



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2011

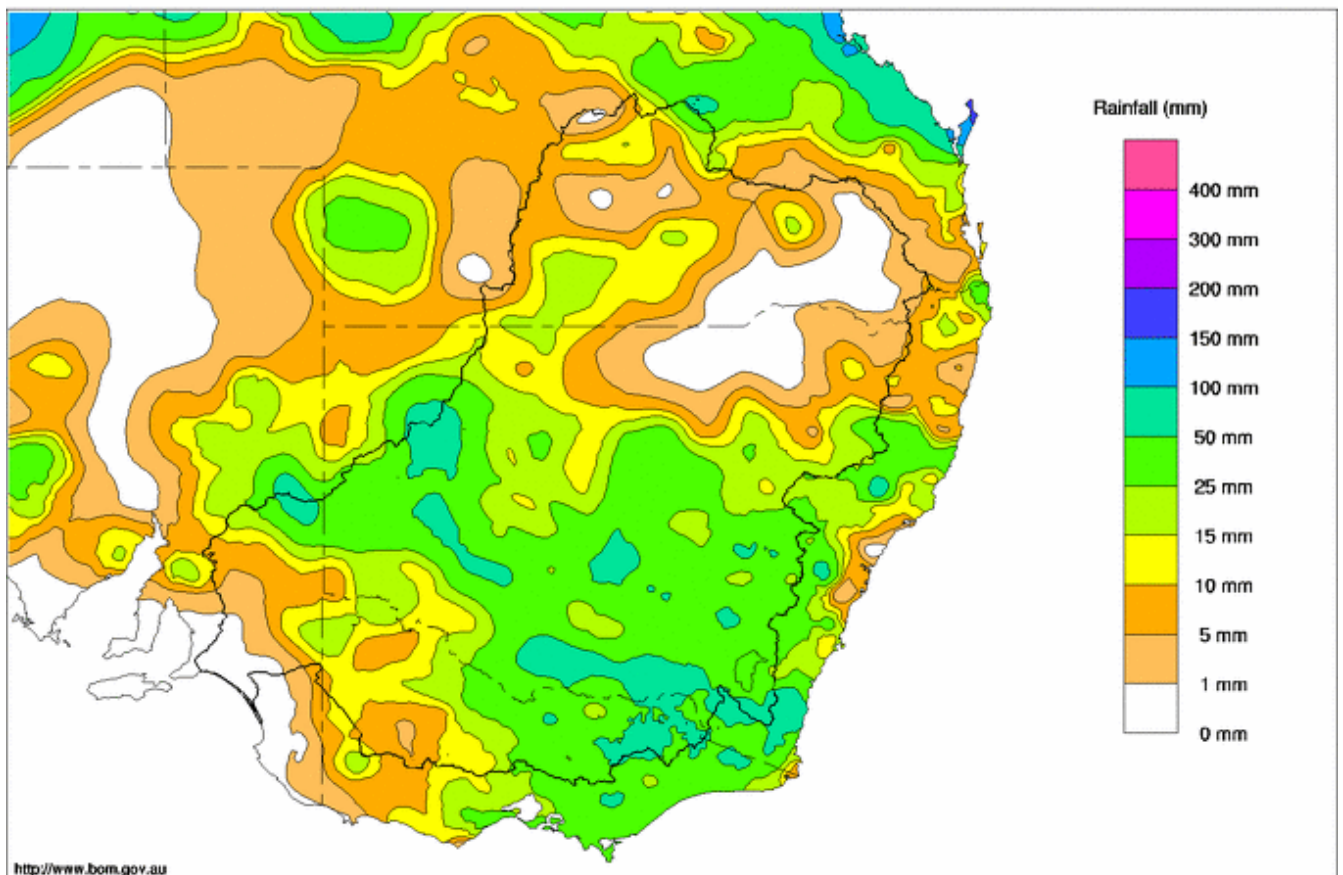
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Rainfall and Inflows

Light to moderate rain was recorded across most of the Murray Darling Basin over the last week although with much of the rain resulting from scattered storm cells and showers, totals recorded at individual stations were somewhat variable. The north of the Basin was generally drier this week, while rain returned to the south and south-east including the main tributary catchments of the River Murray.

