



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

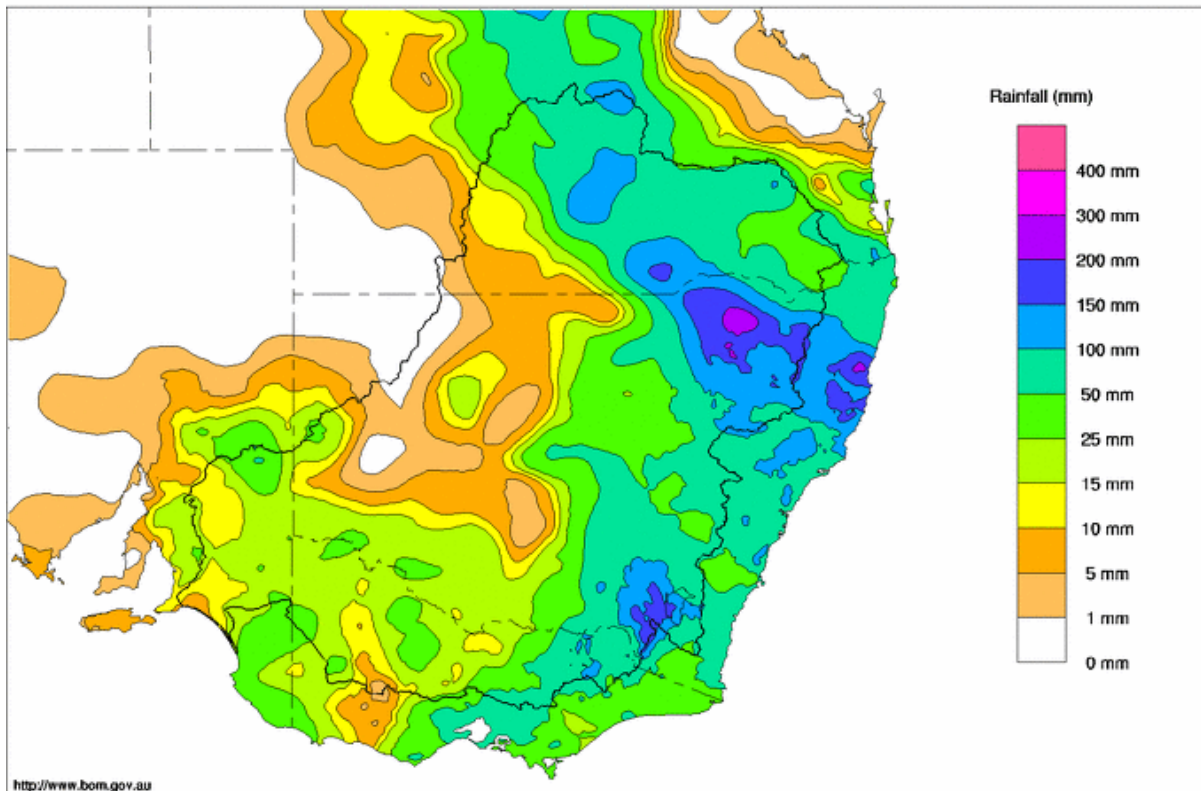
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2011

Trim Ref: D11/36533

## Rainfall and Inflows

A trough over eastern Australia combined with an upper atmosphere disturbance to bring persistent rain across a wide area of the eastern Murray-Darling Basin during the last week. The event began late in the previous week and continued over several days before clearing during Saturday. By Sunday morning, there had been considerable accumulations in many areas, with the northern NSW slopes and ranges particularly affected (Map 1). Across the mid to upper Gwydir, Barwon, McIntyre, Namoi and Peel River catchments there were very large totals, although precipitation was by no means restricted to these areas. In south-eastern NSW and the ACT there was also considerable rain recorded, with totals topped up late in the week by intense thunderstorms generated as another trough moved in to the region.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 30th November 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 30 November 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Some of the heaviest rainfall was recorded in the Gwydir catchment, with several stations totalling in excess of 200 mm, including 252 mm at Pallamallawa and 197 mm at Moree. Interestingly the Gwydir catchment was – until now – one of the few areas in the Basin to largely miss out on the heavy rain that has fallen during 2010 and 2011. Other notable weekly totals included 186 mm at Glen Innes, 162 mm at Wee Waa and 159 mm at Narrabri; while further south there was 212 mm at Tidbinbilla, 167 mm at Mt Ginini, 163 mm at Cabramurra, totals over 100 mm across the Snowy Mountains and further good falls in north-eastern Victoria including 159 mm at Mt Buffalo and 128 mm at Mt Hotham.

