



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2011

Trim Ref: D11/23810

Rainfall and Inflows

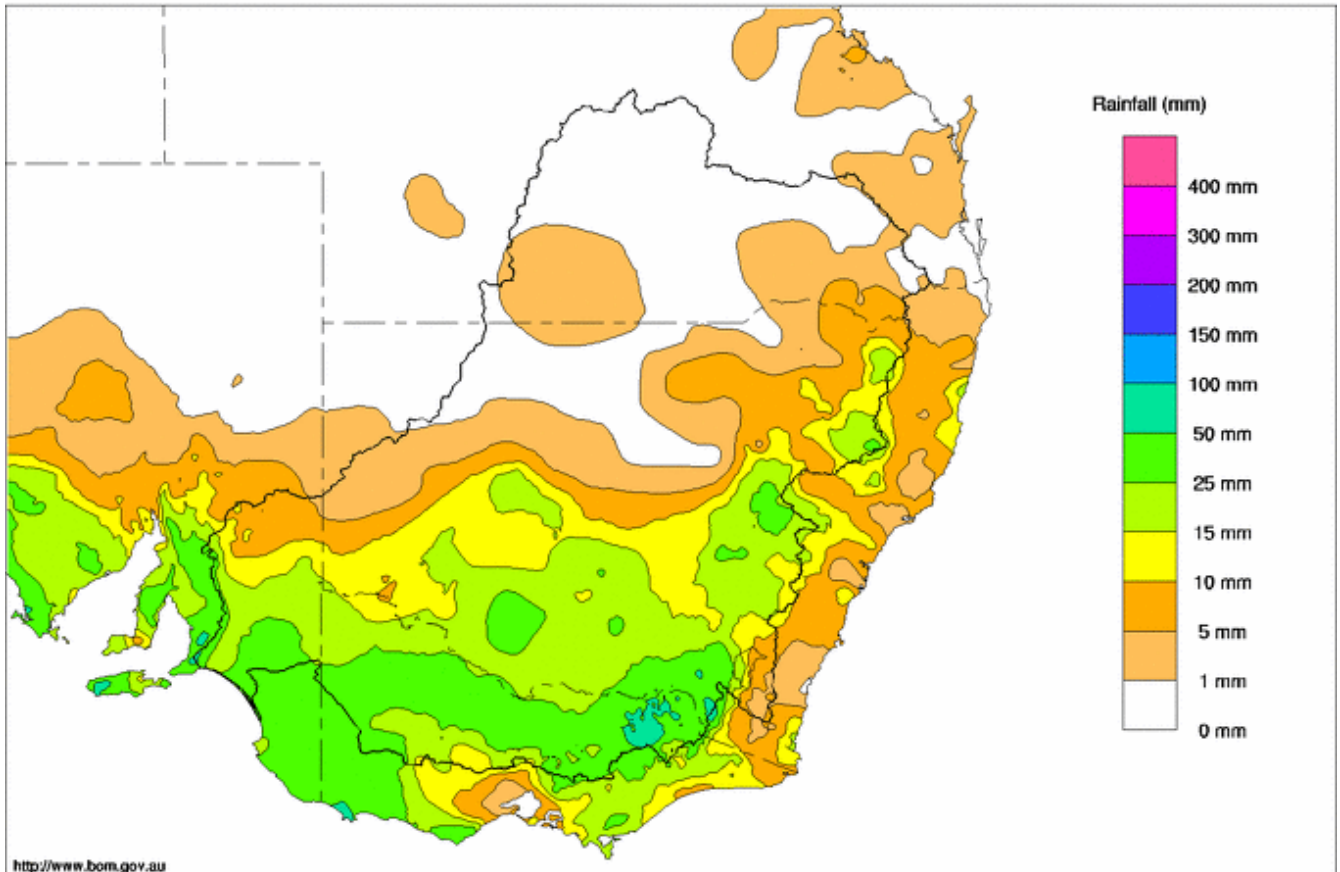
Rainfall was widespread across the southern Murray-Darling Basin, with last week's mild and dry weather coming to an end over the weekend as a slow moving rain band and low pressure system moved over the region. Totals between 15 and 50 mm were common across the ranges as well as much of the northern Victoria and southern NSW plains (Map 1).

