



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 04 MAY 2011

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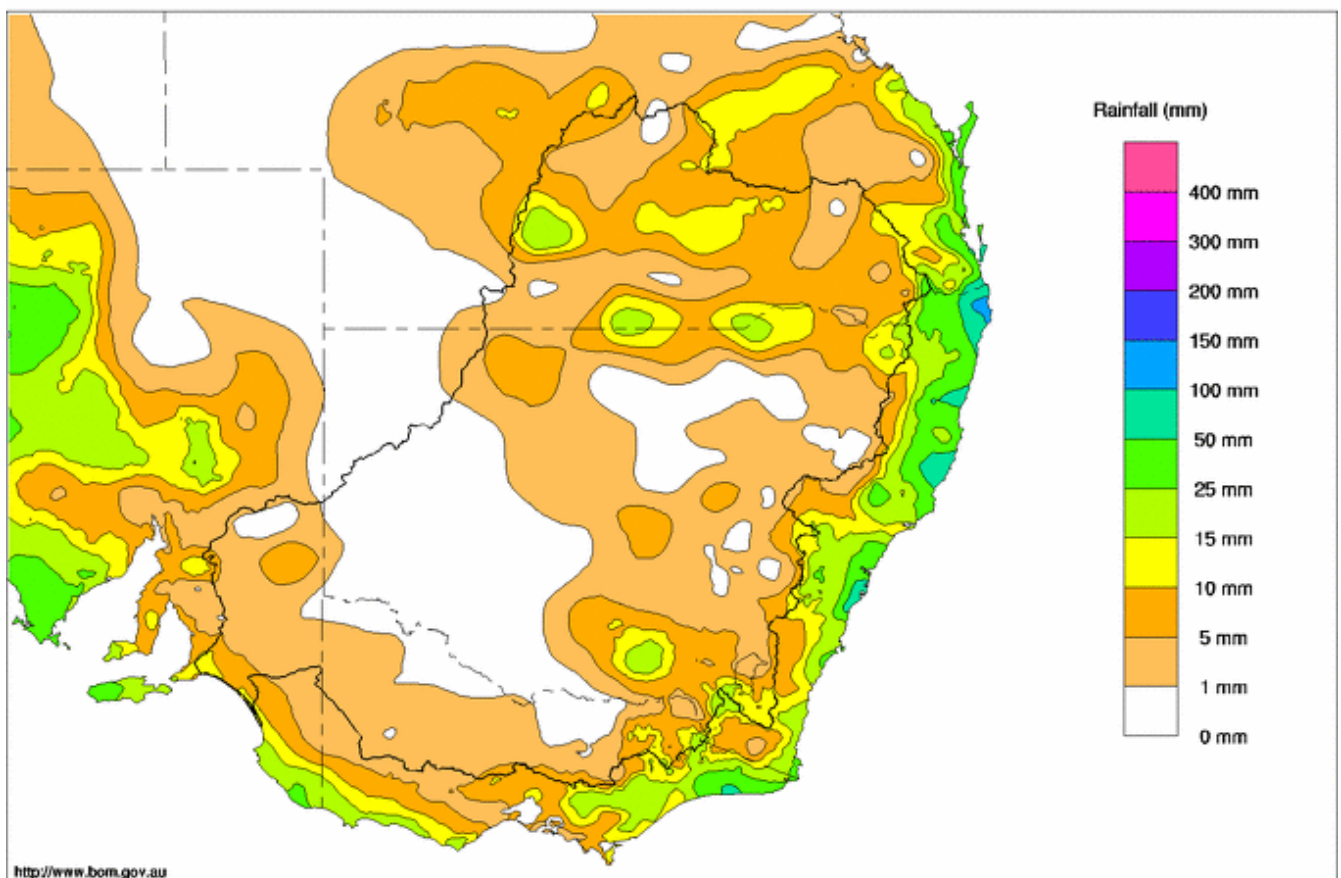
Rainfall and Inflows

The fine and dry autumn conditions experienced recently across most of the Murray-Darling Basin continued over the past week. Rainfall was mostly limited to between 0 and 10 mm for the week with only a few isolated higher totals recorded (Map 1). Some of the highest totals included 29 mm at Ardlethan in the NSW Riverina, 21 mm at Cooma in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment and 13 mm at Dubbo in the NSW Central West. In north-east Victoria, 19 mm fell at Mt Hotham and 18 mm was recorded at Bright, in the Ovens catchment.

