



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2013

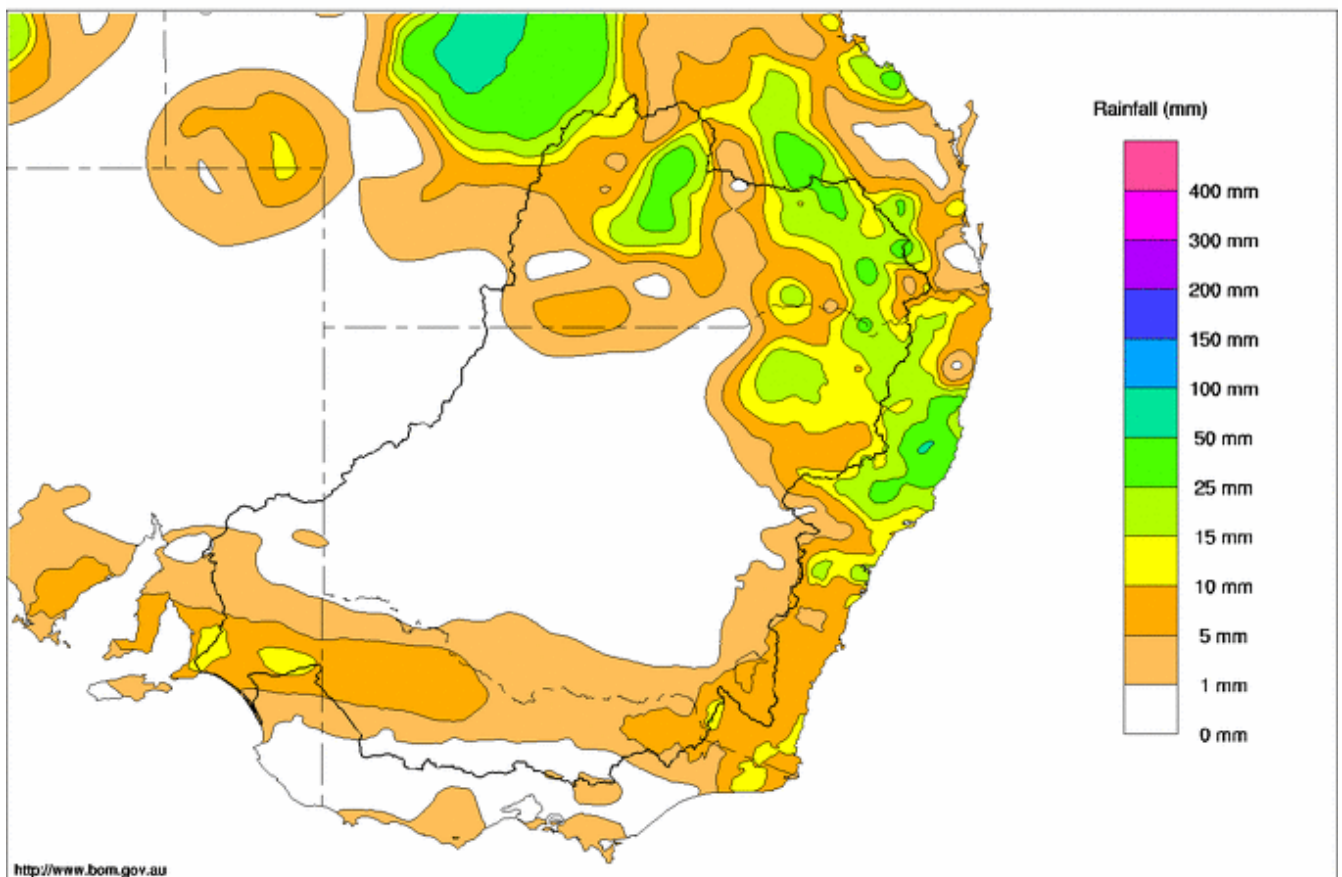
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Rainfall and Inflows

Very hot conditions continued across the Murray-Darling Basin – particularly in northern areas – although relatively cooler weather arrived from the south later in the week. Rainfall associated with a slow moving trough was confined mostly to north-eastern areas, with patchy but very intense and damaging storms affecting the Namoi catchment. Light rain in the south provided only slight relief from the hot and dry conditions that have affected the region during recent weeks (Map 1).

