



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2011

Trim Ref: D11/28662

Rainfall and Inflows

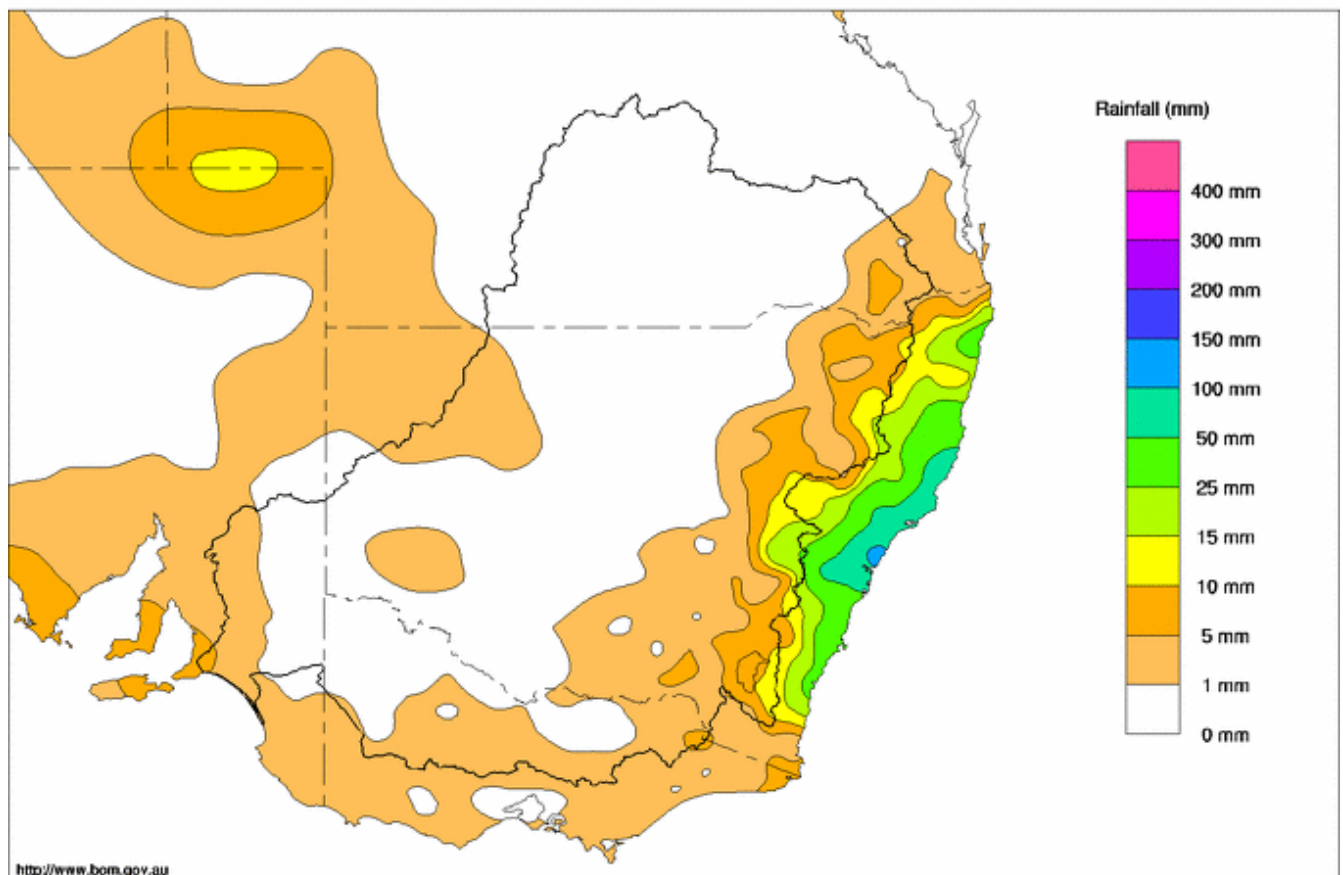
It was another dry week over most of the Murray-Darling Basin with rainfall predominantly confined to the eastern fringe where modest totals were recorded. Most of the rain was the result of a trough and a moist easterly airflow that generated considerable coastal rain, but brought only lighter totals along and west of the Great Divide, and little or no rain further inland (Map 1).

The heaviest rain fell along the NSW central ranges, with the region around Bathurst in the upper Macquarie River catchment receiving good falls including 55 mm at Bathurst Airport, and 31 mm at Bathurst itself. Elsewhere, there was rain recorded in the very upper Lachlan River catchment near Crookwell; while over the south-east NSW and Victorian ranges totals were mostly less than 5 mm. By contrast to the past week, the Bureau of Meteorology is currently forecasting a rain event affecting much of inland NSW and Victoria over the next few days with stream flows likely to increase in several catchments within the Basin.

