RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

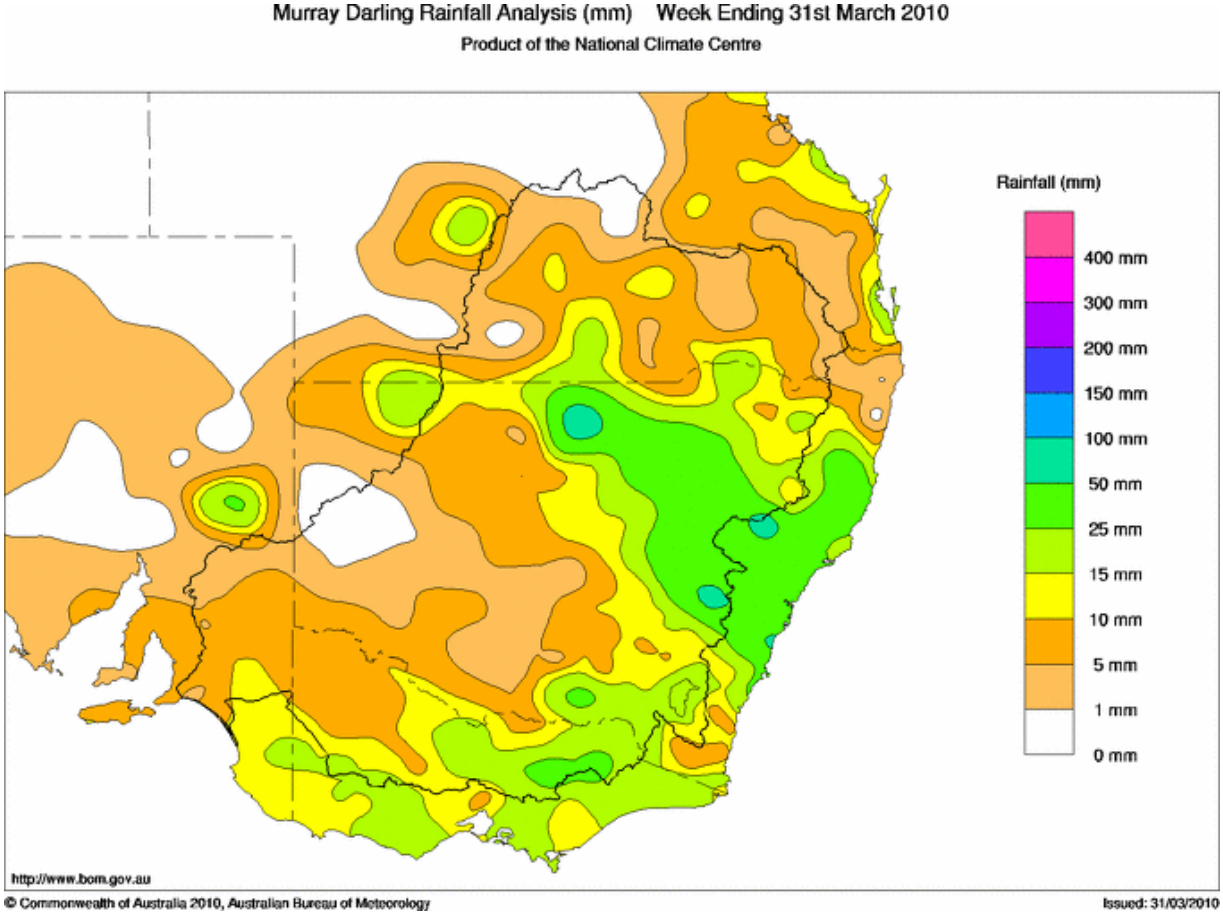
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2010

Trim Ref: D10/8083

Rainfall and Inflows

After 3 weeks of dry weather, light to moderate rainfall was recorded across the southern and central regions of the Murray-Darling Basin, particularly in the Victorian Alps (up to 70 mm) and central-western NSW slopes and plains (up to 85 mm). In the upper Murray, rainfall was patchy, and streamflow responses were generally small. The best response was in the Tooma River which very rapidly increased from 90 to 1,650 ML/day but within 24 hours had receded to 330 ML/day. In contrast, the flow at Rocky Point on the Ovens River showed very little response, increasing from 500 to only 680 ML/day.