Highest rain totals were recorded in Queensland where there was 68 mm at Toowoomba, 49 mm at Horse Creek, 43 mm at Hartmann Bridge and 38 mm at Millmerran. Notable totals in northern NSW included 32 mm at Guyra and 23 mm at Wee Waa.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th January 2013
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 16 January 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flows across the upper Murray catchments remain quite low with the light rain causing only minimal responses in the tributaries. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic has averaged close to 3,000 ML/day with Snowy Hydro releases contributing the bulk of the water. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge continues to average less than 200 ML/day; while at Wangaratta the Ovens River has been flowing at around 450 ML/day.



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 260 GL and is currently 6,938 GL, or 81% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 13 GL and is 3,800 GL (99% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, was increased to a peak of around 4,000 ML/day on 14–15 January. This 'pulsed' release aims to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River. The release will be reduced, starting late Wednesday 16 January, to between 600 and 1,000 ML/day over the next few days.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume reduced by 129 GL to 2,109 GL (70% capacity). The release averaged around 21,700 ML/day in response to high demand due to the hot and dry conditions.

At Yarrowonga Weir, total diversion to the irrigation offtakes remained high at around 87 GL this week. The peak combined daily diversion averaged 12,400 ML/day including 10,200 ML/day (channel capacity) for most of the week at Mulwala Canal. Demand began to ease at the end of the week and is expected to continue falling over the coming few days.

The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.95 m AHD, which is 5 cm above Full Supply Level (FSL) and has been near to, or slightly above, FSL for the entire week. The pool level is expected to be gradually lowered back below FSL next week. Release increased to 10,500 ML/day this week, but is expected to be reduced to around 9,000 ML/day next week once the pool level decreases.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward offtake averaged 1,600 ML/day and flow through the Gulpa offtake reduced to the normal summer minimum of 350 ML/day at the end of the week. Downstream on the Niemur River, flow resumed at Mallan School late this week, albeit at very low rates (currently 10 ML/day), after very high demands and losses caused the flow to cease for about a week. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir averaged about 840 ML/day this week.

On the Goulburn River, delivery of water traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley continued, averaging 1,600 ML/day, measured at McCoys Bridge. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel averaged around 2,800 ML/day, with an increase to 3,200 ML/day ordered after the coming weekend. Release from Torrumbarry Weir averaged 5,000 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, delivery of water traded to the Murray Valley continued with flow at Balranald receding from 1,600 ML/day to 900 ML/day. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow averaged around 4,500 ML/day, and is expected to ease over the coming week to around 4,000 ML/day. If hot and dry conditions continue it is possible that the flow over Mildura Weir may temporarily decrease to below 2,000 ML/day later in January.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 78 GL to 1,210 GL (70% capacity). Release (at Weir 32) averaged 5,100 ML/day. The release from Lake Wetherell was ceased this week and release from Lake Pamamaroo will be reduced to minimum rates next week to preserve water for Broken Hill (see attached flow advice). Therefore, over the coming months, the release to the lower Darling River will be restricted to the outlet capacity from Lake Menindee.

Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy averaged 5,200 ML/day. On the Murray at Wentworth, the flow decreased early in the week from 7,400 ML/day to around 6,400 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria to 493 GL (73% capacity) and is expected to continue falling over the coming weeks. Flow to South Australia averaged 10,500 ML/day and is expected to be steady next week.

