



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2010

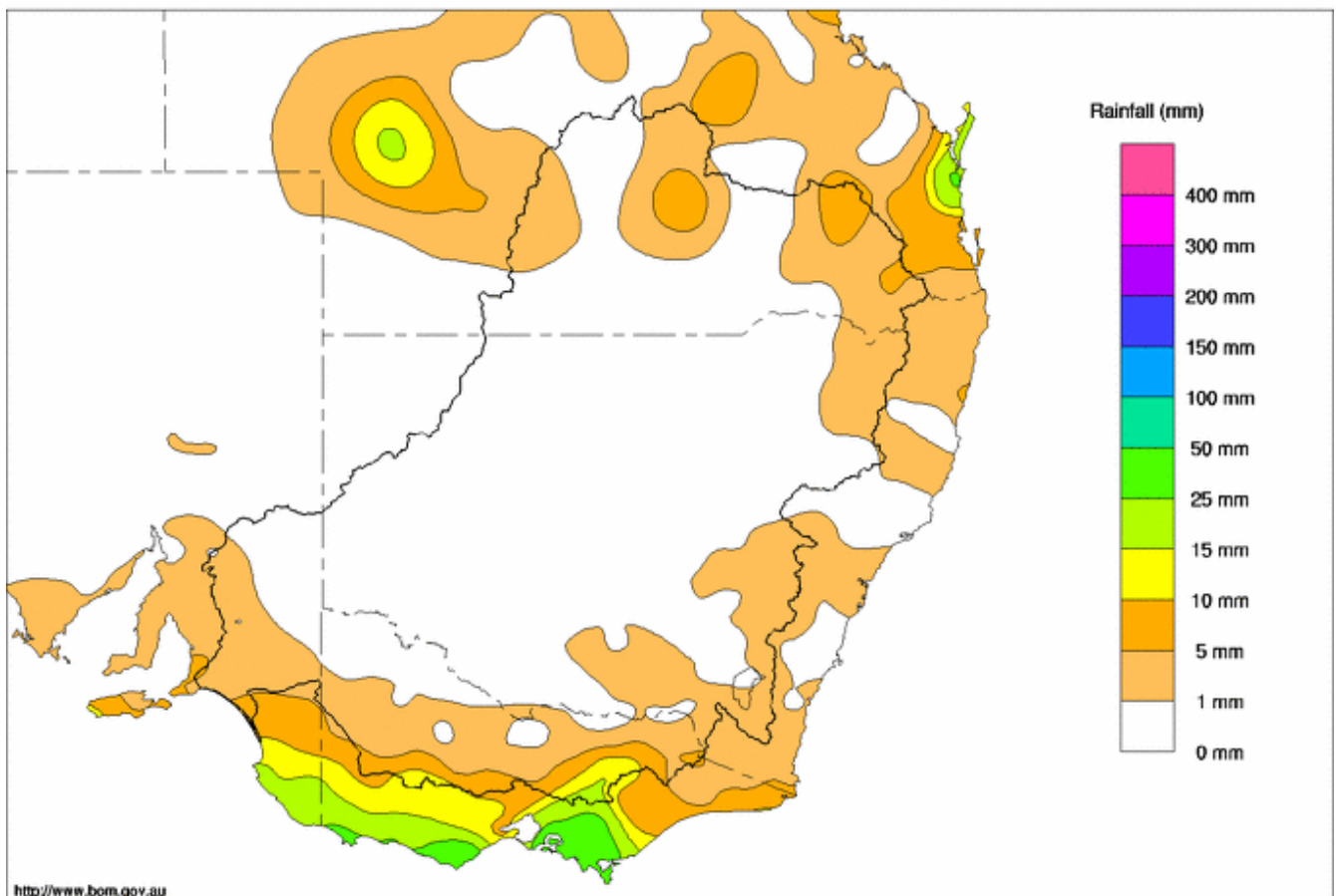
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## Rainfall and Inflows

There was very little recorded rainfall in the Murray–Darling Basin for the week ending 12 May 2010 (see Map), with few recordings above 10 mm. As a result, streamflows in the upper Murray and its tributaries have been slowly receding. For instance, Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River has fallen from 620 to 500 ML/day. Similarly, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River the flows have decreased from 1,100 to around 950 ML/day. Total Murray system inflows for the first 12 days of May are about 80 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th May 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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## River Operations

MDBA active storage (which now includes Menindee Lakes) increased by 150 GL to 2,773 GL (32% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir was fairly steady with an increase of 2 GL to 1,232 GL (32% capacity) and the release continues on the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. Total storage in Hume Reservoir rose by 24 GL to 512 GL (17% capacity) which is considerably higher than this time last year (136 GL). The release was reduced during the week to meet the minimum flow at Doctors Point of 1,200 ML/day. This reduction is in response to decreasing downstream demand and the closure of the main irrigation diversion channels which will all be closed by the end of this weekend.

The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.74 m AHD (16cm below FSL) and is expected to gradually fall over the coming week. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is now at the normal minimum of 1,800 ML/day (down from 3,800 ML/day last week) and if it remains dry, is expected to remain steady.

