



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2011

Trim Ref: D11/18963

Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall during the last week was generally confined to the northern half of the Murray-Darling Basin. The highest rainfalls were recorded in northern NSW and included 55 mm at Moree, 57 mm at Wialalda and 58 mm at Guyra. In southern Queensland, 36 mm of rainfall was recorded at both Warwick and Allora. Around the south-eastern perimeter of the Basin, there were falls of about 15–20 mm along the Great Dividing Range, including 16 mm at Dinner Plains, near Mount Hotham, and 17 mm at Kinglake West.

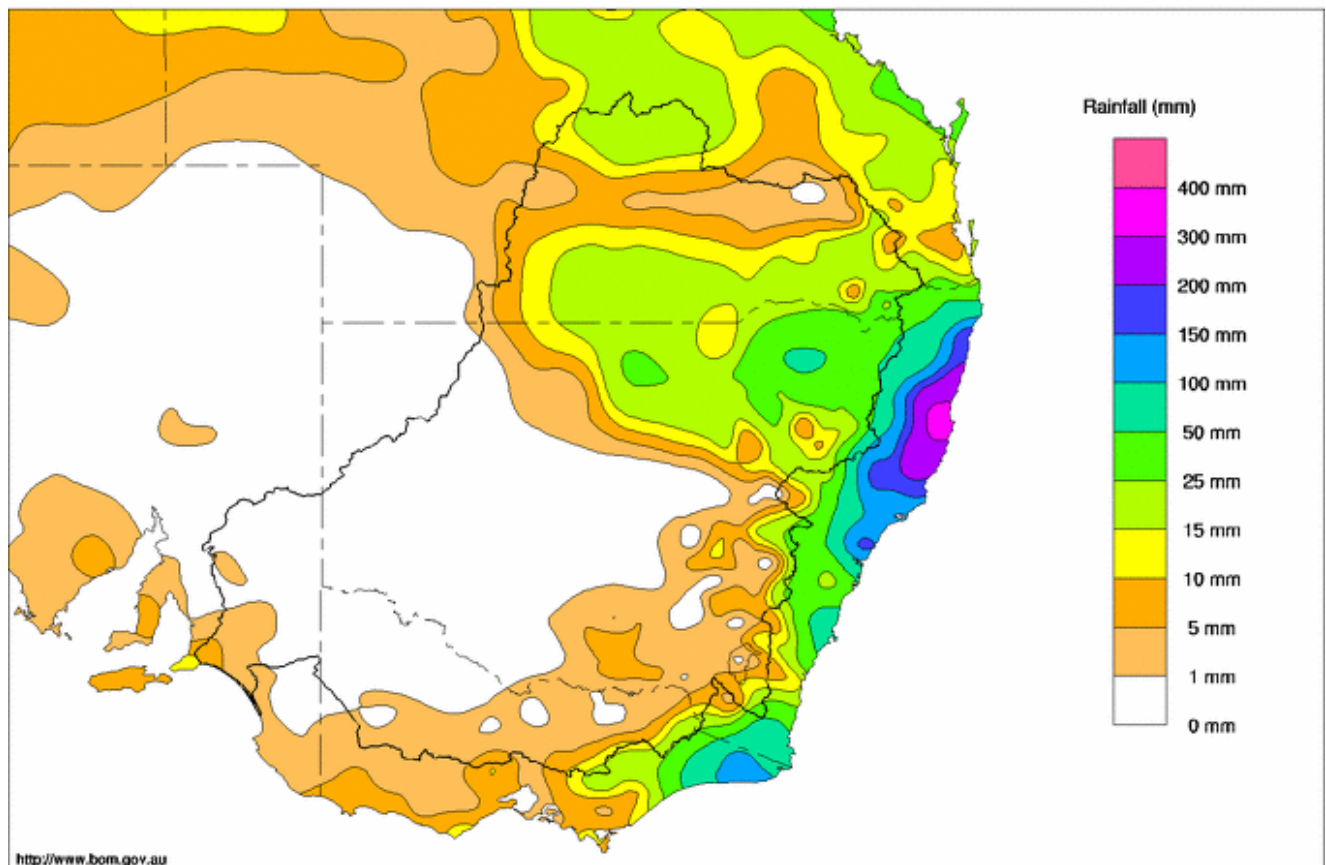
The rainfall in northern NSW has resulted in increased flows in the local rivers, such as the Gwydir River and the Severn River. These flows may eventually contribute to a small increase in flow in the Barwon River.

