



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2010

Trim Ref: D10/24834

Rainfall and Inflows

The good rainfalls of the last few weeks have continued during the past 7 days, particularly in north-eastern Victoria, northern NSW and southern Queensland. For example, weekly rainfalls of 82 mm were recorded at Harrierville and 70 mm at Whitfield in Victoria, while 51 mm was recorded at Nundle in northern NSW and 69 mm at Dalby in southern Queensland.

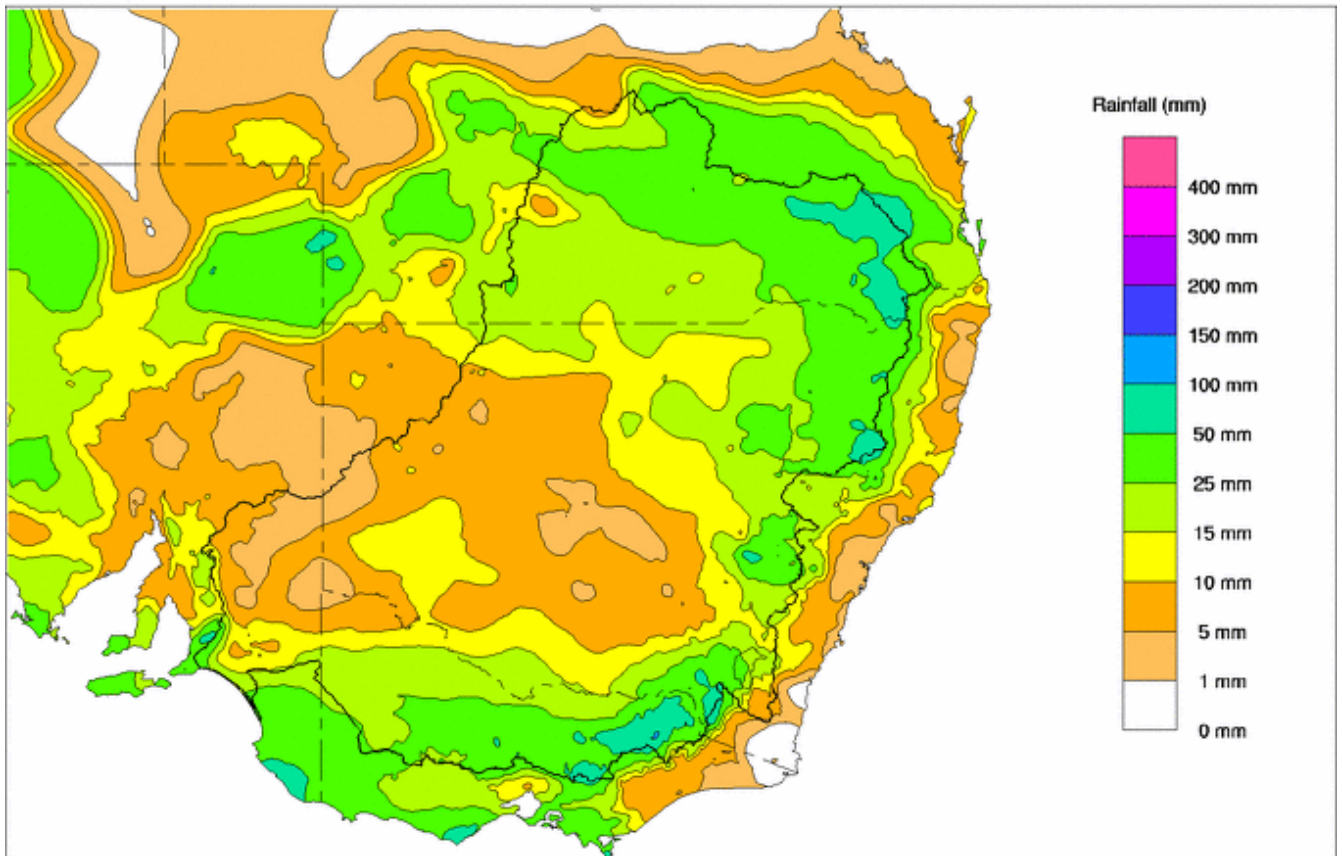
Streamflows responded well to the rain as the catchments have remained wet. Inflows to Dartmouth Dam averaged 6,600 ML/day during the week, while inflows to Hume Reservoir were 19,300–26,600 ML/day. Flows from the Ovens River totalled about 97 GL during the week, with a flow peak of 22,700 ML/day at Wangaratta. Flows in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are expected to rise again in response to recent rain, and to further rain forecast for the next few days.