As the rain continued, river levels climbed steeply in several Barwon-Darling tributaries and widespread flooding developed in several northern catchments. Peak instantaneous flows on the Gwydir River exceeded 200,000 ML/day at several gauges, with flows above 100,000 ML/day



recorded on both the Namoi and McIntyre Rivers. These floodwaters are expected to move steadily towards the Barwon-Darling system over the coming weeks, and updates on their downstream flow impacts will be provided in future weekly reports as the situation becomes clearer, particularly as some further rain is forecast. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

Further south in the Basin, there were good streamflow responses in both the upper Murray and the Murrumbidgee systems. On the River Murray, the flow at Bringenbrong peaked at 11,500 ML/day and is now flowing at 6,800 ML/day, while downstream at Jingellic, the flow began the week at 3,900 ML/day, reached a peak of 16,300 ML/day, and is now flowing at 13,100 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point increased from 1,300 ML/day to a peak of 10,900 ML/day before receding to 3,300 ML/day. On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Wagga Wagga peaked at over 25,000 ML/day.

## River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 14 GL during the week to 7,454 GL (87% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the total storage increased by 24 GL to 2,913 GL, which is 76% capacity. The release remained steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir the storage continued to fall away in the first half of the week before the rain resulted in higher inflows, a decrease in the release and a small rebound in the storage level. By week's end, the net result was a 2 GL decrease in volume to 2,735 GL (91% capacity). The current release is 7,300 ML/day, down from 19,000 ML/d at the start of the week. Unless there is further rain, the release should be gradually increased again over the coming days to meet irrigation demand.

At Lake Mulwala, the pool level is currently 124.82 m AHD. Diversions to the Yarrawonga Main Canal were reduced during the week, averaging around 550 ML/day; while diversions to Mulwala Canal also decreased – from an average of 3,600 ML/day last week to around 2,900 ML/day this week. The release through Yarrawonga Weir increased to a peak of 21,500 ML/d during the week, as decreasing diversions and high inflows from the Ovens River added additional water to the system. The release is currently 17,500 ML/day and expected to continue decreasing back to a target of 11,000 ML/day by the middle of next week. This release is being targeted to supply environmental entitlements that are maintaining over-bank flows to the Barmah-Millewa forest.

On the Edward-Wakool system, diversion through the Edward Offtake remained steady at 1,660 ML/day during the week. At the Gulpa Offtake the gates are out of the water and the flow increased slightly as higher flows from the Murray arrived. However, as the flow from Yarrawonga increased further, all forest regulators have been opened resulting in a slight easing in Gulpa Offtake inflows over the last two days. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the release increased from 1,500 to 2,300 ML/day and the pool is currently at 4.95 m. On the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite was relatively steady through the week at around 3,200 ML/day and should recede slightly over the coming week.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 4,600 ML/day. The flow is expected to stay above 4,000 ML/day over the next few days due to tributary inflows and continuing environmental releases, before falling back toward 3,000 ML/day by the end of the week.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to National Channel has been averaging just over 2,000 ML/day during the past week. Flow downstream of the weir has increased from around 11,100 to 11,800 ML/day during the week and is expected to fall away slightly over the coming week. Further downstream, the inflow from the Murrumbidgee River peaked at around 4,100 ML/day early in the week, but has now dropped back to around 2,000 ML/day. Higher inflows from the Murrumbidgee resulting from this week's rain are expected during mid December.

Downstream at Euston, the flow increased as expected during the week, and is currently at 15,000 ML/day. The flow is now expected to reduce to about 13,000 ML/day over the coming week.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water advised today that the Mildura weir pool is planned to be fully drawn down for up to two months next winter to allow for essential maintenance to be undertaken. Further information about this is provided in the attached media release.



At Menindee Lakes, the total storage decreased by 18 GL, however the lakes remain surcharged at 1,816 GL (105% capacity). The release, measured at Weir 32 is currently around 750 ML/day and will continue rising to around 2,000 ML/day over the coming week as releases to transfer water to the Murray commence. These relatively small releases will also ensure that Menindee Lakes are drawn down to Full Supply Level by the end of December.

The storage in Lake Victoria increased by 10 GL to 664 GL (98% capacity). The Lake level is currently 26.90 m AHD. In the coming week the Lake level will initially be increased to around 26.95 m AHD before falling away as releases increase to supplement the flow to South Australia. Flow to South Australia averaged 8,750 ML/day this week. Flow during December is expected to gradually increase to around 14,500 ML/day due to delivery of environmental water released from the Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers and a small increase in entitlement flow.