In the Victorian Alps, the rainfall was the most consistent, with the majority of stations receiving more than 30 mm. Some of the highest totals were 73 mm at Mt Buffalo and 65 mm at Mt Hotham, Falls Creek and Eurobin. Totals were generally smaller and patchier in the NSW Snowy Mountains although Cooma picked up 67 mm for the week. Further west there were some good falls recorded in northern Victoria and the NSW south-west slopes and Riverina. Shepparton recorded 64 mm, while across the border in NSW, Jerilderie had 107 mm. Other notable totals included 92 mm at Holbrook, 83 mm at Urana and 71 mm at Tumbarumba. In far western NSW, the unusually rainy weather continued. White Cliffs recorded 62 mm for the week and a further 56 mm fell at Menindee.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 16th March 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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The light to moderate rainfall has resulted in only small responses in the main upper River Murray catchments. On the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie, the flow has increased from 695 to 770 ML/day



with a peak of 1,370 ML/day during the week. On the upper Murray, the flow at Jingellic rose from 6,400 to around 8,500 ML/day early in the week and has remained fairly steady since then. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta began the week at around 5,000 ML/day and increased to just under 6,000 ML/day before receding back to 4,700 ML/day.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke has continued to recede. During the past week, the flow dropped from just under 30,000 to around 5,000 ML/day. Downstream at Wilcannia, the river continues to climb slowly towards its expected peak of 10.5 m (38,600 ML/day), which the BOM is now forecasting to arrive on 18 March with Major Flooding.

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased during the week from 6,671 to 6,749 GL (79% capacity). The volume stored in Dartmouth Reservoir rose by 14 GL, to 2,385 GL (62% capacity) and the storage volume at Hume Reservoir fell by 11 GL, to 2,894 GL (96% capacity).

The release from Hume was increased from 13,000 to 18,000 ML/day over the week in readiness for potential high inflows into the reservoir over the coming weekend from forecast rainfall. Correspondingly, the release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased from the past week's minimum of 17,000 ML/day to 20,000 ML/day, and is expected to remain around this level for the next few days.

Downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, the release dropped slightly with the flow now at 22,300 ML/day. The release is expected to continue its gradual recession but is likely to remain above 20,000 ML/day over the coming week.

On the Edward River, Stevens Weir release decreased from 12,000 to 8,300 ML/day and is expected to continue to recede over the coming week. The flow at Moulamein, downstream of Stevens Weir, remained steady at around 11,000 ML/day and is expected to gradually recede as the reduced release from Stevens Weir arrives. On the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing, the flow has remained steady, averaging around 24,000 ML/day.

The release from Torrumbarry, coupled with sustained high flows in the Wakool and Edward rivers, has resulted in a very slow and gradual recession to the flow at Wakool Junction, with the flow dropping by 1,000 ML/day to 48,000 ML/day over the past week. The flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald decreased from 11,500 to 8,300 ML. Further downstream, the flow at Euston averaged around 60,000 ML/day and, given no further rain, will gradually decrease over coming weeks as the flows at both Wakool Junction and Balranald continue to recede.

Release from Weir32 was reduced from 36,000 to 30,000 ML/day over the past week resulting in Menindee storage increasing from 1,600 to 1,686 GL (97% capacity). The flow at Burtundy remained steady, averaging around 18,300 ML/day and is expected to decline as the reduced release from Menindee Lakes arrives.

The flow past Mildura remained steady and averaged around 57,500 ML/day. The flow at Wentworth also remained steady, averaging around 75,000 ML/day. The flow at Wentworth is expected to remain above 70,000 ML/day over the coming week, due to sustained flows at both Mildura and Burtundy.

