



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 06 OCTOBER 2010

Trim Ref: D10/29480

## Rainfall and Inflows

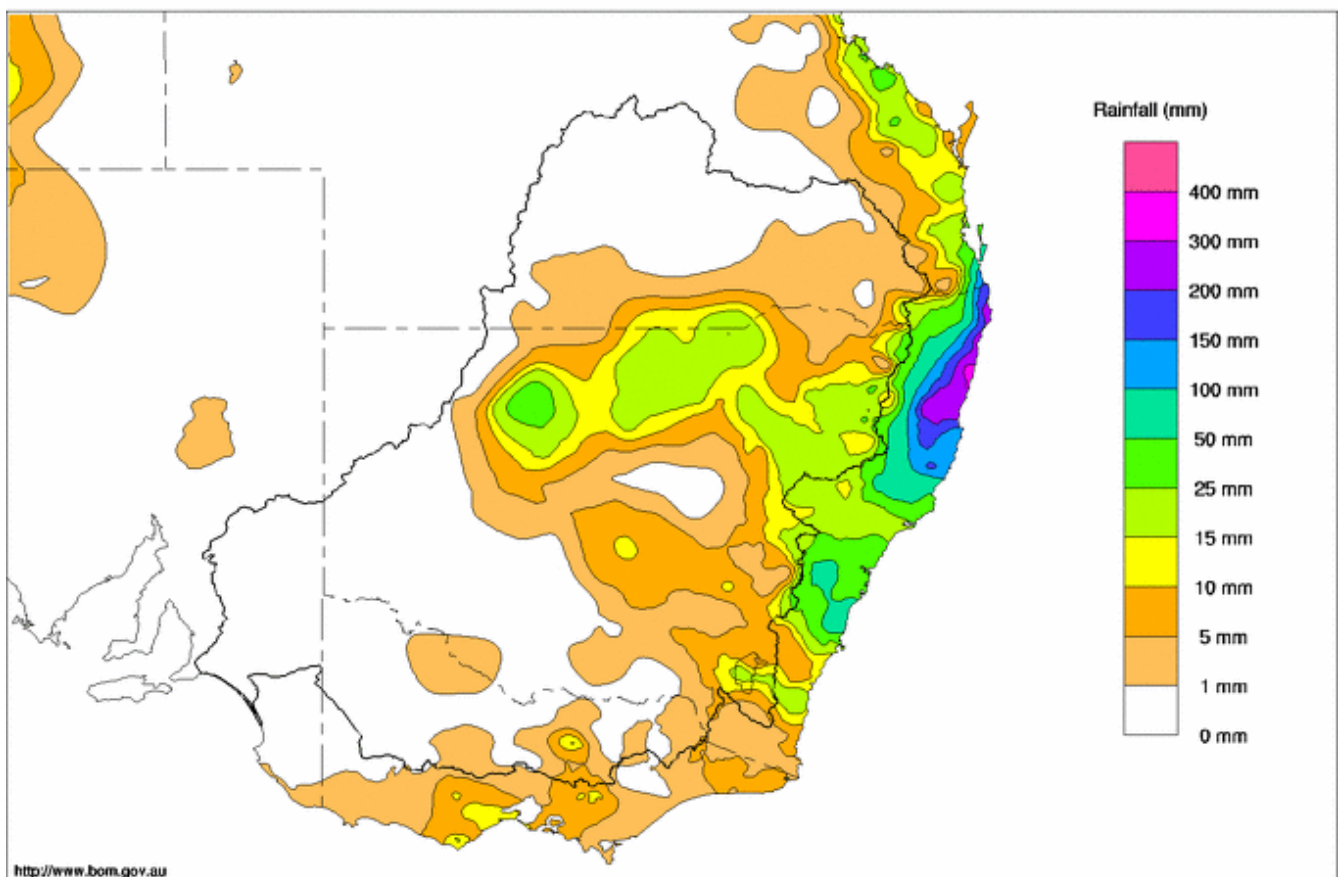
Most of this week's rain across the Murray-Darling Basin fell in northern NSW, with falls of between 25 and 50 mm recorded west of Bourke and in the region surrounding Tamworth (see Map 1). There was very little rain in the southern part of the Basin with the Upper Murray receiving between 0 and 10 mm. The Murray system has received very little rainfall since the flooding rain in early September and as a result inflows have receded sharply.

