



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2011

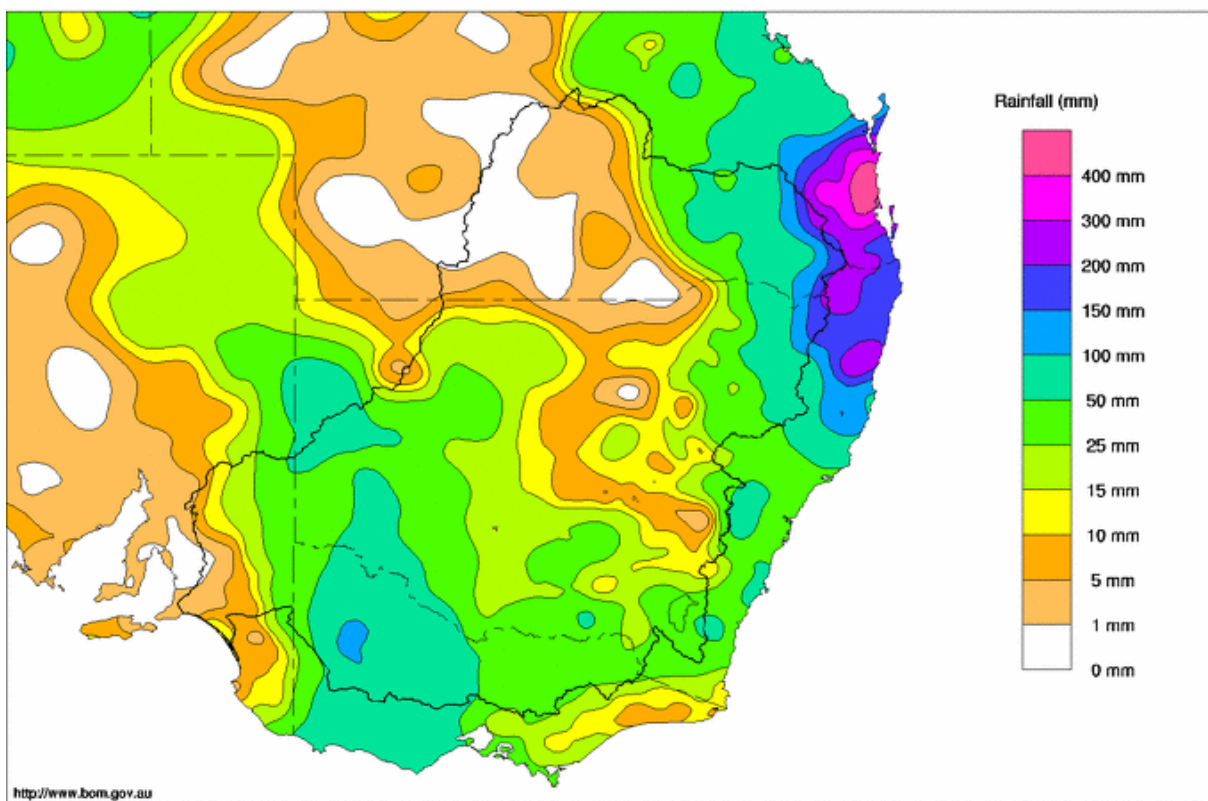
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## Rainfall and Inflows

For the week ending 12 January, an inland trough and moist easterlies brought heavy falls of rain to sub-tropical Queensland and NSW. In the Darling Downs area, Chinchilla, on the Condamine River, received 190 mm and Toowoomba received 346 mm. Major flooding is occurring in southeast Queensland as a result of the rain falling on already saturated catchments.

Moderate rainfall occurred in the southern Basin with recorded falls of around 50 mm in the upper Murray. There were higher falls in western NSW and Victoria; Mildura recorded 67 mm and Broken Hill 61 mm.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th January 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



In western Queensland, the Balonne River at St George peaked on 9 January at 290,000 ML/day. This peak was due to rainfall in the first week of January. The flow at St George is currently around 260,000 ML/day and slowly receding. However, upstream of St George at Cotswold a second, smaller peak is arriving from this week's rainfall and this will mean continued high flows throughout January in the Balonne River. Downstream, the Culgoa River is rising at Brenda in northern NSW and, on January 13, the flow was 62,000 ML/day. These flows will cause renewed river rises at Bourke and downstream on the Darling River, from late January and into February.



