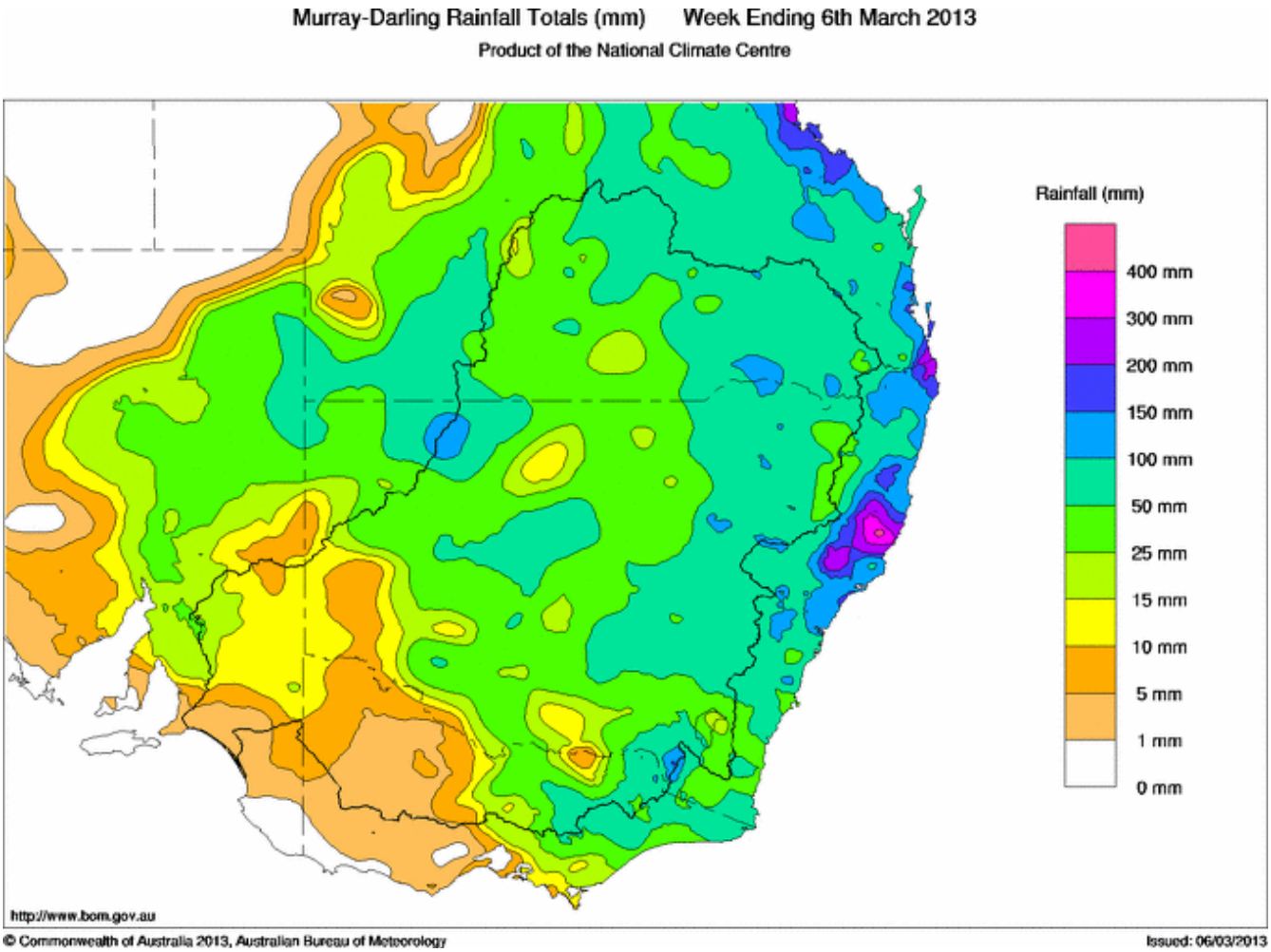
RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH 2013

Trim Ref: D13/9257

Rainfall and Inflows

There was welcome rain over parts of central and southern NSW and northern Victoria this week following extended dry weather over these areas in recent months. A slow moving trough that moved through early in the week brought the rain, with the system then moving gradually north and east over the ensuing days resulting in further heavy falls over the NSW central western and north-western slopes and plains as well as across south-east Queensland (see Map 1).