In the northern Basin, the flood waters originating from the Moonie and Weir Rivers are moving along the Barwon River and the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast it to peak at Brewarrina (below minor flood level) by 2nd April. The flood originating in the Condamine, Balonne and Maranoa Rivers has undergone significant attenuation as large expanses of water have spread out across the floodplain. These flood waters are now moving very slowly along the anabranch system of the Culgoa, Bokhara and Birrie Rivers, and are expected to reach the Barwon-Darling River in about a week. Floodwaters have also been moving down the Warrego and Paroo Rivers, but most of this water fills interconnected networks of local wetlands and lakes, and generally, very little reaches the Darling River. The recent floods in southern Queensland have provided enormous environmental benefit, with water passing into anabranches, flood runners, wetlands and billabongs, many of which have not had water for up to 10 years.



River Operations

MDBA active storage (which currently excludes Menindee Lakes) decreased by 19 GL to 2,052 GL (or 24 % capacity). Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased a little to 1,216 GL (or 31 % capacity) and the release has been reduced slightly to 400 ML/day, to maintain a target flow further downstream at Tallandoon on the Mitta Mitta River of 600 ML/day.

Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 32 GL to 500 GL (16 % capacity) and is expected to continue gradually decreasing over the next few weeks, unless there is significant rainfall. During the past week, the average flow past Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) was 10,700 ML/day and is likely to decrease over the next few days in response to a reduction in downstream demands, particularly at Yarrawonga Main Channel and Mulwala Canal.

The pool level at Lake Mulwala is 124.77 m AHD (or 0.13 m below FSL) and the release from Yarrawonga Weir is steady at 5,500 ML/day. If it remains dry, the Yarrawonga release is likely to be gradually reduced over the coming weeks as the end of the irrigation season approaches.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level is steady at Full Supply Level (86.05 m AHD). The release is 2,500 ML/day and is likely to remain fairly steady during the coming week. Further downstream, the release at Euston Weir has dropped from 6,900 to 3,900 ML/day and is forecast to continue decreasing to about 2,600 ML/day during the coming week. At Wentworth Weir the release is currently 8,000 ML/day and is forecast to decrease to about 4,000 ML/day during the coming week, and possibly below 2,000 ML/day during mid-April.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these forecast low flows and river levels, particularly between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs, into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which currently remain under NSW control) decreased by 12 GL to 543 GL (31 % capacity). The current forecast indicates that inflows from the Darling River should start to increase over the next few weeks and water storage in Menindee Lakes will reach 640 GL in mid to late April. At this time, control of the Lakes will revert from NSW to the MDBA and its waters will be able to be shared between NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Upstream of Menindee Lakes, the flow along the Darling River at Wilcannia has increased to 12,000 ML/day and further upstream at Bourke is 27,000 ML/day and rising. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting the flow at Bourke to peak on 7th April and then to peak at Wilcannia in May. The flow at Weir 32, downstream of Menindee Lakes is 1500 ML/day and will continue to be gradually reduced over the coming week.

Total storage in Lake Victoria increased by 8 GL to 546 GL (81 % capacity). During the past week, the average flow to South Australia was 7,900 ML/day and the average flow past Lock 1 was 5,900 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.73 m AHD, and is forecast to continue gradually increasing over the coming weeks in response to the higher inflows from the Murray. The water level in Lake Albert is steady at -0.69 m AHD.