Flows into the Murray from the Goulburn River have declined considerably, with the flow at McCoys Bridge now 2,040 ML/day, compared to 7,800 ML/day last week. Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River has also declined and is currently 3,620 ML/day at Balranald, compared to 6,350 ML/day last week.

In response to good rains in the northern Basin, the flow at Bourke continues to increase and is currently 11,400 ML/day. These flows will continue to boost storage volumes in Menindee Lakes.

Murray system inflow for the week was about 167 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 6th October 2010  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 6th October 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



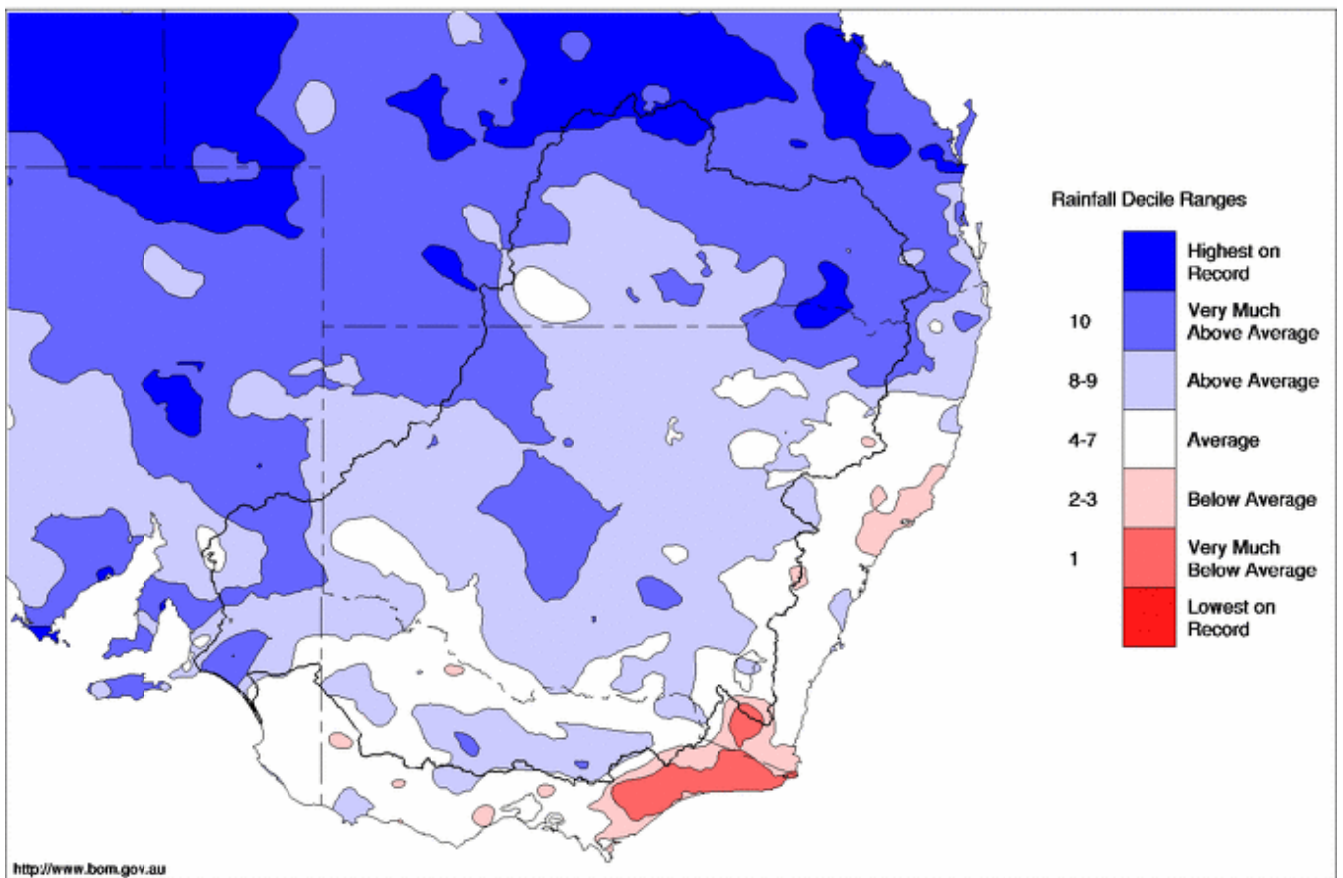
## September 2010 Summary

Rainfalls in September 2010 were average or above average across the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map 2). In the southern Basin, there were very heavy falls in early September which caused widespread flooding in Victoria. However, there has been very little follow-up rain and streamflows are rapidly receding.

In September, Murray System inflows (excluding Menindee inflows and Snowy releases) were about 2,920 GL which is well above the long term September average of 1605 GL.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles September 2010

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 03/10/2010

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for September 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

## New storage capacity tables

The Authority has implemented new storage capacity tables for Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs as of 1 October. These tables have been prepared with the latest survey technology and give a more accurate understanding of the volumes held in these reservoirs. The surveys have revealed that the full supply volumes are slightly lower than previously estimated with the FSL volume of Hume now 3,003 GL (previously 3,038 GL) and Dartmouth now 3,856 GL (previously 3,906 GL). It is understood that siltation within the reservoirs has not been a significant factor and that the changes are due to more accurate survey techniques. Information on the MDBA, State agency and BoM websites will be progressively updated in coming weeks.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by around 95 GL to 6,663 GL (72% capacity) during the week. Dartmouth Reservoir is now at 1747 GL (45% capacity) and Hume is at 2454 GL (82% capacity). Both Dartmouth and Hume each had an increase in storage of around 20 GL during the week.