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 6 March 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

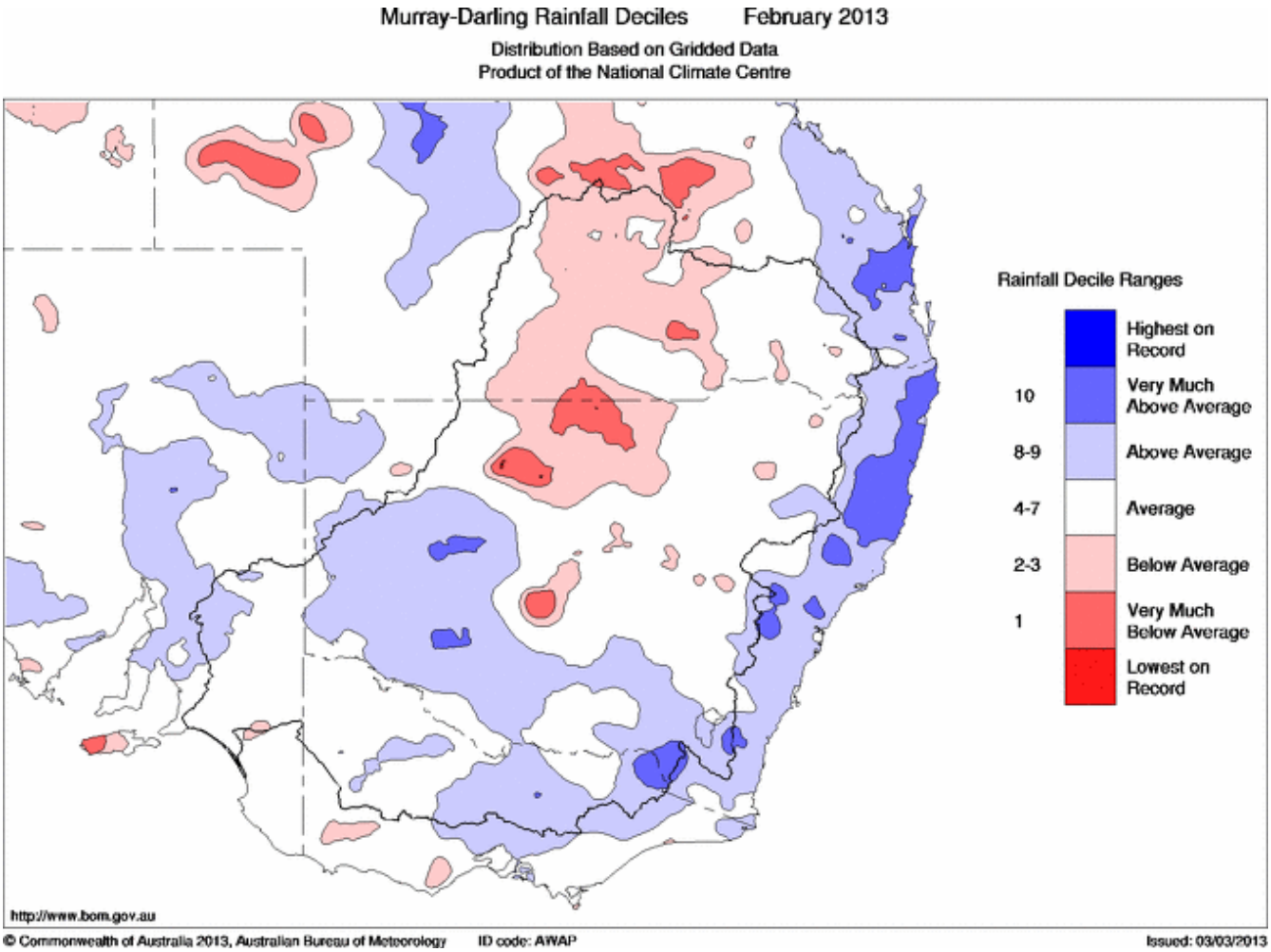
Some of the heaviest rain fell upstream of Hume Dam where weekly totals in excess of 80 mm were recorded. For example, there was 109 mm at Khancoban, 98 mm at Cabramurra and 86 mm at Corryong. In the north-eastern Basin, the highest totals occurred across the upper Macquarie, Namoi, Gwydir and Border Rivers catchments. Sites recording the highest rainfalls included: Goondiwindi (139 mm), Garah (133 mm), Binnaway (130 mm) and Tamworth (123 mm).

The rainfall across the NSW / Queensland border has again increased flows in the Barwon River with another flood peak expected at Mungindi around Wednesday 13 March. For more information on flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au. The flow peak from the late January rain is just reaching Bourke, with flow on Thursday 7 March at 24,100 ML/day and below minor flood level.

