River Murray Weekly Report

For the week ending Wednesday, 16 Apr 2025

Trim Ref: D25/6890

Rainfall and inflows

Little or no rainfall was recorded across the Murray–Darling Basin this week (Figure 1).

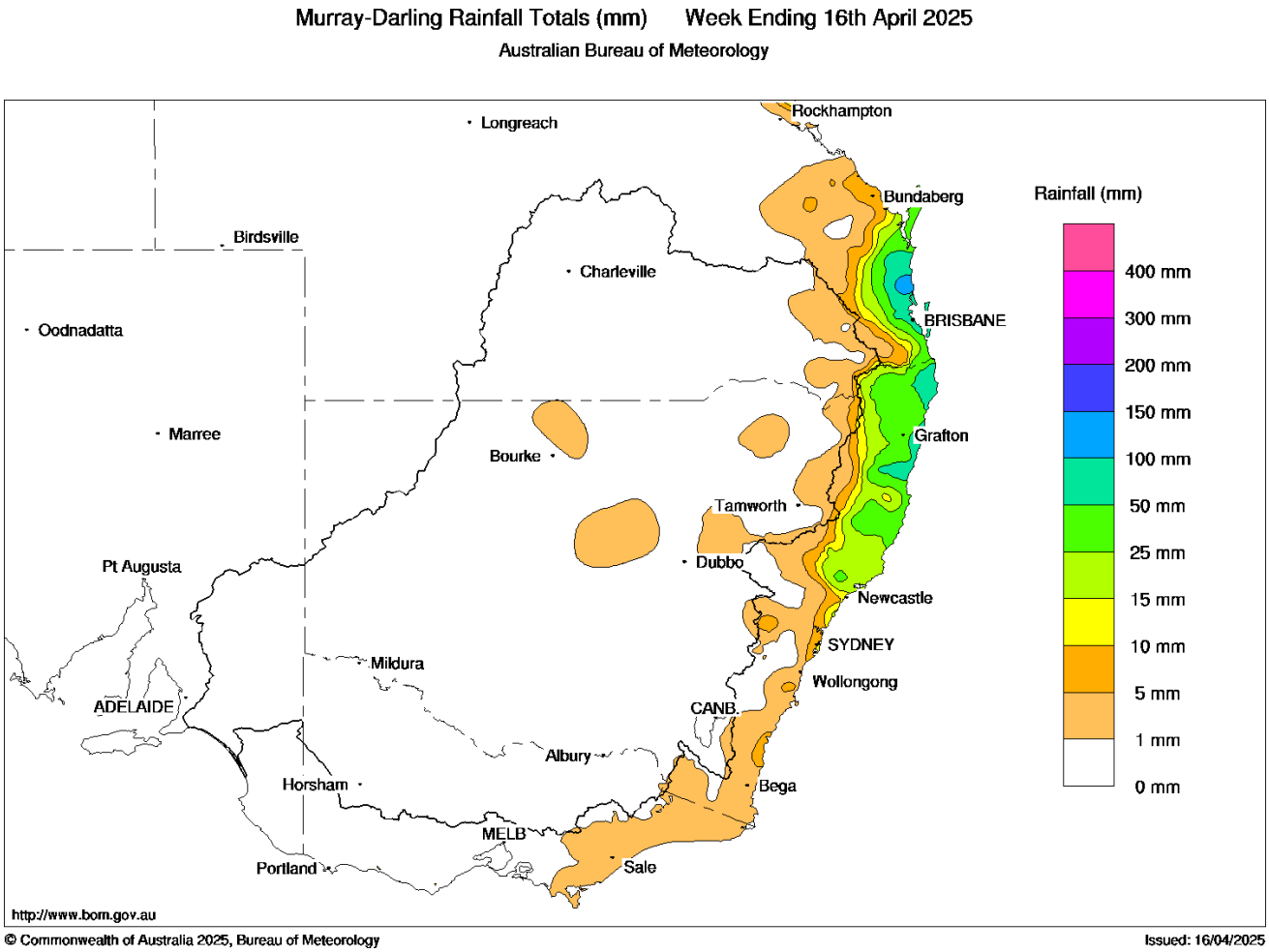

Figure 1: Rainfall totals across the Murray–Darling Basin for the week ending 16 April 2025 (Bureau of Meteorology)

The Bureau of Meteorology's 8-day rainfall forecast is indicating totals of between 5 to 25 mm could fall over the upper Murray catchment with around 5 to 10 mm also forecast over the mid Murray irrigation areas.

