



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2013

Trim Ref: D13/4057

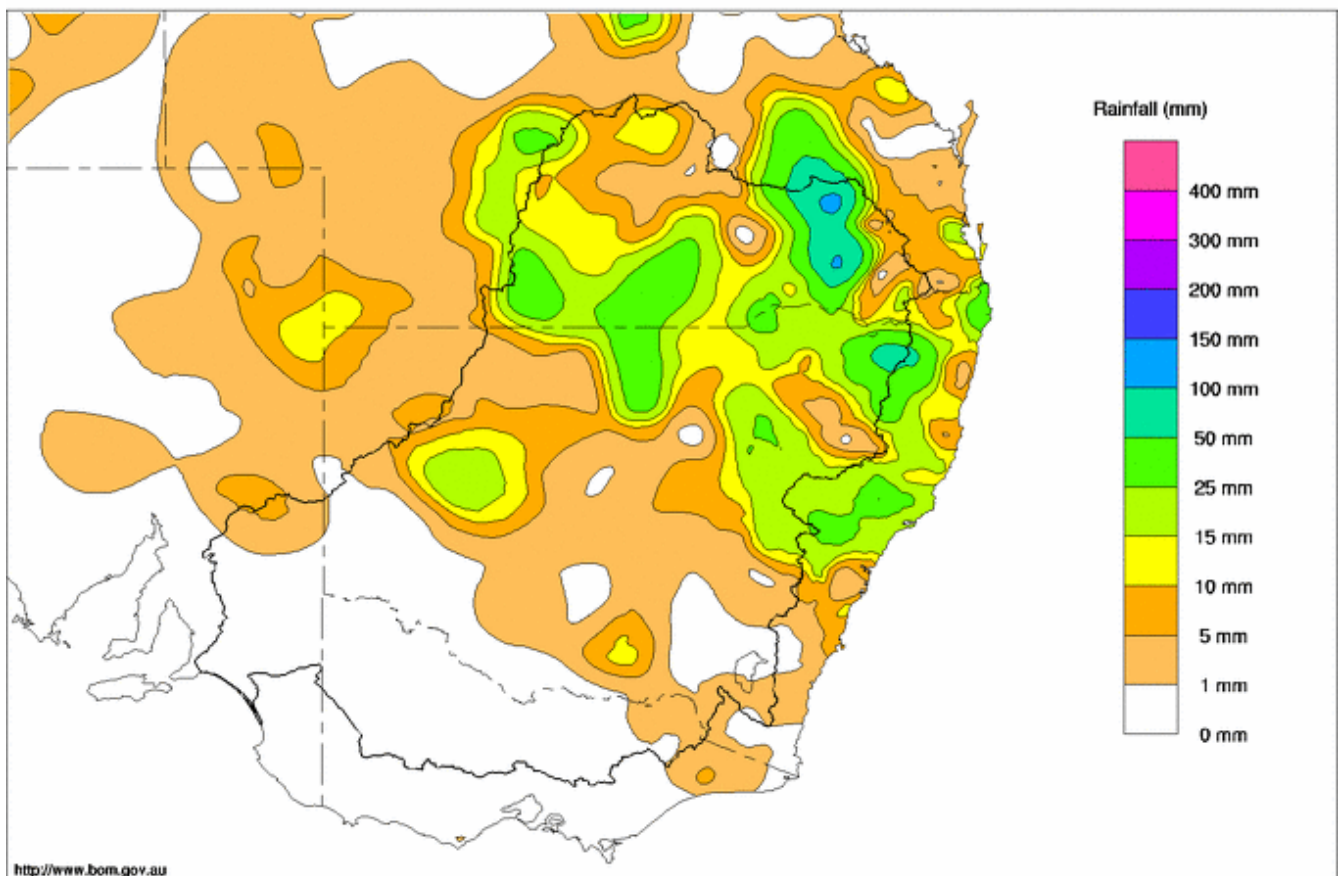
## Rainfall and Inflows

The hot summer temperatures affecting the Murray-Darling Basin continued earlier this week with temperature records in the east and maximums up to 47 degrees Celsius reported in the west of the Basin. However, there was also some rain with storms and heavy falls at a few locations.

