downstream at Jingellic the flow has averaged just under 4,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded from 1,250 to 1,050 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 149 GL this week to 8,329 GL, or 97% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 7 GL to 3,817 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, was reduced during the early part of the week and is currently steady at around 350



ML/day. A 'pulsed' release of water from Dartmouth Dam with a short peak up to 2,350 ML/day is now planned to commence on Thursday morning, 6 December 2012. As with pulses last summer, this release aims to manage downstream water quality in the Mitta Mitta River. See the attached flow advice for more details.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 67 GL to 2,804 GL (93% capacity). Inflows receded slightly and averaged around 5,000 ML/day for the week. The release is currently 14,400 ML/day and may increase slightly in the coming days.

At Yarrowonga Weir, total diversions at the irrigation offtakes have been close to 9,000 ML/day throughout the week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.78 m AHD, which is close to the usual operating target. The downstream release is currently 8,000 ML/day and is expected to remain in the range between 8,000 and 9,000 ML/day during the coming days.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes increased slightly during the week as slightly higher flows arrived from Yarrowonga Weir. The current flow through the Edward River offtake is 1,550 ML/day with around 550 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek offtake. Inflow from the Edward Escape decreased, with an average this week of about 1,300 ML/day, while diversion to the Wakool Main Canal increased slightly and is currently around 1,500 ML/day. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir decreased during the week and is currently at 600 ML/day. Downstream on the Wakool River flows are slowly receding with Stoney Crossing decreasing from 1,300 to 1,000 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, elevated flows continue due to an environmental release from Lake Eildon. The flow is expected to remain close to 5,500 ML/day for a few more days before receding back towards 2,000 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel has been cut back from 3,200 to 2,200 ML/day during the last few days. Downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, additional water from the Goulburn River has pushed up the flow to 9,500 ML/day. The flow is now close to a peak and will start to recede slowly during the coming week.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald decreased slowly from 6,000 to 4,800 ML/day and will continue to fall away in the days ahead. Downstream on the Murray at Euston the flow also started receding and is now at 11,300 ML/day; however an increasing flow is expected during the coming week as higher flows arrive from Torrumbarry Weir. Downstream at Mildura Weir, the pool level is currently steady at 34.43 m AHD, or 3 cm above the target level. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water have advised that the Mildura Weir pool is planned to be fully drawn down for up to 11 weeks during winter 2013 to allow for essential maintenance to be undertaken. See the attached media release for more details.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 78 GL this week to 1,741 GL (101% capacity) as the release (measured at Weir 32) reached almost 9,000 ML/day. The release will remain at around 9,000 ML/day during the coming week. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has started increasing as the higher releases from Menindee begin to arrive. The current flow is 4,500 ML/day and should rise above 6,000 ML/day in a few days' time.

At Lake Victoria the volume reduced by a further 11 GL to 641 GL (95% capacity) and the level is expected to continue falling in the coming weeks. The flow to South Australia has averaged around 14,000 ML/day but may be increased in the coming week.

The flow at Lock 1 is currently 11,500 ML/day and at the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina decreased to 0.78 m AHD, with flows estimated at around 4,000 ML/day continuing through the Barrages.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 28 Nov 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	485.40	3 817	99%	71	3 746	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.98	2 804	93%	23	2 781	-67
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.70	641	95%	100	541	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 741	101%	(480 #)	1 261	-78
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 003</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 329</b>	<b>-149</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							97% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	780	76%	3	777	-49
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 497	92%	24	1 473	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 202	96%	100	3 102	-48

\* 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 27 Nov 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 421	-19	Snowy-Murray	+3	481
Snowy-Murray Component	974	+1	Tooma-Tumut	+3	189
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	0	293
			Murray 1 Release	+3	721

**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)	48.4	566	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.7	126
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.1	7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	16.9	233
Western Murray Irrigation	1.3	8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.2	40
Licensed Pumps	5.5	90	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	10
Lower Darling	4.2	25	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.5	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>505</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	180.0 *	
Flow this week	98.4	(14 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	461.0	
Flow last month	1,071.9	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	130	130	120
Euston	130	130	120
Red Cliffs	150	140	120
Merbein	140	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	450	450	430
Lock 9	220	220	150
Lake Victoria	240	240	240
Berri	290	290	210
Waikerie	290	300	250
Morgan	290	280	240
Mannum	280	290	240
Murray Bridge	320	330	270
Milang (Lake Alex.)	360	350	380
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	360	300	260
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 470	3 430	3 440
Goolwa Barrages	460	440	1 870



