



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

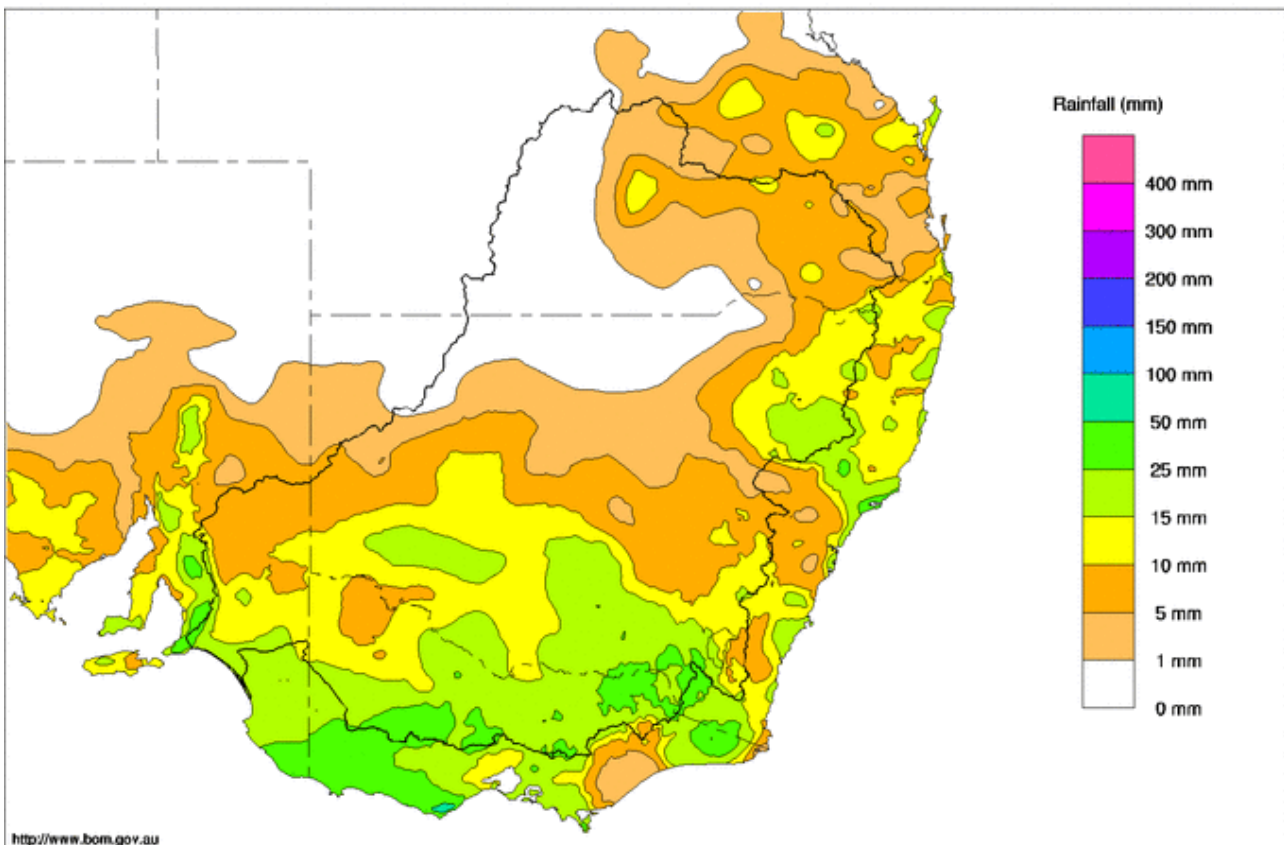
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Rain fell this week over large parts of the southern Murray–Darling Basin and was associated with the passage of several cold frontal systems. The north-west of the Basin was mostly dry (Map 1). Although few locations received more than 40 mm for the week, there was welcome rain along the western-Victorian divide and Wimmera, as well as over south-eastern areas and in southern South Australia.