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River operations

- Bulk Transfers from Dartmouth to Hume continue at lower rates
- Irrigation demands at Lake Mulwala remain relatively high
- Release to the lower Darling/Baaka increases as higher inflows arrive at Menindee Lakes

River Murray System update

Conditions along the River Murray have been warm and dry in autumn with Murray System inflows continuing to track below the long-term average. This is in contrast to higher flows and flooding in the northern Basin following significant rainfall in late March and early April. While it is still early in the progression of these flows downstream, creating a high level of uncertainty, WaterNSW are currently forecasting that Menindee Lakes are expected to receive approximately 600 to 1,000 gigalitres of inflows over the coming months in response to this rain event.

With MDBA now forecast to have access to the Menindee Lakes for longer than previously anticipated, the strategy for meeting system demands in April and May has been adjusted. To help meet River Murray system demands, the MDBA is:

- Increasing the call on water from the Menindee Lakes
- Continuing to call Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) water from the Goulburn system
- Delivering water downstream of Yarrawonga Weir at rates below the channel capacity of the Barmah–Millewa reach
- Continuing to transfer water from Dartmouth to Hume Dam, but at reduced rates.

During the Easter holiday period MBDA will look to maintain steady flows as much as possible and expect river levels will be similar to those experienced last year at most locations. Further information is provided in this media release. However, 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 Murray 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 under BGA amber/green alerts.

There remain numerous BGA amber/green alerts in the River Murray from Lake Hume to the SA border, and multiple sites on the adjoining Edward–Wakool also at BGA amber/green alert levels.

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

There are no SA Basin recreational BGA alerts, however SA Health advise a marine algal bloom close to the Murray Mouth which could travel depending on weather and water conditions.

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

River operations

At **Dartmouth Dam**, the storage decreased by 43 GL over the week to 3,026 GL (78% capacity). Releases, measured at the Colemans gauge, were gradually reduced and are expected to be around 4,500 megalitres/day over the coming week. Flows are being varied to better mimic natural variability in the Mitta Mitta River while transferring enough volume to Hume Dam to meet 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 continue dry.

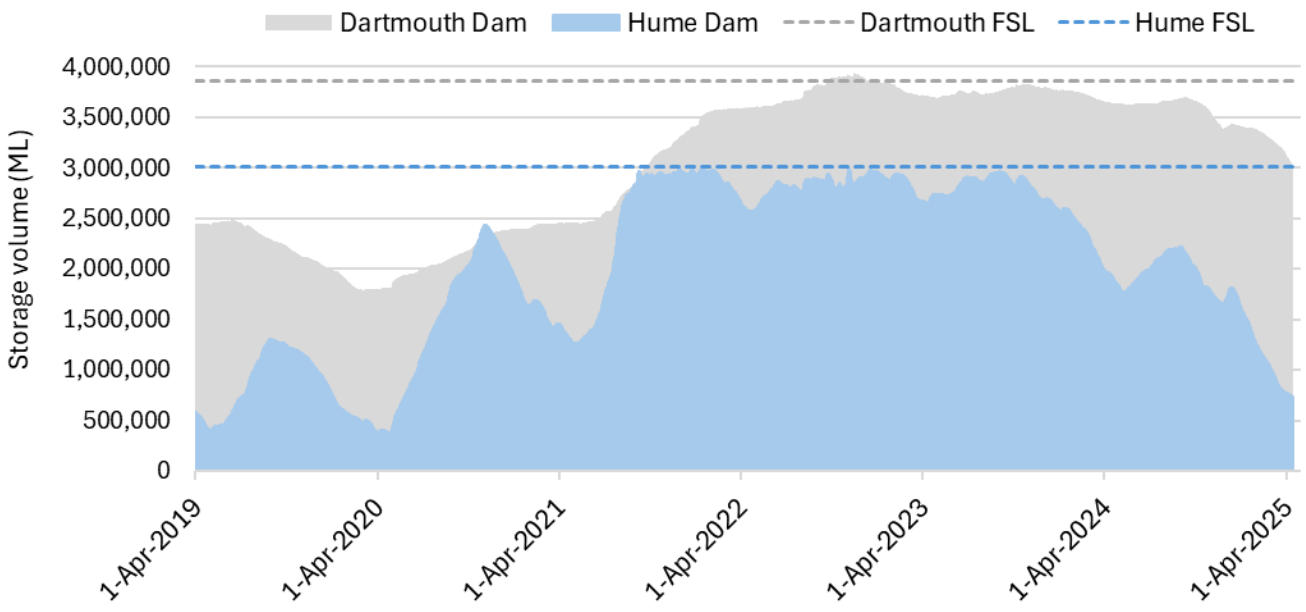

Figure 2: Storage volumes at Dartmouth and Hume dams in 2025 compared with recent years

Hume Dam storage reduced by 29 GL to 727 GL (24% capacity) and is at its lowest level since May 2020 (Figure 2). In comparison to previous years when Hume storage was low, the current volume is around 330 GL higher than the volume in mid-April 2020 and around 230 GL higher than the volume in mid-April 2019. Releases from Hume Dam averaged around 14,100 ML/day this week, remaining relatively steady in response to continuing higher irrigation demands at the major irrigation off-takes.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the diversion at Mulwala Canal averaged 5,000 ML/day, well above the rate for the same period in 2023 and 2024 (Figure 3). Yarrawonga Main Channel diversions also remained relatively high, averaging around 1,300 ML/day during the week (Figure 4).