The flow at Lock 1 (Blanchetown) is currently about 7,300 ML/day. The level in the Lower Lakes fell slightly during the week from 0.67 m to 0.64 m AHD, with the estimated release through the Barrages averaging about 1,200 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 16 Jan 2013

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	485.14	3 800	99%	71	3 729	-13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	187.08	2 109	70%	23	2 086	-129
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.42	493	73%	100	393	-40
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 210	70%	(480 #)	730	-78
Total		9 269		7 612	82%	--	6 938	-260
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	481	47%	3	478	-75
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 308	80%	24	1 284	-43
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 958	89%	100	2 858	-55

* 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 15 Jan 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 208	-19	Snowy-Murray	+10	538
Snowy-Murray Component	945	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+1	201
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	9	338
			Murray 1 Release	+11	784

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)	70.1	954	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.5	210
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.1	28	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.8	271
Western Murray Irrigation	1.5	18	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.4	78
Licensed Pumps	8.1	144	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	5.5	28
Lower Darling	4.0	57	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	174
TOTAL	86.8	1201	TOTAL	58.2	761

* 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	74.5	(10 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	168.6	
Flow last month	528.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	90	110
Euston	130	130	130
Red Cliffs	170	160	120
Merbein	150	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	470	450	440
Lock 9	370	370	200
Lake Victoria	260	260	240
Berri	380	390	260
Waikerie	390	380	270
Morgan	400	380	270
Mannum	400	390	270
Murray Bridge	390	390	290
Milang (Lake Alex.)	440	420	390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	410	410	290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 530	3 510	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	850	750	1 510



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 16 Jan 2013

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	-	-	-	2 340	R	1 980	5 300
Jingellic	4.0	1.33	207.85	2 470	F	3 040	5 540
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.48	219.37	4 340	R	2 040	1 010
Heywoods	5.5	3.59	157.22	21 550	R	21 750	21 530
Doctors Point	5.5	3.62	152.09	22 350	F	22 370	22 350
Albury	4.3	2.70	150.14	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.95	129.97	20 850	S	21 990	20 820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.70	116.74	10 380	F	10 010	8 680
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	9 950	R	9 210	8 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.87	80.42	5 210	R	4 970	4 850
Swan Hill	4.5	1.05	63.97	4 680	S	4 590	4 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.32	51.44	5 330	R	4 940	5 310
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.11	42.95	5 040	R	4 540	5 690
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 650	F	2 930	4 570
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	27.88	6 470	S	6 690	8 590
Rufus Junction	-	4.07	21.00	9 940	R	9 840	9 900
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.82	-	7 290	F	6 990	6 060
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	350	S	350	470
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.86	145.54	500	R	440	510
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.96	93.38	1 760	R	1 630	2 070
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.19	80.96	950	S	840	840
Edward at Liewah	-	1.21	56.59	630	R	530	550
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.27	54.76	190	S	210	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.37	57.33	920	F	1 270	1 530
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	110	R	110	340
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	130	F	200	310
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.17	-	4 990	F	5 180	5 540

Natural Inflow to Hume	310	760
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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	+0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.23	+1.77
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.41
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.39
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+1.14
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.48	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.08	+0.47
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.19	+0.51	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.39
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.27	+0.24	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.07

