RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

Trim Ref: D10/28039

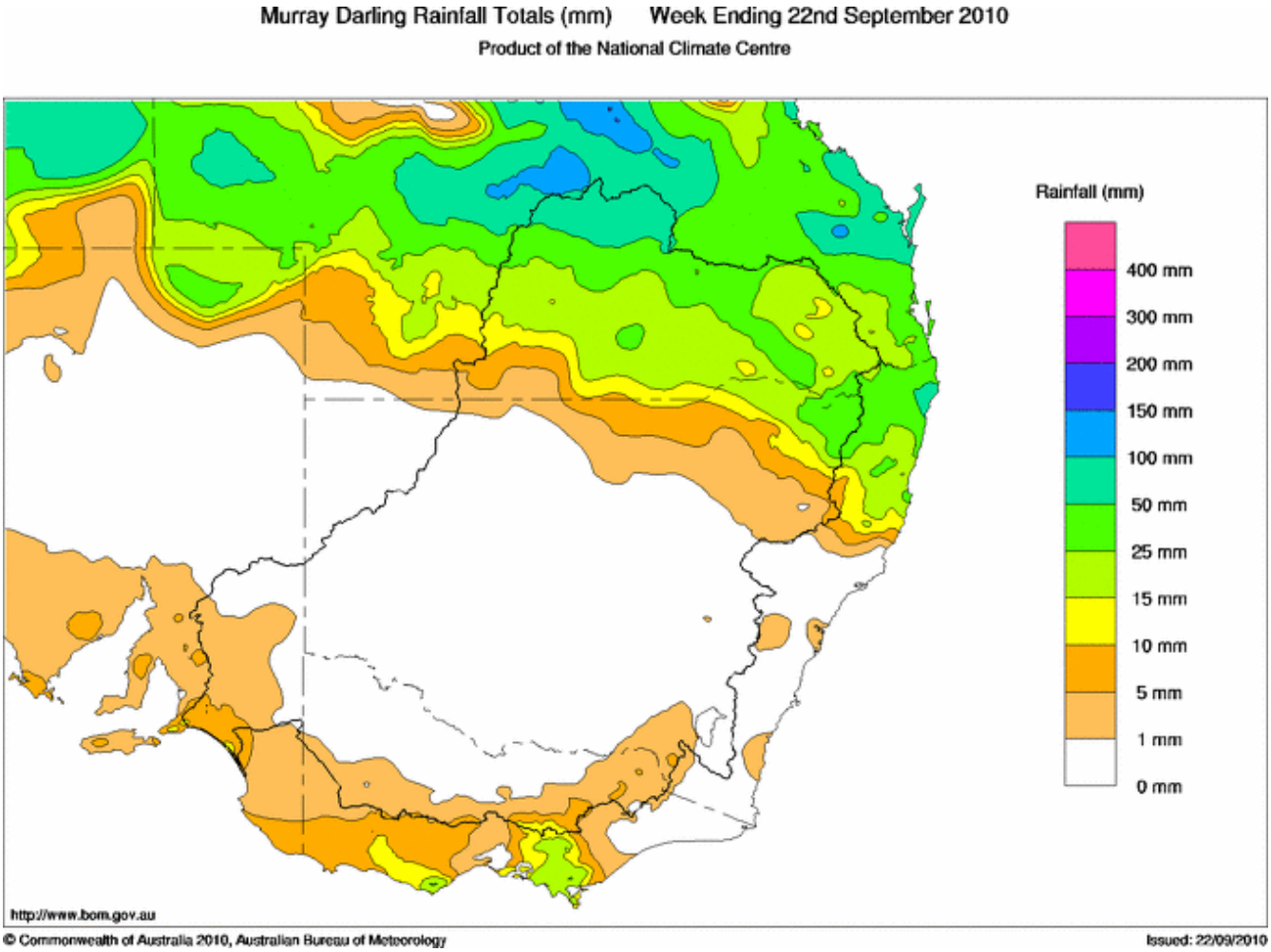
Rainfall and Inflows

Most of the rain in the Murray-Darling Basin during the last week fell in southern Queensland, with Augathella recording 50 mm and Yuleba 48 mm. As a consequence, flow in the Macintyre River at Boggabilla has increased to 34,900 ML/day (23 September) and, on the Barwon River at Mungindi, has increased to 5,960 ML/day. At Bourke, the flow in the Darling River is currently 9,930 ML/day and these flows will continue to boost storage volumes in Menindee Lakes.

