



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2011

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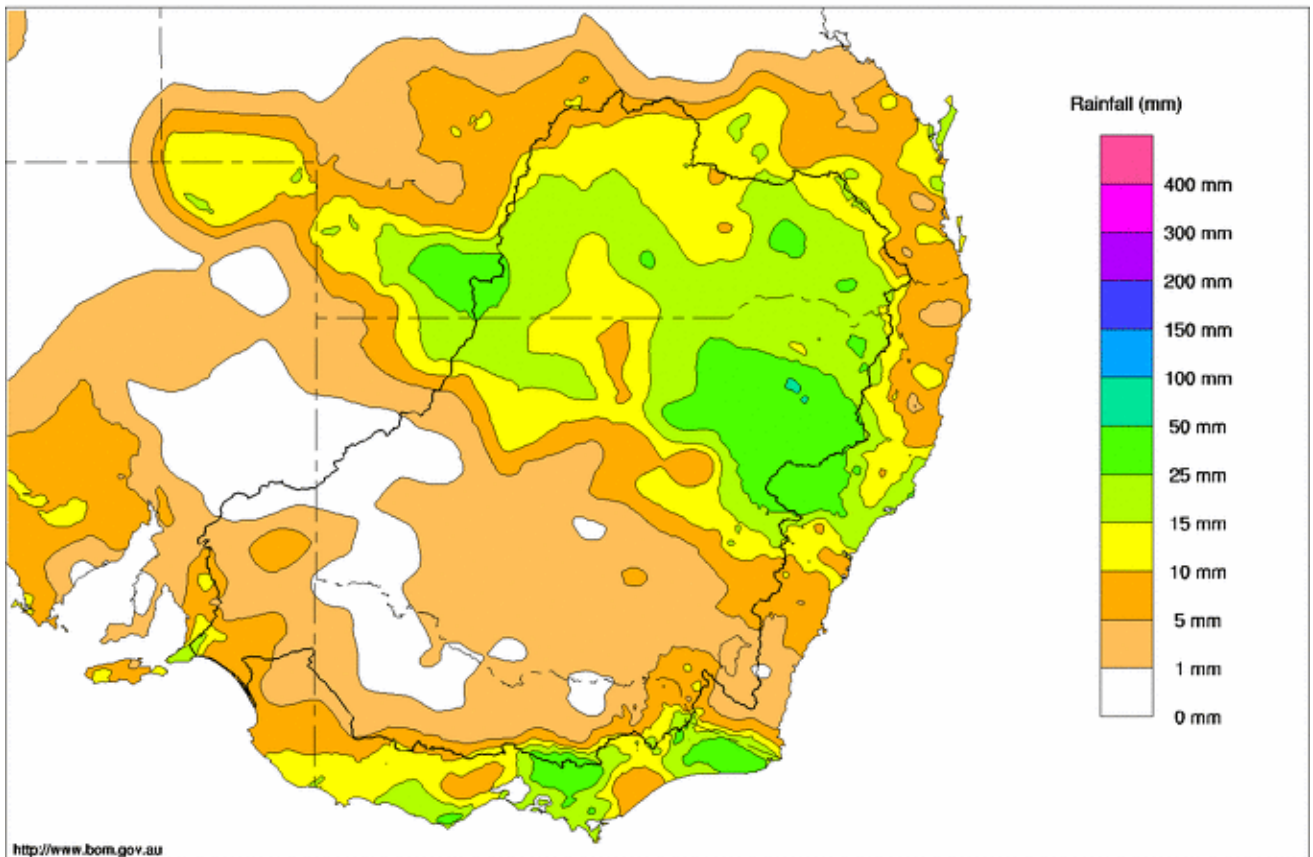
Rainfall and Inflows

A band of rain crossed the northern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin early in the week before colder south-westerly winds affected south-eastern Australia bringing showers to southern Victoria but little rainfall inland of the Great Dividing Range.

The highest weekly rainfall totals were recorded across the Namoi catchment in north-eastern NSW, including 56 mm at Narrabri West, 47 mm at Tamworth and 42 mm at Gunnedah. Elsewhere, there were falls up to around 25 mm in southern Queensland, while in the south most locations recorded only between 0 and 10 mm (Map 1).