The average level in the Lower Lakes fell by 4 centimetres over the week and is currently 0.68 m AHD. The rate of fall was slowed by around 3 centimetres of rain falling on the Lake. Flow out the barrages averaged around 4,200 ML/day.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 30 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	470.37	2 913	76%	71	2 842	+24
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.62	2 735	91%	23	2 712	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.85	664	98%	100	564	+10
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 816	105%	(480 #)	1 336	-18
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 128</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 454</b>	<b>+14</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							87% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	962	94%	3	959	+51
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 511	93%	24	1 487	+46
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 267	98%	100	3 167	-4

\* 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 29 Nov 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 956	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	274
Snowy-Murray Component	660	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+12	215
Target Storage	1 450		Net Diversion	-12	60
			Murray 1 Release	+15	553

**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)	22.1	434	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.8	99
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-2	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.3	200
Western Murray Irrigation	0.4	7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	30
Licensed Pumps	4.2	74	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	11
Lower Darling	0.3	24	Licensed pumps - LMW	6	81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>421</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	61.3
Flow so far this month	296.7
Flow last month	502.6

(8 800 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	130	140
Euston	150	140	130
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	150	160	120
Burtundy (Darling)	420	410	370
Lock 9	170	160	130
Lake Victoria	220	220	200
Berri	320	310	210
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	350	350	250
Mannum	350	350	250
Murray Bridge	310	290	230
Milang (Lake Alex.)	370	470	530
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	330	330	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 300	5 360	5 590
Goolwa Barrages	1 440	700	1 280



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 30 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	-	-	-	6 860	F	4 810	1 670
Jingellic	4.0	2.62	209.14	13 140	F	9 890	4 540
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.78	218.67	1 440	F	1 310	870
Heywoods	5.5	2.21	155.84	7 260	F	12 980	15 380
Doctors Point	5.5	2.75	151.22	11 690	F	16 070	17 480
Albury	4.3	1.72	149.16	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.13	129.15	14 170	F	17 810	14 710
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.73	117.77	18 990	F	17 480	11 540
Tocumwal	6.4	3.44	107.28	19 290	R	15 670	10 800
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.62	82.17	11 850	S	11 440	10 850
Swan Hill	4.5	2.06	64.98	10 620	R	10 240	8 230
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.31	53.43	14 350	F	13 940	11 370
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.67	44.51	15 070	S	14 020	9 180
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	15 300	F	12 970	9 430
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.40	28.16	12 850	F	11 060	7 650
Rufus Junction	-	3.87	20.80	8 490	R	7 880	8 090
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.02	-	7 540	F	7 570	7 180
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.85	156.08	4 650	R	3 220	1 860
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.66	147.34	5 680	F	4 920	1 860
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.35	94.77	4 640	F	5 520	5 570
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.20	81.98	2 300	F	1 680	1 760
Edward at Liewah	-	2.72	58.10	2 190	F	2 350	2 320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.60	55.09	770	F	800	690
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.44	58.40	2 050	F	3 220	1 670
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.69	-	11 000	S	6 340	400
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 430	F	1 690	2 000
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	240	S	320	480

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	13 880	8 430
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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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.59
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.00	+0.29
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.57	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.04
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.76	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.08	+0.52
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.17	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.45
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+0.34	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.27

