



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2011

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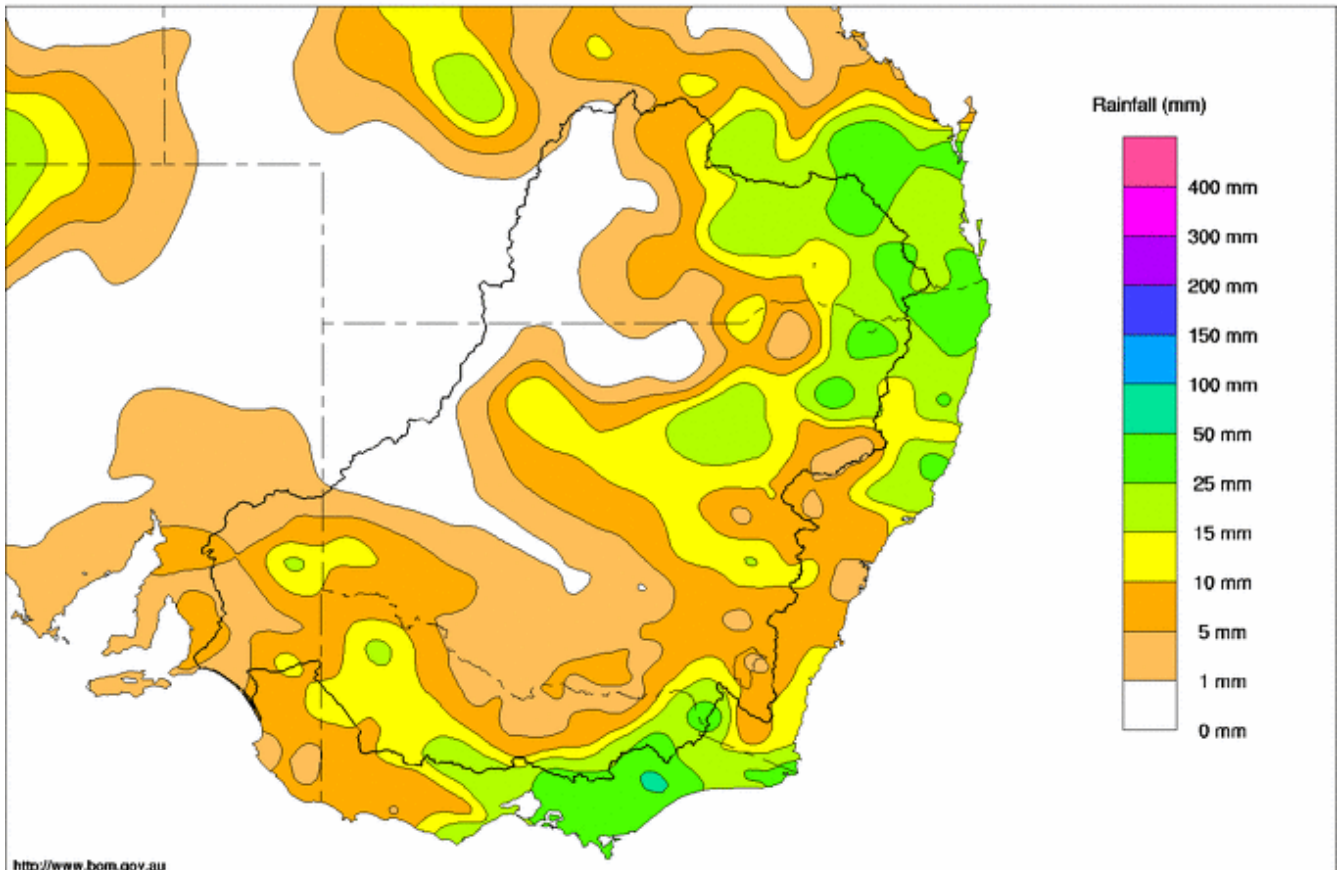
## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall this week was focussed over the upper catchment areas, with most falling during several days through the middle of the week as a trough system moved across eastern Australia. The best falls were observed over the south-east ranges including the key upper Murray tributaries, and over the upper Darling tributaries in the north-east of the Basin including the Condamine and Border River systems. Over inland areas rainfall was patchy and generally only light, with most stations recording less than 15 mm (Map 1).