The limited rainfall in the key tributaries of the upper Murray has resulted in stream flows receding slowly or remaining steady over the past week. For example, in the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara has remained around 700 ML/day over the past week; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded slowly from 2,700 to 2,400 ML/day.

In the north of the Basin, flows from rain in Queensland two weeks ago continue to move along the Culgoa River and into northern NSW. The flow at Brenda is now over 6,000 ML/day and rising slowly.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 4th May 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 04/05/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 4 May 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



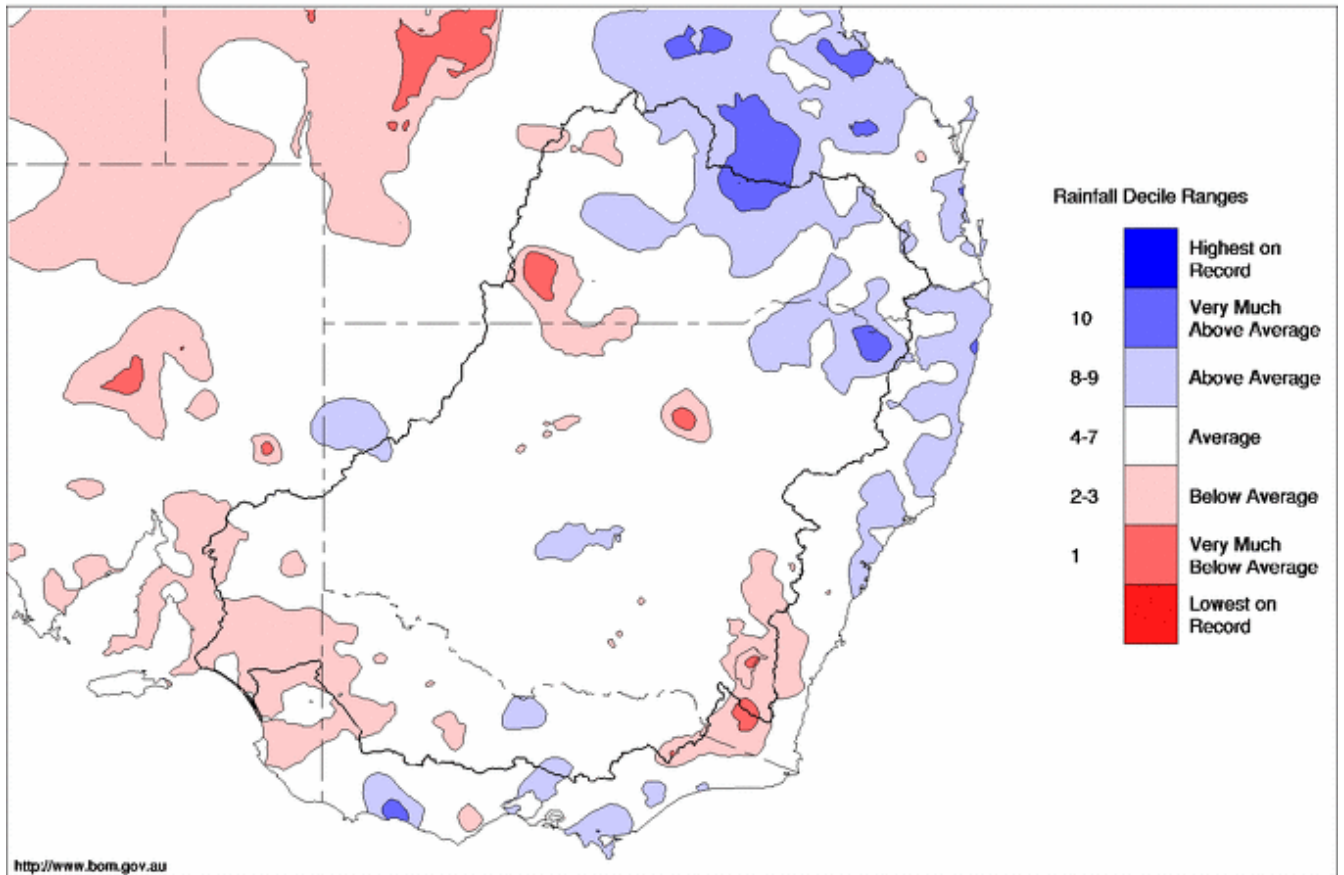
April 2011 Summary

The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that for April, rainfall across the Murray-Darling Basin was close to average, with rainfall at 14% below the long term mean. In the south-east Basin, at the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee, rainfall was below average (see Map 2).

Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy and Darling inflows) for April were around 630 GL which is well above the long term average for April of 227 GL and the highest April inflow since 1989 (850 GL). Inflows are still being influenced by rainfall in previous months.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles April 2011

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for April 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) decreased by 56 GL during the week to 6,851 GL (80% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained fairly steady with an increase of 2 GL to 2,432 GL (63% capacity). Similarly, at Hume Reservoir, where releases are generally matching inflows so as to maintain 200 GL of airspace in the reservoir, total storage decreased by 2 GL to 2,804 GL (93% capacity). The release has been increased to around 7,000 ML/day, to meet higher inflows, and is expected to decrease in the coming week if conditions are dry.