Among the upper River Murray system catchments, flows along the main unregulated tributaries continued to recede slowly during the week. For example, on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth Dam, the flow at Hinnomunjie was averaging around 1,000 ML/day last week, and has now receded to 880 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta decreased from around 3,000 ML/day to 2,300 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th September 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 28 September 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

At the time of writing (Thursday morning), there have been rainfalls of more than 50 mm recorded in the upper catchments of the Murray, Ovens and Broken Rivers, with some rapid rises in flows of tributaries to Hume Reservoir. Without further rain, there is sufficient air-space within Hume Reservoir to maintain flow downstream of the reservoir within the channel capacity of the river. However, further rain is forecast and for the latest information and warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 12 GL during the week to 7,515 GL (87% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 11 GL and is currently 2,776 GL (72% capacity), and release has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage fell by 13 GL during the week as releases to supply downstream demands continued. The current storage volume is 2,926 GL (97% capacity) and as of 28 September, release has been increased to 15,000 ML/day ahead of forecast rain over the next few days. Responses to the rain continue to be monitored and possible further increases to the release may occur if required over the coming days.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the release during the week averaged about 12,900 ML/day and was increased to 15,000 ML/day in the afternoon of 28 September due to forecast rain. Higher inflows are expected in the next few days and releases will increase accordingly.

Flow through the Edward River offtake was reduced to 500 ML/day during the week to assist with the completion of the new fishway at that site. Higher flows were directed through Gulpa Creek offtake and Mary Ada regulator to maintain flows into the Edward River and some wetlands where birds are nesting.

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir varied within the range 7,400–8,100 ML/day and diversion to National Channel fell from 2,900 to 2,100 ML/day in response to the forecast rain.

At Euston Weir, the flow has fallen sharply from 39,000 ML/day to 21,400 ML/day, with further reductions in flow expected for the next week or two. Flows past Mildura and Wentworth are following a similar pattern, albeit delayed by 3–4 days.

The Menindee Lakes continue to slowly decrease in storage volume—this week dropping by 12 GL to 1,912 GL (110% capacity). The flow past Weir 32 continues to be pulsed around an average of 500 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the rate of filling has been slowed and for the last few days the level has remained fairly constant at about 26.1 m AHD (85% capacity). The flow into South Australia peaked during the week at about 35,500 ML/day and is now expected to fall quite rapidly.

The water level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.72 m AHD and is expected to continue rising towards 0.85 m AHD during the next two weeks. Flow through the barrages has varied between about 9,000–16,000 ML/day during the week, with gates at some barrages being closed in response to forecast storms.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 28 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	467.86	2 776	72%	71	2 705	+11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.60	2 926	97%	23	2 903	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.14	575	85%	100	475	+26
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 912	110%	(480 #)	1 432	-12
Total		9 269		8 189	88%	- -	7 515	+12
Total Active MDBA Storage							87% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 015	99%	3	1 012	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 506	92%	24	1 482	-19
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 218	97%	100	3 118	+6

* 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 27 Sep 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 662	n/a	Snowy-Murray	-0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	512	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+5	151
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-5	124
			Murray 1 Release	+13	452

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)	24.5	164	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.2	45
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.3	113
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.9	10
Licensed Pumps	5.6	30	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	4
Lower Darling	1.0	11	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.7	26
TOTAL	31.5	207	TOTAL	37.9	198

* 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	230.8	(33 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	843.7	
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	120	110	140
Euston	120	110	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	110
Merbein	110	100	90
Burtundy (Darling)	330	360	350
Lock 9	130	130	120
Lake Victoria	170	180	200
Berri	190	180	180
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	210	200	220
Mannum	210	230	220
Murray Bridge	200	220	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	600	600	560
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	260	250	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 650	5 680	5 580
Goolwa Barrages	610	950	1 860

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 28 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	-	-	-	3 150	F	3 570	2 470
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	208.41	6 050	F	6 860	5 480
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.60	218.49	950	S	1 030	1 090
Heywoods	5.5	2.19	155.82	7 100	F	10 590	13 390
Doctors Point	5.5	2.44	150.91	8 490	F	12 020	14 840
Albury	4.3	1.43	148.87	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.53	128.55	10 440	F	13 730	13 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.98	117.02	12 530	F	12 870	11 470
Tocumwal	6.4	2.70	106.54	13 800	F	13 410	12 090
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.56	81.11	8 120	R	7 740	10 570
Swan Hill	4.5	1.53	64.45	8 040	F	8 770	16 070
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.81	53.93	17 950	F	23 440	35 940
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.45	45.29	21 390	F	29 460	39 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	30 870	F	31 810	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.81	29.57	33 600	F	39 710	41 860
Rufus Junction	-	6.32	23.25	35 340	F	33 550	29 490
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.08	-	990	R	15 070	27 960
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.68	154.91	1 560	R	1 630	1 980
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.65	146.33	2 300	F	2 730	3 350
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.47	92.89	900	F	960	1 160
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.16	80.93	900	F	1 840	2 990
Edward at Liewah	-	3.32	58.70	3 050	F	3 780	6 060
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.24	55.73	3 160	F	5 290	10 860
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.14	59.10	3 180	F	3 260	5 970
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.40	-	550	F	1 020	1 040
Darling at Bourke	-	4.21	-	910	S	930	790
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.94	-	770	S	590	530