In the upper Murray catchment, the flow at Bringenbrong increased to 12,800 ML/day and at Jingellic there was a peak of 15,000 ML/day. However, a large proportion of these flows was contributed by releases from the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Upstream of Dartmouth Reservoir, the flow at Hinnomunjie rose briefly to 700 ML/day during the week but has since returned to 150 ML/day illustrating the dry state of the catchments.

February 2013 Summary

Rainfall during February 2013 was close to average across most of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map 2), with parts of southern NSW and north-eastern Victoria recording monthly totals above average, while parts of north western NSW and western Queensland had below-average rainfall. Temperatures were slightly higher than the long-term average for February in the south-western third of the basin, while they were slightly below average in the north-eastern third.



Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for February 2013 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Murray system inflows for February 2013 totalled 73 GL, which is in the lowest 10% of records for February, and well below the long-term average of 169 GL. These system inflows exclude Snowy and Darling inflows, as well as inter-valley trades and managed environmental inflows from the tributaries.

River Operations

MDBA active storage is currently 5,755 GL (67% capacity), which is a decrease of 40 GL since last week. At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage decreased by 18 GL and is now 3,650 GL (95% capacity). Release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, has been gradually reduced and is now 3,000 ML/day. Further reductions will continue with the flow at Colemans expected to be about 2,000 ML/day by next week.

At Hume Reservoir, storage increased by 5 GL to 1,669 GL (56% capacity) due to higher inflows. Release was increased from a low of 9,000 ML/day to 19,400 ML/day during the week to meet rapidly rising irrigation demands. The flow at Doctors Point is currently 17,500 ML/day (Thursday 7 March) and is expected to be about 15,000 ML/day in the next few days.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the pool level is currently 124.70 m AHD. Diversions through the Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel averaged 3,600 ML/day during the week but orders for the next week are expected to be in the range 5,000-7,000 ML/day. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been varied between 7,000 and 10,000 ML/day during the week, with a similar flow range likely in the coming week. For up-to-date information on the weir pool level and flows downstream, please refer to Live River Data on the MDBA website (www.mdba.gov.au).

On the Edward-Wakool system, flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes was steady at about 1,290 ML/day and 340 ML/day, respectively. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently about 880 ML/day, after briefly exceeding 1,300 ML/day late last week. These higher flows are now reaching Moulamein, where the flow is expected to be at least 1,000 ML/day for the next few days.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has been greater than 6,000 ML/day since late February. This boost in flow is due to environmental flows arriving from the Goulburn River (see Figure 1). These higher flows are also evident at Swan Hill, while the flow at Euston is rising. Another pulse in the Goulburn River is expected to pass McCoys Bridge early next week.

Figure 1. The junction of the Goulburn River, left, with the Murray on Monday 25 February 2013 when the flow in the Goulburn was 2,700 ML/day and the River Murray flow was 6,200 ML/day. (Photo: Ying Li, MDBA)

At Mildura, the flow in the River Murray is rising and is expected to remain greater than 5,000 ML/day for the next week or so. Planning for the maintenance works at Mildura Weir is continuing, with the lowering of the weir pool to commence on Monday 27 May 2013 (see attached media release).

At Menindee Lakes, increasing inflows are raising the levels in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo. The release has also been increased this week and is targeting a flow of about 4,000 ML/day at Weir 32 (see attached flow advice). The current total volume in the Menindee Lakes is 870 GL (50% capacity), which is 15 GL lower than last week.

The flow in the Murray at Wentworth is also rising and may reach about 9,000 ML/day in mid-March. At Lake Victoria, the storage volume continues to decline, with the current volume of 240 GL (35% capacity) being about 12 GL lower than a week ago. The flow into South Australia is currently about 7,700 ML/day.

The level in the Lower Lakes has been steady at about 0.62 m AHD, with small releases through the barrages continuing.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 06 Mar 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	482.80	3 650	95%	71	3 579	-18
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	184.19	1 669	56%	23	1 646	+5
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.93	240	35%	100	140	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		870	50%	(480 #)	390	-15
Total		**9 269**		**6 429**	**69%**	**- -**	**5 755**	**-40**
Total Active MDBA Storage							67% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		385	37%	3	382	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 017	62%	24	993	-15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 615	78%	100	2 515	-26

* 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 05 Mar 2013

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 023	-22	Snowy-Murray	+23	690
Snowy-Murray Component	823	-7	Tooma-Tumut	+0	207
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	23	483
			Murray 1 Release	+26	951

