River Murray Weekly Report

For the week ending Wednesday, 14 May 2025

Trim Ref: D25/8949

Rainfall and inflows

Little to no rainfall was recorded across the Murray–Darling Basin this week. Minor rainfall was observed across parts of New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 1).

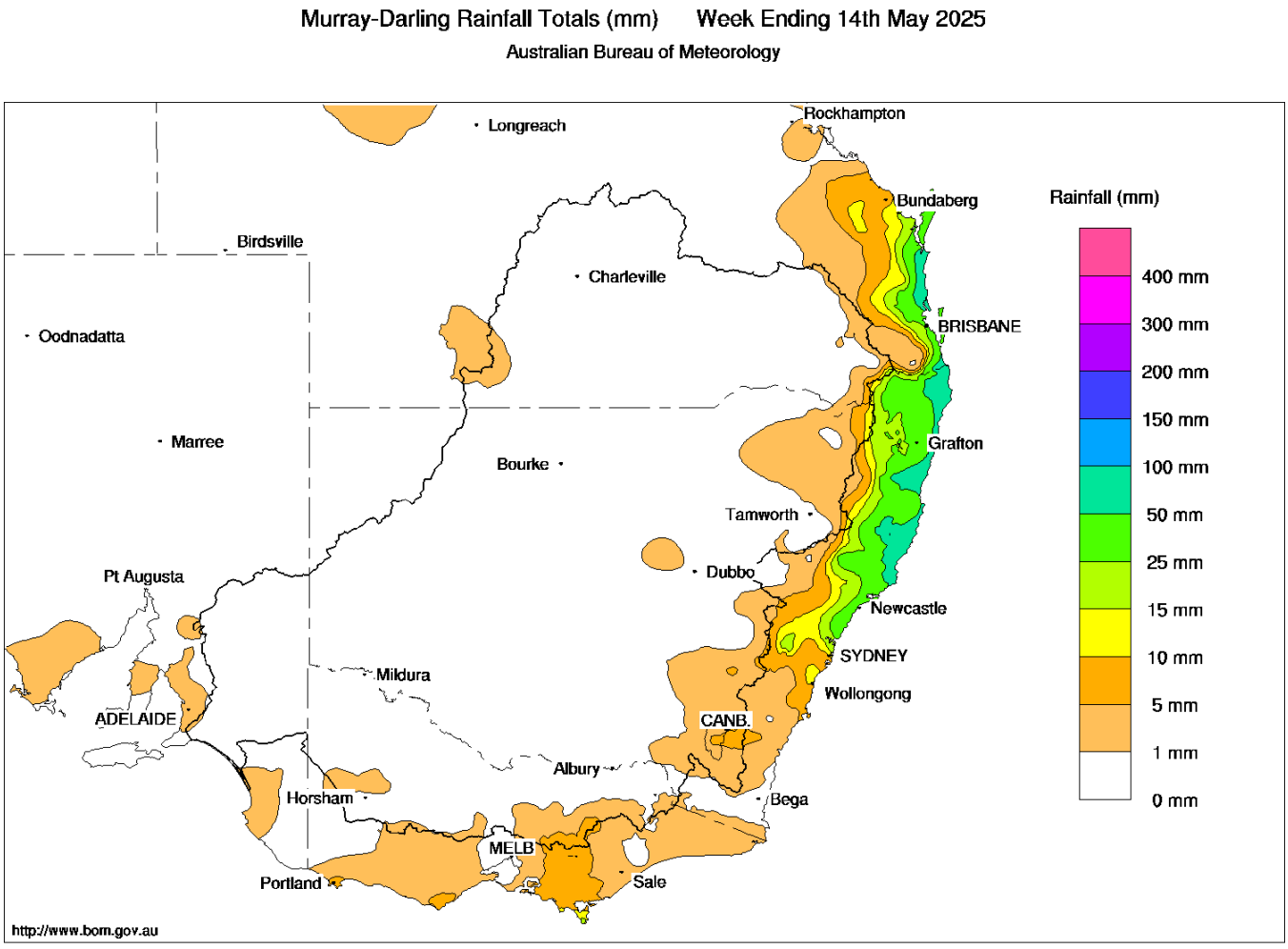

Figure 1: Rainfall totals across the Murray–Darling Basin for the week ending 14 May 2025 (Bureau of Meteorology)

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting rainfall totals of between 1 to 5 mm in parts of South Australia, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and central New South Wales. Higher rainfall ranging from 5 to 25 mm is forecast in parts of northern New South Wales and Queensland.