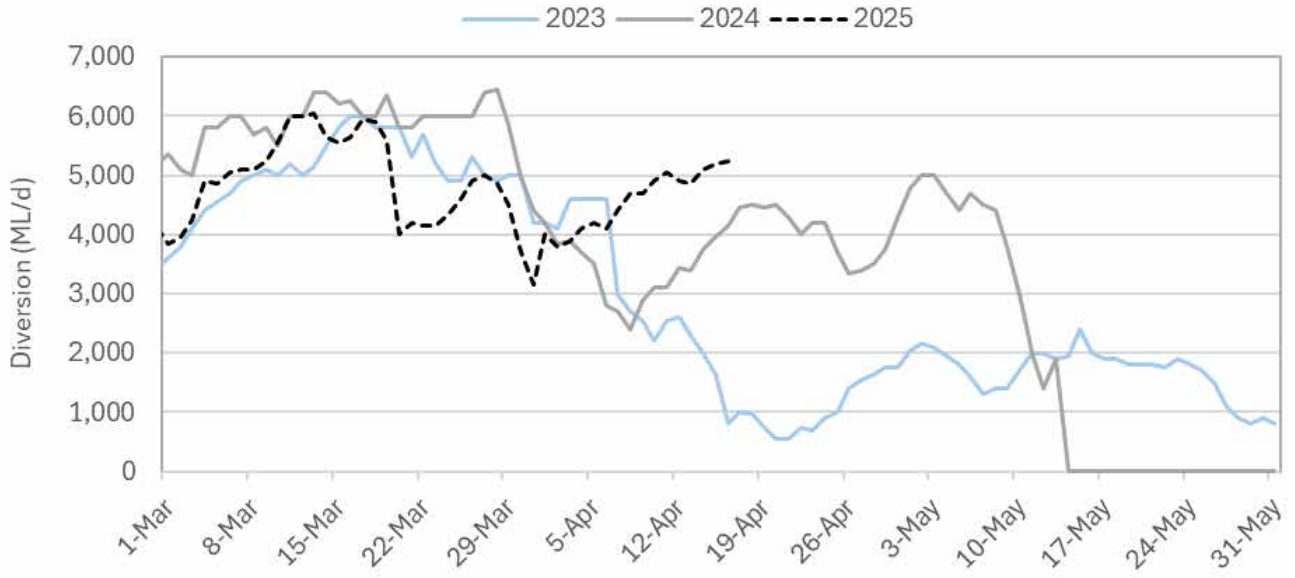

Figure 3: Diversion to Mulwala Canal in autumn 2025 compared with recent years

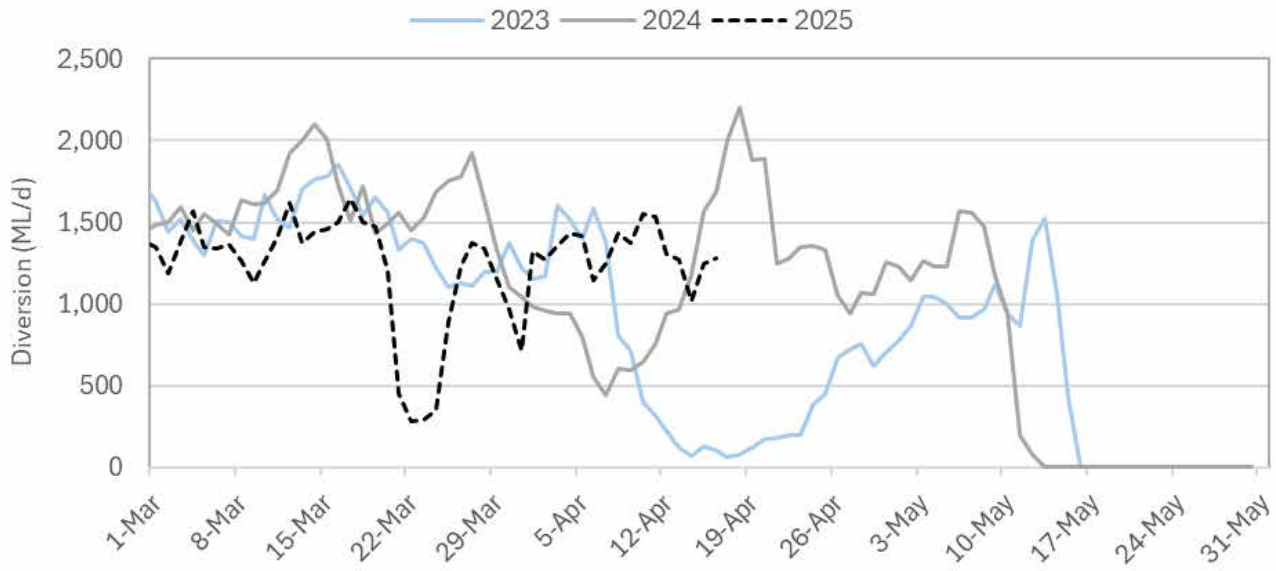

Figure 4: Diversion to Yarrawonga Main Channel (YMC) in autumn 2025 compared with recent years

The release downstream of Yarrawonga is around 7,200 ML/day. This is about 1,700 ML/day less than the release rate that delivers flow at the channel capacity of the Barmah–Millewa reach (previously referred to as the Choke) when forest regulators are closed.

Flow through the **Kolety** (pronounced Kol-etch)/**Edward River offtake** and **Gulpa Creek offtake** remained steady around their maximum regulated capacities. Downstream on the Kolety, flows are being boosted by inflows from Edward Escape to help meet irrigation and environmental demands in the Kolety/Edward–Wakool system. Environmental demands include maintaining higher flows in Yallakool and Colligen Creeks, the Wakool River and the Kolety downstream of Steven's Weir. The higher flows aim to help improve the condition of native fish populations by improving water quality and productivity (inundating benches and riverbanks to provide more food) and also providing opportunities for fish dispersal.

Inflow to the Murray from the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoy's Bridge, averaged around 850 ML/day. This flow includes IVT water to help meet Murray system demands and will target around 1,100 ML/day for the remainder of the month. 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** remained around 2,200 ML/day through the week. The flow downstream of **Torrumbarry Weir** continued to recede to around 4,000 ML/day and is forecast to ease further in the coming week.

On the **Murrumbidgee River**, the flow at Balranald receded to 740 ML/day. The flow is expected to increase over the coming week to around 1,000 ML/day with delivery of water on behalf of environmental water holders. The Murrumbidgee IVT account balance is currently 16.8 GL. Trade to the Murray from the Murrumbidgee is open.

At **Euston Weir**, the weir pool level is being lowered to vary within the range of 20 to 30 cm below FSL over the coming months 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.

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Figure 5: River Murray downstream of Mildura (Photo courtesy of Claire Milne)

Upstream of **Menindee Lakes**, flood warnings are current for the Barwon, Darling, Culgoa, Bokhara, Warrego and Paroo Rivers. As reported earlier, preliminary WaterNSW forecasting indicates approximately 600 to 1,000 GL of inflow to Menindee Lakes.