Flow in the Darling River at Bourke has now increased to 8,800 ML/day in response to rain in northern NSW earlier in August. The recent rain will boost the flows in the Namoi and Border Rivers, and make a useful contribution to the flow in the Darling River.

Murray system inflows during the last week totalled 490 GL, an average of 70 GL/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th August 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 204 GL during the week to 4,204 GL (49% capacity)—this is the highest storage volume since February 2006. Dartmouth Reservoir is currently storing 1,466 GL of water (38% capacity), an increase of 46 GL since last week. Hume Reservoir is currently at 48% capacity, after increasing by 156 GL to 1,470 GL during the week. Releases from these two reservoirs remain at winter minimums.

Releases from Yarrawonga Weir have increased during the week and are currently at 20,000 ML/day. Releases are likely to increase slightly higher during the next week, as further high inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers arrive. The pool level at Yarrawonga Weir is currently 124.73 m AHD (0.17 m below FSL).

On the Edward River, the flows are currently at the maximum of 1,600 ML/day at the offtake with higher flows downstream at Toonalook of 2,900 ML/day as water returns from the Millewa Forest. At present, regulators in the Barmah and Millewa Forests remain open.

There have been high inflows to the Murray from the Goulburn River, just upstream of Echuca (up to 18,870 ML/day at McCoys Bridge on 25 August). Further downstream in the Murray at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is 23,340 ML/day and rising slowly. These are the highest flows since November 2000 and are sufficiently high that water has started to flow along some creeks in the Gunbower and Koondrook-Perricoota Forests. This water will provide some very welcome environmental benefits.

As the high flows pass downstream, there will be some moderate rises in river levels between Torrumbarry and Lake Victoria on the South Australian border over the next few weeks. However, the current forecasts indicate that, downstream of the Murrumbidgee Junction, the peak water levels will remain below minor flood levels.

The pool levels at Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are close to Full Supply Level and are likely to remain steady during the coming week. The flow past Euston Weir is currently 15,200 ML/day, at Mildura the flow is 12,270 ML/day and, at Wentworth 11,300 ML/day. All these flows will increase during the next week. Further information on forecast river flows is available from the MDBA website (see http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/river_flows).

Menindee Lakes are currently fairly steady at 1,567 GL (91% capacity). Higher inflows to the lakes, from the Darling River, are expected during the next 4–5 weeks. Releases from Menindee Lakes will remain at minimums until the higher flows down the River Murray have passed.

As the higher flows in the River Murray reach Lake Victoria, most will be diverted into Lake Victoria or used to supply South Australia with its entitlement flow and additional dilution flows. The water level at Weir 9 has been raised to assist the storing of water in Lake Victoria. However, there is likely to be a small volume that cannot be regulated and, as such, an 'Unregulated Flow Event' has been declared for the Murray, from 25 to 28 August for river reaches between Barmah and the Murrumbidgee Junction. This has allowed NSW to declare supplementary water access for the same time period and location. A further update on the 'Unregulated Flow Event' will be provided on Friday 27 August.

At Lake Victoria, the level has risen by 12 GL in the last week. The storage is currently 391 GL (58% capacity) and this volume is expected to increase during the next few weeks with the higher river flows.

The water level in the Lake Alexandrina is currently +0.18 m AHD and is expected to continue rising during September and October.