As a result, streamflow in the Murray headwaters continued to gradually recede. At Biggara for instance, on the upper Murray, flows receded from 1,700 to 1,100 ML/day during the week. Similarly, at Wangaratta on the Ovens River the flow fell over the past 7 days from 5,500 to 4,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 14th September 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 14 September 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 135 GL this week to 7,583 GL (88% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the release remained steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day and the total storage rose by 17 GL to 2,753 GL (71% capacity).

Hume Reservoir is now 'effectively' full at just over 99% capacity. The total storage is currently at 2,979 GL, which is an increase of 32 GL over the past week. In order to fill the reservoir prior to drawdown by regulated releases, the release from Hume Reservoir was gradually decreased during the week, from 11,000 ML/day on Wednesday 8 September to around 4,000 ML/day by Tuesday 13 September.

The release from Hume is now being increased due to environmental entitlements being ordered to sustain watering of some portions of the Barmah-Millewa Forest (see attached Media Release from NSW Office of Water). The release is currently 12,500 ML/day, however with receding tributary inflows, a dry rainfall outlook, rising temperatures and increased irrigation demand, further increases in release from Hume may occur in the coming weeks.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has decreased from 17,000 ML/day last week to its current rate of 10,000 ML/day. The release will increase to around 11-12,000 ML/day in the coming days, as the increased environmental releases from Hume arrive. This release will enable continued flow into the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir is now around 4,000 ML/day and gradually receding. The peak flow in the Edward-Wakool system is now approaching Stoney Crossing on the Wakool River which is currently at around 11,500 ML/day and is expected to peak this week at under 12,000 ML/day.

On the Murray, just upstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the diversions at National Channel are now 3,750 ML/day around double those from the beginning of September. The flow past Torrumbarry Weir is now at around 15,000 ML/day and slowly receding. It is expected to reduce to around 10,000 ML/day in the coming week.

Inflow from the Murrumbidgee system over the past week has held steady at about 9,500 ML/day, however will fall sharply in the coming days and is expected to be around 2-3,000 ML/day in around 7 days time. The peak flow in the Murray is now at Euston Weir and the flow is around 39,000 ML/day. The flow at Euston is expected to remain at around this rate for the next few days before gradually receding.

The total storage in Menindee Lakes fell by 5 GL and is now 1,935 ML/day (112% capacity). Lake Victoria's total storage rose by 135 GL to 590 GL (87% capacity) as flows through to South Australia, which have been steady at around the 27,000 ML/day, were captured to assist in the refilling.

The flow over Lock 1 averaged 31,000 ML/day during the week and is expected to average around 29,000 ML/day over the coming week. The Lower Lakes level is now at +0.70 m AHD. The current target for the Lower Lakes is to have a level of around 0.85 m AHD (0.1 m above FSL) by the end of September although the target level for the lower lakes may alter in the event of further rainfall or significant inflows.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 Sep 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	467.42	2 753	71%	71	2 682	+17
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.87	2 979	99%	23	2 956	+32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.45	590	87%	100	490	+135
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 935	112%	(480 #)	1 455	-5
Total		9 269		8 257	89%	--	7 583	+179
Total Active MDBA Storage							88% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 006	98%	3	1 003	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 571	96%	24	1 547	-11
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 203	96%	100	3 103	+12

* 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 13 Sep 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 637	+34	Snowy-Murray	+0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	423	+13	Tooma-Tumut	+8	130
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-8	145
			Murray 1 Release	+13	426

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)	26.4	113	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.4	20
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.9	54
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	6
Licensed Pumps	3.9	16	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	2
Lower Darling	0.6	6	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.7	18
TOTAL	31.2	136	TOTAL	44.5	100

* 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 September due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	190.7	(27 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	408.4	
Flow last month	1,082.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	160	190	140
Euston	180	150	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	110
Merbein	100	100	90
Burtundy (Darling)	340	360	340
Lock 9	120	120	110
Lake Victoria	210	210	200
Berri	170	180	180
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	240	250	220
Mannum	230	210	220
Murray Bridge	200	180	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	520	540	560
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	210	240	290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 820	5 780	5 530
Goolwa Barrages	1 130	5 570	2 090