Notable weekly totals in Victoria included 55 mm at both Mt Wombat and Rocky Valley, 47 mm at Mt Buffalo, 34 mm at Daylesford, 33 mm at Hunters Hill and 32 mm at Trentham; while in western parts of the state, there was 67 mm at Mt William and 41 mm at Eversley. Totals in NSW were highest over the Snowy Mountains with around 40 mm reported. Rain also fell over the south-west slopes and Riverina including 34 mm at Henty and 29 mm at Hume Reservoir. Rainfall totals over the lower Murray valley in South Australia included 31 mm at Blanchetown and 21 mm at Milang.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 9th September 2015  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall week ending 9th September 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

There was fairly persistent rain over the upper Murray catchments this week, however it was mostly light and did not lead to any significant stream flow rises. Flows along the upper Mitta Mitta River have remained fairly steady with the flow at Hinnomunjie bridge averaging 1,250 ML/day. There were only small rises along the upper Murray at Biggara, where the flow peaked at 2,700 ML/day and is currently flowing at 1,900 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta dipped below 2,000 ML/day for a few days, but has since risen to 2,300 ML/day.



## River Operations

- Warm conditions forecast for coming days;
- Delivery of environmental water to Wakool River and Colligen Creek commences;
- Simultaneous high flows in the Murrumbidgee and Murray will deliver water to the Junction wetlands.

MDBA total storage increased by 72 GL this week. Active storage is now 4,463 GL (53% capacity).

The storage volume in **Dartmouth** reservoir decreased by 24 GL to 2,617 GL (68% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans, has reduced to 5,000 ML/day. The release is expected to return to around 7,000 ML/day late in the coming week as bulk transfers are made to Hume to meet demands for the coming water year.

**Hume** reservoir storage increased by 60 GL this week and is now 1,502 GL (50% capacity). The release averaged 8,700 ML/day this week with the majority of this water targeted to maintaining environmental flows downstream of Yarrowonga weir.

At **Lake Mulwala** the level is 124.72m AHD. Diversions to Mulwala canal and Yarrowonga main channel remain low at 600 ML/day and 550 ML/day respectively, however warmer conditions forecast over the coming days could see demands increase. The release from Yarrowonga weir has been gradually reduced over the week to 12,000 ML/day.

For the remainder of September, environmental water is planned to be used to target flows between 12,000 ML/day and 15,000 ML/day downstream of Yarrowonga. Releases will be in a translucent pattern based on estimated natural inflows upstream of Yarrowonga weir and will maintain low-level inundation of the Barmah-Millewa forest. The forest regulators along the river will be managed to target watering of the Moira grass plains in the Millewa forest and maintaining water levels in the reed beds of northwest Barmah forest.

On the **Edward-Wakool** system, the flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes averaged around 1,600 ML/day and 760 ML/day (respectively). The flow at Toonalook gradually increased over the week due to flows exiting the Millewa forest and is currently 2,800 ML/day. Delivery of environmental water to Wakool River and Colligen Creek commenced this week. Diversions at Wakool River regulator, Yallakool Creek regulator and Colligen Creek regulator are respectively 60 ML/day, 420 ML/day and 500 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens weir averaged 1,550 ML/day. Further downstream on the Edward River at Moulamein, the flow averaged 2,300 ML/day and is being supplemented by an inflow of around 700 ML/day from the Billabong Creek.

On the **Goulburn** River, a flow of just over 1,000 ML/day is continuing at McCoys bridge. This includes around 500 ML/day of environmental water destined for South Australia. Delivery of an environmental pulse is planned for late September and early October. This pulse is expected to reach around 8,500 ML/day at McCoys bridge and will cause river levels on the Murray at Echuca to rise noticeably (see attached media release).