There was very little rain in the southern part of the Basin, and flows in the upper Murray tributaries are receding. For example, at Wangaratta, the Ovens River is now flowing at 8,770 ML/day, down from 19,130 ML/day last week. At Bandiana, on the Kiewa River, the flow is 3,280 ML/day compared with 5,030 ML/day last week.

The Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge is currently contributing about 20,370 ML/day to the River Murray, down from 38,880 ML/day last week. Flows in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald are currently 4,980 ML/day and still rising slowly.

Murray system inflows for September to date are about 2,600 GL.



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 256 GL to 5,761 GL (67% capacity) during the week. Dartmouth Reservoir is now at 1,741 GL (45% capacity) and Hume is at 2,380 GL (78% capacity). At Dartmouth, the increase in storage during the week was 32 GL, while Hume increased by 126 GL. Releases from these reservoirs remain at normal minimums.

Flows through Yarrawonga Weir have declined during the week from 29,000 ML/day to 14,880 ML/day and the pool level has stayed between 124.66 and 124.70 m AHD. At Barmah, river levels reached a peak of about 5.86 m (local gauge height) on 20–21 September, due to the high flows in the River Murray and the 'backwater effect' of high inflows from the Goulburn River downstream.

At Echuca, the river level peaked at 91.96 m AHD on 20–21 September while flows past Torrumbarry Weir peaked at the same time at 47,590 ML/day. At Swan Hill, flows have remained above 23,000 ML/day since 8 September and are likely to remain above this flow rate for at least another week.

The flow through Euston Weir is currently 28,810 ML/day and this flow is likely to continue rising during the next week. At Wentworth, the flow is 29,000 ML/day and will also continue rising. It is difficult to estimate flow peaks at these sites until the timing, flow rates and volumes of inflows from the Murrumbidgee and Wakool Rivers are known. However, the Bureau of Meteorology expects that flow rates are likely to remain well below minor flood levels (http://www.bom.gov.au/).

The Menindee Lakes reached full supply level (1,731 GL) during the week, and are now being surcharged towards 2,050 GL. Inflows to the Lakes from the Darling River have remained steady, with an average of 9,700 ML/day passing Wilcannia. Releases from Menindee Lakes were increased during the week from 200 to 500 ML/day, which is the normal minimum when the Lakes are above full supply level.

The Unregulated Flow Event, declared for most reaches of the River Murray, has now ceased between Hume Reservoir and Yarrawonga Weir, and will cease at 8 am on 24 September for Yarrawonga to Barmah. Unregulated flows are still available from the downstream reaches and regular updates will continue to be provided.

The storage in Lake Victoria continues to rise and is expected to be close to full supply level by late October. The volume is currently 582 GL, after inflows of 42 GL during the week.

Lakes Alexandrina and Albert were re-connected during the week, however, the levels between the two lakes have not yet equalised. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently 0.69 m AHD while, in Lake Albert, the level is approximately -0.11 m AHD. With the higher inflows arriving, the Lower Lakes are expected to reach full supply level in the next week or two.

Small flows through the Barrages commenced during the week, with all fishways opened last week. These flows aim to attract fish towards the fishways to assist in their movement upstream from the Coorong into the Lower Lakes. The releases from the Barrages will be gradually increased as the higher inflows arrive and the Lower Lakes rise.

To enable the balancing of flows to the sea from the Goolwa channel and the Tauwitchere side of the Murray mouth, the Goolwa channel will be progressively re-connected to Lake Alexandrina during the coming weeks by partial breaching of the blocking bank at Clayton. This bank had been constructed during winter 2009 to protect key environmental assets in the Goolwa channel, when Lake Alexandrina was at or near record low levels.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 22 Sep 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	445.09	1 741	45%	80	1 661	+32
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	188.51	2 380	78%	30	2 350	+126
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.20	582	86%	100	482	+42
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 748	101%	(480 #)	1 268	+56
Total		**9 352**		**6 451**	**69%**	**- -**	**5 761**	**+256**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **67%**