On the Edward River, the pool level at Stevens Weir rose during the week, due to water returned from irrigation channels entering the Edward River upstream of the weir. In response, the release rose and peaked at around 1,800 ML/day. The weir pool is now being gradually lowered over the coming weeks.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release has fallen to around 2,000 ML/day and is expected to remain fairly steady over the next few weeks. Due to late demand at the National Channel offtake (at Torrumbarry Weir pool) and to help maintain downstream flows, the Torrumbarry Weir pool is being slowly lowered and is expected to decrease to around 85.89 m AHD (16 cm below FSL) this weekend.

On the Darling River, the floodwaters entering Menindee Lakes continue to recede with the flow passing Wilcannia now at 11,300 ML/day, down from 23,500 ML/day this time last week. With the flows at Wilcannia receding so quickly it now appears that very little Paroo River water is entering the Darling. However, as can be seen in Figure 1 (Paroo River enters from top right to join the Darling River) there has been a connection of the two rivers from this flood, which very rarely occurs.



**Figure 1.** Paroo and Darling River confluence. Photo courtesy N. Garland (MDBA)



Further upstream at Bourke the flows have decreased from 2,000 to about 750 ML/day. During the past week, total storage in Menindee Lakes has increased by 149 GL to 1,282 GL (74% capacity) and is expected to increase to around 1,400 GL by the end of May. The release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) has been reduced to the normal May minimum of 200 ML/day.

Total storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 25 GL to 437 GL (65% capacity) and under a dry scenario will continue to decrease over the next few weeks. Locks 1 to 6 are all at or above Full Supply Level and the flow to South Australia has averaged around 5,700 ML/day for the week. The average flow over Lock 1 was around 3,700 ML/day and during the week, the water level in Lake Alexandrina increased by 0.03 to -0.48 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel has remained steady at -0.08 m AHD.

### **Algal Blooms**

All red alerts have been lifted for the River Murray and the Edward River system. However, amber alerts remain in place at some locations between Hume Reservoir and Wentworth and in the Edward and Wakool rivers. Further information can be obtained from the regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 or by visiting the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Week ending Wednesday 12 May 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	431.13	1 232	32%	80	1 152	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.43	512	17%	30	482	+24
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.92	437	65%	100	337	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 282	74%	(480 #)	802	+149
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 463</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 773</b>	<b>+150</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **32%**

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

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		377	37%	3	374	-8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		591	36%	24	567	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		821	25%	100	721	+7

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-May-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	694	-2	Snowy-Murray	+13	24
Snowy-Murray Component	509	-5	Tooma-Tumut	+3	5
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	10.0	19
			Murray 1 Release	+16	25

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-4.6 <sup>^</sup>	249	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	138
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.4	61	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.8	324
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.1	126
Licensed Pumps	0.7	104	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	25
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	249
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>862</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 is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above\*\*

<sup>^</sup>Negative value due to draining channels returning flows at end of irrigation season

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(5 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	40.2	
Flow so far this month	68*	
Flow last month	203	

\* Flow to South Australia includes entitlement plus trade

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	40	50	60
Euston	100	100	90
Red Cliffs	130	130	110
Merbein	130	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	240	230	430
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	220	220	300
Waikerie	-	-	350
Morgan	290	280	450
Mannum	290	280	520
Murray Bridge	180	290	630
Milang (Lake Alex)	4 990	15 790	5 840
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 160	1 570	4 440
Meningie (Lake Alb)	16 610	17 090	12 910
Goolwa Barrages	22 770	22 120	14 980



## Week ending Wednesday 12 May 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	-	-	-	3 040	F	2 400	3 550
Jingellic	4.0	-	-	3 460	R	3 190	4 120
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.31	218.20	350	S	370	440
Heywoods	5.5	1.25	154.88	600	S	610	1 990
Doctors Point	5.5	1.45	149.92	1 180	F	1 840	3 680
Albury	4.3	0.66	148.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.69	126.71	2 040	F	2 390	4 080
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.36	115.40	1 990	F	2 660	4 070
Tocumwal	6.4	0.93	104.77	2 700	F	3 530	4 620
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.87	79.42	1 970	S	2 400	2 610
Swan Hill	4.5	0.66	63.58	2 470	S	2 520	2 500
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.56	50.68	2 740	R	2 870	2 770
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.63	42.47	2 760	F	2 850	2 690
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 650	F	2 480	2 690
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	2 370	R	2 200	2 770
Rufus Junction	-	3.20	20.13	4 870	S	5 190	5 440
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.27	-	3 730	R	3 760	4 830
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.15	154.38	770	F	1 380	1 470
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.19	145.87	1 360	S	1 560	2 020
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	-	-	400	F	430	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.87	81.65	1 810	S	1 080	410
Edward at Liewah	-	0.99	56.37	480	S	480	480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.21	54.70	120	F	130	160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.40	56.36	180	S	180	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	20	F	50	100
Darling at Bourke	-	4.19	-	740	F	1 170	3 810
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.94	-	750	F	770	790