Algal Blooms

The Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees have reported further reductions in the numbers of potentially toxic blue green algae in some sections of the Murray River. However, red alerts remain for Hume Reservoir, Lake Mulwala, the Murray River from Yarrawonga to Echuca, and a new red alert has been issued for Mildura. Under a red alert, the waters may be unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users, and may pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals. 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

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 31 Mar 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.62	1 216	31%	80	1 136	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.28	500	16%	30	470	-32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.89	546	81%	100	446	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		543	31%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		**9 352**		**2 805**	**30%**	**- -**	**2 052**	**-31**

* 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		448	44%	3	445	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		591	36%	24	567	+7
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		848	25%	100	748	-33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30-Mar-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	772	-28	Snowy-Murray	+33	705
Snowy-Murray Component	540	-56	Tooma-Tumut	+0	242
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	33.3	463
			Murray 1 Release	+34	942

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	16.1	193
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.8	58
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	22
Licensed Pumps	4.5	91
Lower Darling	0.1	7
TOTAL	**23.0**	**371**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	120
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.5	237
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.4	116
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.0	20
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	229
TOTAL	**27.9**	**722**

* 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
Flow this week	55.0
Flow so far this month	241
Flow last month	235

(7 900 ML/day)

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	70	60
Euston	110	100	90
Red Cliffs	120	110	100
Merbein	110	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	250	240	460
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	190	200	200
Berri	260	250	310
Waikerie	250	250	390
Morgan	250	250	480
Mannum	290	300	560
Murray Bridge	N/A	N/A	670
Milang (Lake Alex.	5 260	5 230	5 620
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.	3 250	3 170	4 930
Meningie (Lake Alb.	N/A	N/A	11 920
Goolwa Barrages	19 670	18 960	14 020

Week ending Wednesday 31 Mar 2010

River Levels and Flows

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	-	-	-	6 820	F	4 900	5 350
Jingellic	4.0	2.11	208.63	8 150	R	5 660	5 760
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	550	F	570	600
Heywoods	5.5	2.70	156.33	10 390	S	10 030	8 260
Doctors Point	5.5	2.70	151.17	11 100	F	10 690	9 230
Albury	4.3	1.68	149.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.32	128.34	10 550	R	10 170	7 900
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.04	116.08	5 520	F	5 590	5 650
Tocumwal	6.4	1.58	105.42	6 140	R	5 880	5 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.05	79.60	2 530	F	2 820	4 230
Swan Hill	4.5	0.71	63.63	2 790	F	2 940	5 840
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.89	51.01	3 920	S	4 640	7 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.89	42.73	3 910	F	5 500	6 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	5 320	F	5 960	5 400
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.26	28.02	7 950	F	8 810	9 480
Rufus Junction	-	3.61	20.54	7 430	F	7 440	6 650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.13	-	5 940	R	5 390	3 760
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.03	154.26	600	R	480	550
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.96	145.64	760	R	650	1 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.10	92.52	360	S	350	700
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.83	80.60	560	F	510	580
Edward at Liewah	-	1.37	56.75	760	F	940	1 580
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.39	54.89	340	F	320	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.48	56.44	230	F	330	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	200	F	620	9 240
Darling at Bourke	-	8.39	-	26 970	R	23 050	12 850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.11	-	3 160	F	3 350	4 370

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 230	1 410

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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+1.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.28
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.93
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.62	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.42
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	-0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.40
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.10	+0.33	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-0.88

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.92	0.81	70.16	461
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.065	61.365	201