\# 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		937	91%	3	934	+31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 446	89%	24	1 422	+53
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		1 955	59%	100	1 855	+51

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Sep-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	745	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+5	345
Snowy-Murray Component	524	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+21	173
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-16.2	173
			Murray 1 Release	+23	506

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	n/a	30.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	6.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.0
Licensed Pumps	0.5	5.0
Lower Darling	3.5	19.0
TOTAL	**4.0**	**60.0**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.5	1.0
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	58.0
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	3.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	2.0
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	23.0
TOTAL	**3.9**	**87.0**

* 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	135.0 *	
Flow this week	125.3	(17 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	331.3	
Flow last month	219.3	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for September due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	200	200	130
Euston	220	210	120
Red Cliffs	190	170	110
Merbein	140	140	90
Burtundy (Darling)	250	280	270
Lock 9	190	170	130
Lake Victoria	180	170	170
Berri	140	130	180
Waikerie	-	-	240
Morgan	190	210	290
Mannum	290	270	330
Murray Bridge	280	310	350
Milang (Lake Alex.	3 490	3 300	3 480
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.	1 630	1 520	1 800
Meningie (Lake Alb.	12 490	12 490	12 420
Goolwa Barrages	9 330	9 550	16 320

Week ending Wednesday 22 Sep 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	-	-	-	5 750	F	5 070	6 770
Jingellic	4.0	2.43	208.95	11 320	R	13 630	26 070
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.85	218.74	1 680	F	2 070	4 150
Heywoods	5.5	1.15	154.78	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.89	150.36	3 480	R	3 740	7 510
Albury	4.3	0.98	148.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.08	127.10	3 560	F	4 480	11 670
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.27	117.31	14 880	F	20 530	52 820
Tocumwal	6.4	3.16	107.00	17 750	F	26 340	61 760
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	7.49	86.04	46 980	F	45 810	34 140
Swan Hill	4.5	3.93	66.85	24 490	S	24 160	23 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.29	55.41	27 070	R	25 810	23 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.41	46.25	28 810	R	26 880	23 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	26 540	F	24 540	22 420
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.52	29.28	29 000	R	23 230	20 720
Rufus Junction	-	5.00	21.93	17 640	R	16 950	14 230
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.15	-	15 400	R	15 300	13 700
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.50	155.73	3 280	R	3 540	6 320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.21	147.89	8 770	F	11 940	31 330
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.81	99.23	20 370	F	28 820	43 750
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.40	85.17	12 700	S	12 730	6 120
Edward at Liewah	-	3.60	58.98	3 550	R	3 280	2 480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.70	56.20	4 510	R	3 990	2 420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.95	59.91	4 980	R	3 400	940
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.37	-	5 960	R	5 200	3 180
Darling at Bourke	-	5.26	-	9 930	F	9 930	9 820
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.75	-	160	F	160	160

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	22 050	45 560

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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+2.65
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.04	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.09	+0.84
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.13	+0.88
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.08	+3.61	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+1.64
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.06	+1.88	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.99
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.12	+0.65	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.05	+0.85
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.06	+1.71	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.40

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	+0.31	4.74	74.09	11773
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.26	3.892	65.192	6184