At **Torrumbarry** weir, the diversion at National channel increased to around 2,000 ML/day. This includes around 850 ML/day of environmental water for [Gunbower creek and Gunbower forest](#). The diversion is expected to increase to around 2,500 ML/day in the coming week as Goulburn-Murray Water diverts additional water to top up their internal mid-Murray storages at Kow swamp and Lake Boga. Flows downstream of Torrumbarry weir averaged 10,600 ML/day and are expected to recede below 9,000 ML/day next week.

Downstream at the junction with the **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow in the Murray is around 13,000 ML/day. Inflows from the Murrumbidgee are increasing with the flow at Balranald currently 4,700 ML/day and expected to reach around 7,000 ML/day in the coming week. Simultaneous flow rates of around 10,000 ML/day on the River Murray and greater than 5,000 ML/day on the Murrumbidgee



River produce the river levels that inundate wetlands located at the end of the Murrumbidgee River known as the Junction wetlands. The Junction wetlands have not received any significant volumes of water since October 2012. During the current event, suitable flows in the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers are expected to deliver water to the Junction wetlands for around the next two weeks.

At Euston weir, the flow is currently 15,000 ML/day and forecast to exceed 18,000 ML/day in the coming week. The pool level is currently 48.11 m AHD (51 cm above full supply level (FSL)). The pool level is expected to increase to around 48.2 m AHD (60 cm above FSL) later in September and remain at this level during October. Raising the pool level by 60 cm above FSL is expected to inundate the adjacent floodplain to an extent similar to a river flow of around 50,000 ML/day.

At Locks 7 and 8, the pool levels have increased to, respectively, 22.63 m AHD (53 cm above FSL) and 25.43 m AHD (83 cm above FSL). At Lock 7, the higher pool level is delivering increased flows to the upper Lindsay River. During the higher flows, water is being pumped from the Lindsay River into Lake Wallawalla at around 80 ML/day. Pumping into Lake Wallawalla is expected to continue until mid-November.



**Photo 1 – The Lindsay River downstream of Lake Wallawalla (Photo by Paul Runciman, 31 August 2015).**

At the **Menindee Lakes**, storage was steady this week and is currently 102 GL (6% capacity). The release of a small replenishing flow into the lower Darling River continues, with the current flow at Weir 32 at about 100 ML/day.



Storage at **Lake Victoria** increased by 37 GL to 538 GL (79% capacity) and the level is expected to continue rising in the week ahead. The target flow to **South Australia** is 7,000 ML/day which includes the delivery of additional environmental water from releases upstream. The target flow is expected to increase to around 10,000 ML/day during the second half of September.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the five-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.80 m AHD (5 cm above FSL). Releases through the barrages have been maintained throughout the week and are currently estimated to be around 2,200 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 09 Sep 2015

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	464.85	2 617	68%	71	2 546	-24
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	182.97	1 502	50%	23	1 479	+60
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.82	538	79%	100	438	+37
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		102	6%	(- -) #	0	-0
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>4 759</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 463</b>	<b>+72</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							53% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	743	72%	3	740	+12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	793	49%	24	769	+28
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 075	62%	100	1 975	+11

\* 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 Sep 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 245	+32	Snowy-Murray	+12	185
Snowy-Murray Component	1 057	-14	Tooma-Tumut	+8	103
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	4	82
			Murray 1 Release	+20	278

## Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \*

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.6	35	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.4	2
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.7	7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	9
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	4
Licensed Pumps	2.1	7	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	3
Lower Darling	0.1	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	4	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>35</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 the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *
Flow this week	52.4
Flow so far this month	68.8
Flow last month	210.4

(7 500 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2015
Swan Hill	90	90	80
Euston	110	120	120
Red Cliffs	140	130	130
Merbein	130	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	900	900	890
Lock 9	130	130	160
Lake Victoria	220	200	200
Berri	230	250	250
Waikerie	300	300	330
Morgan	300	310	320
Mannum	360	340	330
Murray Bridge	330	340	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	690	710	720
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	480	530	590
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 020	2 000	2 020
Goolwa Barrages	940	930	1 020