The heaviest rain fell in the north-east as slow-moving thunderstorms developed with a trough. Highest totals were reported in Queensland's Condamine River catchment including 150 mm at Chinchilla, 149 mm at The Deep, 84 mm at Miles and 76 mm at Possum Park. In NSW there were storms across the Central Tablelands and totals above 40 mm along the New England ranges including 80 mm at Deepwater, 71 mm at Pindari Dam 53 mm at Armidale, 46 mm at Glen Innes Airport and 45 mm at Guyra. Further west, there was 31 mm at Brewarrina.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 23rd January 2013

Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2013, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 23/01/2013

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 23 January 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Across the upper Murray catchments, the hot and mostly dry conditions resulted in a further overall decline in stream flows. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara receded to below 600 ML/day for the first time since February last year. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased to only 130 ML/day; and on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has now declined to below 400 ML/day.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 211 GL and is currently 6,727 GL, or 78% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 10 GL and is 3,789 GL (98% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, returned to around 900 ML/day. The release will increase to around 2,000 ML/day next week when 'harmony' transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Lake Hume commence (see *attached flow advice*). A key aim of 'harmony' transfers is to provide additional flood mitigation capacity at Dartmouth Reservoir for the coming autumn and winter without impinging upon the security of supply to downstream water users.

Storage in Hume Reservoir fell by 100 GL to 2,009 GL (67% capacity). In response to reduced demand, release averaged 18,100 ML/day compared with 21,600 ML/day for the previous two weeks.

At Yarrowonga Weir, total diversion to the irrigation offtakes eased to around 81 GL this week. The daily diversion at Mulwala Canal averaged 9,400 ML/day, down from 10,100 ML/day last week. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.82 m AHD, 8 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL), and is expected to be gradually lowered toward 124.75 m AHD over the coming days. Release was reduced to 9,100 ML/day this week and is expected to decrease to around 8,000 ML/day for a few days this week.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes averaged 1,600 ML/day and 350 ML/day respectively. Inflow via the Edward Escape averaged 1,700 ML/day. Diversion to the Wakool Main Canal eased slightly to 2,000 ML/day, which will allow around 50 ML/day to be released from Niemur Escape to improve flows in the Niemur River in the coming week. On the Niemur River, the flow at Mallan School remained very low at around 10 ML/day. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir averaged 820 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, delivery of water traded from the Goulburn Valley to the Murray Valley continued with the flow averaging 1,700 ML/day at McCoys Bridge. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel increased to 3,200 ML/day and the downstream release averaged 5,700 ML/day.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, delivery of water traded to the Murray Valley continued with the flow at Balranald receding from 900 ML/day to 500 ML/day. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow receded from 5,000 ML/day to 4,100 ML/day. At Mildura, the flow is expected to remain above 2,000 ML/day throughout the coming week.

On the Darling River upstream of Menindee Lakes at Wilcannia, the flow rate has been around 300 ML/day for much of January. The low flow rate and very hot temperatures have led to a red alert for blue-green algae in the Darling River upstream of Wilcannia near Atley. The red level warning indicates that water is unsuitable for recreational use and may pose a threat to stock and domestic users. See the attached algal alert bulletin for more details. Fish deaths have also been reported in the Darling River upstream of Menindee Lakes, where it is understood that surface water temperatures have reached 30°C with the extreme and prolonged heat.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 61 GL to 1,148 GL (66% capacity) and release (at Weir 32) reduced to 3,600 ML/day. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy gradually declined to 4,600 ML/day. On the Murray at Wentworth, the flow averaged 6,000 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria fell to 455 GL (67% capacity) and is expected to continue falling over the coming weeks. Flow to South Australia averaged 10,600 ML/day and is expected to increase slightly to around 10,800 ML/day for the remainder of January. The flow at Lock 1 (Blanchetown) is currently about 6,500 ML/day. The level in the Lower Lakes was steady during the week at around 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 23 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	484.98	3 789	98%	71	3 718	-10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	186.45	2 009	67%	23	1 986	-100
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.06	455	67%	100	355	-39
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 148	66%	(480 #)	668	-61
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 401</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 727</b>	<b>-211</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							78% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	432	42%	3	429	-49
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 277	78%	24	1 253	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 907	87%	100	2 807	-51

\* 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 22 Jan 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 198	-11	Snowy-Murray	+11	550
Snowy-Murray Component	959	+14	Tooma-Tumut	+6	207
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	6	343
			Murray 1 Release	+14	798

**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)	66.3	1021	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.6	223
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.6	30	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.7	291
Western Murray Irrigation	1.6	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.7	84
Licensed Pumps	7.7	153	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	29
Lower Darling	5.9	62	Licensed pumps - LMW	16	190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>816</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 normal entitlement for this month due to traded environmental water.