Hume release continues to be increased to provide for low level environmental watering and to also meet increasing irrigation demands. Further increases in release from Hume Dam can be expected in coming weeks if dry conditions persist.

Releases from Yarrawonga Weir have been constant at around 10,000 ML/day over the past week and the pool level has increased by around 5 cm to 124.71 m AHD. Flows past Torrumbarry Weir have continued to recede from the peak in September of 47,000 ML/day to around 20,140 ML/day. At Swan Hill the flow peaked at 24,780 ML/day on 26 September and is now around 20,140 ML/day. The contribution from the Murrumbidgee at Balranald peaked at 6,350 ML/day on 1 October and has now reduced to around 3,620 ML/day. Flow at Euston Weir is currently peaking at about 38,000 ML/day and will begin to fall next week.

The flow downstream of Stevens Weir has fallen further and is now 1,100 ML/day, down from 4,000 ML/day last week. The flows along the Wakool River continue to rise as water returns from the floodplain forests with flow at Gee Gee Bridge increasing from 5,100 ML/day to 9,390 ML/day.

The storage in Menindee Lakes increased by around 40 GL to 1820 GL. The lakes have now been surcharged to 105% capacity and will continue to rise next week. It is expected that release from the lakes, currently 500 ML/day, will be increased later in October to bring the lakes back to full supply level before the end of December.

Flow to South Australia is currently 28,500 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this level over the next week as unregulated flow continues to flow through the system. The storage in Lake Victoria continues to rise and is currently 630 GL, representing an increase of about 10 GL during the week. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has not changed since last week at 0.65 m AHD while Lake Albert is rising rapidly and has just about equalised with Lake Alexandrina at 0.63 m AHD. Release from the Lower Lakes is now about 10,000 ML/day and will be increased further in coming weeks.