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 09 Sep 2015**

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	-	-	-	3 780	F	3 470	4 110
Jingellic	4.0	2.08	208.60	7 330	S	8 060	8 370
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.71	219.60	5 440	F	6 110	7 590
Heywoods	5.5	2.65	156.28	9 660	R	8 650	8 360
Doctors Point	5.5	2.68	151.15	11 100	F	10 590	10 550
Albury	4.3	1.69	149.13	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	2.29	128.31	9 510	R	10 820	11 710
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.94	116.98	12 490	F	13 750	14 510
Tocumwal	6.4	2.66	106.50	13 320	F	14 510	14 010
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	81.67	10 000	F	10 560	10 030
Swan Hill	4.5	2.04	64.96	11 630	R	10 620	9 540
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.15	53.27	13 320	R	12 860	12 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	2.54	44.38	14 940	R	14 880	14 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	14 710	F	14 470	13 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.49	28.25	13 750	R	13 610	12 660
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	6 890	S	7 050	6 600
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.90	-	5 770	F	6 990	4 840
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.85	155.08	1 840	F	2 070	2 290
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.65	146.33	2 260	R	2 110	2 920
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.55	92.97	1 050	S	1 080	1 050
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.75	81.52	1 650	F	1 540	1 730
Edward at Liewah	-	2.86	58.24	2 380	R	2 330	2 230
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.50	54.99	610	R	600	700
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.29	60.25	4 690	R	2 960	2 890
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.48	-	720	R	510	260
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.12	-	450	S	500	540
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	11 590	13 960
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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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.53	+1.23
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.22
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.51	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.14	+0.24
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.52	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.81
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.85	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.29	+0.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.83	+0.65	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	+0.15

**Lower Lakes** FSL = 0.75 m AHD

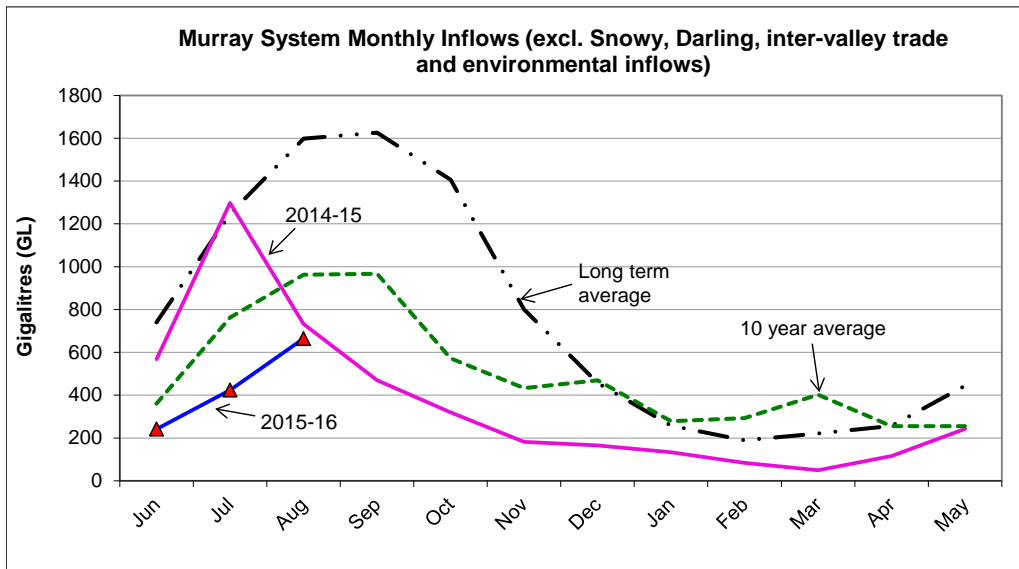
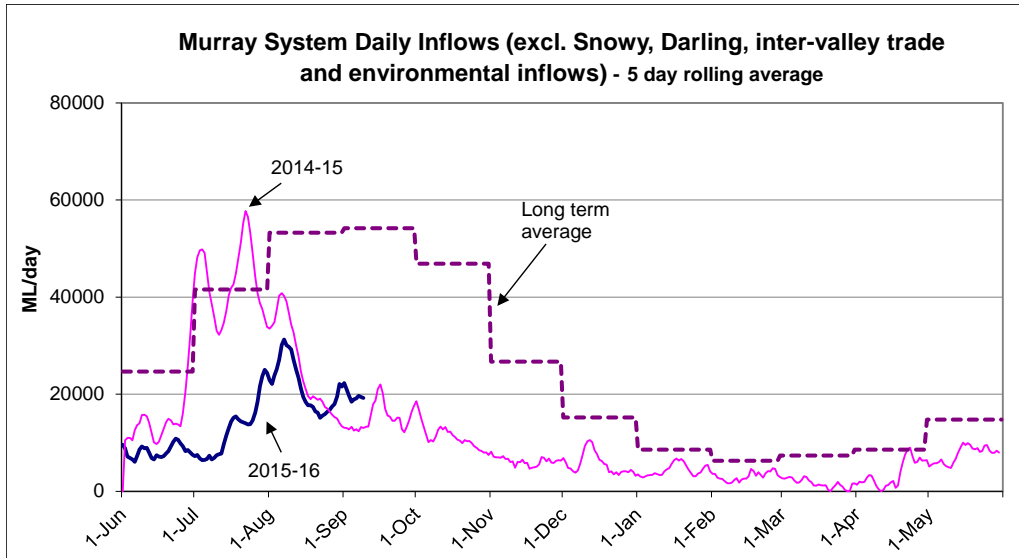
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.80
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.78	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.76	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.78	7	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 09 Sep 2015)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	0%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	61%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	27%