The flow to South Australia continued its slow decline, reducing to 76,000 ML/day from a peak of around 94,000 ML/day in mid-February. The flow past Lock 1 remained steady at around 78,500 ML/day and the level of the lower Lakes increased from 0.72 to 0.75 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 16 Mar 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	460.23	2 385	62%	71	2 314	+14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.44	2 894	96%	23	2 871	-11
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.10	458	68%	100	358	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 686	97%	(480 #)	1 206	+82
Total		9 269		7 423	80%	--	6 749	+80

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **79%**

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	990	96%	3	987	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 608	99%	24	1 584	-12
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 751	83%	100	2 651	+14

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Mar-2011

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 203	+7	Snowy-Murray	+23	911
Snowy-Murray Component	434	-16	Tooma-Tumut	+4	378
Target Storage	1 410		Net Diversion	18.6	533
			Murray 1 Release	+23	1 365

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)	2.1	435.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	67.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	3.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	128.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	11.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	45.0
Licensed Pumps	2.6	59.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	10.0
Lower Darling	5.4	258.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	226.0
TOTAL	10.5	766.0	TOTAL	9.0	476.0

* 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	186.0 *	
Flow this week	532.0	(76 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,240.4	
Flow last month	2,410.7	

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for March 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	280	310	200
Euston	210	220	170
Red Cliffs	160	170	160
Merbein	240	250	170
Burtundy (Darling)	380	380	270
Lock 9	290	300	220
Lake Victoria	210	220	180
Berri	290	290	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	360	380	330
Mannum	380	420	320
Murray Bridge	380	390	310
Milang (Lake Alex)	480	490	2 620
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	390	390	1 180
Menigie (Lake Alb.)	6 620	6 780	8 590
Goolwa Barrages	530	520	5 350

Week ending Wednesday 16 Mar 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	-	-	-	4 320	F	4 330	2 750
Jingellic	4.0	2.12	208.64	8 140	F	8 250	6 990
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.74	218.63	1 300	F	1 450	1 570
Heywoods	5.5	3.21	156.84	18 000	S	14 940	15 780
Doctors Point	5.5	3.52	151.99	20 210	R	17 400	17 900
Albury	4.3	2.59	150.03	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.97	129.99	24 590	R	19 310	25 300
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.84	117.88	20 070	R	18 470	25 400
Tocumwal	6.4	3.39	107.23	19 930	S	20 700	28 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.63	84.18	22 320	F	22 800	23 070
Swan Hill	4.5	3.83	66.75	23 760	F	24 870	26 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.73	57.85	47 900	F	48 880	49 670
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.60	48.44	60 000	S	59 960	59 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	8.3	-	-	57 600	F	57 750	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.96	31.72	75 160	S	74 900	75 230
Rufus Junction	-	7.67	24.60	75 670	F	76 010	78 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	4.22	-	78 200	S	78 490	78 440
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.06	155.29	2 280	R	2 240	2 180
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.29	146.97	4 720	F	5 200	6 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.94	94.36	3 710	R	3 060	2 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.47	84.25	8 330	F	10 490	12 090
Edward at Liewah	-	5.40	60.78	8 300	R	8 210	7 860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	6.44	59.93	23 660	S	23 900	24 100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	6.7	5.02	60.98	7 810	F	9 600	11 740
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.32	-	310	S	230	220
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.70	-	5 090	F	14 840	42 400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	6.1	7.14	-	18 480	S	18 310	17 950

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 690	11 940
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.59	-
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.65	+3.44
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+1.22	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.57	+3.47
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-	+3.47	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+1.40	+4.52
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+1.04	+4.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+1.06	+4.54
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+1.01	+3.67	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+2.09	+4.82
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.87	-	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+1.17	+3.47

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-	2.52	71.87	4200
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-	3.19	64.49	4730