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 14 Sep 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	-	-	-	2 230	F	2 510	3 340
Jingellic	4.0	1.97	208.49	6 800	S	8 000	8 550
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.68	218.57	1 130	F	1 270	1 500
Heywoods	5.5	2.40	156.03	8 580	R	6 850	10 340
Doctors Point	5.5	2.70	151.17	11 070	R	9 320	12 450
Albury	4.3	1.67	149.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.92	127.94	7 210	F	10 520	11 800
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	R	11 570	16 700
Tocumwal	6.4	2.45	106.29	11 850	F	13 740	19 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.42	82.97	14 840	F	18 300	27 210
Swan Hill	4.5	3.34	66.26	20 350	R	21 190	21 950
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.74	56.86	37 190	S	36 080	31 750
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.32	47.16	39 080	R	37 150	32 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	32 840	F	32 440	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.13	29.89	39 800	R	36 640	32 000
Rufus Junction	-	5.82	22.75	26 770	R	25 500	30 840
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.88	-	28 100	F	31 640	40 190
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.15	155.38	2 370	R	2 540	2 220
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.23	146.91	4 040	F	4 600	5 830
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.77	93.19	1 440	F	2 110	6 870
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	3.00	82.78	3 840	F	5 650	12 040
Edward at Liewah	-	4.88	60.26	6 650	R	6 250	5 210
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.78	58.28	11 660	R	10 650	6 600
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.47	61.43	9 440	F	9 490	9 120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.60	-	1 240	F	1 530	730
Darling at Bourke	-	4.17	-	640	S	630	700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.98	-	910	S	750	500

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	14 680	15 770
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.79	+3.50
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+1.63
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+1.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+2.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+2.39
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+2.49	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+1.73
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.12	+1.22	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.07	+1.85
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.25	+2.05	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.11	+1.13

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

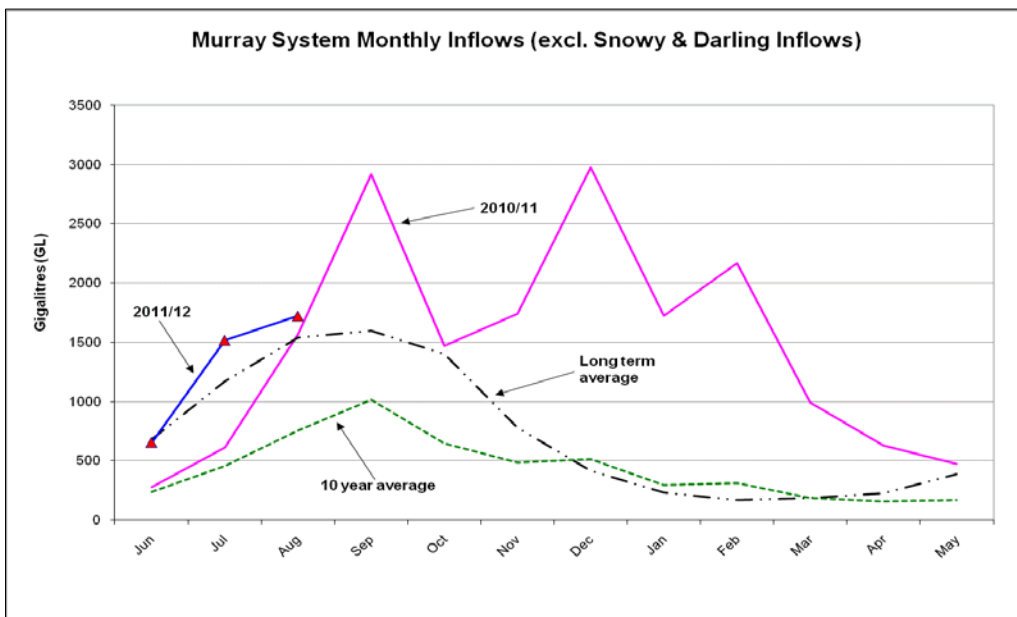
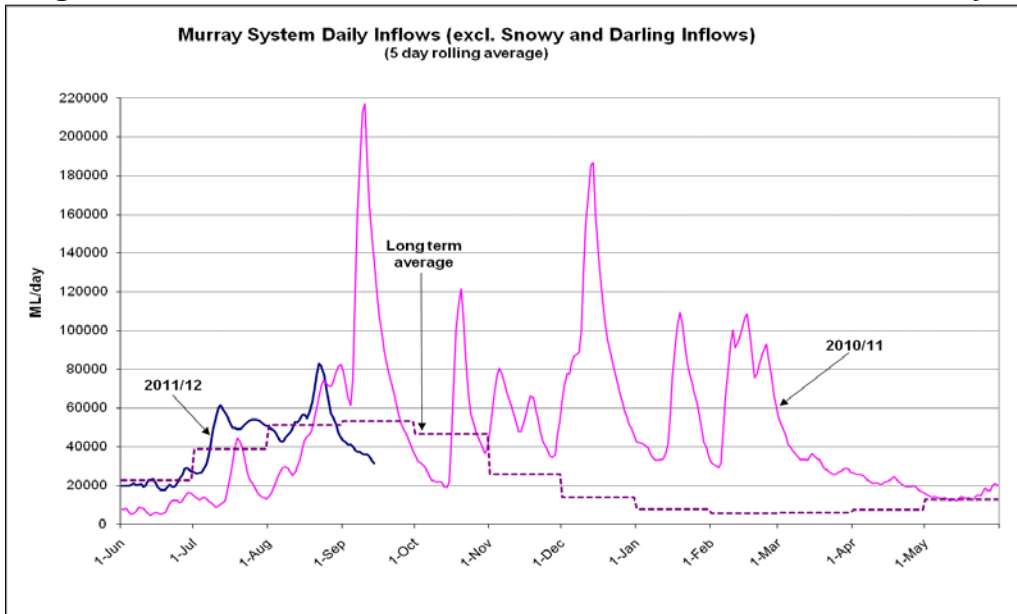
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.70
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	15	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	20	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	60	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 14 Sep 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	15%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	61%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	57%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	87%
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/>