The highest totals for the week were recorded over Queensland's Darling Downs including 69 mm at Jandowae, 64 mm at Cambooya and 52 mm at Felton. In the south-east, the best totals were once again recorded over the higher peaks of the NSW Snowy Mountains and Victorian High Country with totals ranging between 40 and 60 mm.

Stream flows in the upper tributaries were generally fairly steady during the week with the rainfall serving to maintain rather than increase flows. In the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara is currently 900 ML/day after reaching a peak of 1,100 ML/day during the week; while downstream at Jingellic, the flow has been averaging around 6,100 ML/day, which is little changed from the previous week. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has fluctuated between 2,000 and 2,500 ML/day during the week after averaging 2,300 ML/day the previous week. Flows are expected to recede somewhat over the coming days with the weather forecast to warm up towards the weekend.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd November 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 02/11/2011

Map 1- Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 02 November 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

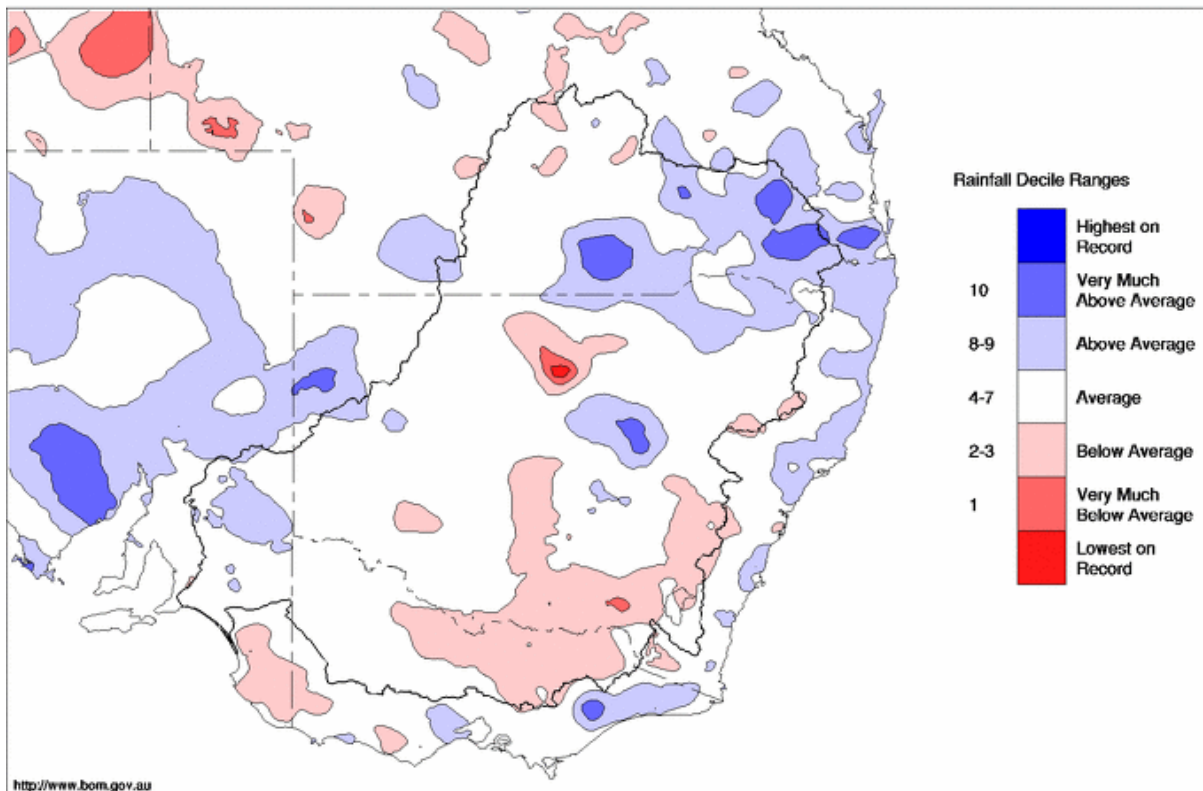


## October 2011 Summary

Rainfall for October averaged 35.3 mm across the Murray-Darling Basin (54th driest out of 112 years of record). Broadly speaking, most of the Basin experienced average rainfall, however there was above average rainfall in the north-eastern corner and below average rainfall in the south-eastern corner (Map 2).

Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) for October were about 790 GL. This is well below the long term average (1,400 GL) but above the 10 year average for October (645 GL).

Murray-Darling Rainfall Deciles October 2011  
Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 31/10/2011

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for October 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 13 GL during the week to 7,513 GL (87% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 10 GL to 2,853 GL which is 74% capacity. The release remained steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir the rate of fall slowed this week. The storage decreased by 29 GL (compared with 63 GL last week) to 2,829 GL, which is 94% capacity. The release averaged around 11,400 ML/day over the week, however is now increasing (currently 13,300 ML/day) in response to increasing demand.

At Lake Mulwala the pool level is currently 124.79 m AHD. Diversion to the Mulwala Canal is currently 3,700 ML/day having been as low as 3,100 ML/day on Sunday 30 October. Diversion to the Yarrowonga Main Canal is currently 1,350 ML/day having been as low as 770 ML/day, also on Sunday 30 October. Diversions at both off-takes are expected to continue increasing over the coming days. Release downstream is currently 11,500 ML/day after peaking at 13,000 ML/day during the week. Over the coming weeks, the Weir will be operated to maintain a release of around 11,000 ML/day in order to maintain over-bank flows to supply environmental entitlements to the Barmah-Millewa forest.

On the Edward River, the release from Stevens Weir averaged around 2,300 ML/day and is expected to fall away slowly over the coming week as diversions to Wakool Main Canal increase. Further downstream, the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing fell away rapidly (currently 1,250 ML/day) from the peak of 3,300 ML/day at the start of the week.

Environmental releases from Lake Eppalock on the Campaspe River and Lake Eildon on the Goulburn River commenced this week. Inflow from the Campaspe River, measured at Rochester, increased from a base flow of around 200 ML/day to 850 ML/day. Inflow from the Goulburn River, measured at McCoys Bridge, increased from a base flow of around 700 ML/day to 1,100 ML/day.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversions to the National Channel were relatively low, averaging around 1,000 ML/day. However, following a relatively dry week, and with warm temperatures forecast, orders are again increasing (currently 2,000 ML/day). Flow downstream of the Weir held relatively steady during the week at around 9,200 ML/day, but will fall away as diversions increase at the National Channel. Downstream at Euston Weir, flow is falling away (currently 16,000 ML/day) and will continue to do so over the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the total storage decreased by 18 GL, and remains surcharged at 1,854 GL (107% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32, continues to be pulsed around an average of 500 ML/day. With summer approaching it can be expected that significant transfers of water from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria may soon be needed (*see flow advice attached*) and updates on any planned increase in release rates will be provided in the near future.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 23 GL to 651 GL which is 96% capacity. The rate of filling slowed during the week due to the reducing head difference between the River Murray upstream of Lock 9 and the storage. Flow to South Australia averaged 14,000 ML/day during the week, and is expected to return to a regulated flow regime at the end of the coming week for the first time since late August 2010.

The average level at the Lower Lakes fell 0.01 m and is currently 0.76 m AHD. The operational target is to keep the Lower Lakes slightly surcharged between around 0.75 and 0.77 m AHD over the coming weeks to encourage mixing and enhance the dilution of saltier water in Lake Albert.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 02 Nov 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	469.28	2 853	74%	71	2 782	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.11	2 829	94%	23	2 806	-29
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.79	651	96%	100	551	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 854	107%	(480 #)	1 374	-18
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 187</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 513</b>	<b>-13</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							87% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	927	90%	3	924	-27
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 514	93%	24	1 490	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 328	100%	100	3 228	-1

\* 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 01 Nov 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 844	+21	Snowy-Murray	-0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	577	+23	Tooma-Tumut	+3	185
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	-3	89
			Murray 1 Release	+5	505