## Temporary closures of Lock 10

River users are advised that due to maintenance work, the lock chamber at Wentworth Weir will be closed to boat traffic on Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 October.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Office on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Week ending Wednesday 06 Oct 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	3 856	446.01	1 747	45%	71	1 676	+16
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 003	189.10	2 454	82%	23	2 431	+25
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.63	632	93%	100	532	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 830	106%	(480 #)	1 350	+43
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 267</b>		<b>6 663</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 989</b>	<b>+95</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **70%**

# 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	961	94%	3	958	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 440	88%	24	1 416	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 007	60%	100	1 907	+21

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Oct-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	787	+13	Snowy-Murray	+18	365
Snowy-Murray Component	553	+4	Tooma-Tumut	+8	198
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	9.9	167
			Murray 1 Release	+32	559

**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)	n/a	35.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.4	10.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	6.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	8.3	69.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.9	6.0
Licensed Pumps	1.7	8.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	2.0
Lower Darling	4.7	28.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.2	32.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>119.0</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\*\*

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	170.0 *	
Flow this week	186.3	(26 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	163.9	
Flow last month	495.4	

\* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for October due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flow s.

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	130	130	140
Euston	140	150	130
Red Cliffs	160	170	130
Merbein	140	150	110
Burtundy (Darling)	280	270	270
Lock 9	200	200	150
Lake Victoria	170	180	170
Berri	-	180	180
Waikerie	180	160	200
Morgan	240	210	270
Mannum	200	200	310
Murray Bridge	220	250	330
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 270	3 300	3 440
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	830	1 160	1 700
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 170	10 660	12 230
Goolwa Barrages	4 290	6 540	14 530



Week ending Wednesday 06 Oct 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	-	-	-	6 990	R	6 150	4 130
Jingellic	4.0	2.32	208.84	10 150	R	9 480	9 880
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.63	218.52	1 000	F	1 100	1 410
Heywoods	5.5	2.54	156.17	9 930	R	7 780	1 110
Doctors Point	5.5	2.78	151.25	11 900	R	10 050	3 410
Albury	4.3	1.74	149.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.18	128.20	9 640	R	8 420	3 010
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	S	10 030	11 110
Tocumwal	6.4	2.30	106.14	10 770	S	10 810	13 130
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.24	83.79	20 140	F	25 520	41 400
Swan Hill	4.5	3.71	66.63	22 890	S	23 550	24 660
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.38	56.50	36 240	R	34 250	29 190
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.16	47.00	37 660	R	35 720	31 350
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	30 970	F	29 570	27 610
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.93	29.69	35 800	R	34 160	30 840
Rufus Junction	-	5.90	22.83	28 000	F	25 600	19 020
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.49	-	21 700	R	20 500	16 030
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.13	155.36	2 390	R	2 730	2 540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.03	146.71	3 850	F	4 480	6 940
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.21	93.63	2 160	F	4 740	12 100
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.32	81.10	1 100	S	2 200	8 020
Edward at Liewah	-	4.43	59.81	5 420	F	5 250	4 040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.55	58.04	10 550	R	8 890	5 530
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.91	58.87	2 780	F	5 040	5 750
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.61	-	11 590	R	9 400	8 200
Darling at Bourke	-	5.50	-	11 380	R	10 610	9 960
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	330	R	180	150

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 430	10 880
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.77	+3.57
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.38	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.14	+1.66
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.13	+1.51
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+2.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.11	+2.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+2.29	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.10	+1.67
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+1.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.00	+1.35
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.17	+2.28	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	+0.74

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.34	1.38	70.73	1461
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.24	0.467	61.767	599

## Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.67

## Barrages

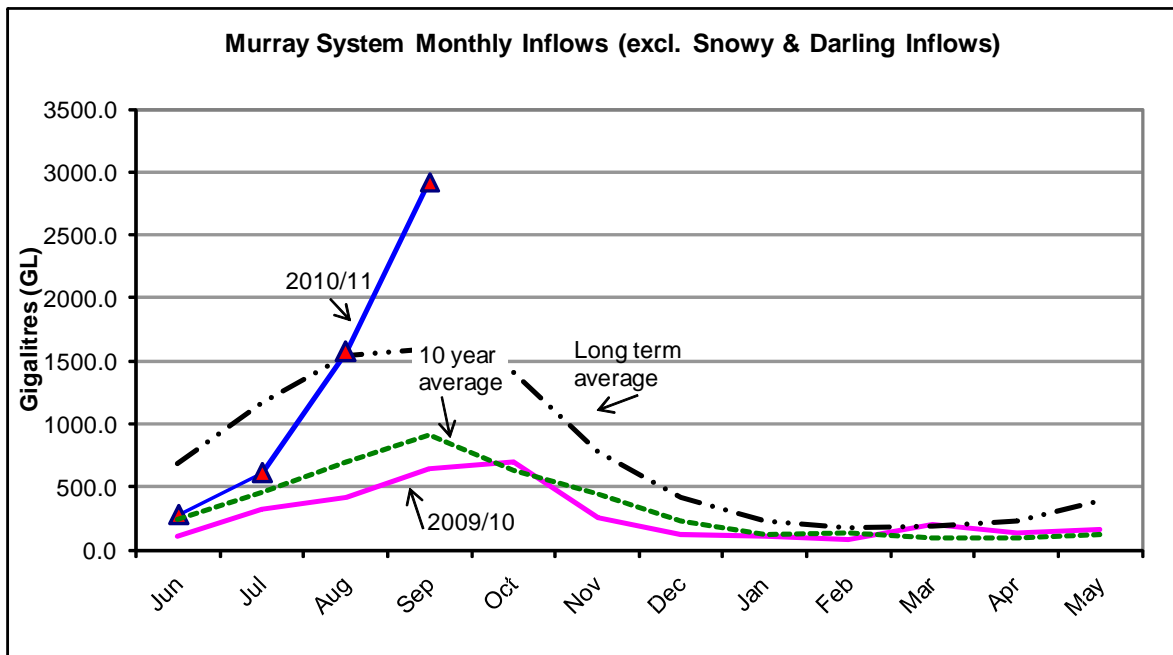
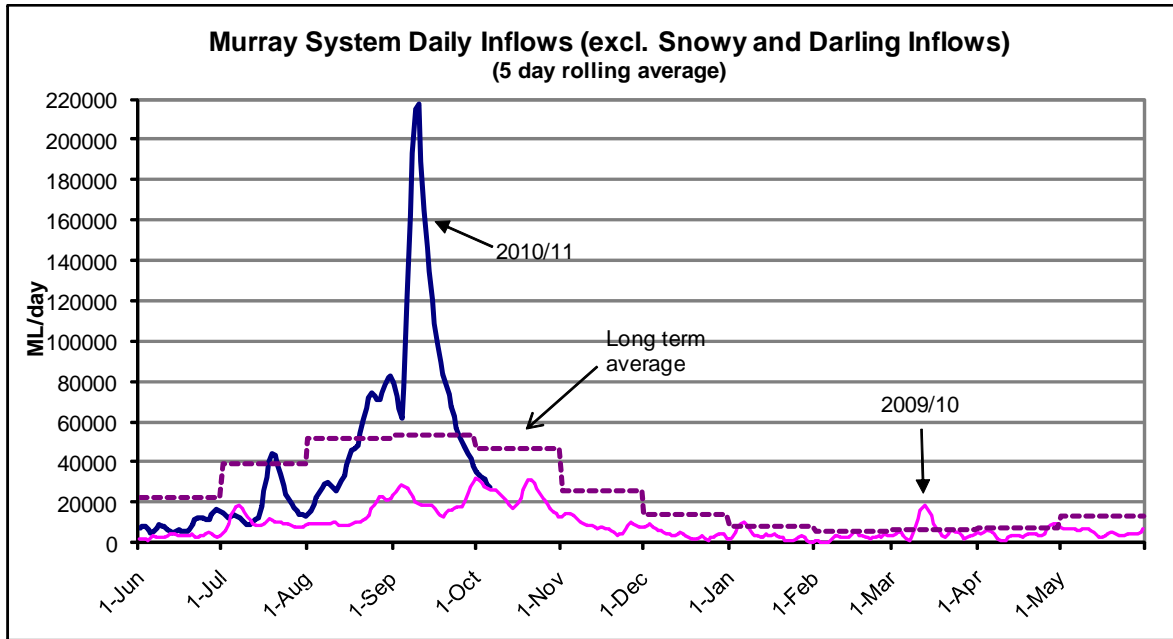
## Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	20	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.65	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	12	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 06 October 2010



State Allocations (as at 06 October 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	36%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	97%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	47%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	70%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	67%
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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/>