Along with the Condamine-Balonne system, the Moonie and Border Rivers are also in flood. The Macintyre River at Yetman Bridge has risen to 126,000 ML/day and the Dumaresq River at Bonshaw Weir is currently at over 100,000 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage has decreased to 6,473 GL (75% capacity), down 87 GL. Total storage in Dartmouth increased by 8 GL to 2,196 GL (57% capacity). Hume Reservoir has decreased during the week by 111 GL to 2,804 GL (93% capacity). During the week, the release from Hume Reservoir has averaged 22,500 ML/day and is likely to be reduced over the coming weeks.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.81 m AHD (0.09 m below FSL) and is expected to fall to around 124.7 m AHD during the week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has increased from 18,000 ML/day to 25,000 ML/day due to increased inflows and reduced irrigation demand. The release may increase further over the coming days, depending on the magnitude of inflows from the Ovens River.

On the Edward River, flows are being supplemented by environmental water delivered through the Edward Escape in an effort to improve water quality. The flow past Stevens Weir receded from 11,700 ML/day last week, to 7,100 ML/day. The flow peak from the December rainfall has now reached Stoney Crossing, on the Wakool River, with a peak of about 30,000 ML/day on 12 January.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow continues to recede, from around 30,000 ML/day last week to around 24,000 ML/day. This flow is expected to continue to recede over the coming weeks although the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting rain in the Goulburn catchment in the coming days which may cause renewed stream rises in tributaries of the Murray above Torrumbarry Weir. Currently, Torrumbarry Weir pool is at 85.99 m AHD and this pool level will increase to the normal Full Supply Level of around 86.05 m during the coming week.

Downstream, on the River Murray, flows at Euston have reached 64,000 ML/day and are rising. The predicted peak of around 70,000 ML/day is expected to arrive in the next week. However, forecast local rainfall in the coming days may cause further modest rises in the Murray downstream of Torrumbarry.

On the Darling River, the flow past Bourke has remained near the peak level and is currently about 87,300 ML/day. Downstream at Wilcannia, the flow is 27,600 ML/day and is expected to continue to slowly increase over the coming weeks. Total storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 10 GL during the week to 1,703 GL (98% capacity). Release from Menindee Lakes has increased to around 23,500 ML/day and is expected to increase further beginning next week, to around 26,000 ML/day with further rises possible in the weeks to come. This rise in release is to assist Menindee Lakes' capacity to store and hence mitigate future flood waters that are currently in transit. Menindee Lakes can be surcharged to around 2,050 GL. Further information about Menindee Lakes' management and the flows entering NSW from Queensland can be found at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/>.

Lake Victoria's total storage increased by 6 GL to 444 GL (66% capacity) and is expected to increase slowly over the coming week. The flow to South Australia is gradually rising and is now at 62,000 ML/day.

Flow over Lock 1 averaged 50,000 ML/day during the week and the level in Lake Alexandrina has dropped to +0.67 m AHD as releases from the Barrages exceed inflows. The level in the Lower Lakes is expected to continue dropping to a target of around 0.5 m AHD and will then be refilled. This action is expected to help reduce the salinity of Lake Albert.



## Water Quality

There have been reports this week of slight improvements in the levels of dissolved oxygen in the top of the Barmah-Millewa Forest, in the top of the Edward River system and in the Goulburn River. However, the 'blackwater' events in the River Murray from the Barmah-Millewa Forest to Wentworth Weir and also in the Edward-Wakool River system continue. The 'blackwater' has a low dissolved oxygen content due to the decomposition of large amounts of organic matter which have been added to the river system by the widespread natural flooding.

The MDBA, with NSW and Victorian agencies, have implemented several measures to lessen the impacts of the 'blackwater'. The 'blackwater' may continue to move downstream into South Australia, however there is significant dilution of Murray water when the Darling River joins the River Murray at Wentworth.