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.69

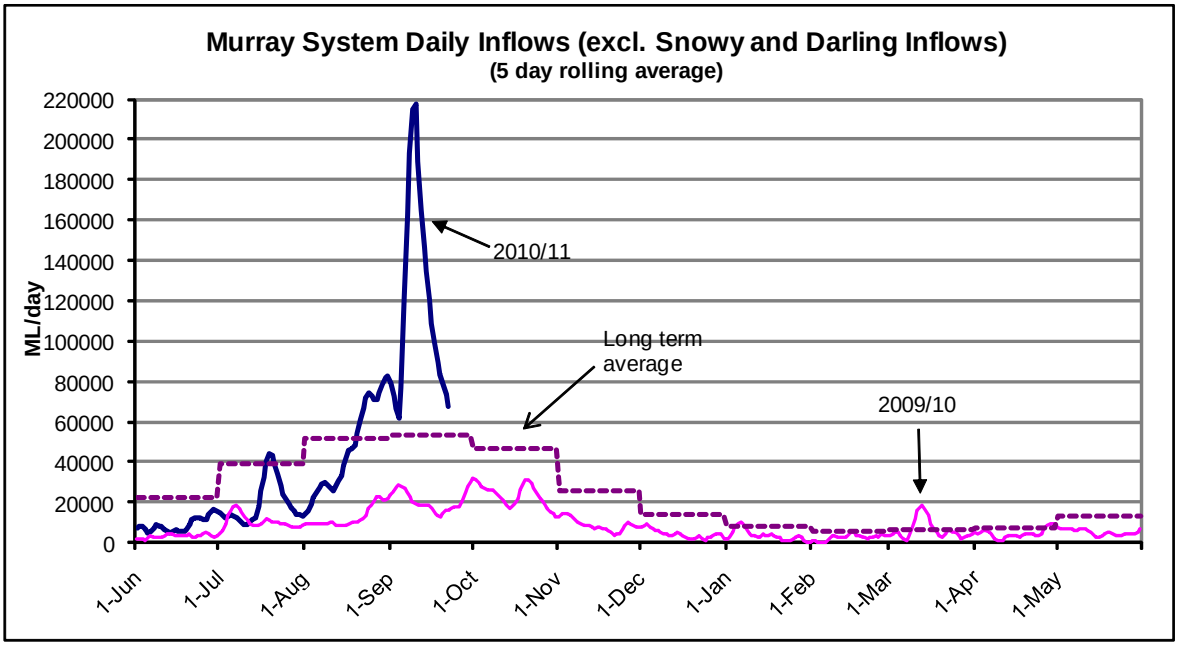
Barrages

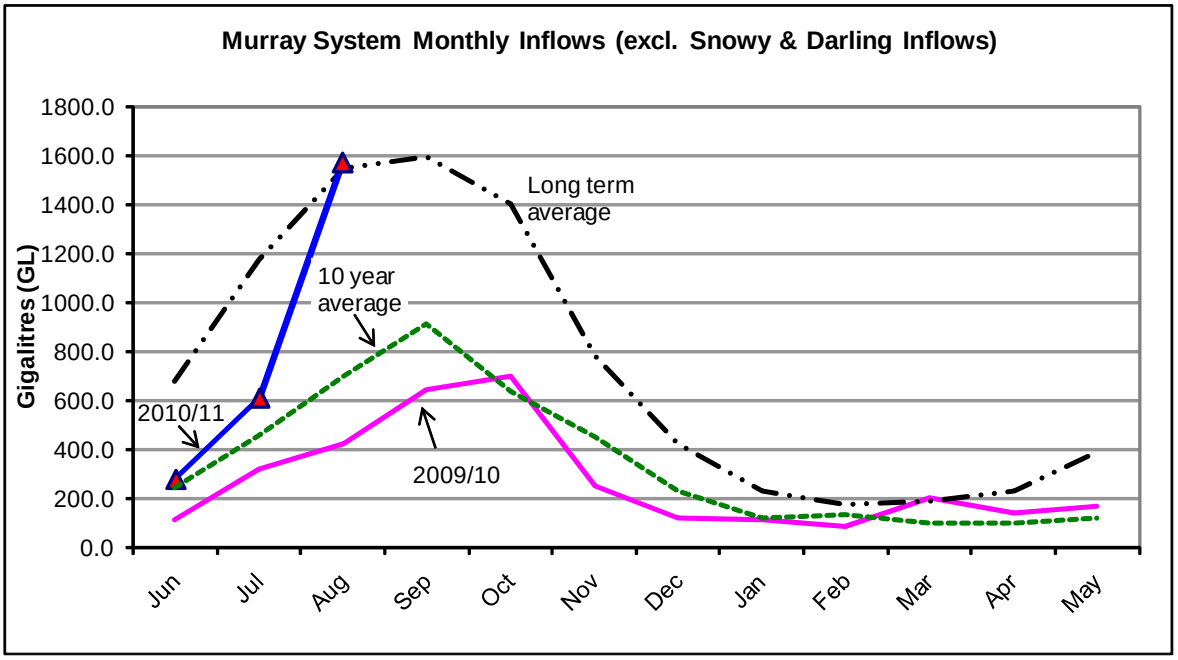
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.75	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	2	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	8	Open	Open

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

Week ending Wednesday 22 September 2010





State Allocations (as at 22 September 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	36%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	45%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	94%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	67%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	63%

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/