Wednesday, 14 September 2011

NSW releases environmental water to the Barmah Millewa forest

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced the release of the 150,000 megalitres of NSW environmental water to the Barmah Millewa forest in Southern NSW.

“The releases, which commenced today, will continue the forest-flooding that has been occurring throughout the winter, providing much need water for tree re-generation and bird-life,” said Mr Harriss.

“The Barmah-Millewa group of forests straddle the Murray River near Mathoura in southern NSW and are the largest red-gum forest in the world. The forest became a National Park in 2010.”

Mr Harriss said that the RAMSAR listed wetlands in the Barmah-Millewa forests complex were now starting to recover from the prolonged drought.

“The almost constant flooding during recent months has triggered re-generation of the red-gum communities, as well as the commencement of bird breeding events.”

“We are starting to see many colonial birds such as the Pied and Black cormorant and Australian Darters breed, along with the White Bellied Sea Eagle.”

“There have also been reports of the mating calls of the *Bunyip Bird* (Australian Bitterns), so called for its booming mating call from the wetlands!”

Mr Harriss continued, saying that following high flows throughout much of winter, the water in these wetlands is starting to drain back into the Murray River -at a vital time in the breeding cycle.

“The release of the environmental water will ensure that these wetlands remain connected and will support the breeding cycle of birds, reptiles and amphibians.”

Mr Harriss said to provide the NSW component for the Barmah-Millewa Forest environmental water allocation, NSW had reached an agreement with Victoria and the Murray Darling Basin Authority to enable this water to be released immediately.

“The release of the Barmah-Millewa Forest environmental water from Hume Dam will also provide immediate benefits to down stream landholders by providing flood mitigation capacity within Hume Dam, ahead of the traditionally wet months of September and October.”

“The environmental release will also make valuable space in Hume Dam for further inflows that can then be allocated to general security water users in the NSW Murray.”

“Additionally, the release of this water into the Barmah-Millewa wetlands will reduce the impact of

Media contact: Bunty Driver mob 0407 403234

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“This is a win for the environment, a win the water users and will provide some protection for potential flooding and demonstrates what adaptive water management is all about – getting positive outcomes for the environment, regional economies and communities,” Mr Harriss said.

ENDS