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.73

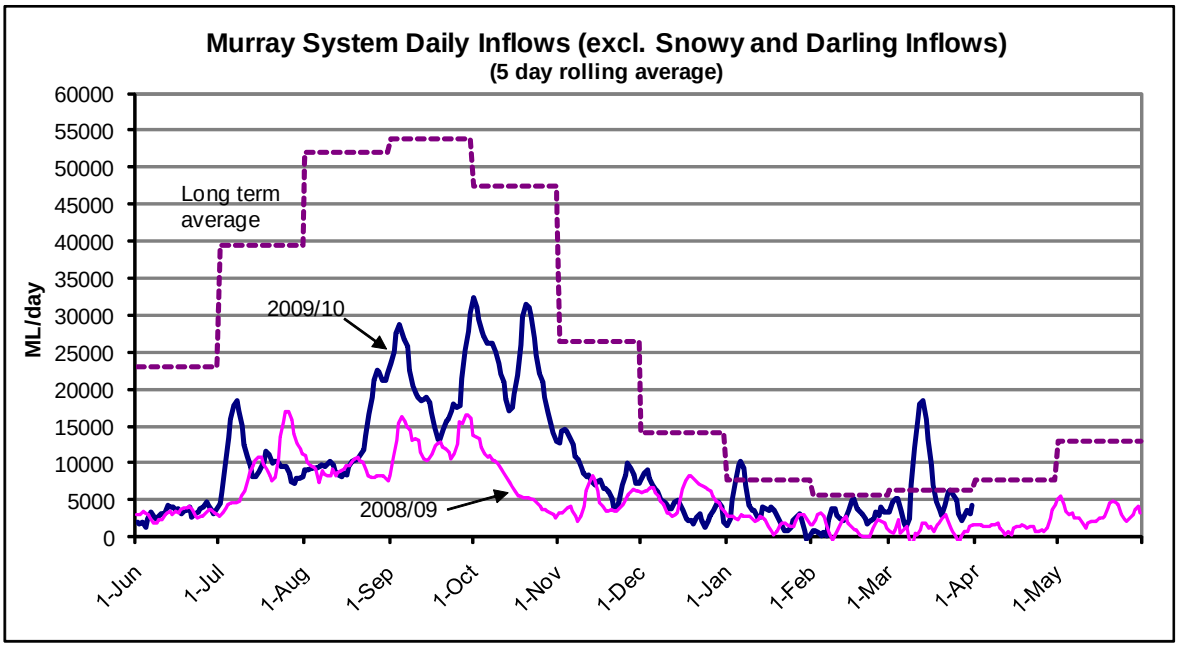
Barrages

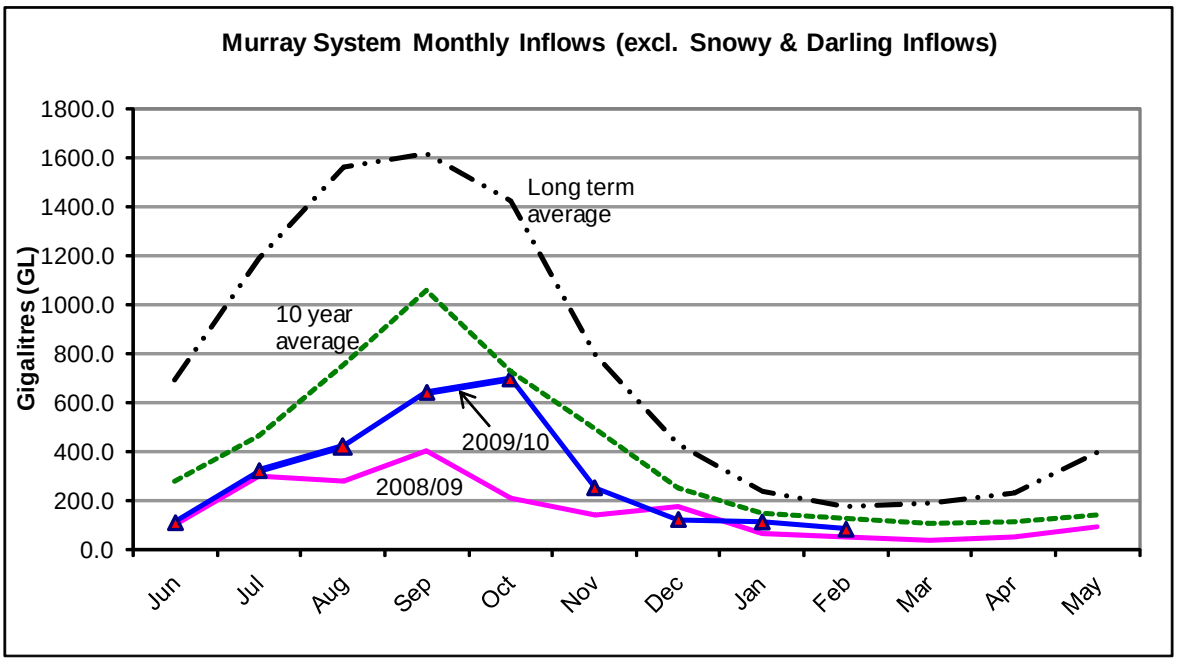
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.05	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 31 March 2010





State Allocations (as at 31 March 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	22%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	26%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	78%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	69%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%

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