Release from Yarrawonga Weir increased during the week to 10,000 ML/day and is expected to stay between 9,000 and 10,000 ML/day in the coming week to gradually lower Lake Mulwala. On Wednesday 4 May, the lake level was 124.16 m AHD (or 74 cm below FSL) and is expected to be around 123.97 m AHD by Wednesday 11 May. The lake drawdown, targeting a height of around 122.2 m AHD, is aimed at controlling the spread of the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa* and is likely to be completed by late May.

Downstream on the Murray, Torrumbarry Weir has also begun to be partially lowered, this is to assist in minimising bank erosion caused by holding the pool level steady (for further information, see the Torrumbarry Weir Media Release on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au). Release from Torrumbarry Weir on Wednesday 4 May was around 8,600 ML/day and is likely to increase slightly during the week.

Flow entering the Edward system via the Edward and Gulpa offtakes, totals around 1,900 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this rate in the coming week. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the release has increased from 1,900 to 3,000 ML/day, as the weir pool is partially lowered due to the upcoming end of the irrigation season. Release is expected to gradually lower in the coming week.

Salinity levels in the Sunraysia area are around 150 EC at Mildura; this is well below the long term average for Mildura of around 280 EC. Saline water is known to enter the Murray system following flood events, and so there remains a chance that salinity levels will increase over the coming months.

At Menindee Lakes, total storage has decreased by 17 GL to 1,912 GL (110% capacity). During the week inflows at Wilcannia, upstream of the lakes, have remained steady but are expected to decline in the coming weeks before experiencing a small rise as flows from the Culgoa River arrive. Release from the lakes, measured at Weir 32, is being gradually decreased and is now at around 10,000 ML/day.

Total storage at Lake Victoria decreased by 39 GL to 377 GL (56% capacity) and the lake level is now around 24.3 m AHD which is the current target level for Lake Victoria. The level is expected to remain at around this level in the coming weeks. Downstream of Lake Victoria, in South Australia, all the locks are now open to river traffic.

