



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2011

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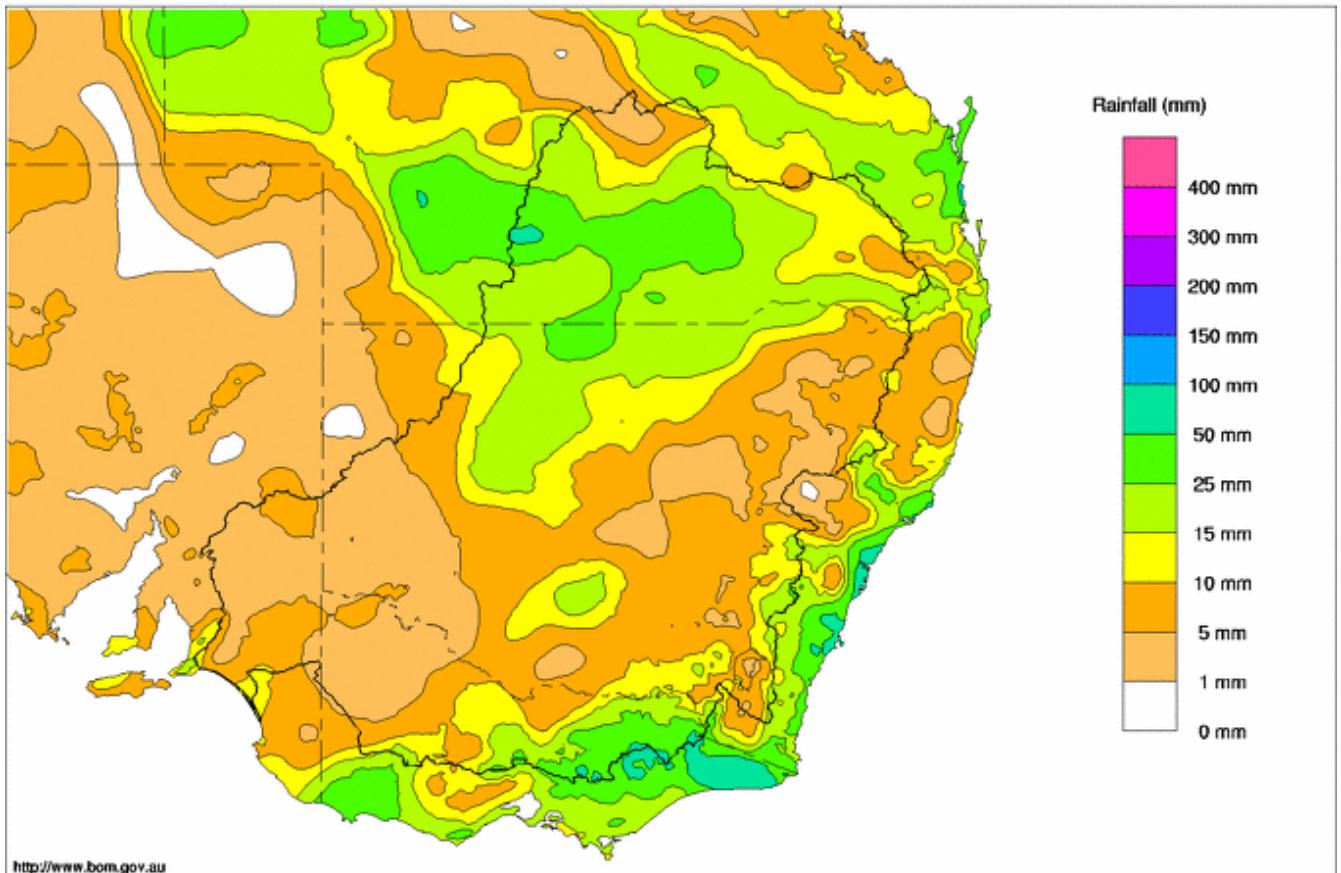
## Rainfall and Inflows

Rain fell in the north of the Murray-Darling Basin early in the week, while a front later in the week resulted in further showers over most of the southern Basin (Map 1).