Entitlement this month	217.0 *	
Flow this week	74.2	(10 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	242.9	
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	80	80	110
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	190	180	130
Merbein	-	-	140
Burtundy (Darling)	480	480	450
Lock 9	420	400	200
Lake Victoria	270	260	240
Berri	350	360	260
Waikerie	440	420	280
Morgan	430	410	270
Mannum	420	410	270
Murray Bridge	400	400	300
Milang (Lake Alex.)	430	430	400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	440	420	290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 480	3 490	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	830	810	1 480



## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 23 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	-	-	-	1 820	F	2 050	1 980
Jingellic	4.0	1.40	207.92	2 880	R	2 770	3 040
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.67	218.56	1 100	F	1 640	2 040
Heywoods	5.5	3.47	157.10	19 350	R	18 080	21 750
Doctors Point	5.5	3.46	151.93	20 330	R	18 340	22 370
Albury	4.3	2.50	149.94	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.47	129.49	17 310	F	19 080	21 990
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.53	116.57	9 110	F	10 010	10 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.24	106.08	9 350	F	9 800	9 210
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.01	80.56	5 660	R	5 740	4 970
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	5 290	R	4 840	4 590
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.35	51.47	5 480	R	5 290	4 940
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.92	42.76	4 090	R	4 550	4 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 970	F	2 920	2 930
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	6 210	R	6 010	6 690
Rufus Junction	-	4.05	20.98	9 800	R	9 740	9 840
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	6 540	F	6 870	6 990
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.79	154.02	310	F	310	350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.78	145.46	370	R	400	440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.93	93.35	1 710	S	1 710	1 630
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.93	80.70	680	F	820	840
Edward at Liewah	-	1.11	56.49	560	R	580	530
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.29	54.78	220	F	220	210
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.84	56.80	490	F	620	1 270
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	410	R	130	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	220	S	180	200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.94	-	4 560	F	4 700	5 180

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 400	1 340
------------------------	-------	-------

(i.e. Pre Dartmouth &amp; 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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.20	+1.74
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.42
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.37
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+1.15
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.50	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.06	+0.43
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.19	+0.62	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.32
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.30	+0.27	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.05

**Lower Lakes** FSL = 0.75 m AHD

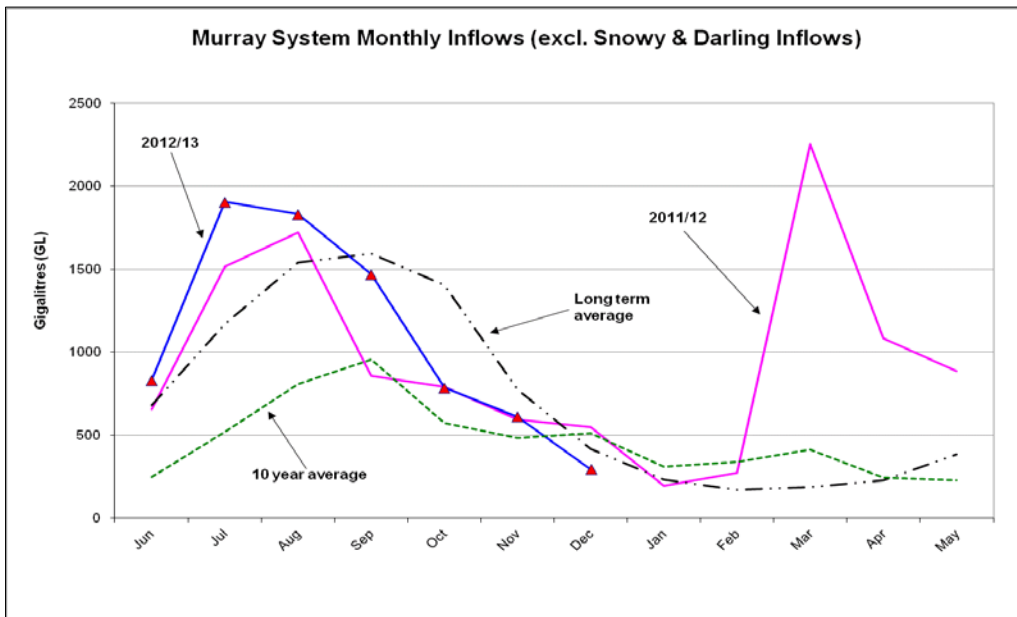
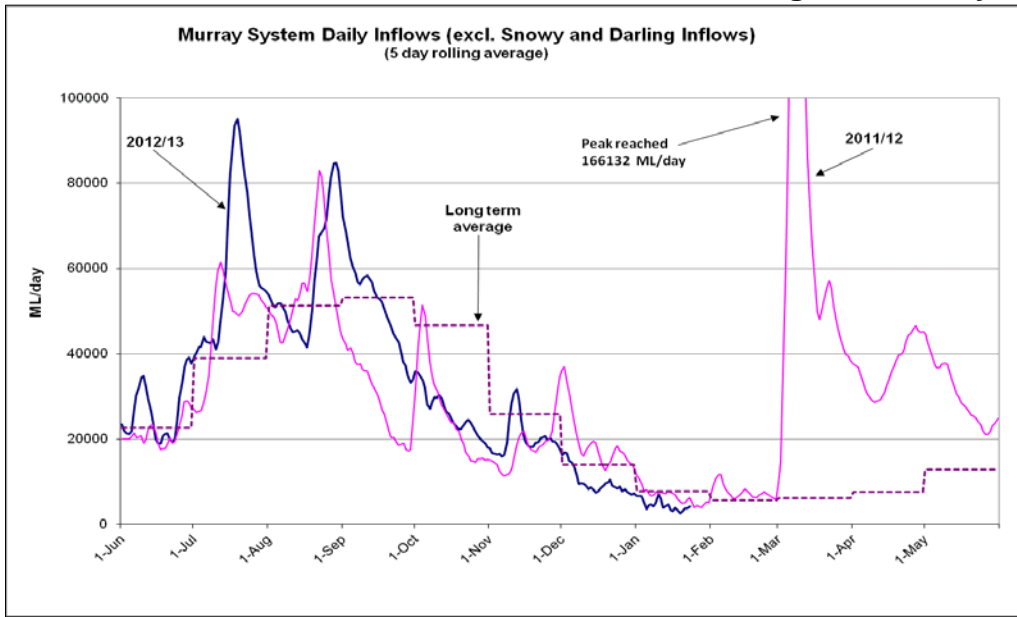
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.64
--	------