The flow to South Australia averaged around 45,200 ML/day during the week and the flow over Lock 1 is currently about 61,500 ML/day. Inflows to the Lower Lakes (measured at Wellington) are around 66,500 ML/day and gradually receding. The current level of the Lower Lakes is now around +0.72 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 04 May 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	461.19	2 432	63%	71	2 361	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.98	2 804	93%	23	2 781	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.33	377	56%	100	277	-39
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 912	110%	(480 #)	1 432	-17
Total		9 269		7 525	81%	--	6 851	-56
Total Active MDBA Storage							80% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		993	97%	3	990	-3
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 579	97%	24	1 555	+1
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 804	84%	100	2 704	+4

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03 May 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 281	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+7	6
Snowy-Murray Component	416	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+4	0
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	3	6
			Murray 1 Release	+11	8

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)	4.9	485	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.4	102
Wakool Sys Allowance	-2.1	-1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.2	161
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1	48
Licensed Pumps	0.8	71	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	14
Lower Darling	0.0	302	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	250
TOTAL	3.8	869	TOTAL	12.6	575

* 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 above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	73.0 *
Flow this week	316.6
Flow so far this month	173.5
Flow last month	1,817.7

(45 200 ML/day)

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	250	290	210
Euston	210	190	170
Red Cliffs	170	170	160
Merbein	160	160	170
Burtundy (Darling)	360	360	290
Lock 9	320	310	230
Lake Victoria	220	230	190
Berri	270	260	230
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	270	320	330
Mannum	350	320	320
Murray Bridge	370	350	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	420	420	2 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	320	310	1 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 020	6 950	8 260
Goolwa Barrages	420	420	4 660

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 04 May 2011

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	-	-	-	4 420	F	2 070	1 600
Jingellic	4.0	1.86	208.38	5 780	R	3 500	3 990
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.56	218.45	830	S	820	880
Heywoods	5.5	1.81	155.44	3 500	F	4 370	5 390
Doctors Point	5.5	2.12	150.59	5 320	R	6 350	7 780
Albury	4.3	1.14	148.58	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.74	127.76	6 930	F	7 620	8 750
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.58	116.62	9 520	S	9 510	8 220
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	10 630	R	10 360	9 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.69	81.24	8 600	F	9 390	11 880
Swan Hill	4.5	1.76	64.68	9 580	F	10 470	11 400
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.66	53.78	17 080	F	18 270	19 470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.27	45.11	17 540	F	18 190	19 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	16 220	F	16 220	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.27	30.03	42 600	S	43 060	47 460
Rufus Junction	-	6.57	23.50	40 620	F	45 240	52 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.63	-	61 700	F	64 770	70 860
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.57	154.80	1 370	R	1 380	1 580
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.55	146.23	2 360	R	2 420	2 970
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.39	93.81	2 620	F	2 960	4 030
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.60	82.37	3 000	F	2 060	1 900
Edward at Liewah	-	-	-	2 570	F	2 660	3 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.02	55.51	2 280	F	2 420	3 050
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	-	-	3 480	F	3 650	3 500
Barwon at Mungindi	-	-	-	-	F	-	470
Darling at Bourke	-	4.48	-	2 920	S	3 920	7 310
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	7.30	-	19 270	F	19 550	19 830

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 090	6 780
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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	-0.74	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.61	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.14	+2.57
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.11	+2.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+1.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.55	+3.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+2.63	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.17	+3.57
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.52	+1.87	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+1.18	+3.89
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.44	+2.82	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.61	+2.88

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.72
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Barrages