In the Coorong, salinity in the southern lagoon is at 128,000 EC, well below the 180,000 EC level reached in March 2010. In the northern lagoon, there is a marked salinity gradient from 3,000 EC at Pelican Point, near Tauwitchere Barrage, to 45,000 EC at Long Point and 116,000 EC at Parnka Point (at the connecting point to the southern lagoon). The salinity levels across the northern lagoon have all shown significant improvement since March 2010.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 12 Jan 2011

### 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	456.29	2 196	57%	71	2 125	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.98	2 804	93%	23	2 781	-111
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.94	444	66%	100	344	+6
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 703	98%	(480 #)	1 223	+10
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 147</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>6 473</b>	<b>-87</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **75%**

# 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		1 022	100%	3	1 019	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 562	96%	24	1 538	-25
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		2 555	77%	100	2 455	+10

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Jan-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	952	+28	Snowy-Murray	+5	781
Snowy-Murray Component	421	+8	Tooma-Tumut	+3	315
Target Storage	1 520		Net Diversion	2.0	466
			Murray 1 Release	+11	1 157

### 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)	33.7	309.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.9	41.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	4.7	118.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	6.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.9	32.0
Licensed Pumps	2.3	40.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.7	7.0
Lower Darling	12.4	159.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	148.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>517.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>346.0</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	217.0 *	
Flow this week	412.7	(59 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	693.1	
Flow last month	1,943.9	

\* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for January 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	160	160	160
Euston	220	210	150
Red Cliffs	200	200	140
Merbein	220	220	130
Burtundy (Darling)	240	260	260
Lock 9	250	250	190
Lake Victoria	190	200	170
Berri	240	240	210
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	350	350	270
Mannum	390	380	300
Murray Bridge	340	340	300
Milang (Lake Alex)	690	660	2 410
Potalloch (Lake Alex)	350	360	910
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 110	7 060	9 600
Goolwa Barrages	690	750	7 180



Week ending Wednesday 12 Jan 2011

### 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	4 860
Jingellic	4.0	1.84	208.36	5 610	R	4 930	10 310
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.67	218.56	1 110	F	1 100	1 160
Heywoods	5.5	3.35	156.98	19 680	F	22 320	20 530
Doctors Point	5.5	3.80	152.27	23 280	F	24 460	22 620
Albury	4.3	2.79	150.23	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.49	130.51	30 010	S	29 130	26 150
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.09	118.13	22 630	R	18 620	20 150
Tocumwal	6.4	3.37	107.21	19 730	R	19 430	22 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.92	84.47	24 190	F	25 690	35 560
Swan Hill	4.5	3.87	66.79	24 050	R	23 820	25 510
Wakool Junction	8.8	9.56	58.68	63 350	R	60 400	54 790
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.83	48.67	63 940	R	59 060	52 870
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	52 270	F	51 510	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.63	31.39	66 600	R	65 010	62 410
Rufus Junction	-	7.33	24.26	62 070	R	58 700	56 480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.15	-	49 500	S	49 900	50 670
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.08	155.31	2 320	R	1 890	2 000
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.02	146.70	3 820	R	3 570	4 480
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.05	93.47	1 890	F	2 340	3 750
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.16	83.93	7 110	F	7 700	15 030
Edward at Liewah	-	5.80	61.18	9 770	R	9 410	8 570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.99	60.48	30 030	R	19 820	16 690
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	6.29	62.25	16 600	R	15 600	14 840
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.29	-	9 810	R	7 670	7 830
Darling at Bourke	-	12.34	-	87 290	S	86 980	78 300
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.55	-	15 620	R	15 160	14 770

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 390	13 130
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.28	N/A
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.06	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.31	+3.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.45	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.05	+2.83
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+3.31	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.79	+3.95
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.73	+3.99	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.05	+3.57
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.62	+3.33	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.96	+3.57
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.62	+3.97	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.24	+2.40

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.93	4.2	73.55	9563
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.25	5.85	67.15	11400

