



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2011

Trim Ref: D11/14314

Rainfall and Inflows

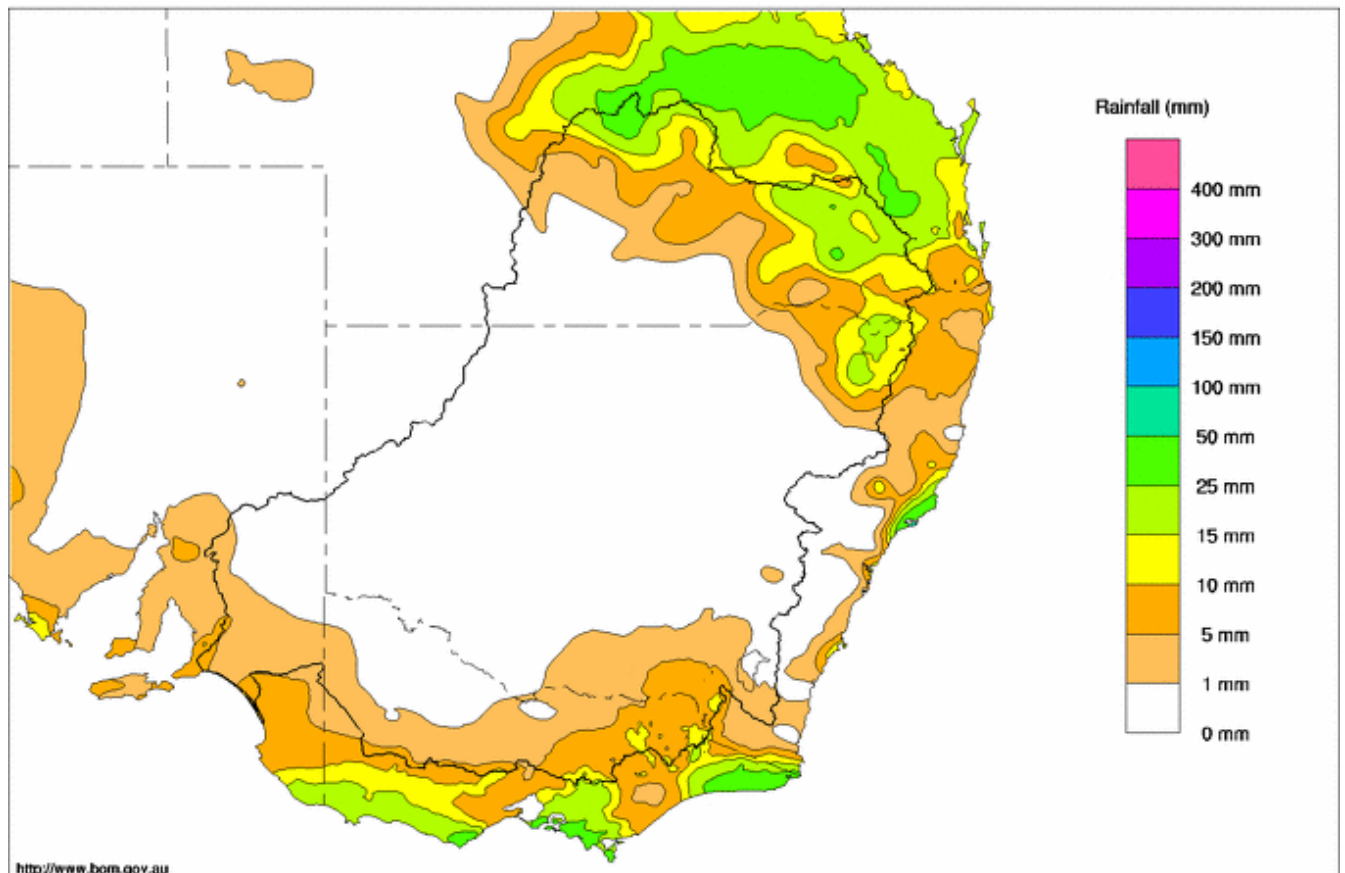
Temperatures turned colder in many places across the Murray-Darling during the past week while the predominately dry conditions of recent times continued. The majority of the Basin recorded no rainfall during the week; while in the far north and far south, there were areas of light rain only (Map 1). Parts of the upper Condamine and Border Rivers catchments recorded 15 to 25 mm, with notable totals including 41 mm at Dalby and 22 mm at Toowoomba. In the south, the best rain fell around the Victorian Alps, although the highest totals were only 13 mm at Lake William Hovell and 11 mm at Mt Buller. Late in the week however, the first major cold front of the pre-winter season arrived and at the time of writing, widespread light snowfalls were falling across the south-east ranges.