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.75

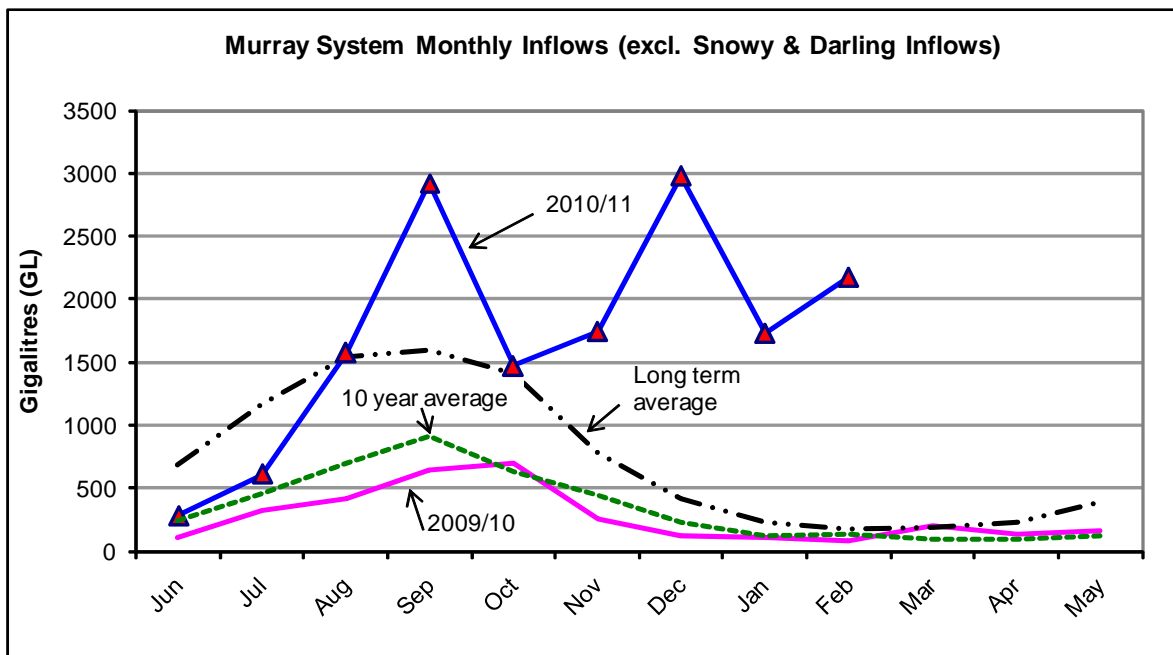
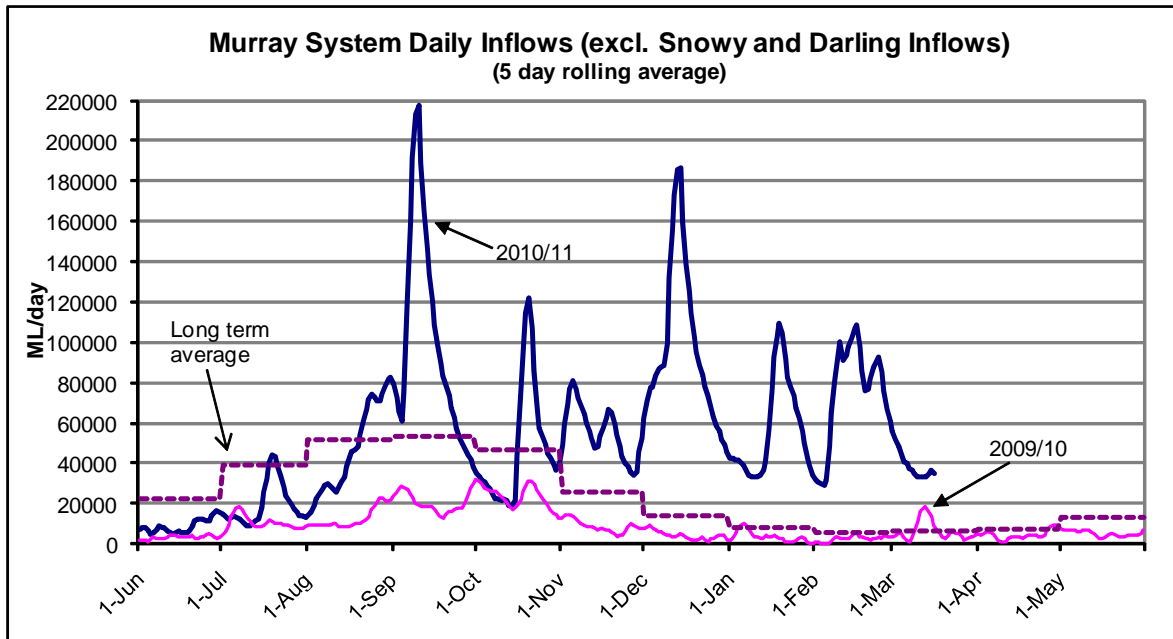
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.48	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.48	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.72	170	Open	Open



Week ending Wednesday 16 March 2011



State Allocations (as at 16 March 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
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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