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

### Barrages

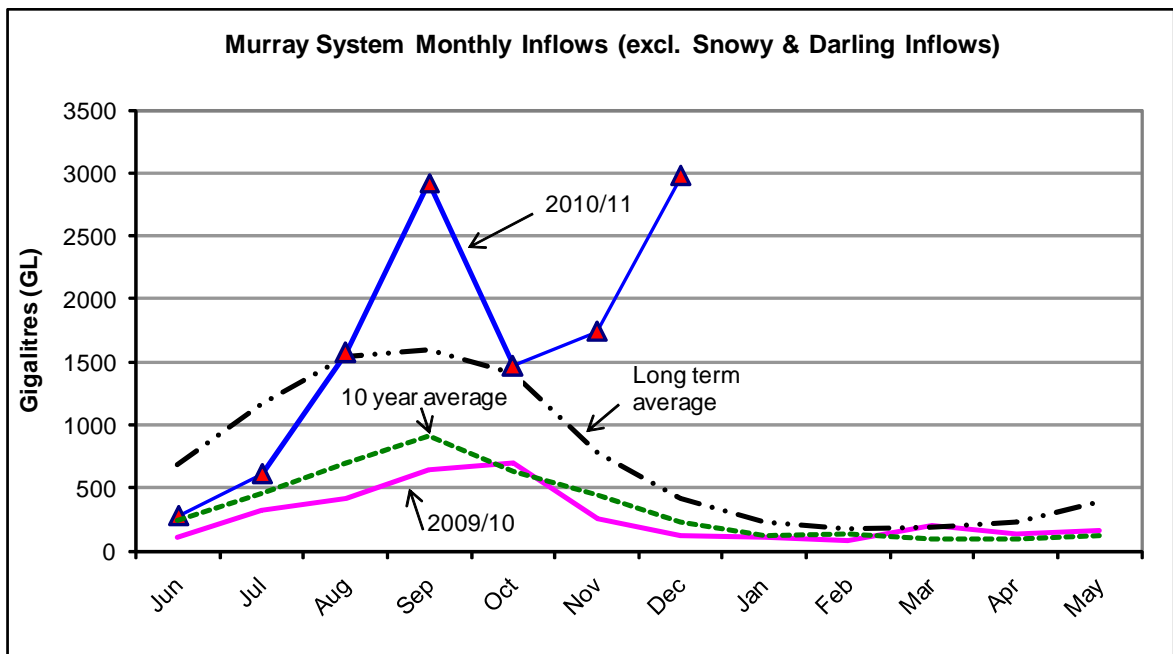
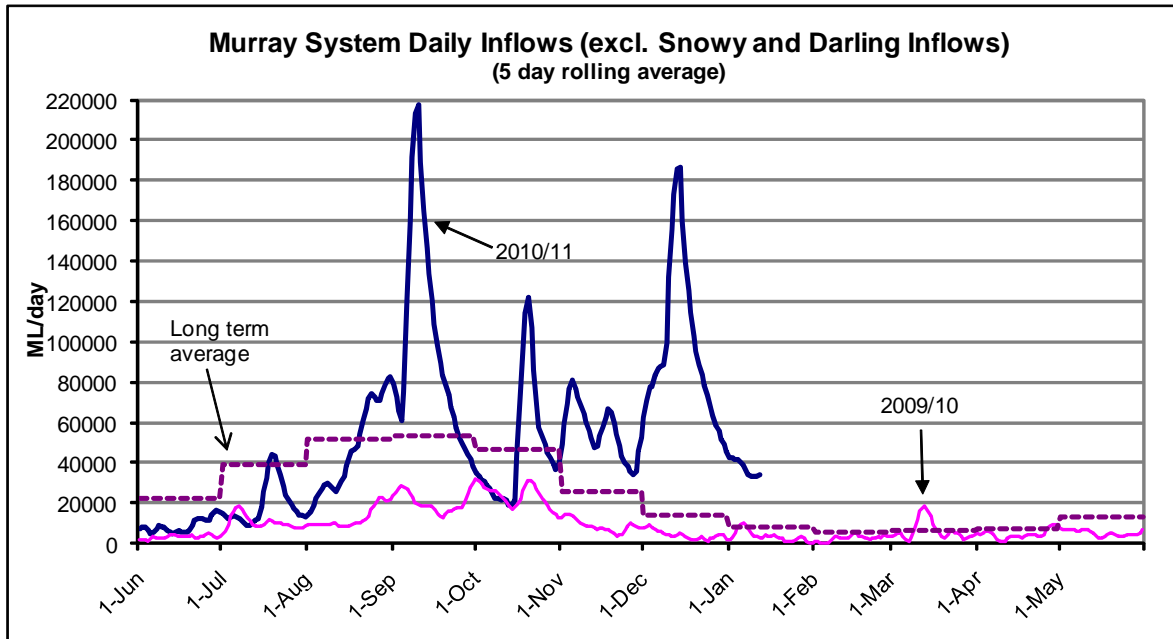
#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.51	107	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.55	15	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	67	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.60	179	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 12 January 2011



**State Allocations (as at 12 January 2011)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	100%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

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

High security	95%
General security	100%

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	100%
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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/>