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River operations

- Transfers from Dartmouth Dam to Hume Dam scheduled to increase
- Inflows to Menindee Lakes increasing
- Storage in Lake Victoria increasing towards end May storage target

River Murray System update

With the irrigation season ending, releases from Hume Dam are now close to minimum flow requirements. The Inter Valley Trade (IVT) water from the Goulburn system called to assist with demands in the mid Murray is now concluding, and the Goulburn River will return to baseflows in coming weeks.

In managing the River Murray system, the MDBA is:

- Conserving water in upper Murray storages
- Continuing to balance the volume of water stored in Dartmouth and Hume storage
- Using water from Menindee Lakes to help meet system demands in the lower Murray, including refilling Lake Victoria to the end May target of 350 to 396 gigalitres (GL).

The MDBA reminds river users that River Murray levels downstream of Hume Dam to South Australia can vary and stakeholders are encouraged to review our River Data page and read the weekly report to keep up to date with current flows and river levels.

Water Quality

WaterNSW advises recreational blue-green algae (BGA) red alerts for Lake Menindee, with various other Menindee Lakes and Lower Darling (Baaka) sites indicating amber or green alerts. On the Murrumbidgee a red alert is current for Yanga Lake at Regatta Beach.

There remain numerous recreational BGA amber/green alerts in the River Murray from Lake Hume to the SA border.

Goulburn-Murray Water has issued recreational BGA alerts for central Victoria at Lake Eppalock, Hepburns Lagoon, and Newlyn, Tullaroop, Laanecoorie and Cairn Curran Reservoirs, and in the north at Lake Boga.

SA Health has issued a recreational BGA alert for the Goolwa Channel (Point Sturt to Goolwa Barrage) and advise of a marine algal bloom close to the Murray Mouth which can travel depending on conditions.

Further general information is available at Water quality threats | Murray–Darling Basin Authority (mdba.gov.au).

River operations

At **Dartmouth Dam**, the storage reduced by 42 GL over the week and is now at 75% capacity. The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, is currently targeting around 9,275 megalitres per day (ML/day). Releases are being varied to better mimic natural variability in the Mitta Mitta River while transferring enough volume to Hume Dam to meet the objectives of:

- balancing risk of spill in Dartmouth and Hume storages should conditions over winter and spring 2025 turn wet and,
- meeting system demands downstream of Hume in 2025-26 should conditions remain dry.

Communities, landholders, and river users along the Mitta Mitta River are encouraged to continue to monitor water levels in the coming weeks. For more information, see the Mitta Mitta flow advice and the forecast for flows at the Coleman's gauge on the MDBA website.

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Hume Dam storage increased by 21 GL to 679 GL (23% capacity). The release was gradually reduced from 9,000 ML/day to 5,000 ML/day in response to diversions at major irrigation off-takes ceasing on 15 May.

Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.68 m AHD and within the normal operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD). Diversions at Mulwala Canal varied this week and averaged around 2,200 ML/day, while at Yarrawonga Main Channel diversions slightly decreased to 1,500 ML/day. Diversions at both major offtakes are expected to cease in coming days.

The release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir remained steady at 4,000 ML/day and will continue to be maintained around this higher base flow during May on behalf of environmental water holders for the benefit of native fish along the length of the Murray. The additional release from Hume Dam to maintain this flow rate above the operational requirement downstream of Yarrawonga Weir will be debited from environmental water holder accounts and delivered to South Australia.

Figure 2: River Murray near King's Billabong (Photo: K. Shanahan)

Flow through the **Kolety** (pronounced Kol-etch)/**Edward River offtake** and **Gulpa Creek offtake** eased this week as the level in the River Murray reduced. Downstream on the Kolety, inflows from the Edward Escape ceased as irrigation demands at Wakool Canal remained low and delivery of higher flows into Yallakool and Colligen Creeks, the Wakool River and the Kolety downstream of Steven's Weir on behalf of environmental water holders have concluded.

Inflow to the Murray from the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoy's Bridge, has steadily decreased to base flow after a small IVT pulse was delivered. Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray systems is available at the Victorian Water Register website and the Goulburn-Murray Water website.

At **Torrumbarry Weir,** the diversion to **National Channel** is around 800 ML/day and expected to remain around this rate until 15 May when irrigation diversions cease. The flow downstream of **Torrumbarry Weir** averaged 5,800 ML/day and is likely to decrease over the coming week.

On the **Murrumbidgee River**, the flow at Balranald peaked around 1,500 ML/day to deliver a flow pulse on behalf of environmental water holders. This flow pulse has now concluded with a recession to base flow underway. The Murrumbidgee IVT account balance is currently 10.1 GL and trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

At **Euston Weir**, the weir pool level has been lowered to vary within the range of 20 to 30 cm below the full supply level (FSL) as part of the weir pool variability program. Varying pool levels helps restore a more natural wetting and drying cycle to riverbanks and adjacent wetlands within the influence of the weir. The flow at Euston Weir decreased to around 8,900 ML/day this week and will continue to fall over the coming days.

