



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH 2010

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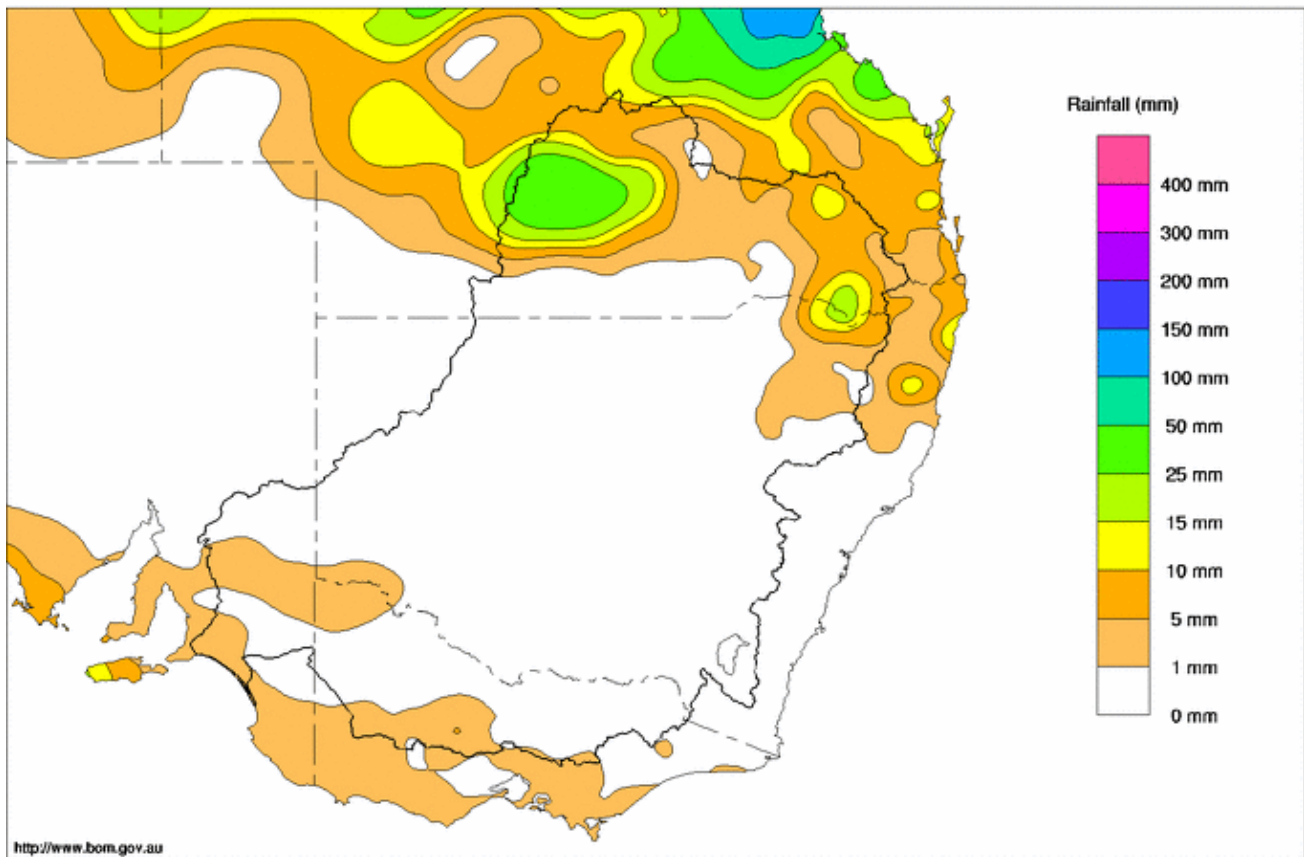
Rainfall and Inflows

For the second week in a row, very little rain was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin, with the exception of the north-west, where some towns in the Warrego and Paroo catchments received up to 50 mm (see Map). However, there was very little response in streamflows.