The highest precipitation totals fell across the alpine peaks of the NSW Snowy Mountains, with totals up to 70 mm recorded. On the NSW south-west slopes, there was 50 mm at Khancoban and 44 mm at Tumbarumba. In Victoria, totals included 66 mm at Edi Upper and 58 mm at Mt Buffalo; while away from the ranges, there was 37 mm at Kyabram and 35 mm at Birchip. Further west, good rain also fell over the Mt Lofty Ranges including 67 mm at Mt Lofty itself. Elsewhere, lighter falls were recorded across the NSW eastern ranges, while the northern Basin remained relatively dry.

Stream flow responses were very good across the upper catchments, with system inflows on the rise again. In the upper Murray catchment, the Tooma River at Pinegrove started the week at 1,200 ML/day and peaked at over 3,300 ML/day; while on the River Murray, the flow at Jingellic receded to 6,000 ML/day early in the week, increased to a peak of 16,400 ML/day and is now flowing at 13,800 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 5,700 to 5,100 ML/day early in the week but has since risen to 9,600 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 10th August 2011

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 10 August 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage has increased 106 GL since last week and is now 7,320 GL (85% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage rose by 24 GL during the week to 2,623 GL, and the release, measured at Colemans, remains at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows peaked at 21,000 ML/day during the week in response to the rain and the storage increased by 61 GL to 2,931 GL (98% capacity). Releases have been increased progressively since the weekend and are now at 18,000 ML/day, with further increases likely depending on rainfall in the coming days. These increases will aim to maintain the current airspace in the short term. The filling of Hume remains under constant review and is dependent on rain forecasts and demand over the coming weeks.

At Yarrawonga Weir, the Lake level has returned to the normal operating level after the winter drawdown, and is now at 124.75 m AHD. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced early in the week to 11,000 ML/d, but has since been increased to 19,000 ML/day as higher inflows from the Murray and Ovens Rivers arrive. The release from Yarrawonga is expected to keep increasing and may exceed 30,000 ML/day by early next week.

On the Edward River, the flow at Toonalook has receded slowly during the week and is now at 5,400 ML/day. The flow is expected to recede slightly further over the next few days before higher flows from the Murray arrive late next week. At Stevens Weir, the release is currently 5,300 ML/day and the pool level remains at 4.3 m on the local gauge. Further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing has increased from 4,500 to 6,800 ML/day during the week and is expected to reach a peak just above this value in the next few days.

Inflows from the Goulburn River, measured at McCoy's Bridge, have receded during the week and are currently at 6,100 ML/day. The flow is expected to increase slightly in the coming days. Eildon Dam is currently releasing 1,750 ML/d for hydro-electricity generation.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has continued to fall during the week and is currently at 21,200 ML/day. The flow is expected to ease slightly further over the next few days. Extraction through the National Channel is at 1,500 ML/d.

The flow at Swan Hill peaked at around 22,000 ML/d and will begin to fall away over the coming week. At Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River, the flow is currently receding very slowly and is now at 9,100 ML/d and is expected to continue to decline slowly over the coming week. Downstream of the Murrumbidgee junction, the River Murray at Euston is 34,000 ML/d and rising. The peak is expected to reach around 36,000 to 37,000 ML/d next week.

The Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at 1,958 GL (113% capacity). Pulsed flow past Weir 32 has ranged between 800 and 450 ML/d. The flow in the Darling River at Burtundy has fallen away to 600 ML/d. At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers, the flow at Wentworth is 36,500 ML/d and slowly rising.