## 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)	29.2	340	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.3	74
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.2	143
Western Murray Irrigation	0.5	4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	19
Licensed Pumps	3.9	54	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	9
Lower Darling	1.7	14	Licensed pumps - LMW	6	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>302</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 November due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	180.0 *
Flow this week	97.8
Flow so far this month	26.7
Flow last month	502.6

(14 000 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	140	130	140
Euston	120	120	130
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	130	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	390	390	350
Lock 9	160	160	130
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	230	270	200
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	290	290	240
Mannum	290	300	230
Murray Bridge	280	260	210
Milang (Lake Alex.)	480	490	540
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	250	240	260
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 510	5 540	5 550
Goolwa Barrages	570	570	1 470

## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 02 Nov 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	-	-	-	1 350	R	2 300	2 710
Jingellic	4.0	1.70	208.22	4 490	F	6 090	5 770
Tallandoo ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.54	218.43	810	F	890	940
Heywoods	5.5	2.71	156.34	11 560	R	11 390	15 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.87	151.34	13 110	R	12 740	16 560
Albury	4.3	1.83	149.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.81	128.83	12 070	S	13 410	17 560
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.85	116.89	11 490	S	12 290	11 870
Tocumwal	6.4	2.57	106.41	11 590	F	12 200	12 350
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	81.41	9 210	S	9 280	12 130
Swan Hill	4.5	1.63	64.55	7 670	F	8 650	14 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.22	53.34	14 590	F	17 510	20 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.77	44.61	15 940	F	18 360	20 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	19 010	F	20 320	20 680
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.84	28.60	16 910	F	17 860	18 050
Rufus Junction	-	4.41	21.34	12 480	R	12 960	12 170
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.16	-	12 600	R	12 400	11 910
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.50	154.73	1 280	F	1 440	1 320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.55	146.23	2 030	F	2 160	2 360
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.60	93.02	1 120	R	810	940
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.13	81.90	2 190	F	2 330	2 330
Edward at Liewah	-	3.05	58.43	2 650	F	3 260	3 270
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.76	55.25	1 260	F	2 250	2 810
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.25	57.21	810	F	920	1 250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.61	-	1 240	F	1 360	990
Darling at Bourke	-	4.47	-	2 840	R	2 480	1 820
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	270	S	370	540

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 400	10 860
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.23	+2.08
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.64
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.66
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.84	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.10	+1.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+1.20	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.83
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.18	+0.77
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.76	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.41