Figure 3: River Murray at Mildura (Photo: B. Vagnarelli)

Upstream of the **Menindee Lakes**, there is currently a minor flood warning for the Darling River. The main flood peak has passed Tilpa recording 32,250 ML/day and is now approaching Wilcannia with a current flow of 25,250 ML/day and rising. The latest WaterNSW forecast (issued 15 May) indicates a further 275 to 675 GL of inflow is expected to the Menindee Lakes from this event, with around 525 GL having arrived so far.

The storage volume at the Menindee Lakes increased by 124 GL this week to 884 GL (51% capacity). The renewed inflows have provided the MDBA the opportunity to call additional water from the Lakes to meet demands in the River Murray during autumn, conserving water in Hume and Dartmouth Dams. The release from the Menindee Lakes, measured at **Weir 32**, has decreased to 1,840 ML/day and will continue to reduce gradually over coming days.

Operational releases from Lake Cawndilla to the River Murray via the Great Darling Anabranch (GDA) continued around 700 ML/day through the week. The additional loss associated with delivering water to the Murray via the GDA compared with delivering it to the Murray via Weir 32 and the Lower Darling (Baaka) is being debited from environmental water holder entitlements. Delivering operational water via the GDA benefits native fish and maximises use of water stored in Lake Cawndilla/Menindee. The release from Lake Cawndilla will cease in the coming days. Further information can be found here WaterNSW.

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Figure 4: River Murray and Darling (Baaka) Junction (Photo: C.Tuohy)

The storage at **Lake Victoria** increased by 43 GL to 298 GL (44% capacity). Over the remainder of May, the volume in Lake Victoria will be managed to meet the end of May target of between 350 GL to 396 GL in the lake in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy (LVOS) and the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement.

At **Locks 7 and 8**, the weir pool levels are currently lowered as part of the weir pool variability program. The Lock 8 pool level is being varied within the range of around 5 to 20 cm below FSL whilst the Lock 7 pool level will vary between FSL and down to around 50 cm below FSL.

The **flow to South Australia** is currently targeting 5,000 ML/day. This is above the normal May entitlement volume of 3,000 ML/day with water being delivered to South Australia from the Darling River, Murrumbidgee and Loddon Rivers on behalf of environmental water holders.

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is approximately 0.61 m AHD. For further information about water levels, flow rates and barrage operations along the River Murray in South Australia see the South Australian Department for Environment and Water weekly River Murray Flow Report and the Water Data SA website.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

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Australian Government | Murray–Darling Basin Authority

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 14 May 2025

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	469.99	2892	75%	71	2821	-42
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	175.60	679	23%	23	657	21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.54	298	44%	100	198	43
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		884	51%	(480) #	404	124
Total		**9 269**		**4754**	**51%**	- -	**4080**	**146**
Total Active MDBA Storage							**47%^**	

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL ** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

\# NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Major State Storages

NSW: https://www.waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/dam-levels

VIC: https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storages

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (Baaka).

NSW: WaterInsights - WaterNSW

VIC: Water Measurement Information System

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 13 May 2025

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2024
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1470	-36	Snowy-Murray	30	45
Snowy-Murray Component	618	131	Tooma-Tumut	0	0
Target Storage	1290		Net Diversion	30	45
			Murray 1 Release	37	47

Flow to South Australia (GL)

* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to environmental flows.

Entitlement this month	93.0*
Flow this week	32.4
Flow so far this month	68.8
Flow last month	220.9

(4,600 ML/day)

Salinity (EC)

List view | River Murray data (mdba.gov.au)

River Levels and Flows

List view | River Murray data (mdba.gov.au)

SA Water – River Murray reports

https://www.sawater.com.au/water-and-the-environment/south-australias-water-sources/river-sources/river-reports-daily-flow

Water Data SA – Barrage flow summary

https://water.data.sa.gov.au/Data/Dashboard/41

State Allocations (as at 14 May 2025)

NSW State Allocations (%)

Location	High Security	General Security
Murray Valley	100	110
Murrumbidgee Valley	95	39
Lower Darling (Baaka)	100	100

VIC State Allocations (%)

Location	High Reliability	Low Reliability
Murray Valley	100	0
Goulburn Valley	100	0

SA State Allocations (%)

Location	High Security
Murray Valley	100

NSW: https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/summary

VIC: http://nvrm.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current

SA: https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation

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