The outflow from Lake Victoria was wound back during the week after the decision was made to begin refilling the storage (up 21 GL from last week to 482 GL (71% capacity)). However, upstream tributaries have responded well to rain late this week, and with rain continuing to fall, the decision to refill the storage will be reviewed.

The flow to South Australia fell away this week as the release from Lake Victoria was reduced. It is currently around 28,000 ML/d, but will increase to around 31,000 ML/d over the coming week. The level in the lower lakes is currently 0.67 m AHD, down slightly from last week.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 10 Aug 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	464.95	2 623	68%	71	2 552	+24
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.63	2 931	98%	23	2 908	+61
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.29	482	71%	100	382	+21
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 958	113%	(480 #)	1 478	-0
Total		9 269		7 994	86%	--	7 320	+106
Total Active MDBA Storage							85% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	980	96%	3	977	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 582	97%	24	1 558	+12
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 053	92%	100	2 953	+26

* 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 09 Aug 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 370	n/a	Snowy-Murray	-0	268
Snowy-Murray Component	399	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+15	91
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-15	177
			Murray 1 Release	+18	363

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)	12.8	47	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.9	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.1	9
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	2
Licensed Pumps	1.1	5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	2
Lower Darling	0.0	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.6	6
TOTAL	14.0	53	TOTAL	11.3	20

* 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 August due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	211.8	(30 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	315.1	
Flow last month	844.9	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	160	150	130
Euston	110	100	110
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	80	90	90
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	340
Lock 9	100	110	110
Lake Victoria	210	220	210
Berri	210	200	200
Waikerie	-	-	10
Morgan	200	210	220
Mannum	210	210	210
Murray Bridge	210	210	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	490	550	590
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	280	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 360	5 360	5 390
Goolwa Barrages	690	790	760

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 10 Aug 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	-	-	-	5 180	F	4 650	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	2.69	209.21	13 840	F	11 160	8 050
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.81	218.70	1 540	F	1 520	1 680
Heywoods	5.5	2.90	156.53	13 150	R	6 500	7 140
Doctors Point	5.5	3.27	151.74	17 450	R	9 960	9 180
Albury	4.3	2.30	149.74	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.62	128.64	10 980	R	8 420	10 580
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.17	117.21	14 060	R	11 850	15 970
Tocumwal	6.4	2.56	106.40	12 690	R	13 140	18 250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.45	84.00	21 240	F	25 740	30 870
Swan Hill	4.5	3.57	66.49	21 910	S	21 620	21 210
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.10	56.22	32 240	R	30 910	28 530
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.86	46.70	34 060	R	33 180	30 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	29 750	F	29 750	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.99	29.75	36 580	S	35 290	32 190
Rufus Junction	-	5.79	22.72	26 320	R	29 740	34 170
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.33	-	31 410	F	31 110	30 930
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.62	155.85	3 370	F	3 060	2 180
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.32	148.00	8 620	F	6 990	6 720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.93	95.35	6 110	F	9 740	16 940
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.57	83.34	5 320	S	5 570	7 670
Edward at Liewah	-	4.13	59.51	4 690	S	4 640	4 250
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.83	57.32	6 810	R	5 700	1 850
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.38	61.34	9 110	F	9 150	9 160
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	200	F	220	290
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 080	S	1 100	1 210
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.90	-	610	S	720	900

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 960	14 110
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.73	+3.51
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	+1.75
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.18	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+1.54
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+2.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.00	+2.59
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+2.35	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+2.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+1.30	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+2.36
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	+2.00	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+1.58