The heaviest precipitation fell in north-eastern Victoria and western Queensland. Highest weekly totals included 66mm at Whitlands and 52 mm at Lake William Hovell in north-east Victoria, and 39 mm at Perisher Valley, part of the NSW Snowy Mountains Scheme. In western Queensland, 41 mm fell at Cowley and 34 mm at Kenilworth Station.

Streams in the upper tributaries of the Murray maintained good base flows, and continued to respond well to further precipitation over the headwater catchments. In the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic started the week at 15,000 ML/d and after falling to around 9,000 ML/d, has now risen to 10,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta initially fell away to around 7,600 ML/d, but has now increased to 13,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 20th July 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 20 July 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 7,180 GL (84% capacity) after a decrease of 16 GL since last week. The storage in Dartmouth Reservoir continues to slowly rise, with the storage volume currently at 2,559 GL (66% capacity), compared with 2,542 GL last week.

Release from Hume Reservoir was decreased during the week, from a high of 20,600 ML/day on 14 July to 13,300 ML/day. Release is likely to continue declining during the coming week to follow receding inflows. The storage volume in the reservoir is currently 2,823 GL (94% capacity), which is about 15 GL less than last week.

The flow through Yarrawonga Weir has also decreased during the week as upstream inflows have receded. The flow was 32,500 ML/day on 14 July and is now about 25,000 ML/day. In addition to these releases, about 1,500 ML/day has been diverted to Mulwala Canal and Lake Mulwala has been raised from a low of 122.0 m AHD, about 10 days ago, to 123.59 m AHD. The raising of Lake Mulwala will continue at about 0.1–0.15 m/day until the lake is back to its normal operating level of 124.7 m AHD in early August.

Inflows from the Goulburn River are up, with the flow past McCoys Bridge increasing to around 17,000 ML/day during the week. These higher inflows from the Goulburn River are expected to persist for at least the next week or two.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is currently about 26,000 ML/day and likely to remain above 25,000 ML/day for at least the next week. In response to these flows, the level at the weir is being lowered by up to 0.5 m to limit river rises at the upstream end of the weir pool.

On the Edward–Wakool system, flows are increasing at Toonalook, Stevens Weir, Moulamein, Liewah and Stoney Crossing. The increases are expected to continue for at least the next 5 days at the upstream sites and into early August at Liewah and Stoney Crossing. The flow at Liewah is currently 3,500 ML/day and slightly above 4,000 ML/day at Stoney Crossing.

Flow in the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald is currently 5,300 ML/day, down from about 8,700 ML/day last week. The flow is expected to start rising again soon, and reach at least 7,500 ML/day by next week.

At Euston Weir, the weir pool is being temporarily lowered to assist Victoria Police (see attached media release). Immediately upstream of the weir, the pool will be lowered by up to 1.4 m by the weekend. The magnitude of the lowering will not be as pronounced further upstream due to the high flows, which are currently about 27,000 ML/day. Regardless of the weir pool lowering, flows greater than 25,000 ML/day are expected downstream of Euston Weir for at least the next two weeks and these flows could reach about 32,000 ML/day in early August. Similar flow trends are expected past Mildura and Wentworth Weirs, albeit delayed by 3–4 days.

The volume in Lake Victoria was lowered by 15 GL during the week, and the lake is now storing 520 GL (77% capacity). Lowering of the lake is expected to continue while there are sufficient volumes of water in transit upstream which can fill the lake at a later date. The drawdown of the lake level will help protect vegetation and cultural heritage material.