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)	18.4	1265	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.6	286
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.9	52	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.4	400
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	25	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	106
Licensed Pumps	5.7	200	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	44
Lower Darling	3.8	90	Licensed pumps - LMW	4.2	255
TOTAL	**32.2**	**1632**	**TOTAL**	**22.5**	**1091**

* 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	186.0 *
Flow this week	53.7
Flow so far this month	46.2
Flow last month	248.9

(7 700 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	90	110	110
Euston	150	150	130
Red Cliffs	180	170	140
Merbein	190	190	150
Burtundy (Darling)	520	520	460
Lock 9	350	360	240
Lake Victoria	320	320	250
Berri	460	470	290
Waikerie	450	450	310
Morgan	450	450	300
Mannum	480	480	310
Murray Bridge	490	480	330
Milang (Lake Alex.)	520	500	410
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	470	480	330
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 540	3 520	3 440
Goolwa Barrages	760	760	1 360

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 06 Mar 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	-	-	-	8 440	F	5 470	6 260
Jingellic	4.0	2.20	208.72	9 100	R	8 950	6 820
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.19	219.08	2 950	F	3 510	4 380
Heywoods	5.5	3.58	157.21	19 430	R	11 810	13 600
Doctors Point	5.5	3.52	151.99	21 100	R	12 530	13 740
Albury	4.3	2.55	149.99	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.76	128.78	12 420	R	11 310	14 600
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.26	116.30	6 990	F	8 390	8 320
Tocumwal	6.4	1.99	105.83	7 740	F	8 610	8 130
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.47	81.01	7 250	F	7 180	5 390
Swan Hill	4.5	1.36	64.28	6 570	F	6 220	5 040
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.97	52.09	7 720	R	7 090	6 170
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.30	43.14	6 050	R	5 880	5 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	5 260	F	4 950	4 300
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	7 810	R	7 410	6 680
Rufus Junction	-	3.64	20.57	6 960	F	6 980	8 320
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.61	-	5 130	R	6 040	5 700
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	340	F	450	290
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.88	145.56	530	F	640	380
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.19	93.61	2 160	S	2 690	2 280
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.12	80.89	880	F	970	650
Edward at Liewah	-	1.36	56.74	740	F	770	750
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.54	55.03	710	S	760	590
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.42	56.38	190	F	210	260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	4.69	-	4 630	R	2 170	690
Darling at Bourke	-	8.21	-	23 750	R	21 070	11 110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	3 580	S	3 570	3 410

Natural Inflow to Hume	3 580	1 840

(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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.32
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.22
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.25
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.82
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.39	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-18.80	+0.31
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.27
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.11	+0.09	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.14