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

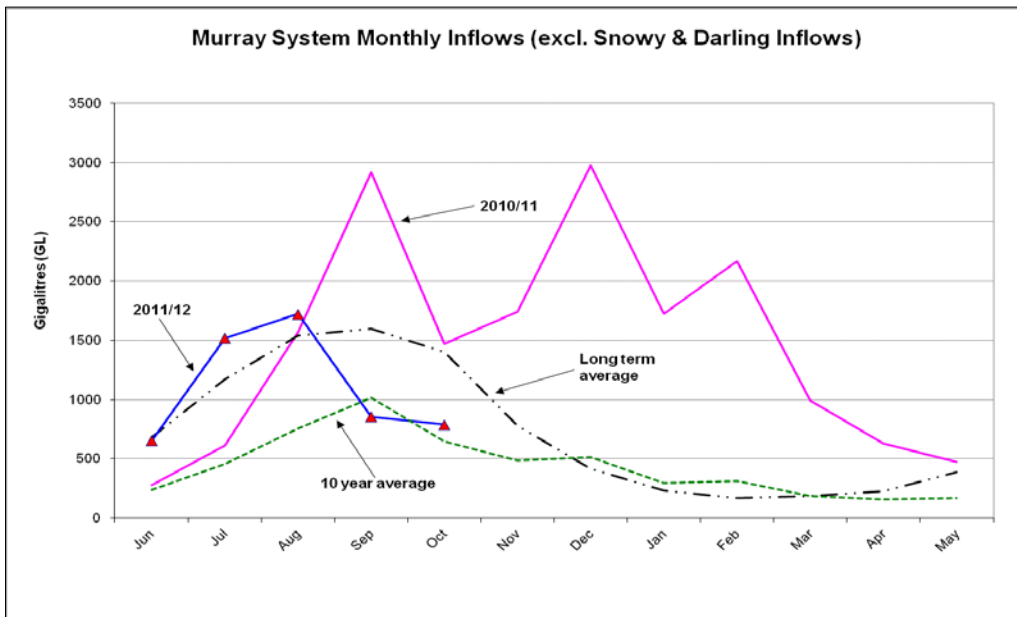
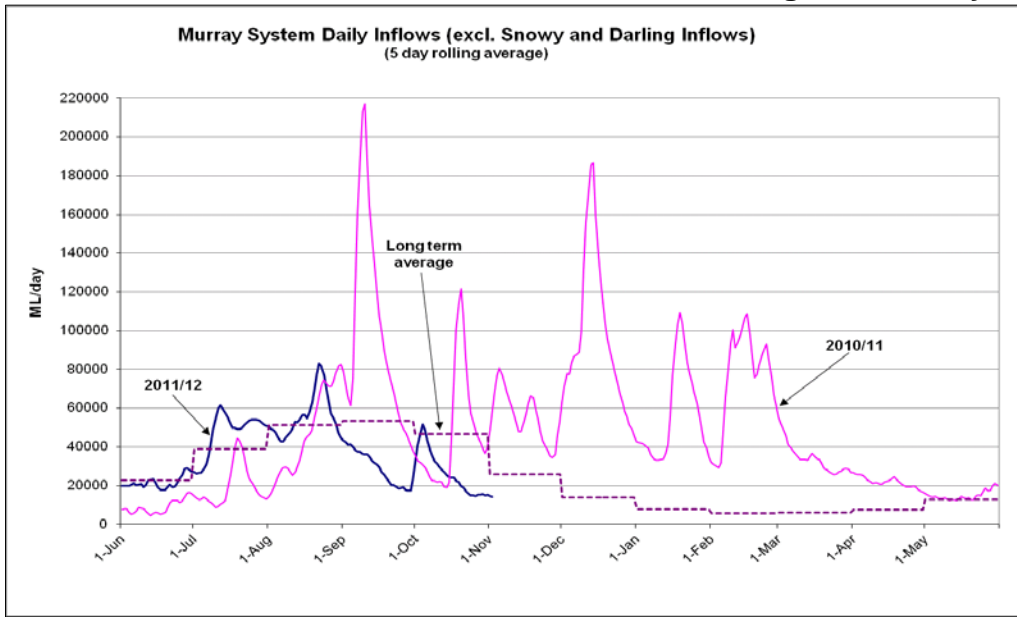
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.76
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## Barrages

## Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	7	Open	Open

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



**State Allocations (as at 02 Nov 2011)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	97%
General security	100%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	95%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	69%

**Victorian - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	100%
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/>

# Lower Darling River Flow advice



4 November 2011

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## Menindee Lakes release to increase soon

With summer approaching, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that transfers of water from Menindee Lakes to the River Murray can be expected to start later in November.

The transfer of water from the Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria will supplement flow in the River Murray to supply water entitlements in, and trade deliveries to, South Australia. The transfer will also assist in maintaining high water storage levels in Lake Victoria and ensures that MDBA meets the normal operational requirement to have Menindee Lakes below full supply level by the end of December.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently being increased and is expected to approach full supply level in the coming week. Thereafter, with higher demands and diminishing tributary inflows to the Murray, it is expected that the level in Lake Victoria will begin to fall.

This will then be the optimum time to commence transfers from Menindee Lakes as it will minimise the risk of this water spilling from Lake Victoria. Delaying releases could result in additional evaporation loss from Menindee Lakes.

In future flow advices, MDBA will provide specific details of commencement dates, flow rates and expected river levels in the Lower Darling River. However, at this stage, it can be anticipated that initial target flow rates will be in the order of 5,000 to 7,000 ML/day at Weir 32.

Releases may change in response to weather and demand conditions as well as the possibility of higher inflows from the upper reaches of the Darling River.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account any announced increase in flow rates along the lower Darling River and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

MDBA will provide regular updates over the coming summer period.

ENDS

**For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141. For other information contact MDBA at [inquiries@mdba.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0100.**

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