The relatively dry conditions resulted in streams in the upper Murray catchments either continuing their recent steady trend or slowly receding. For example, on the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara decreased slightly from around 700 to 660 ML/day over the past week; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta remains at 2,360 ML/day as it was one week ago.

In the northern Basin, the mid to lower Culgoa River continues to experience areas of minor flooding. The river peaked at Brenda on 6 May at 8,600 ML/day and the main flow is now moving towards Mundiwa and Kenebree, upstream of the Darling River junction. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting this peak to arrive at Kenebree around Monday next week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 11th May 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 11 May 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) decreased by 11 GL during the week to 6,840 GL (80% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 5 GL to 2,437 GL (63% capacity). At Hume Reservoir, where releases are generally matching inflows to maintain approximately 200 GL of airspace in the reservoir, the total storage decreased by 1 GL to 2,803 GL (93% capacity). The release has been decreased to around 4,200 ML/day during the week, and will continue to be adjusted in response to the changes in inflows over the coming weeks.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has remained at 10,100 ML/day during the week and may be increased in the coming week as the lowering of Lake Mulwala continues. The lake level is now at 123.93 m AHD (or 97 cm below FSL) and is expected to be down to around 123.7 m AHD by Wednesday next week. 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*.

The River Murray at Picnic Point is at 2.27 m local gauge height, and 1,600 ML/day is flowing through the Edward River offtake and 300 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek offtake into the Edward River system. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 2,550 ML/day and the level in the weir pool has been lowered by NSW State Water to 3.55 m (1.65 m below FSL). Lowering of the weir pool is likely to continue for another 1–2 weeks.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level has now been lowered to 86.65 m AHD on Thursday 12 May, which is 40 cm below FSL. The weir pool is likely to be maintained at this target level until early June. The flow past Torrumbarry is currently 8,370 ML/day and this flow may increase slightly during the next week as irrigation diversions to National Channel cease.

The long, gradual recession of flow continues past Euston Weir. The current flow is 13,860 ML/day, down from 17,540 ML/day last week and by next week, the flow is likely to be about 13,000 ML/day. Similarly, the flow is also gradually receding at Mildura Weir. At Wentworth Weir, downstream of the confluence of the River Murray and Darling River, the flow is currently 38,600 ML/day compared with 42,600 ML/day last week. With recessions in both the River Murray and the lower Darling, the flow past Wentworth is likely to fall to about 29,000 ML/day by next week.

Releases from Menindee Lakes continue to be gradually reduced and the flow past Weir 32 is currently 7,050 ML/day. The level in the lakes has fallen by 11 GL to 1,901 GL (110% capacity), however in late May the level in the Menindee Lakes is expected to slowly rise again as the higher inflows from the Culgoa River arrive. On the lower Darling, the flow past Burtundy is 16,620 ML/day, down from 19,270 ML/day last week.

The level in Lake Victoria has been fairly stable since early May and is currently 24.28 m AHD. The storage in the lake decreased by 4 GL to 373 GL (55% capacity). No major changes in level are expected at Lake Victoria for the remainder of May.