**Barrages**

## Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	0.2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	4	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 23 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



21 January 2013

## Dartmouth to Hume transfers commence this week

'Harmony' transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Lake Hume will commence this week due to continued hot, dry conditions and a high demand on water held in Hume Reservoir.

One aim of harmony transfers is to provide additional flood mitigation capacity at Dartmouth Reservoir for the coming winter and spring without impinging upon the security of supply to downstream water users. Harmony transfers benefit the operations of the Dartmouth power station, reduce the rate of fall of Hume Reservoir and provide higher in-channel flows in the Mitta Mitta River.

The transfers will also reduce the need for very large volumes to be transferred in 2013-14 should dry conditions be seen next season. This in turn will reduce the risks of channel erosion from prolonged high flow rates in the Mitta Mitta River.

In order to maximise the environmental benefits of the harmony transfers, flow rates over the coming weeks will be varied as described below (see Figure 1).

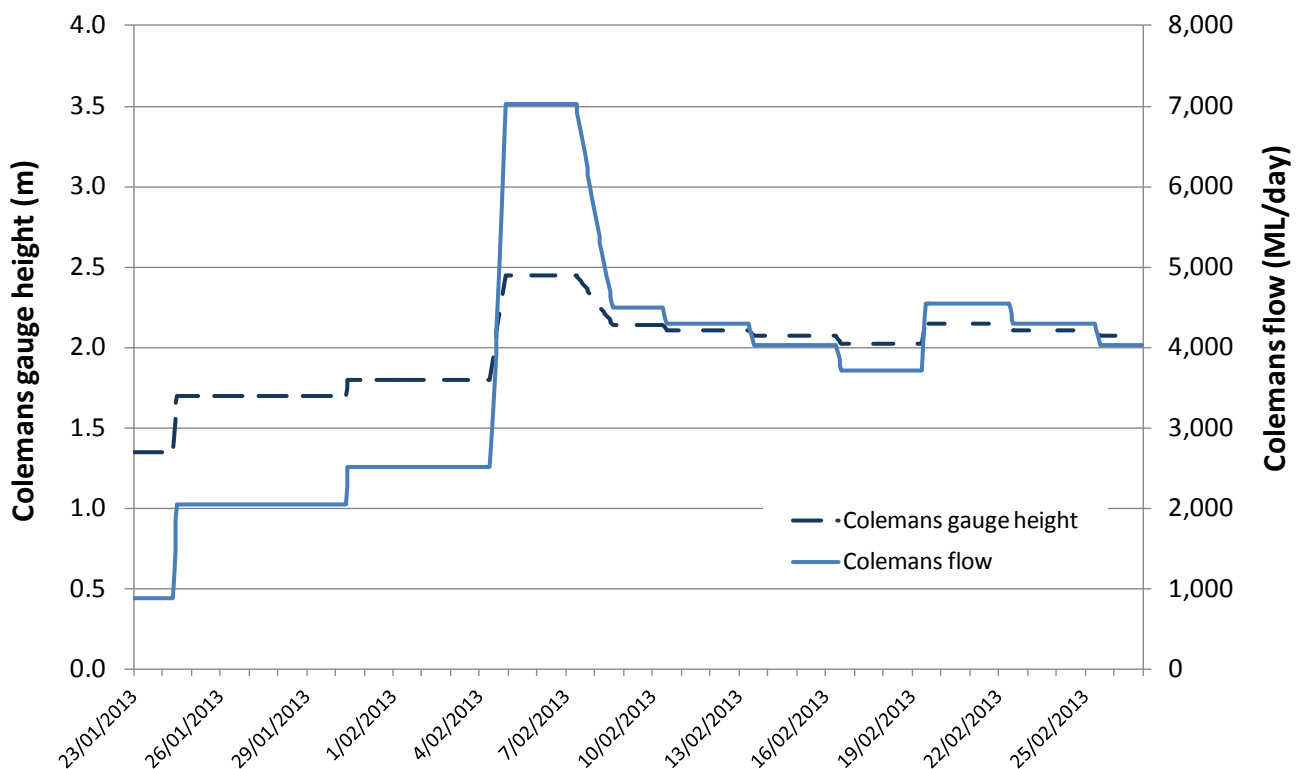


Figure 1. Proposed flow and river depth at Colemans gauge.

The flow rate will be increased to 2,000 ML/day at Colemans (1.7 m gauge height) on Thursday morning, 24 January. If inflows from Snowy Creek remain low, the flow at Tallandoon is expected to be about 2,000–2,700 ML/day from late Thursday afternoon, 24 January.

Flow will be increased to about 2,500 ML/day (1.8 m gauge height) on Wednesday morning, 30 January.

Beginning on Monday morning, 4 February, flow at Colemans will be further increased to 7,000 ML/day (2.45 m gauge height) and this will be maintained for 3 days. This peak is expected to result in a flow at Tallandoon of 6,600–7,300 ML/day (2.4–3 m gauge height).

From Thursday morning, 7 February, flow at Colemans will be gradually reduced to 4,500 ML/day by Friday afternoon, 8 February.

Thereafter, the flow at Colemans is expected to remain between 3,500 and 4,500 ML/day (1.95–2.15 m gauge height) until late February. During this period, the flow at Tallandoon would be about 3,500–4,800 ML/day (2.3–2.55 m gauge height), if inflow from Snowy Creek remains low.

