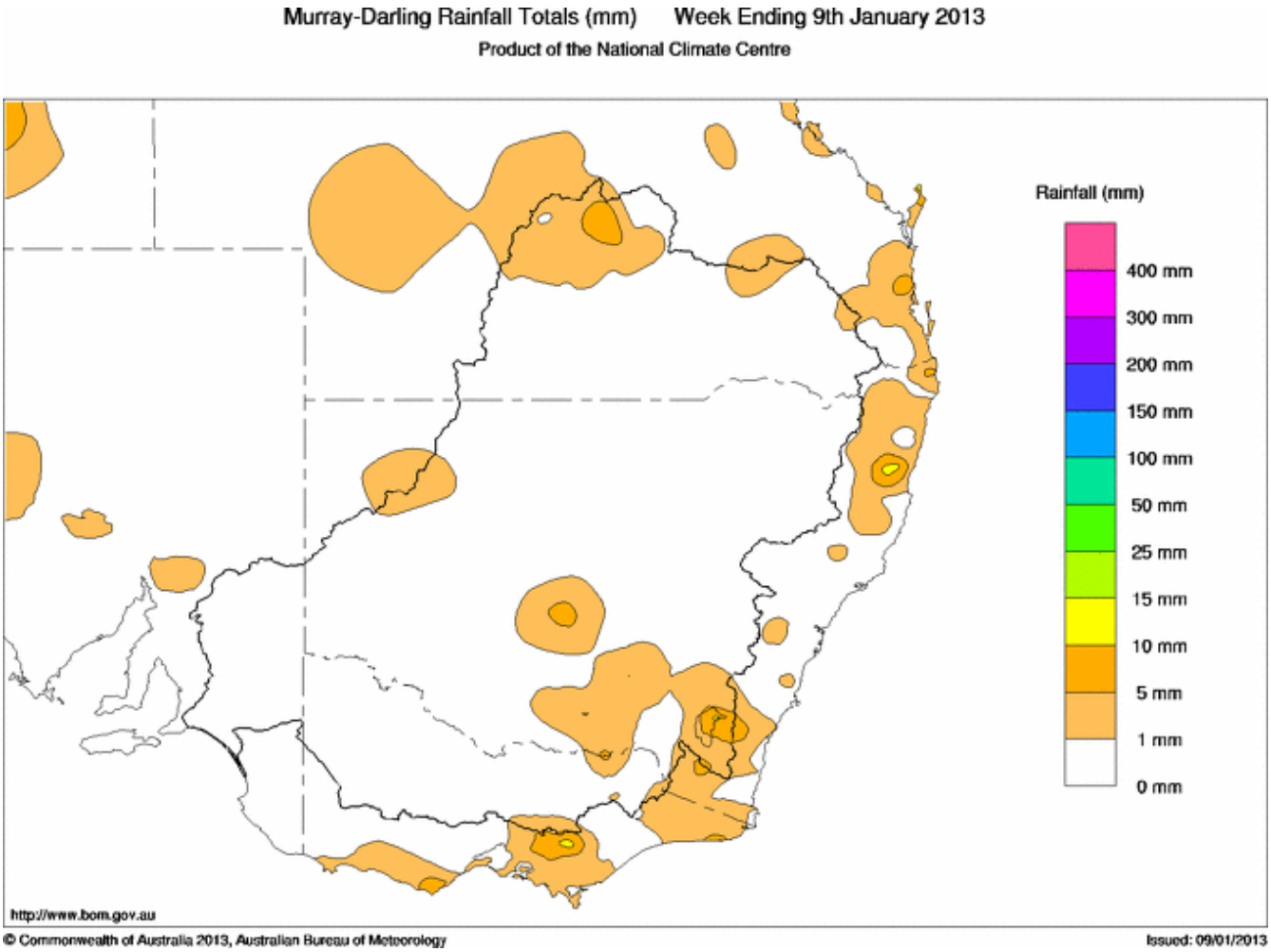
RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2013

Trim Ref: D13/1263

Rainfall and Inflows

The Murray-Darling Basin was mostly dry and hot this week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms delivered only small amounts of rain (Map 1). Highest totals included 14 mm at Lochinvar in the Warrego catchment in Queensland. In New South Wales 14 mm was recorded at Gungahlin and 11 mm at Queanbeyan on the southern tablelands, 13 mm at Albury on the southwest slopes and 10 mm at Coolamon in the Riverina.