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TONY MORSE
Acting Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 25 Aug 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	437.91	1 466	38%	80	1 386	+46
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	182.51	1 470	48%	30	1 440	+156
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.44	391	58%	100	291	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 567	91%	(480 #)	1 087	-10
Total		9 352		4 894	52%	--	4 204	+204

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **49%**

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	680	66%	3	677	+45
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 105	68%	24	1 081	+56
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 344	40%	100	1 244	+98

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Aug-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	555	+29	Snowy-Murray	+3	310
Snowy-Murray Component	420	+13	Tooma-Tumut	+15	102
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-11.5	208
			Murray 1 Release	+13	401

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.6	19.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.7	1.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.3	2.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	4.0	57.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	0.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	2.0
Licensed Pumps	0.2	3.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	1.0
Lower Darling	0.2	2.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.0	11.0
TOTAL	1.4	26.0	TOTAL	7.2	72.0

* 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	124.0 *	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.7	
Flow so far this month	173.2	
Flow last month	139.5	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for August due to Additional Dilution Flow

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	100	100	80
Euston	100	70	90
Red Cliffs	70	90	100
Merbein	70	80	90
Burtundy (Darling)	270	270	260
Lock 9	130	110	130
Lake Victoria	130	180	170
Berri	180	190	200
Waikerie	-	290	290
Morgan	300	300	330
Mannum	350	360	350
Murray Bridge	360	360	330
Milang (Lake Alex)	3 570	3 710	3 780
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 330	1 520	1 670
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 900	11 990	12 430
Goolwa Barrages	18 470	18 820	19 540

Week ending Wednesday 25 Aug 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	-	-	-	4 000	F	3 980	4 390
Jingellic	4.0	2.66	209.18	13 890	F	17 580	13 580
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.03	218.92	2 390	R	2 380	1 460
Heywoods	5.5	1.20	154.83	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.00	150.47	4 300	F	4 360	3 420
Albury	4.3	1.07	148.51	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.27	127.29	4 390	R	4 120	3 160
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.84	117.88	20 070	R	18 040	13 510
Tocumwal	6.4	3.28	107.12	18 880	R	16 860	12 550
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.79	84.34	23 340	R	21 270	12 760
Swan Hill	4.5	3.17	66.09	19 120	R	16 450	10 130
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.77	53.89	17 150	R	14 090	9 000
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.99	44.83	15 170	R	11 980	7 900
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	12 270	F	10 680	6 580
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.52	28.28	11 310	S	9 970	6 350
Rufus Junction	-	3.53	20.46	6 290	R	6 250	6 290
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.40	-	5 760	F	6 030	5 990
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.73	155.96	4 360	F	4 660	3 260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.26	148.94	16 390	F	19 410	12 810
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.54	98.96	18 870	R	15 970	7 740
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.04	81.82	2 060	F	1 490	1 300
Edward at Liewah	-	2.11	57.49	1 440	R	1 350	1 220
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.22	54.71	140	R	100	80
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.84	56.80	500	R	430	290
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.78	-	1 940	R	1 600	1 150
Darling at Bourke	-	5.10	-	8 790	R	7 470	2 800
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	170	S	180	180

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	29 390	23 030
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+1.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.25
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.55	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.88
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.88	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.37
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.10	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.26
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.67	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.35

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.29	3.092	72.442	5855
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.24	1.945	63.245	2558