In South Australia, the flow into the state averaged about 36,800 ML/day during the week, down from about 45,200 ML/day last week. The flow past Wellington into the Lower Lakes is 59,000 ML/day and continues to gradually recede. The level of the Lower Lakes is approximately 0.71 m AHD and fairly steady.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 11 May 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	461.29	2 437	63%	71	2 366	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.97	2 803	93%	23	2 780	-1
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.28	373	55%	100	273	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 901	110%	(480 #)	1 421	-11
Total		9 269		7 514	81%	--	6 840	-11
Total Active MDBA Storage							80% ^	
Major State Storages								
Burrinjuck Reservoir		1 026		991	97%	3	988	-2
Blowering Reservoir		1 631		1 589	97%	24	1 565	+10
Eildon Reservoir		3 334		2 803	84%	100	2 703	-0

* 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 10 May 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 260	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+26	32
Snowy-Murray Component	507	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+3	3
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	23	29
			Murray 1 Release	+26	34

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)	-6.6	479	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.9	109
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.9	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.2	171
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	12	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	49
Licensed Pumps	1.1	73	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.3	16
Lower Darling	0.1	302	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	251
TOTAL	-6.1	864	TOTAL	21.1	596

* 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	93.0 *
Flow this week	257.7
Flow so far this month	431.1
Flow last month	1,817.7

(36 800 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	190	230	210
Euston	180	200	170
Red Cliffs	-	-	160
Merbein	180	170	170
Burtundy (Darling)	360	360	290
Lock 9	320	380	240
Lake Victoria	220	230	190
Berri	290	280	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	390	400	330
Mannum	380	370	320
Murray Bridge	410	390	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	420	440	2 200
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	390	340	1 010
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 100	7 020	8 230
Goolwa Barrages	450	440	4 560

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 11 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	-	-	-	5 490	F	4 280	2 390
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	208.41	5 960	R	5 630	3 500
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.51	218.40	740	R	720	820
Heywoods	5.5	1.91	155.54	4 410	F	5 810	4 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.21	150.68	6 160	F	8 000	6 350
Albury	4.3	1.21	148.65	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.05	128.07	8 770	F	8 330	7 620
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.66	116.70	10 100	R	10 030	9 510
Tocumwal	6.4	2.32	106.16	10 910	R	10 850	10 360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.63	81.18	8 370	F	8 450	9 390
Swan Hill	4.5	1.59	64.51	8 430	F	8 780	10 470
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.20	53.32	14 540	F	15 520	18 270
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.82	44.66	13 860	F	15 540	18 190
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	14 250	F	14 250	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.07	29.83	38 600	F	40 860	43 060
Rufus Junction	-	6.26	23.19	34 170	F	36 810	45 240
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	3.16	-	49 700	F	55 670	64 770
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	154.77	1 330	R	1 440	1 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.55	146.23	2 360	R	2 410	2 420
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.25	93.67	2 370	R	2 280	2 960
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.36	82.13	2 550	F	2 780	2 060
Edward at Liewah	-	-	-	2 540	S	2 520	2 650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.99	55.48	2 200	R	2 190	2 420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	-	-	1 710	F	1 710	3 820
Barwon at Mungindi	-	-	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Bourke	-	4.70	-	5 090	R	4 250	3 920
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.78	-	16 620	F	18 080	19 550

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 650	5 250
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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	-0.97	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.32	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.36	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+2.24
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.14	+2.06
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.92	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.30	+3.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+2.43	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.15	+2.83
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.46	+1.63	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.49	+3.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.22	+2.56	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.28	+2.41

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.71
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Barrages