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 9 January 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Tributaries in the upper Murray catchment have continued to recede this week. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge reduced from 210 ML/day to 160 ML/day. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara fell from 730 ML/day to 660 ML/day, although downstream at Jingellic the flow increased early in the week to around 6,000 ML/day due to releases from the Snowy Hydro Scheme in response to high electricity demand resulting from this week's hot conditions. On the Ovens River the flow at Rocky Point reduced from 350 ML/day to 220 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 204 GL and is currently 7,198 GL, or 84% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 2 GL and is 3,813 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, increased to around 900 ML/day during the week. Another 'pulsed' release reaching around 4,000 ML/day is scheduled to commence on Monday 14 January 2013. This release aims to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River (see attached flow advice for details).

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 124 GL to 2,238 GL (74% capacity). The release averaged around 21,500 ML/day during the week in response to high demand and increased losses due to the hot and dry conditions across the Basin. The current release is targeting channel capacity of 25,000 ML/day at Doctors Point.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the total diversion at the irrigation offtakes increased to around 86 GL this week. The peak combined daily diversion reached around 12,600 ML/day on 9 January including 10,200 ML/day (channel capacity) at Mulwala Canal. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently around 124.86 m AHD. The downstream release reduced from 9,000 ML/day to 8,500 ML/day this week, however, will be increased to around 10,000 ML/day, near channel capacity, next week.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes averaged 1,500 ML/day and 460 ML/day respectively. Flow to Gulpa offtake will reduce to the normal summer minimum of 350 ML/day in the coming week as the watering of Reed Bed Swamp for a bird breeding event draws to a close. Inflow through the Edward Escape averaged around 2,000 ML/day this week, while diversions to the Wakool Main Canal averaged around 2,100 ML/day. The diversion to Colligen Creek returned to the normal summer operating level of around 170 ML/day this week, however, further downstream the Niemur River has ceased to flow at Mallan School due to recent very high demands and losses. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged around 840 ML/day this week.

On the Goulburn River delivery of water traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley continued. The flow at McCoys Bridge receded from 2,400 ML/day to 1,800 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel averaged around 2,800 ML/day. Downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the flow increased from 4,500 ML/day to 5,300 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald averaged 1,500 ML/day. Due to high demand upstream, the flow is expected to recede toward 500 ML/day next week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston the flow reduced from 7,200 ML/day to 4,900 ML/day, and is expected to continue falling over the next two weeks, perhaps below 4,000 ML/day. If hot and dry conditions continue it is feasible that flow over Mildura Weir may temporarily fall below 2,000 ML/day later in January.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 59 GL to 1,288 GL (74% capacity). The release (measured at Weir 32) reduced to 6,000 ML/day. The release will be reduced to 5,000 ML/day next week. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy was steady around 5,500 ML/day. On the River Murray at Wentworth, the flow reduced from 11,300 ML/day to 7,800 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria the volume reduced by 19 GL to 533 GL (79% capacity) and is expected to continue falling over the coming weeks. Flow to South Australia averaged 10,500 ML/day with delivery of Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) ceasing on 8 January 2013 when Menindee Lakes fell below 1,300 GL.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina reduced from 0.70 m AHD to 0.67 m AHD. With inflows receding and evaporation and demand increasing, the number of Barrage gates open was reduced further to prolong connectivity with the Coorong, with around 1,200 ML/day being released.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 09 Jan 2013

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	485.34	3 813	99%	71	3 742	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	187.85	2 238	74%	23	2 215	-124
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.78	533	79%	100	433	-19
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 288	74%	(480 #)	808	-59
Total		**9 269**		**7 872**	**85%**	**- -**	**7 198**	**-204**
Total Active MDBA Storage							84% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		556	54%	3	553	-57
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 351	83%	24	1 327	-36
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		3 013	90%	100	2 913	-42