Rates of rise in the river at Colemans will follow operational guidelines, with the rate of fall being about 10 mm/hour.

If there is substantial rainfall during the next 4 weeks, it is possible that this planned release may be reduced or cancelled. A further flow advice will be issued if these plans are significantly changed.

The transfer of significant volumes of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir is likely to continue during the next few months if conditions remain dry. The flow rates will aim to benefit the local communities and 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 changing 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.**

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

Trim: D13/3258



# ALGAL ALERT BULLETIN

---

## Far West Regional Algal Coordinating Committee

18 January 2013

### Red alert for blue-green algae in the Darling River at Atley

The Far West Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (RACC) has issued a red level warning (high alert) for blue-green algae in the Darling River upstream of Wilcannia near Atley.

“This red level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock. Parmenter, Chair of the RACC.

Landholders are advised to avoid contact with the raw water supply,” said Mr Parmenter. The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins.

“People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river whilst this red level warning is in place,” Mr Parmenter said.

“Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for bluegreen algae and to remove stock from foreshores where surface scum is visible or blue-green algae are suspected.”

“Wilcannia’s town water supply remains safe as Central Darling Shire Council has commenced treating the water with Powdered Activated Carbon and utilising alternate water supplies.”

There is some evidence that small quantities of algal toxins may enter fish flesh when a bloom produces toxins. Any fish caught in water affected by a bloom should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

People should not eat mussels, crayfish or the internal organs of fish from red alert areas.

This red level warning will remain in place until such time as the Far West Regional Algal Coordinating Committee advises that it has been lifted. The NSW Office of Water will continue routine water quality monitoring of the Darling River.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee freecall Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457.