In the upper Murray, there has been very little rain since early March and streamflows continue to recede. For instance, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River, the flow receded from 890 ML/day to 560 ML/day, and at Biggara on the upper Murray it receded from 380 to 280 ML/day.

In the northern Basin, large volumes of floodwater are very slowly approaching the Darling River. The main peak from the floods along the Moonie and Weir Rivers are now past Walgett on the Barwon River and are expected to arrive at Bourke on the Darling River in the next couple of weeks. The flood peak from the Balonne River is now past the NSW border and very slowly moving through the anabranch system of the Culgoa, Bokhara and Birrie Rivers, towards the Darling River. However, large volumes of water have spread out across the floodplain and it is uncertain how much will eventually drain back into the river.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th March 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 24/03/2010



River Operations

MDBA active storage (which currently excludes Menindee Lakes) was steady at 2,071 GL (or 24 % capacity). Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir was steady at 1,211 GL (or 31 % capacity) and the release is steady at 500 ML/day. Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 13 GL to 532 GL (18 % capacity) and is expected to continue decreasing over the next few weeks unless there is significant rainfall. The target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been increased to 10,500 ML/day in response to higher downstream demand, particularly for autumn irrigation of cereals and pastures.

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is 124.70 m AHD (or 0.2 m below FSL) and should remain fairly steady during the coming week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir is steady at 5,500 ML/day.

On the Edward River the target flow past Stevens Weir has been reduced to 500 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow at Moulamein has decreased from 1,780 to 1,040 ML/day and is expected to continue decreasing during the coming week. This is in response to lower flows arriving from upstream along the Edward River and also from Billabong Creek.

At Torrumbarry Weir on the Murray, the small flow peak from Yarrawonga Weir, which was generated by rainfall in early March, has now passed and the release has decreased from 7,270 to 3,010 ML/day. If it remains dry, the release is forecast to remain fairly steady at about 2,500 to 3,000 ML/day over the next few weeks. Further downstream, the release at Euston Weir is currently 6,890 ML/day and is forecast to drop to about 3,000 ML/day over the coming week.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which currently remain under NSW control) decreased by 29 GL to 555 GL (32 % capacity). The NSW Government is transferring water at a rate of 20,000 ML/day into Lake Menindee (the largest Lake) in preparation for the arrival of the floodwaters from Queensland in the coming weeks. This is the first time since 2002 that Lake Menindee has received water, and there is likely to be significant losses (up to 100 GL) as the lake bed is wetted up. Upstream of Menindee Lakes, the flow along the Darling River at Wilcannia is currently 7,700 ML/day and further upstream at Bourke is 16,600 ML/day and rising. The flow at Weir 32, downstream of Menindee Lakes is 2,820 ML/day and will be gradually reduced over the coming week.

On the Murray, the release at Wentworth Weir is currently 9,460 ML/day and is forecast to drop to about 6,000 ML/day during the coming week. Total storage in Lake Victoria increased by 16 GL to 538 GL (79 % capacity). During the past week, the average flow to South Australia was 7,000 ML/day and the average flow past Lock 1 was 3,760 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased by 0.03 m to -0.75 m AHD, and is forecast to continue gradually increasing over the coming weeks. The water level in Lake Albert is steady at -0.7 m AHD.

Algal Blooms

The Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees have reported a reduction in the numbers of potentially toxic blue green algae in some sections of the Murray River upstream of Barham, but have recently issued a red alert further downstream between Colignan to Mildura in the Sunraysia district. Upstream of Barham, red alerts remain for Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala, and for the Murray River from Howlong to Echuca, Swan Hill and Euston. Red alerts are also active for the Edward River from Deniliquin to Moulmein, for Gulpa Creek at Mathoura and for the Wakool River at Kyalite. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

TONY MORSE
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Week ending Wednesday 24 Mar 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.48	1 211	31%	80	1 131	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.68	532	18%	30	502	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.81	538	79%	100	438	+16
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		555	32%	(- -) #	0	-29
Total		9 352		2 836	30%	--	2 071	-28