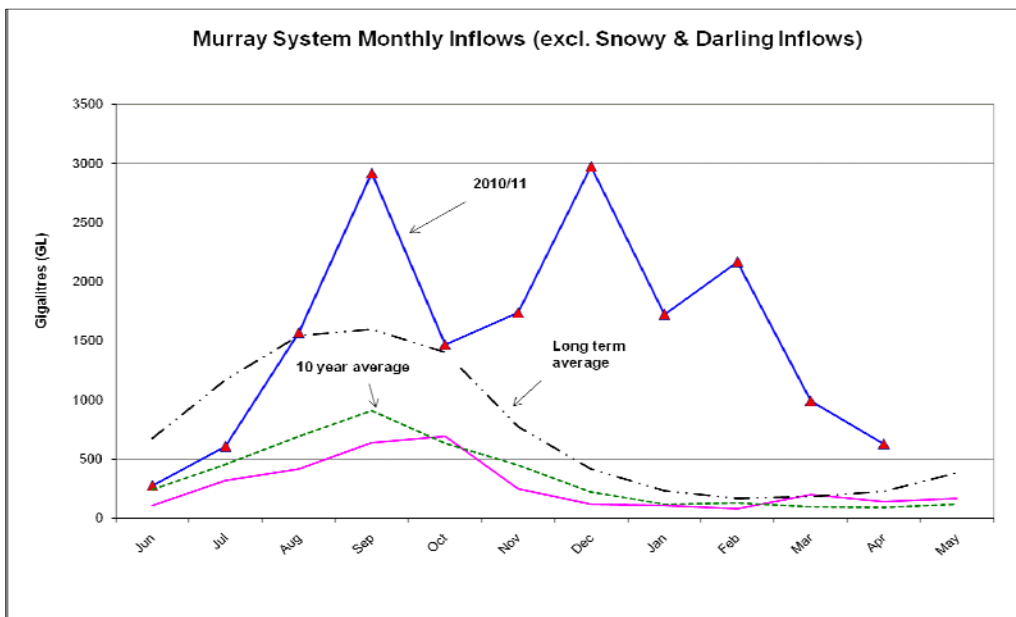
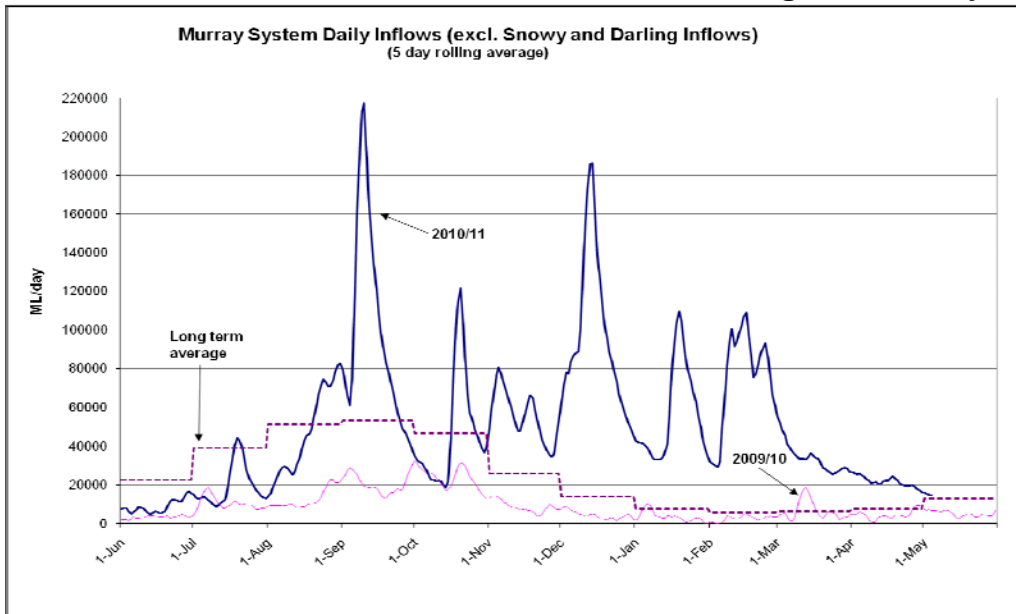
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.47	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.47	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	80	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.71	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 04 May 2011



State Allocations (as at 4 May 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Murrumbidgee

High security	100%
General security	100%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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VIC - Goulburn

High reliability	100%
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SA - Murray

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/>