**Victorian - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	60%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	20%
General security	0%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
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- NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>
- VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>
- SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/River-murray>

# MEDIA RELEASE



11 September 2015

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## Spring flows to vary in the River Murray

Communities along the River Murray in New South Wales and Victoria can expect varying flows during spring as environmental water enters the river, and are advised to adjust their activities, pumps and moorings accordingly.

River levels downstream of Hume Dam are likely to fluctuate as environmental water continues to be released, mimicking natural flows that would be expected at this time of year. Below Doctors Point, near Albury, flows are likely to remain below 25,000 megalitres per day (ML/day) during these managed releases, and the flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir is expected to remain below 15,000 ML/day.

A pulse of environmental water is also expected to enter the River Murray from the Goulburn River in early October, raising river levels noticeably in the Echuca district.

As this flow makes its way downstream, releases below Torrumbarry Weir are likely to rise from about 7000 ML/day (2.25 metres gauge height) to around 13,000 ML/day (3.75 metres) for about a week in mid-October. By late October, the flows at Torrumbarry are expected to be in the range 6000 to 8000 ML/day, if conditions are dry.

At Swan Hill, the flow could increase the river level from about 1.25 metres to 2.20 metres (local gauge height) during October. Variations in river height will occur as far downstream as Mildura, with lower flows expected in mid-October at Euston followed by higher flows in late October. These flows will arrive at Mildura three to four days later.

Information about a proposed second environmental pulse from the Goulburn River in early November will be provided in the coming weeks.

Together, these spring flows will deliver environmental benefit through watering actions in the Edward-Wakool river system, Barmah-Millewa Forest, Gunbower Forest, Hattah Lakes, and the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

The flows will use water owned by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and The Living Murray.

[Flow forecasts](#) along the River Murray are updated on Wednesdays on the MDBA website.

[Live river data](#) is also available on the MDBA website and summary information is provided in the River Murray [Weekly Report](#).

END

To arrange an interview with David Dreverman, MDBA River Management, or for more information, contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141.

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