As a result of the light rain in the upper River Murray catchment, flows have remained fairly steady during the week. The flow in the River Murray at Biggara, upstream of Hume Reservoir, has varied between 800–900 ML/day, while in the catchment of Dartmouth Reservoir, flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie has been about 530–650 ML/day.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Ovens River has receded to 2,540 ML/day at Wangaratta. The flow in Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge has also receded to 6,080 ML/day while the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald has risen to 5,290 ML/day but is expected to recede during the coming week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th June 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 15 June 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 5 GL during the week to 6,920 GL (81% capacity).

The storage at Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 6 GL to 2,457 GL (64 % capacity) and releases were at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage decreased by 12 GL to 2,798 GL (93% capacity). To maintain about 200 GL airspace, the release was increased to 12,000 ML/day during the week to match inflow, and has now been reduced to 7,000 ML/day. The release is likely to remain at about this rate during the coming week, if dry conditions continue.

The level in Lake Mulwala is currently 2.75 m below FSL (122.15 m AHD), and is expected to drop by a further 0.5 m during the coming week. Depending on the outcome of field surveys being undertaken on 16 June, the lake level may be lowered to about 120.2 m AHD, if required for the control of the aquatic weed, *Egeria densa* (see attached media release, and Figures 1 and 2). Further information will be provided in next week's Weekly Report. During the week, releases from Yarrowonga Weir were increased from 15,200 to 15,600 ML/day to pass higher inflows. These releases are expected to be gradually reduced during the coming week, as the lower releases from Hume Reservoir arrive.



Figure 1 – View of Lake Mulwala on 15 June 2011 (Photo courtesy of Pat Doyle, Goulburn-Murray Water).

Flow along the Edward River, past Stevens Weir, has declined to 4,960 ML/day and is expected to continue falling during the coming week. The flow at Leiwah is slowly rising and is currently 3,150 ML/day. This flow is likely to remain slightly higher than 3,000 ML/day for the next week or so.

On the River Murray, at Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently 17,510 ML/day and expected to remain above 15,000 ML/day during the coming week. Further downstream at Euston Weir, the flow is 23,180 ML/day and likely to remain at about this rate for the next 3–5 days before gradually receding.



Figure 2 – The bed of Lake Mulwala on 15 June 2011, showing the exposed *Egeria densa* (Photo courtesy of Pat Doyle, Goulburn-Murray Water).

The Menindee Lakes increased in storage by 3 GL during the week, to 1,957 GL (113% capacity) and the flow past Weir 32 will be returned to the minimum of 500 ML/day during the next few days. On the lower Darling River, at Burtundy, the flow is 1,840 ML/day and is expected to remain at about that rate for the next 3–5 days before falling further.

The flow past Wentworth Weir, at the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers, is currently 26,210 ML/day and expected to increase slightly during the coming week.

Flows into Lake Victoria were increased during the week, raising the stored volume by 8 GL to 382 GL (56% capacity). Lake Victoria will continue to be filled during the coming weeks, while the weather remains relatively dry.

The water level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.58 m AHD. The level is expected to start rising again soon as some barrage openings are being closed to reduce the outflow. The salinity at Milang Jetty in Lake Alexandrina is about 550 EC units while, at Meningie on Lake Albert, the salinity has been slowly falling and is now about 6,000 EC units.

Salinity levels in the southern lagoon of the Coorong have been steadily falling from about 180,000 EC units in early 2010 to about 115,000 EC units currently. Closer to the Murray mouth, salinity levels were about 50,000–60,000 EC units early last year and fell to about 3,000 EC units with the high flows during autumn 2011. The salinity near the Murray mouth is currently about 10,000 EC units.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 15 Jun 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	461.69	2 457	64%	71	2 386	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.95	2 798	93%	23	2 775	-12
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.35	382	56%	100	282	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 957	113%	(480 #)	1 477	+3
Total		9 269		7 594	82%	--	6 920	+5
Total Active MDBA Storage							81% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	996	97%	3	993	-11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 581	97%	24	1 557	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 812	84%	100	2 712	+17