* 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 08 Jan 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 226	-44	Snowy-Murray	+29	529
Snowy-Murray Component	957	-29	Tooma-Tumut	+4	200
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	24	329
			Murray 1 Release	+31	773

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)	68.3	884	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.3	198
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.6	24	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.9	257
Western Murray Irrigation	1.8	16	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.5	73
Licensed Pumps	7.6	134	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	22
Lower Darling	4.1	53	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	158
TOTAL	**84.4**	**1111**	**TOTAL**	**58.5**	**708**

* 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 normal entitlement for this month due to Additional Dilution Flow and traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *
Flow this week	73.6
Flow so far this month	94.1
Flow last month	528.2

(10 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	90	90	110
Euston	130	130	120
Red Cliffs	150	150	120
Merbein	150	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	460	470	440
Lock 9	360	340	190
Lake Victoria	260	240	240
Berri	380	400	250
Waikerie	370	360	270
Morgan	370	380	260
Mannum	380	370	260
Murray Bridge	370	360	290
Milang (Lake Alex.)	390	380	390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	440	390	280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 300	3 290	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	630	630	1 550

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 09 Jan 2013

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	-	-	-	2 260	F	5 300	1 120
Jingellic	4.0	1.91	208.43	6 480	R	5 540	2 360
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.68	218.57	1 130	S	1 010	1 620
Heywoods	5.5	3.77	157.40	23 680	R	21 530	20 420
Doctors Point	5.5	3.81	152.28	24 750	R	22 350	21 020
Albury	4.3	2.89	150.33	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	4.02	130.04	21 420	S	20 820	18 860
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.45	116.49	8 480	S	8 680	7 440
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	8 310	F	8 510	7 340
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.90	80.44	5 270	R	4 850	4 820
Swan Hill	4.5	0.99	63.91	4 320	R	4 320	4 800
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.15	51.27	4 770	F	5 310	6 680
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.09	42.93	4 940	F	5 690	7 760
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	3 730	F	4 570	6 880
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.09	27.85	7 820	F	8 590	11 640
Rufus Junction	-	4.13	21.06	10 380	R	9 900	10 880
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.93	-	5 540	F	6 060	11 060
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.87	154.10	400	F	470	520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.82	145.50	430	F	510	670
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.00	93.42	1 850	F	2 070	2 250
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.98	80.76	740	F	840	630
Edward at Liewah	-	0.83	56.21	390	F	550	1 040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.32	54.81	250	F	330	520
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.06	58.02	1 590	R	1 530	1 960
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	290	F	340	610
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	260	S	310	350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.37	-	5 430	F	5 540	5 580

Natural Inflow to Hume	300	1 050

(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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+1.84
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.45
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.36
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.08	+1.08
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.45	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.06	+0.37
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.40	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.28
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.18	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.18

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.67

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.55	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.58	4	Open	Open