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

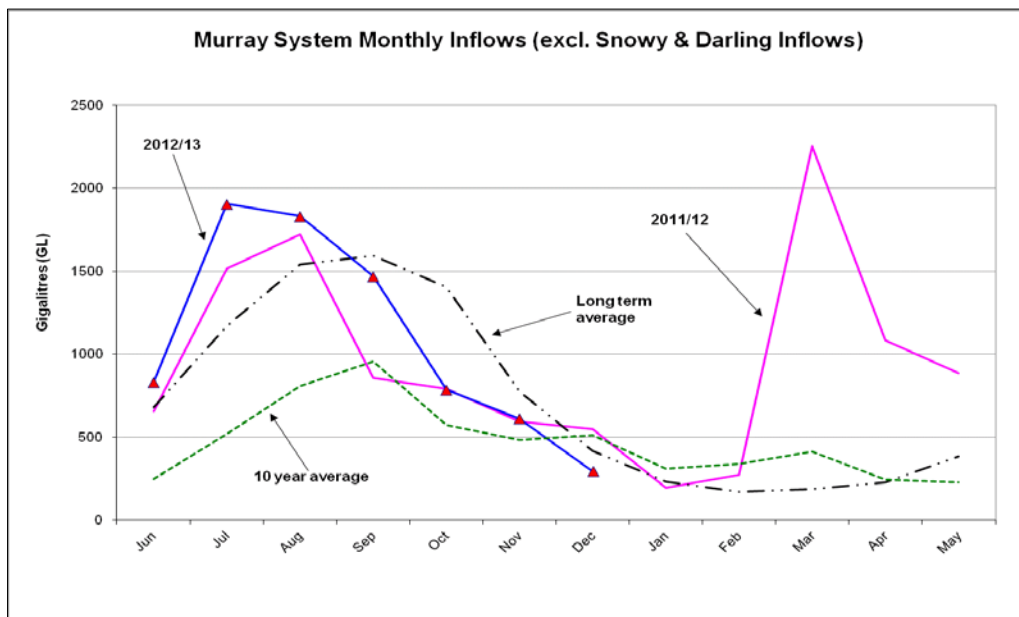
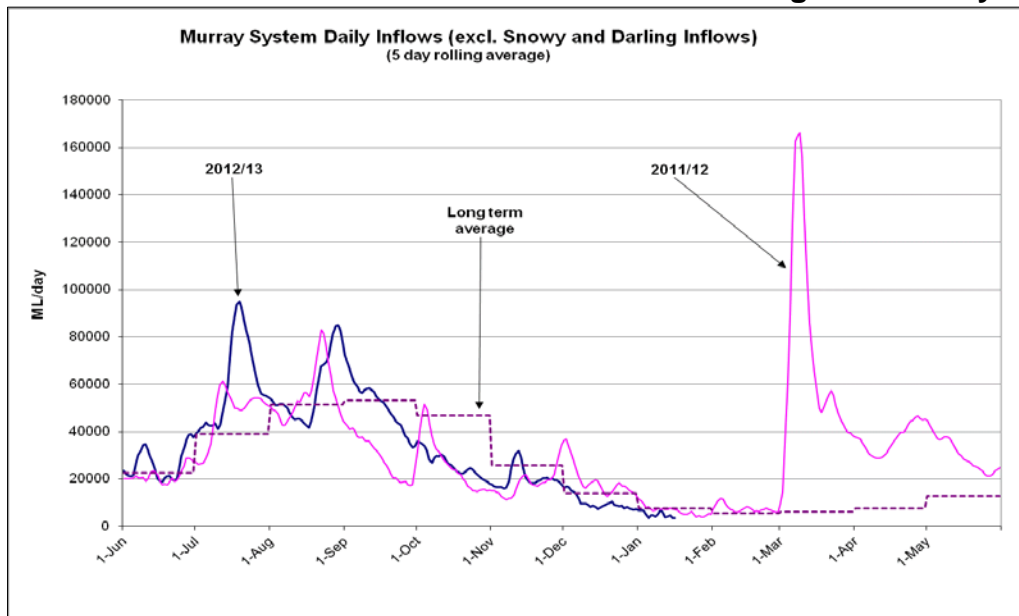
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.64
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.66	4	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 16 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%
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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/>

Lower Darling River Flow advice



17 January 2013

Release from Menindee Lakes reducing on 21 January 2013

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will be reduced to about 3,800 ML/day (2.35 m) at Weir 32 by Tuesday, 22 January 2013. Currently the flow at Weir 32 is about 5,000 ML/d (2.5 m).

Flow reductions at the Lake Pamamaroo outlet will commence on Monday, until then, the flow at Weir 32 will be steady at around 5,000 ML/day (2.5m).

The reduction will minimise release from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo while maximising the use of water from Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla. As the water level of Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla falls in coming weeks the release is expected to very slowly recede as the capacity of the Lake Menindee outlet reduces. Flows at Weir 32 are expected to remain above 3,500 ML/day until around mid-February.

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 5,000 ML/day (3.2 m) and relatively steady. The flow is expected to recede and by late January be around 3,500 ML/day (2.3 m). Beyond this flows will continue to slowly recede in line with the falling release from Menindee.

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.

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

This flow forecast is dependent on weather conditions and operational requirements. A further flow advice will be issued if there are any significant variations to these planned releases.

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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