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 28 Nov 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	-	-	-	1 220	F	1 500	1 160
Jingellic	4.0	1.59	208.11	4 100	F	3 950	4 830
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.58	218.47	820	R	900	2 200
Heywoods	5.5	3.02	156.65	14 380	R	13 630	14 650
Doctors Point	5.5	3.12	151.59	16 120	S	15 370	16 590
Albury	4.3	2.11	149.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.21	129.23	15 420	R	15 760	15 820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.39	116.43	8 010	S	8 670	8 230
Tocumwal	6.4	2.12	105.96	8 570	F	8 880	8 350
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.07	81.61	9 450	R	8 500	5 430
Swan Hill	4.5	1.61	64.53	8 240	R	6 610	5 890
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.37	52.49	9 310	R	8 680	9 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.11	43.95	11 280	R	11 860	12 620
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	10 940	F	11 440	11 900
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.41	28.17	13 200	R	12 810	13 100
Rufus Junction	-	4.58	21.51	13 840	R	13 320	13 750
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.15	-	11 470	R	11 370	13 510
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.51	154.74	1 300	R	1 290	1 330
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.14	145.82	1 040	S	1 130	1 380
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.78	95.20	5 310	F	5 400	2 800
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.87	80.65	630	F	710	1 080
Edward at Liewah	-	1.99	57.37	1 320	F	1 410	1 610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.62	55.11	900	F	1 070	1 250
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.87	59.83	4 790	F	5 350	5 730
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.06	-	0	F	40	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	740	R	670	520
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	4 540	R	3 270	2 900

Natural Inflow to Hume	5 700	6 390
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+2.28
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.65
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.65
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.36	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+1.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.77	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.75
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.45	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.72
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.70	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.40

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

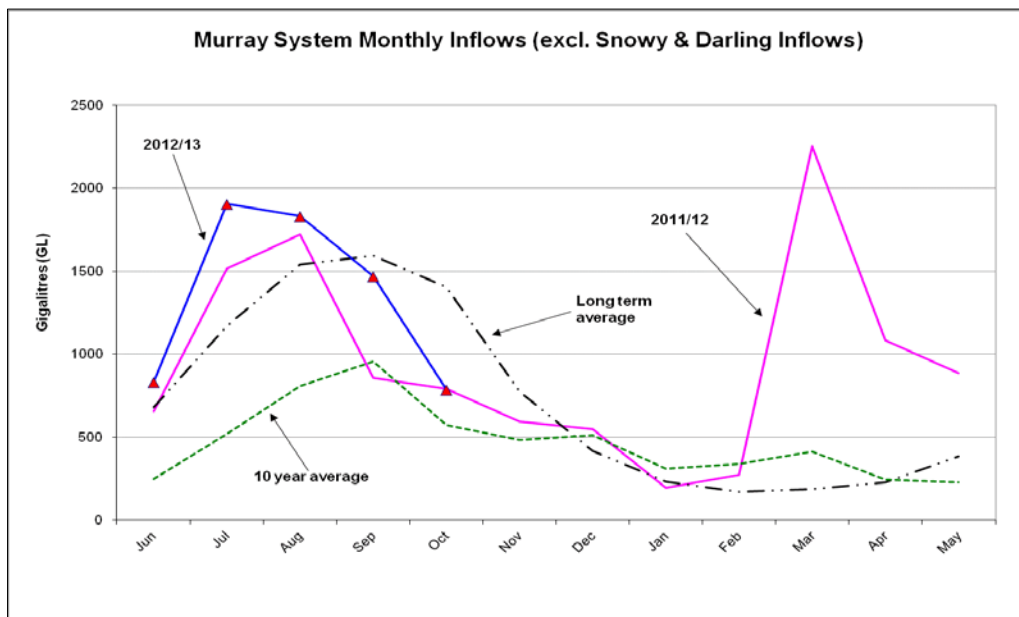
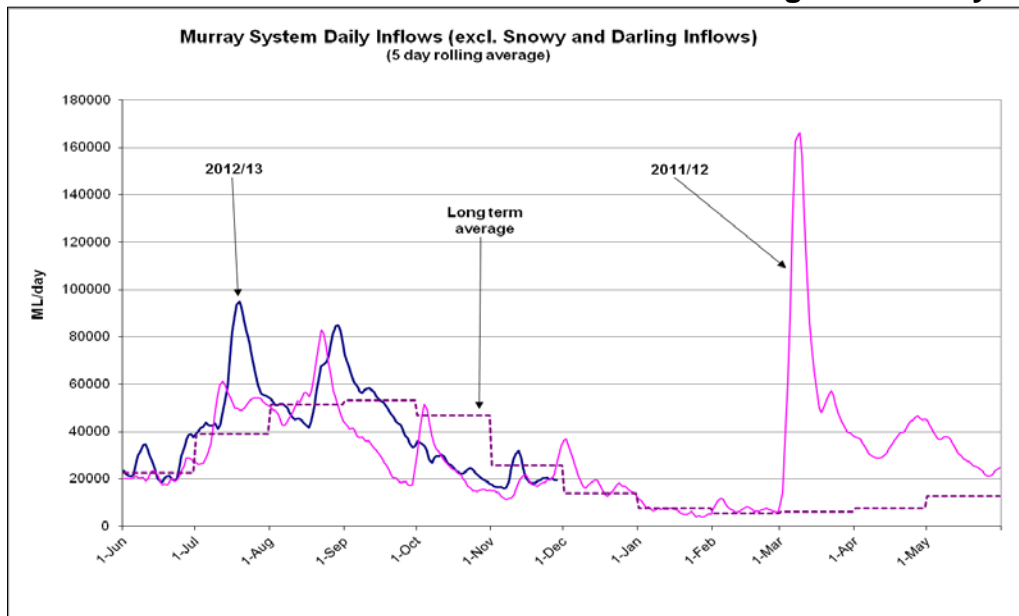
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.78
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.86	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	14	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 28 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%
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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 November 2012