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 900	3 180
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.89
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.08	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.67
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	-2.20	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-15.10	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.19	+0.29	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-1.02

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.37	1.027	70.377	809
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.11	0.077	61.377	210

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.48

### Barrages

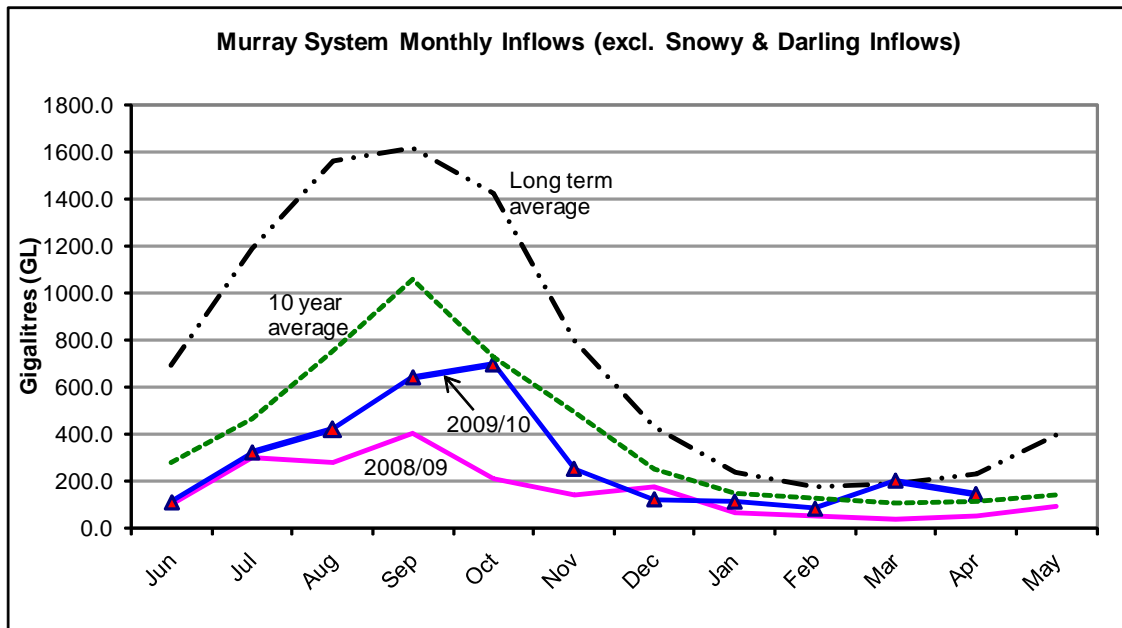
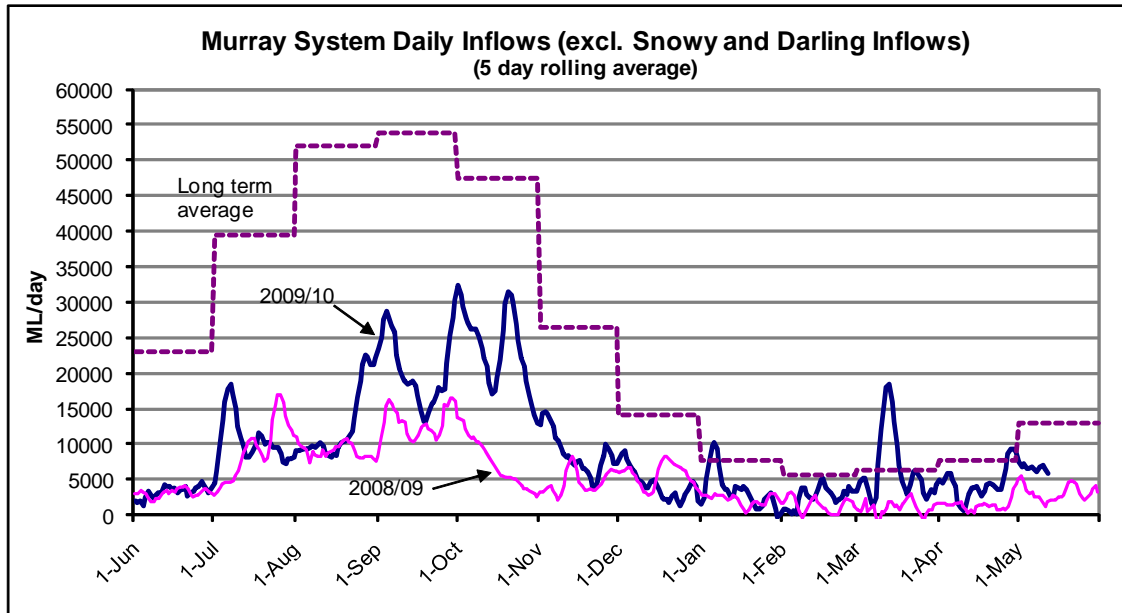
#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.08	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 12 May 2010



**State Allocations (as at 12 May 2010)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	27%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
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**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	27%

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	71%
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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>