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 620	12 100
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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	+1.25	+3.99
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.08	+2.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.09	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+1.80
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+1.74	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+2.81
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.07	+2.17	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+2.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+1.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+2.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+2.32	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	+1.33

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

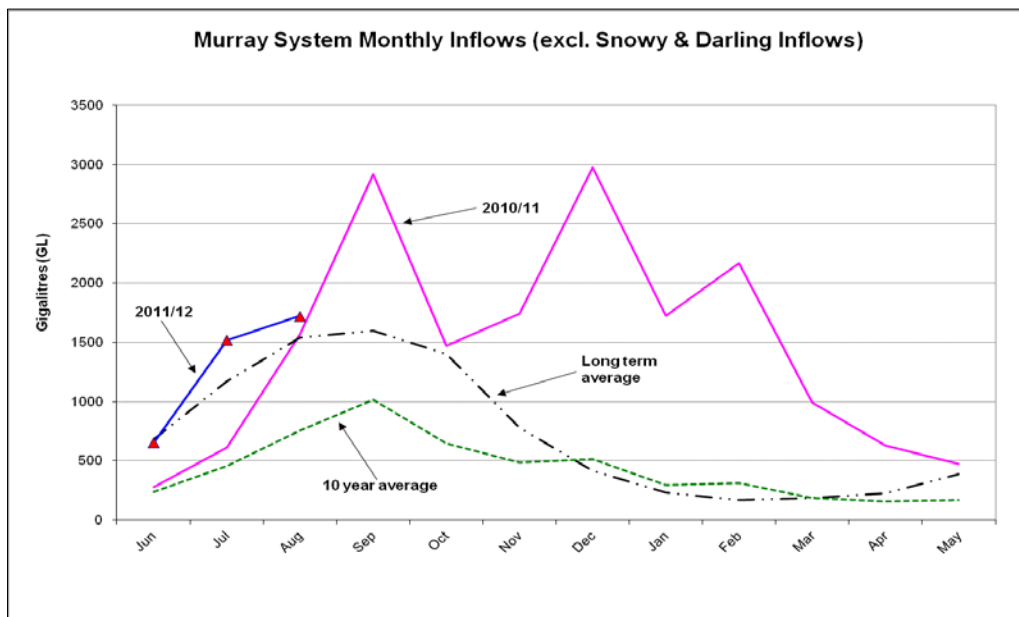
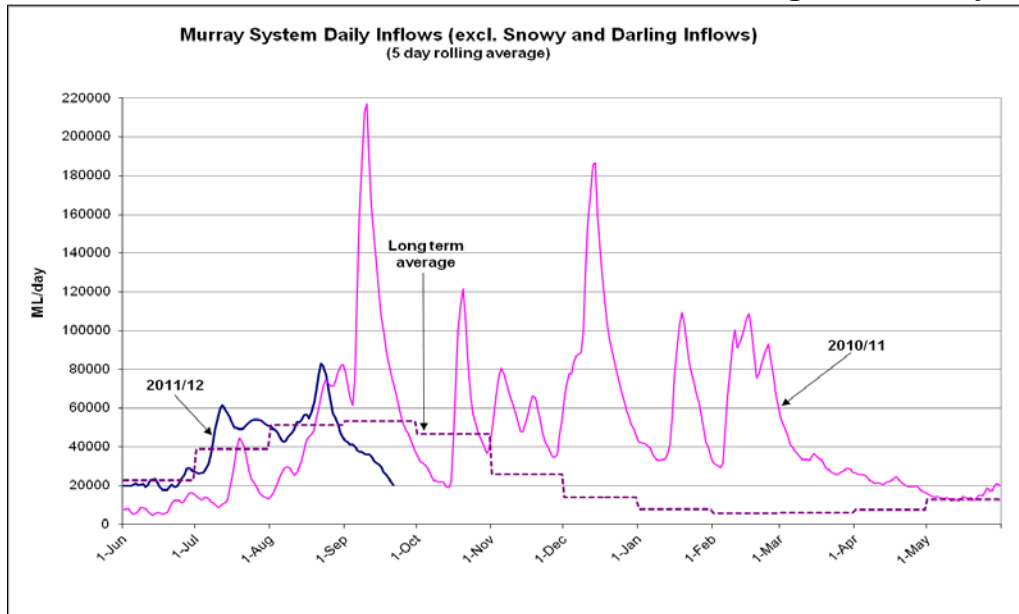
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.72
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	5	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	4	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	5	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	20	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 28 Sep 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	15%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	69%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	57%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	95%
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/>