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## Lowering of Mildura Weir pool in winter 2013

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water today advised that the Mildura Weir pool is planned to be fully drawn down for up to 11 weeks next winter to allow for essential maintenance to be undertaken.

The full drawdown of Mildura Weir pool (to about 3.6 m below full supply level, depending on river flows) is planned to commence in late May. The precise timing and duration of the drawdown will take into account conditions at the time and input from river users.

Lock 11 will also be closed for this period and boat access through the weir will not be possible during this time.

When the remedial works are completed and the weir is reinstated, the weir pool will be raised back to full supply level by mid-August 2013. If the works are completed earlier, then the weir pool will be filled to the normal operating range at the earliest opportunity.

During the drawdown of Mildura Weir, interference with any habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic plants is prohibited.

Some increases in river salinity may occur during the drawdown, depending on flow rates at the time. River salinities will be continually monitored and available on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels and the lock closure into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

Over the coming months, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water will issue further advice with more specific dates and details.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn-Murray Water on 03 5826 3754.

 Follow the MDBA [http://twitter.com/MD\\_Basin\\_Auth](http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth)

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au/>

Trim: D12/48163

# Mitta Mitta River

## Flow advice



30 November 2012

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## Dartmouth pulsed release commencing 6 December 2012

A 'pulsed' release of water from Dartmouth Dam is planned to commence on Thursday morning, 6 December 2012. This pulse will have a short peak of up to 2,350 ML/day, with flows greater than 650 ML/day extending for 5 days. As with the previous pulses last summer, this release aims to manage the water quality in the downstream section of the Mitta Mitta River.

The increased release from Dartmouth Dam is currently planned to commence at 8 am on Thursday 6 December, from a flow of 400 ML/day at Colemans gauge, to about 2,350 ML/day by 4 pm.

The flow rate at Colemans will then be gradually lowered, starting Friday night (7 December), to gradually return to between 400–600 ML/day by Thursday 13 December. Rates of rise and fall in the river at Colemans will follow operational guidelines.

With the forecast inflow from Snowy Creek, assuming no rain, the pulsed release is expected to result in a flow at Tallandoon of less than 2,500 ML/day (less than 2.1 m local gauge height).

If there is substantial rainfall over the coming days, the river level at Tallandoon may temporarily rise above 2,500 ML/day, in response to tributary inflows to the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir. It is also possible that this planned release may be reduced, or cancelled, in response to higher natural flows.

Further pulsed releases are likely over summer. Pulsed releases aim to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.

MDBA provides a flow forecast each Wednesday for the following week on the MDBA website at [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/storage\\_volumes](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/storage_volumes).

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take in to account the increase 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](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141. For other information contact MDBA at [inquiries@mdba.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0100.**

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