* 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 14 Jun 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 176	-16	Snowy-Murray	+21	166
Snowy-Murray Component	401	+21	Tooma-Tumut	+6	24
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	15	142
			Murray 1 Release	+20	195

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)	0.0	478	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	111
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	177
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	13	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	51
Licensed Pumps	0.8	80	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	22
Lower Darling	0.3	305	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.6	256
TOTAL	1.2	873	TOTAL	0.7	617

* 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 June due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	90.0 *
Flow this week	149.9
Flow so far this month	330.4
Flow last month	946.1

(21 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	110	110	210
Euston	140	150	170
Red Cliffs	160	170	160
Merbein	120	130	170
Burtundy (Darling)	330	330	290
Lock 9	180	190	230
Lake Victoria	230	230	190
Berri	240	260	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	330	350	330
Mannum	380	400	330
Murray Bridge	-	380	320
Milang (Lake Alex.)	510	660	2 010
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	420	410	950
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 720	6 170	8 040
Goolwa Barrages	1 060	1 730	4 800

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 15 Jun 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	-	-	-	7 000	F	4 250	4 280
Jingellic	4.0	2.13	208.65	8 140	R	7 420	8 680
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.50	218.39	720	R	740	1 160
Heywoods	5.5	2.15	155.78	7 010	F	10 220	7 700
Doctors Point	5.5	2.39	150.86	8 010	F	11 600	11 820
Albury	4.3	1.38	148.82	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.60	128.62	12 400	F	13 400	13 540
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.36	117.40	15 630	S	15 260	15 410
Tocumwal	6.4	3.03	106.87	16 570	R	16 140	16 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.73	83.28	17 510	F	18 050	18 860
Swan Hill	4.5	2.82	65.74	16 640	F	17 100	16 640
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.78	54.90	23 210	R	22 500	19 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.89	45.73	23 180	R	20 790	16 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	20 190	F	19 460	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.31	29.07	26 210	R	24 210	23 430
Rufus Junction	-	5.14	22.07	19 000	F	20 540	21 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.64	-	18 810	F	19 390	19 110
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 130	S	1 220	1 280
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.61	146.29	2 540	F	2 700	2 780
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.92	95.34	6 080	F	6 620	8 280
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.44	83.22	4 960	F	5 210	5 250
Edward at Liewah	-	3.38	58.76	3 150	R	2 870	2 160
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.41	55.90	3 710	R	3 100	1 550
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.08	60.04	5 290	R	4 740	2 180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	140	F	170	140
Darling at Bourke	-	4.28	-	1 280	S	1 150	1 190
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.33	-	1 840	R	1 980	2 990

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 640	3 780
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-2.75	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.18	N/A
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+1.19
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+1.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	N/A	+1.34	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+2.07
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	N/A	+1.67	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.18	+1.48
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.77	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+1.57
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+1.24	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.89

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.58
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Barrages