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **24%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	460	45%	3	457	-7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	584	36%	24	560	+34
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	881	26%	100	781	-18

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Mar-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	801	-30	Snowy-Murray	+36	671
Snowy-Murray Component	569	-33	Tooma-Tumut	+0	242
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	35.9	429
			Murray 1 Release	+34	908

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2009		This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	11.2	177	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	117
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.6	56	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	14.4	222
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	21	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.2	112
Licensed Pumps	3.3	86	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.4	19
Lower Darling	0.1	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	224
TOTAL	16.7	347	TOTAL	30.0	694

* 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 is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.3	
Flow so far this month	186	
Flow last month	235	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	60
Euston	110	110	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	100
Merbein	110	100	100
Burtundy (Darling)	240	240	470
Lock 9	160	170	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	240	230	310
Waikerie	-	-	400
Morgan	250	250	480
Mannum	300	300	570
Murray Bridge	620	380	650
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 250	5 520	5 630
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	3 270	3 140	4 990
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	15 130	14 370	11 810
Goolwa Barrages	18 360	17 900	13 870

Week ending Wednesday 24 Mar 2010

River Levels and Flows

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	-	-	-	5 260	F	5 450	3 520
Jingellic	4.0	1.85	208.37	6 020	R	5 760	3 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	590	F	600	560
Heywoods	5.5	2.63	156.26	9 670	R	8 260	3 070
Doctors Point	5.5	2.65	151.12	10 600	R	9 230	4 920
Albury	4.3	1.63	149.07	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.09	128.11	9 020	R	7 900	4 030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.04	116.08	5 520	S	5 650	6 670
Tocumwal	6.4	1.53	105.37	5 850	F	5 940	7 320
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.19	79.74	3 010	R	4 230	6 750
Swan Hill	4.5	0.93	63.85	4 170	F	5 840	5 290
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.68	51.80	6 890	F	7 440	6 030
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.58	43.43	6 890	F	6 830	5 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 060	F	5 400	4 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.35	28.11	9 460	S	9 480	11 980
Rufus Junction	-	3.63	20.56	7 540	F	6 650	6 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.40	-	3 050	S	3 760	7 320
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.15	154.38	760	R	550	1 400
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.97	145.65	790	F	1 130	2 460
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	410	F	700	2 000
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.75	80.52	480	F	580	820
Edward at Liewah	-	1.89	57.27	1 210	F	1 580	1 690
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.36	54.85	290	R	290	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.62	56.58	330	R	250	270
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.45	-	6 170	F	9 240	8 860
Darling at Bourke	-	6.49	-	16 630	R	12 850	6 940
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.52	-	3 790	F	4 370	6 630

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 150	4 050
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+1.31
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.17
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.17	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.89
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.71	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+0.31
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	-0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.11	+0.35	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.00	-1.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.53	1.12	70.47	982
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.09	0.41	61.71	539