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

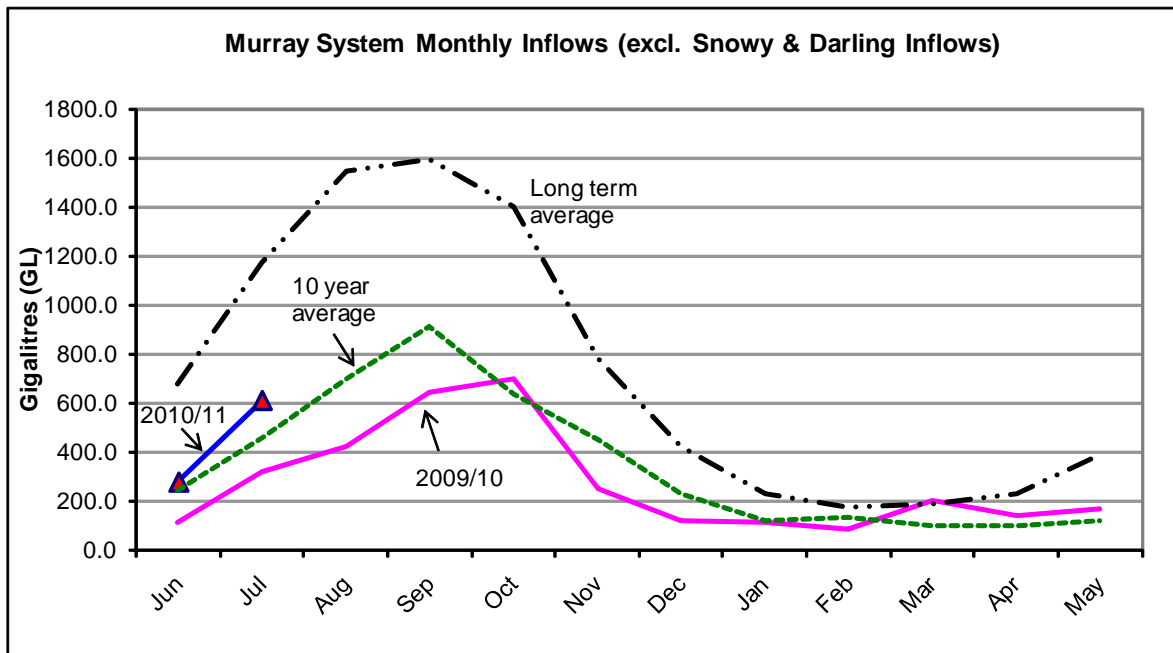
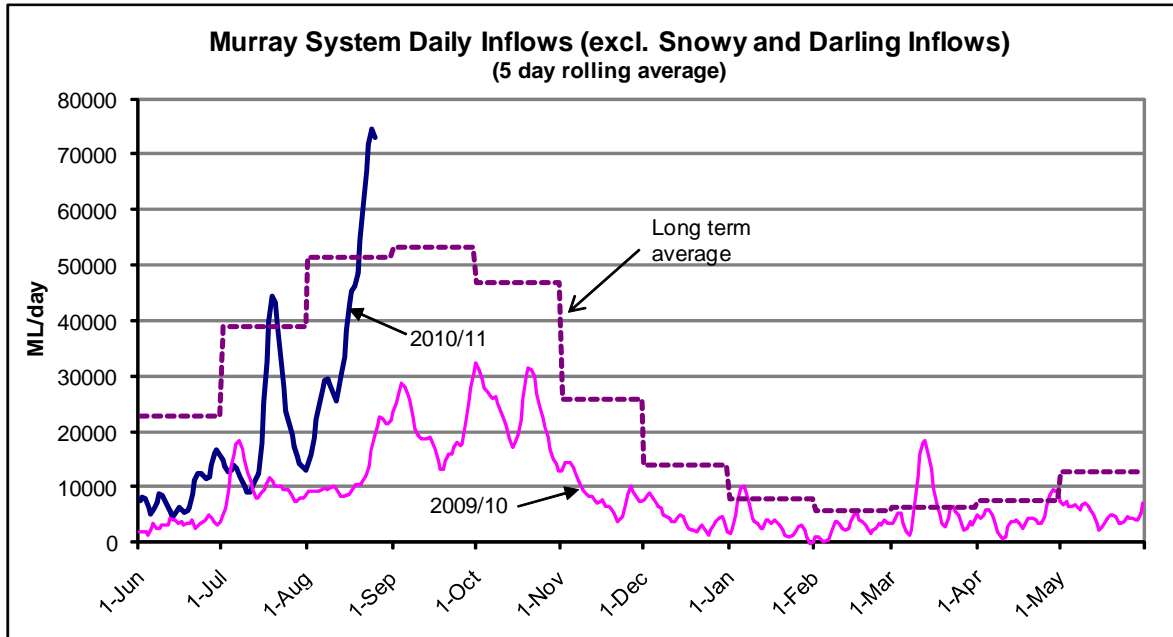
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.18

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.47	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



State Allocations (as at 25 August 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	70%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	23%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	0%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	26%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	34%
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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.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>