The flow into South Australia averaged nearly 30,000 ML/day last week. These high flows are expected to persist for at least the next few weeks. In the Lower Lakes, the level has been falling slowly during the week and is currently +0.70 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 20 Jul 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	463.72	2 559	66%	71	2 488	+18
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.08	2 823	94%	23	2 800	-15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.67	520	77%	100	420	-15
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 952	113%	(480 #)	1 472	-4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>7 854</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 180</b>	<b>-16</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							84% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	945	92%	3	942	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 598	98%	24	1 574	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 004	90%	100	2 904	+16

\* 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 19 Jul 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 256	+23	Snowy-Murray	+12	258
Snowy-Murray Component	363	+8	Tooma-Tumut	+8	67
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	4	192
			Murray 1 Release	+19	324

## Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \*

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2011	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2011
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	10.9	12	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	1
Licensed Pumps	0.5	2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	2
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.8	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5</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 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 July due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	108.5 *
Flow this week	209.2
Flow so far this month	479.6
Flow last month	633.9

(29 900 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	110	120	200
Euston	130	130	170
Red Cliffs	130	130	160
Merbein	90	90	160
Burtundy (Darling)	310	300	300
Lock 9	110	120	220
Lake Victoria	220	220	200
Berri	210	250	240
Waikerie	-	-	210
Morgan	340	340	310
Mannum	330	320	330
Murray Bridge	310	320	330
Milang (Lake Alex.)	590	590	1 530
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	590	580	900
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 820	4 830	7 550
Goolwa Barrages		1 480	5 490

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 20 Jul 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	-	-	-	3 960	F	3 820	6 720
Jingellic	4.0	2.35	208.87	10 270	R	10 850	16 400
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.86	218.75	1 680	F	2 280	2 820
Heywoods	5.5	2.81	156.44	13 250	F	17 210	17 560
Doctors Point	5.5	3.17	151.64	16 290	F	19 660	21 530
Albury	4.3	2.20	149.64	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.78	129.80	19 170	F	21 740	17 390
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.36	118.40	25 480	F	29 320	22 660
Tocumwal	6.4	4.19	108.03	27 570	F	29 250	20 250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.14	84.69	25 810	R	23 960	17 240
Swan Hill	4.5	3.21	66.13	19 370	R	18 180	15 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.06	55.18	24 910	R	23 460	21 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.13	45.97	27 100	S	26 380	25 100
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	23 590	F	23 590	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.54	29.30	29 300	S	29 510	27 430
Rufus Junction	-	6.06	22.99	30 540	R	29 640	21 920
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.00	-	29 400	R	23 780	16 700
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.56	155.79	3 210	F	2 700	3 660
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.00	148.68	12 830	R	8 770	13 210
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	7.05	98.47	16 670	R	15 360	8 990
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.23	84.01	7 410	F	5 990	5 470
Edward at Liewah	-	1.54	56.92	890	F	2 820	2 780
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	-	-	3 850	R	3 500	2 510
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.05	60.01	5 190	F	6 690	9 080
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.44	-	660	S	670	330
Darling at Bourke	-	4.25	-	1 080	S	1 140	1 200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.06	-	1 120	F	1 350	1 770

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	14 000	23 510
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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	-1.31	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.96	+3.77
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.11	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+1.89
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.16	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+1.67
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+1.56	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.12	+2.65
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.03	+1.90	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+2.00
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+1.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+2.02
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+1.85	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+1.25

### Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

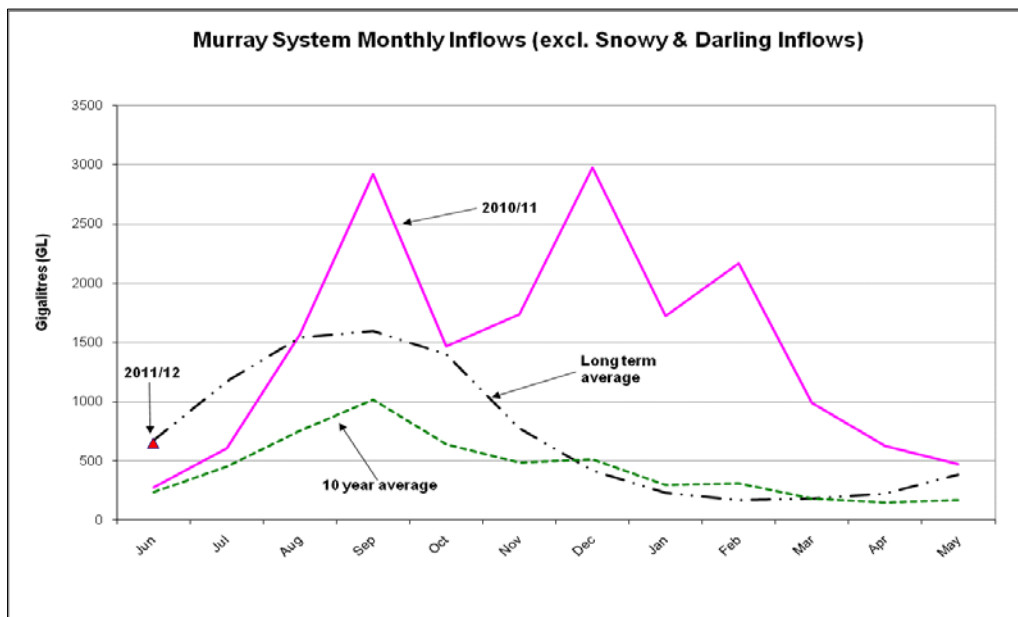
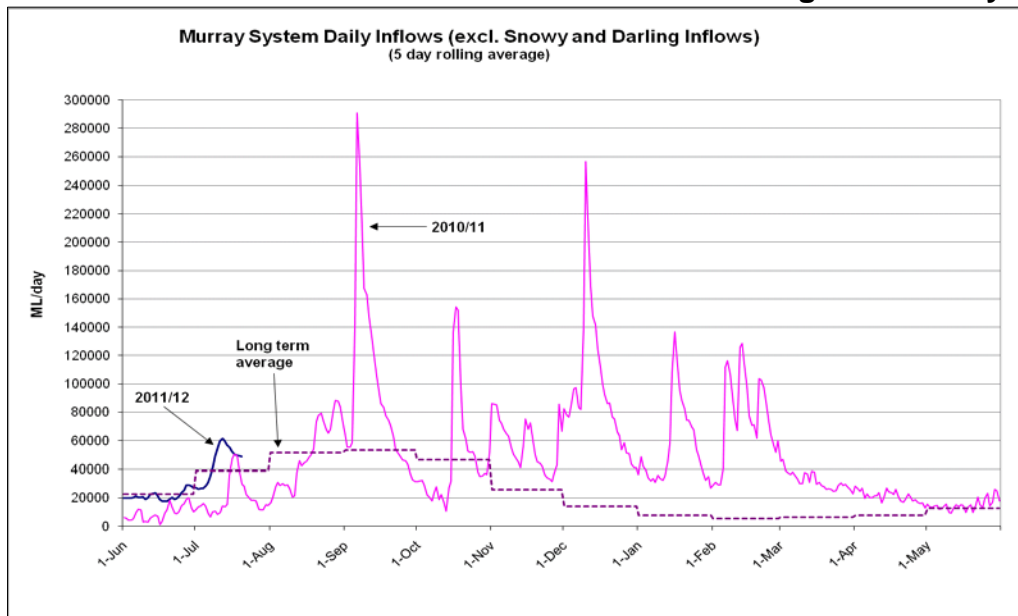
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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### Barrages

### Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.71	20	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.65	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	22	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.70	40	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 20 Jul 2011)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	0%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	33%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	50%

#### Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	60%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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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

20 July 2011



## Euston weir pool lowered

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority has begun a temporary lowering of Euston weir pool in response to a request from Victoria Police.

The level immediately upstream of the weir is expected to be lowered by up to 1.4 m by about Friday 22 July.

With flows currently at about 27,000 ML/day and rising, the effects of this lowering will be far less noticeable further upstream from the weir.

The lowering of the weir will not result in a significant rise in downstream levels.

It is expected that the level of the weir will be returned to about 47.45 m (15 cm below full supply level) by the end of July.

River pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority will continue to issue further advice via the MDBA's Weekly Report, which can be viewed at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

ENDS

**For more information contact the MDBA media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au)  
or the Victoria Police Media Unit on 03 9247 5205.**

 Receive MDBA updates via [http://twitter.com/MD\\_Basin\\_Auth](http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth)

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