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

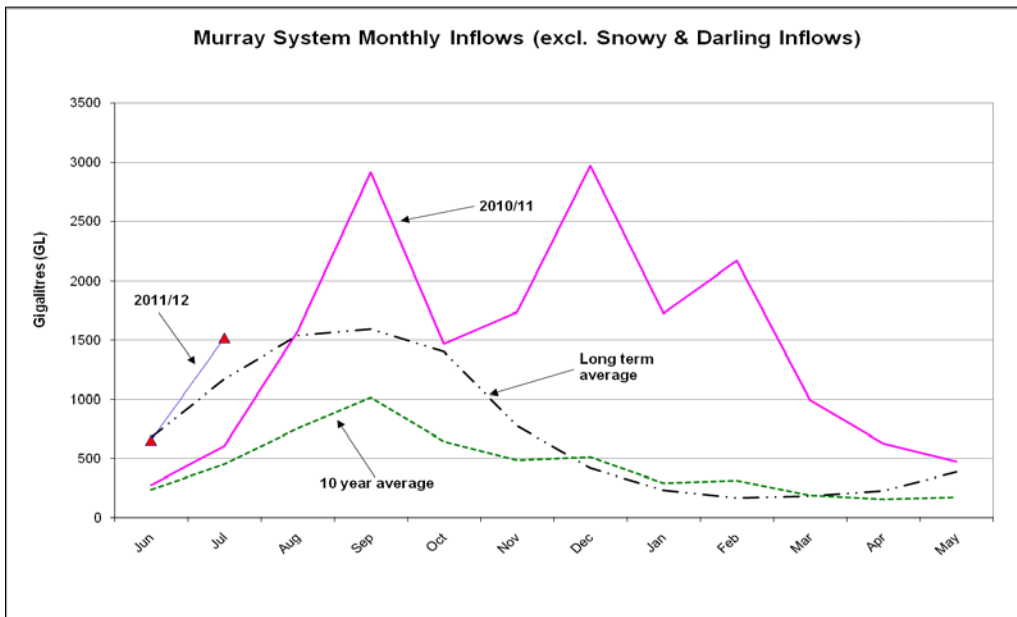
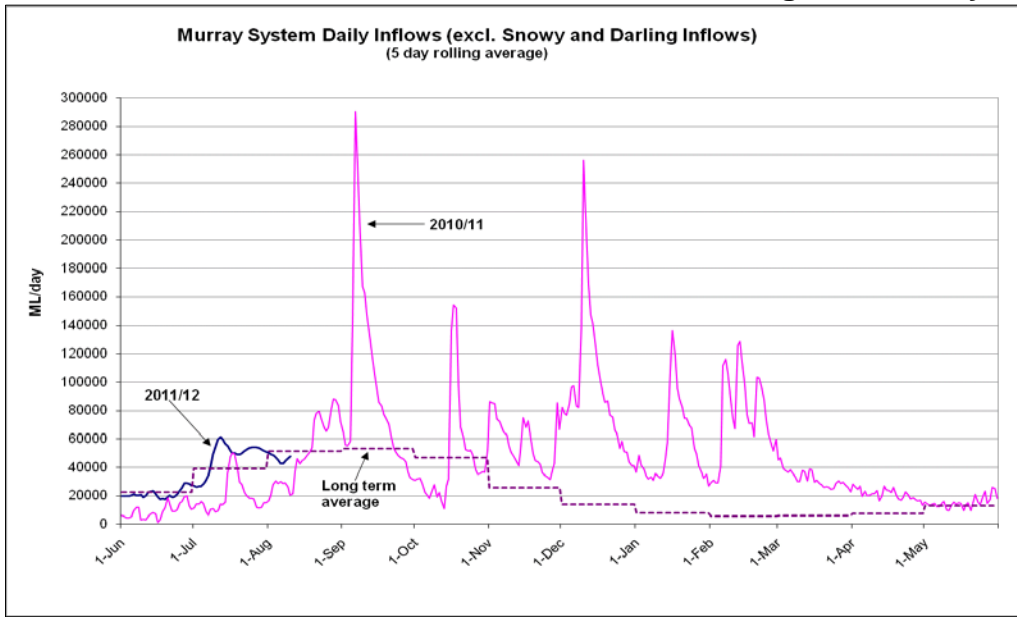
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.69
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	30	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	42	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	87	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 10 Aug 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	6%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	35%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	50%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	69%
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/>