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.62

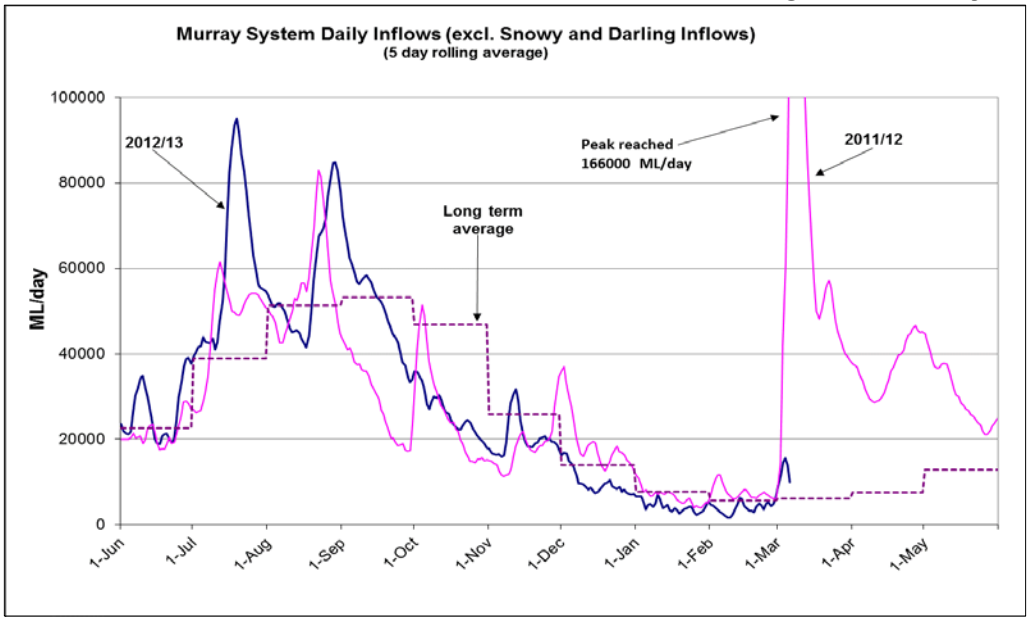
Barrages

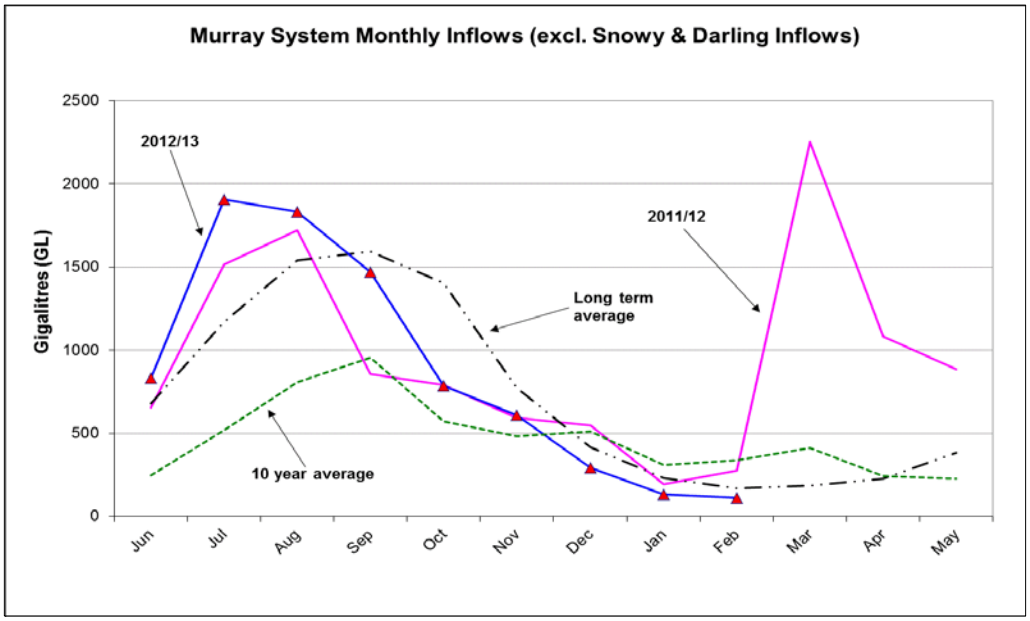
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	0.2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.63	1	Open	Open

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

Week ending Wednesday 06 Mar 2013





State Allocations (as at 06 Mar 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/

Lower Darling River Flow advice

5 March 2013

Small increase to release from Menindee Lakes

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that the release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will increase on Thursday 7 March 2013 to about 4,000 ML/day (2.4 m) at Weir 32. Previously, the flow at Weir 32 was about 3,600 ML/day (2.3 m). The higher release is required to meet increased downstream demands.

As much water as possible—about 3,300 ML/day—is being sourced from Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla, via the Menindee outlet. The remainder of the release is from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo.

Inflows from the Darling River are currently rising and this will boost the levels of the Menindee Lakes. It is planned to raise the levels in both Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo towards full supply level using these higher inflows.

Flows at Weir 32 are expected to remain above 4,000 ML/day until at least late April, if conditions are dry and high demands continue.

At Burtundy, the flow is currently about 3,600 ML/day (2.4 m) and steady. The flow is expected to increase slightly during mid-March to about 3,900 ML/day (2.55 m).

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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Trim: D13/8958

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Government

MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

7 March 2013

Lowering of Mildura Weir pool from Monday 27 May 2013

Mildura Weir pool will be drawn down from Monday, 27 May 2013 for essential maintenance on the concrete trestleway.

The weir pool will be drawn down for about 8 weeks. However, if necessary to complete the repairs, this duration could extend up to 11 weeks.

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

The weir pool level will be gradually lowered over 7–9 days to about 3.6 m below full supply level, depending on river flows, to allow the maintenance work to commence in early June.

From discussions with interested parties, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water recognise the potential impacts that this drawdown will have on the local community and are taking all reasonable measures to keep the duration as short as possible. As a result of these discussions, the commencement of the drawdown has been delayed till late May.

The two agencies first advised the community of this drawdown in November 2012.

Increases in river salinity may occur during the drawdown, depending on flow rates at the time. River salinities will be continually monitored and available each Wednesday morning, with forecasts, on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website at www.mdba.gov.au. This information will be updated more frequently if salinity levels increase markedly.

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.

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

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will provide updates prior to and during the remedial works in the Weekly Report at www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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