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

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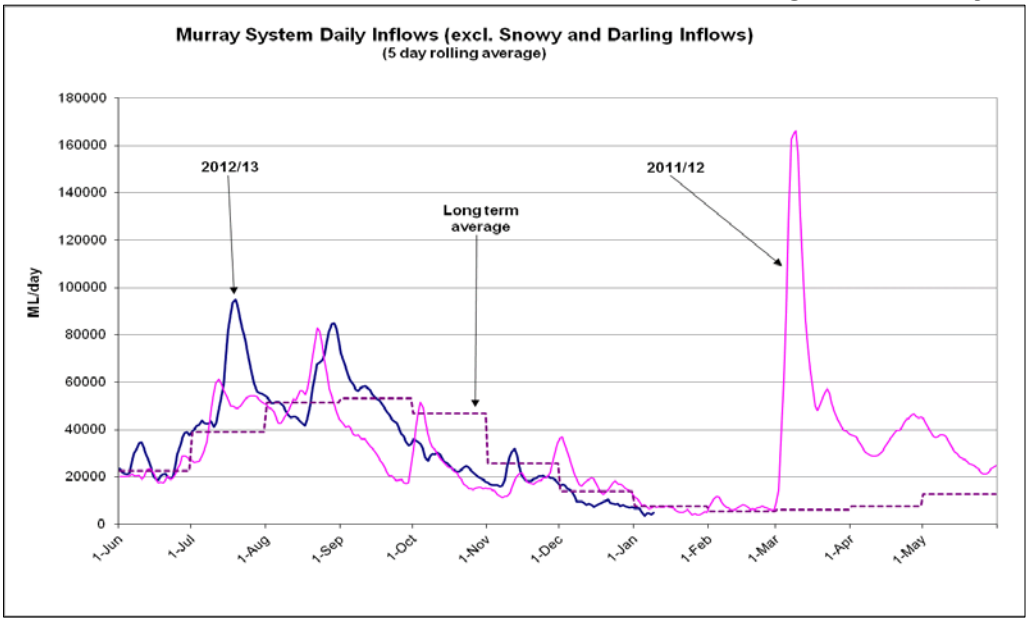
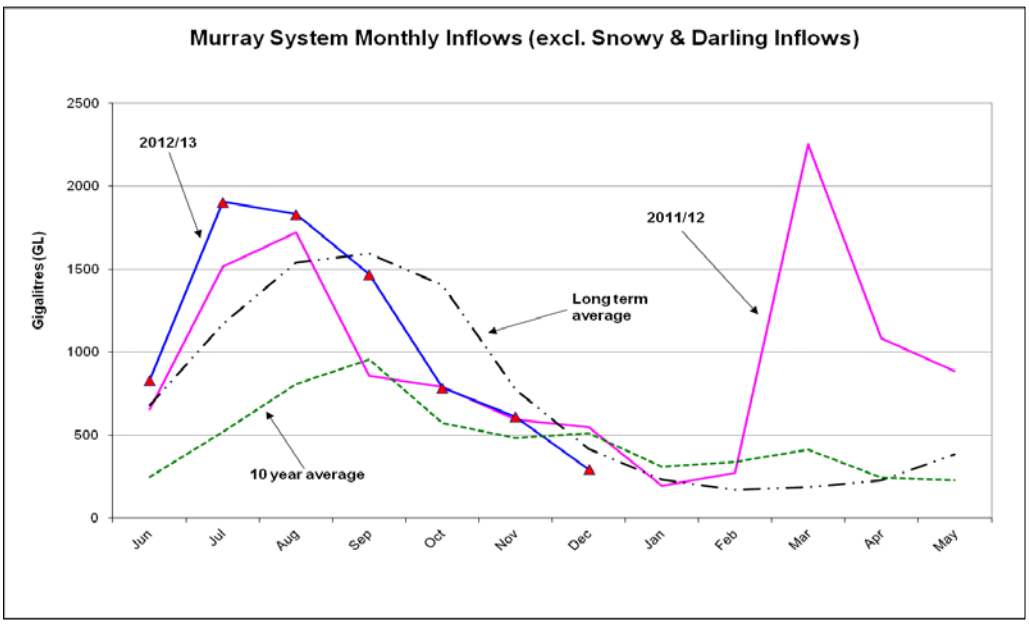
Week ending Wednesday 09 Jan 2013





State Allocations (as at 09 Jan 2013)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW – Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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

4 January 2013

Higher flows downstream of Dartmouth Dam

Releases from Dartmouth Dam will be increased to 900 ML/day on the morning of Saturday 5 January 2012. As a result, the gauge height at Colemans will increase from about 1.24 m to about 1.36 m.

A 'pulsed' release of water from Dartmouth Dam is planned for mid January 2013.

During the pulsed release, the flow at Colemans gauge will start to increase very early on Monday 14 January, reaching about 4,000 ML/day (2.06 m gauge height) by 8 am. This flow rate will be maintained until early-morning on Wednesday 16 January 2013.

By early-morning on Saturday 19 January 2013, the flow is expected to be reduced to between 600–1,000 ML/day (1.21-1.4 m gauge height at Colemans).

Rates of rise and fall in the river at Colemans will follow operational guidelines.

With the forecast inflow from Snowy Creek, the pulsed release in mid January is expected to result in a flow at Tallandoon of around 4,200 ML/day (2.46 m local gauge height).

However, if there is substantial rainfall during the pulsed release, the river level at Tallandoon may temporarily rise above 4,200 ML/day from tributary inflows to the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir.

It is also possible that this planned pulsed 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.

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

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