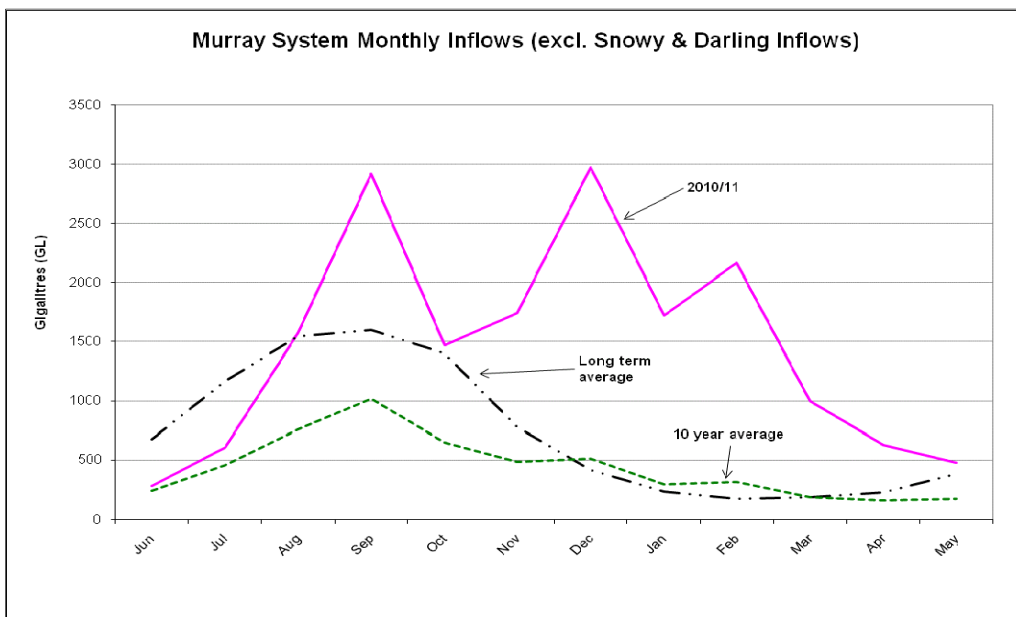
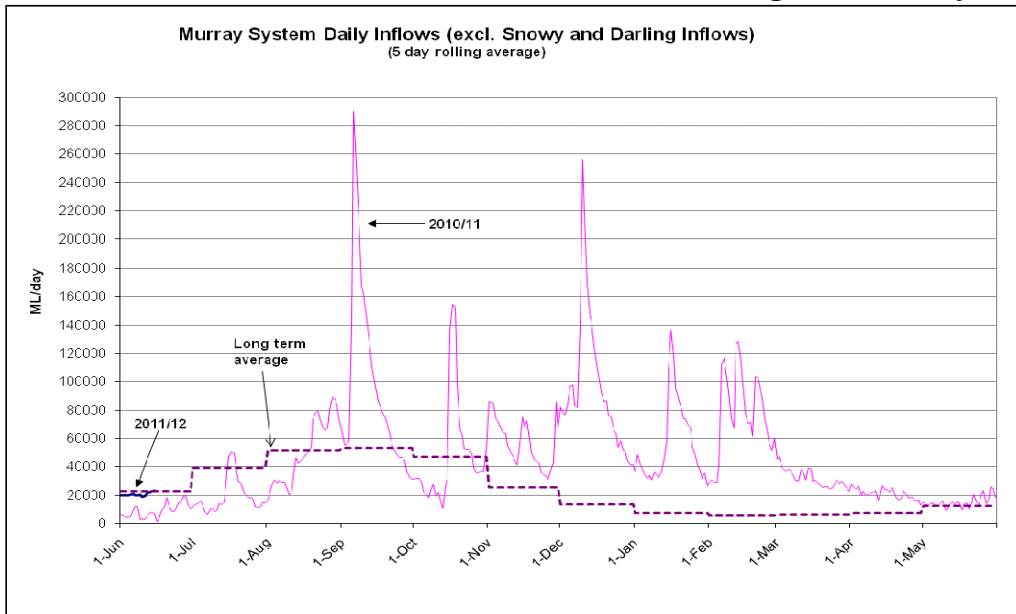
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.54	10	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.54	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	2	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.57	10	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 15 June 2011



State Allocations (as at 15 June 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/>

MEDIA RELEASE



15 June 2011

Further lowering of Lake Mulwala to control weed

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, in conjunction with Goulburn-Murray Water, is planning to further lower the water level in Lake Mulwala over the next two weeks.

To date, the lowering has been successful in exposing large areas of the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria*, which is expected to die off in these areas.

The further lowering is to eradicate some remaining areas of the weed, which are still submerged at the current water level of 122.2 AHD. Lowering of the lake by up to an additional 2 m will expose the remaining *Egeria* to frosts and desiccation.

The expected reduction in *Egeria* will ensure full recreational use of the lake over the coming tourism season.

The additional lowering of the lake will commence immediately and continue until the end of June. The minimum lake level is likely to be in the range 120.2–121.6 m AHD, depending on further observations.

Refilling of the lake is expected to begin in mid-July, ready for the start of the irrigation season.

Egeria densa, commonly known as dense waterweed, is a non-native weed that has formed dense clumps in Lake Mulwala. Lowering of the lake to kill off the weed has been successful in previous years.

This current plan may be altered in response to weather and river conditions over the coming weeks. If necessary, further updates will be provided in media releases and in the MDBA's Weekly Report.

ENDS

For more information contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au

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