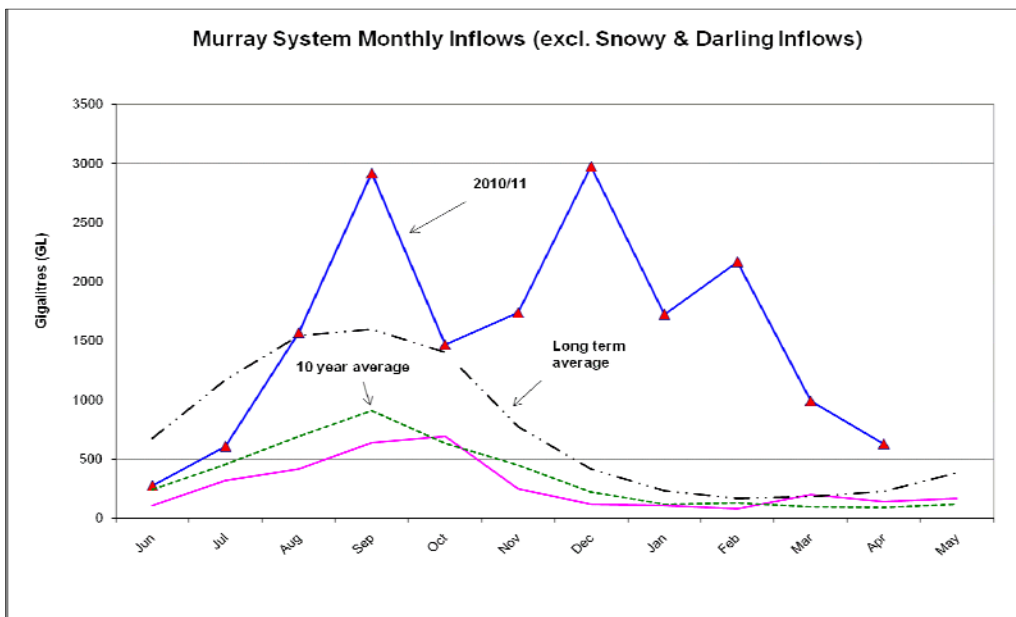
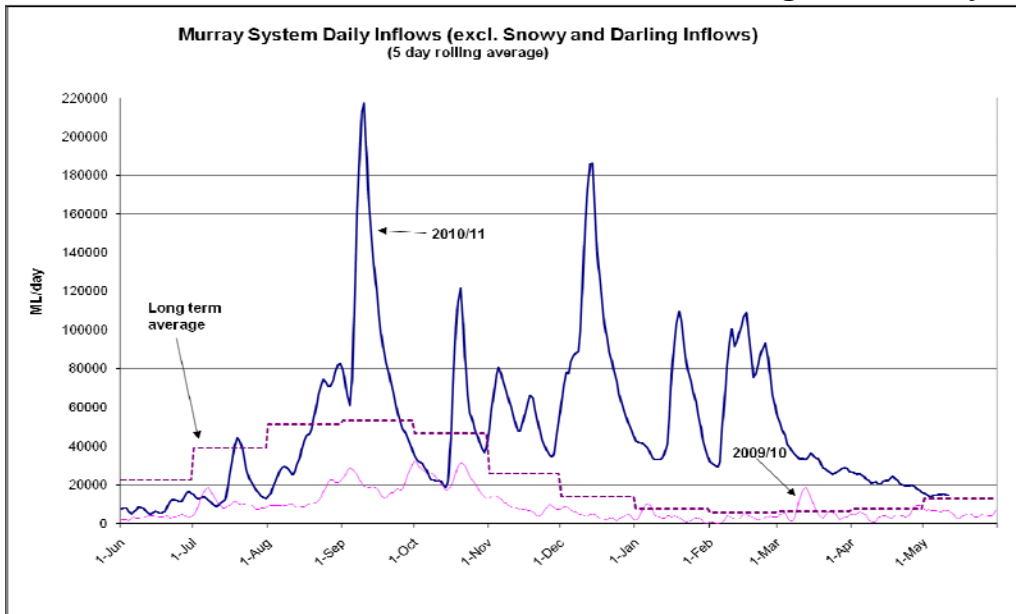
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.45	120	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.48	26	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	6	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	60	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.51	170	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 11 May 2011



State Allocations (as at 11 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/>