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

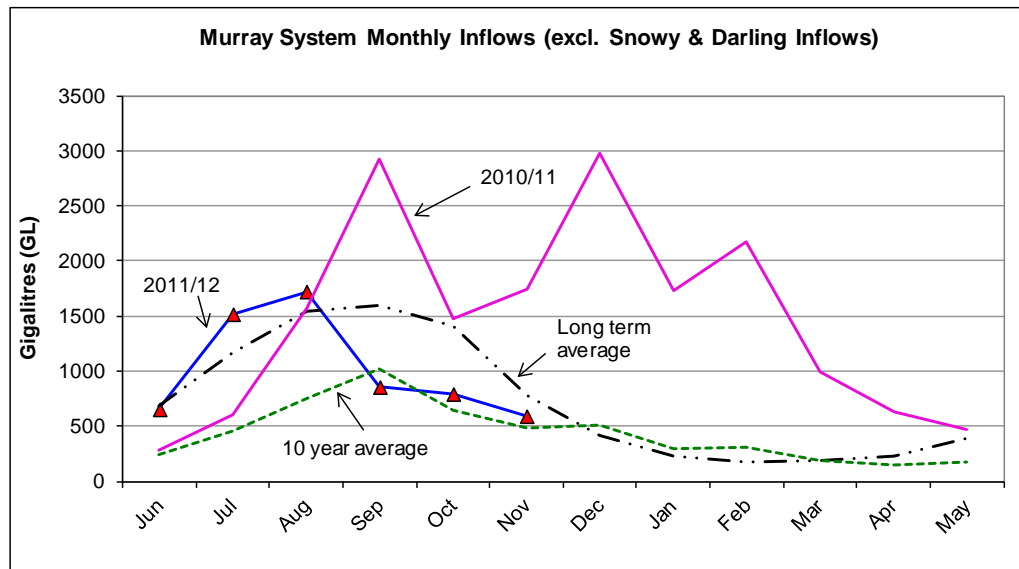
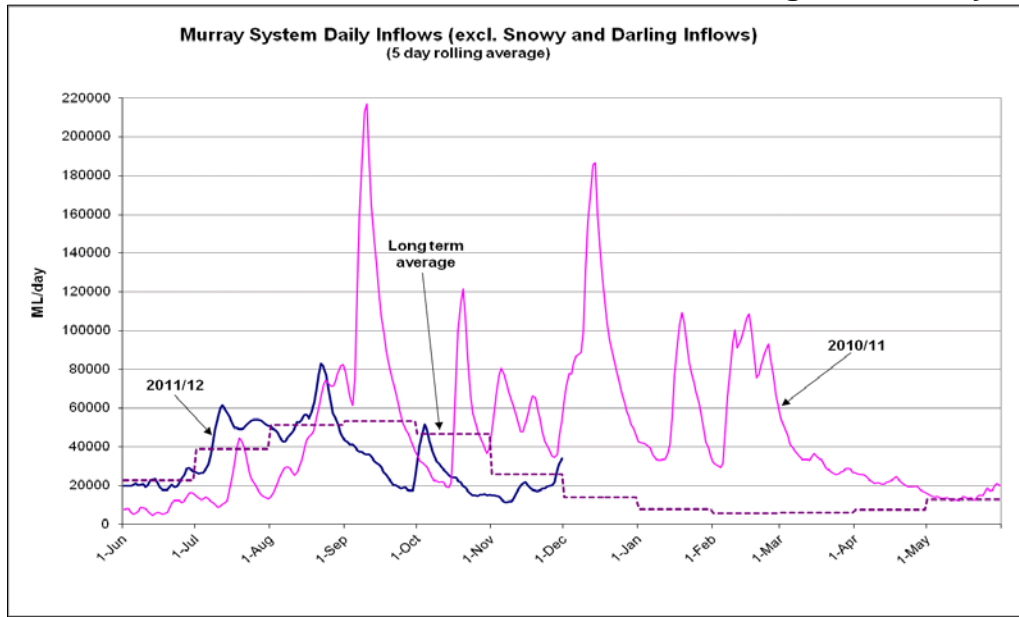
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.68
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.41	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.47	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.39	5	Open	Open

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



### State Allocations (as at 30 Nov 2011)

#### NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

#### Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

#### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	72%

#### 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/>

# MEDIA RELEASE



1 December 2011

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## Lowering of Mildura Weir pool next winter

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water advised today that the Mildura weir pool is planned to be fully drawn down for up to two months next winter to allow for essential maintenance to be undertaken.

The full drawdown of Mildura Weir pool (to about 3.6 m below full supply level, depending on river flows) is currently planned to commence in mid-May, after the 2012 UIM World Power Boat Championships. The precise timing and duration of the drawdown will take into account conditions at the time and input from river users.

The lock at Mildura will also be closed for this period and boat access through the weir will not be possible during this time.

When the remedial works are completed and the weir is reinstated, the weir pool will be raised back to full supply level by late July/early August 2012. If the works are completed earlier then the weir pool will be filled to the normal operating range at the earliest opportunity.

During the drawdown of Mildura Weir, interference with any habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic plants is prohibited.

Some increases in river salinity may occur during the drawdown, depending on flow rates at the time. River salinities will be continually monitored and available on the MDBA website.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels and the lock closure into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

Over the coming months, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water will issue further advice with more specific dates and details.

ENDS

**For more information contact the MDBA Media office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141 or Goulburn-Murray Water on 03 5833 5754.**

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