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.75

Barrages

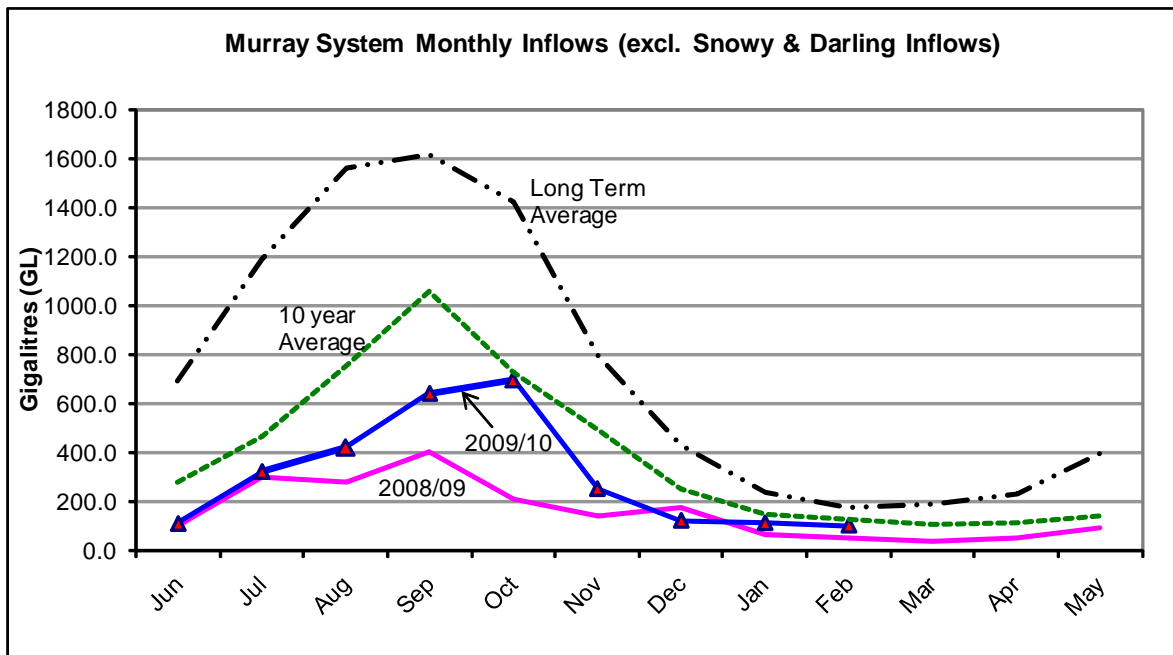
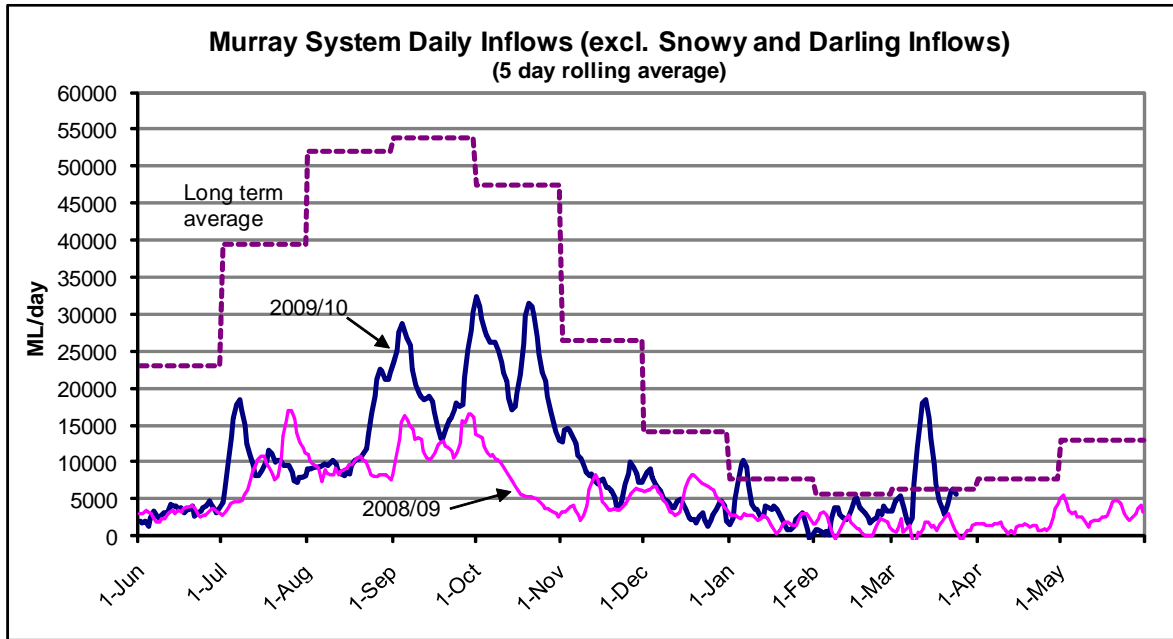
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.03	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 24 March 2010



State Allocations (as at 24 March 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	22%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	78%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	26%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	69%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
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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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>