At Menindee Lakes the storage volume reduced by 31 GL to 538 GL (31% capacity). Inflows to the Lakes are now increasing, with the flow at Wilcannia reaching around 5,600 ML/day this week and expected to continue rising over the coming weeks. These renewed inflows have provided the opportunity for the MDBA to call additional water from Menindee Lakes to meet demands in the Murray during autumn, conserving water in Hume and Dartmouth Dams. The release from Menindee Lakes, measured at **Weir 32**, is currently increasing to target 3,000 ML/day.

Operational releases from Lake Cawndilla to the River Murray via the Great Darling Anabranch (GDA) are continuing at around 700 ML/day. 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 storage at **Lake Victoria** increased by 14 GL over the last week to 234 GL (35% capacity). Over the remainder of autumn, 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. Lock 8 pool level is being varied within the range of around 5 to 20 cm below FSL whilst Lock 7 pool level will vary between FSL and down to around 50 cm below FSL.

The **flow to South Australia** averaged 7,300 ML/day over the past week and will target 7,500 ML/day over the coming week with water continuing to be delivered on behalf of environmental water holders.

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The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is approximately 0.57 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

JACQUI HICKEY
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Australian Government

Murray–Darling Basin Authority

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 16 Apr 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	472.39	3026	78%	71	2955	-43
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	176.12	727	24%	23	704	-29
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.86	234	35%	100	134	14
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		538	31%	(480) #	58	-31
Total		**9 269**		**4525**	**49%**	- -	**3851**	**-90**
Total Active MDBA Storage							**45%^**	

* 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.

NSW: WaterInsights - WaterNSW

VIC: Water Measurement Information System

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15 Apr 2025

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2024
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1591	-33	Snowy–Murray	17	800
Snowy–Murray Component	500	-18	Tooma–Tumut	0	149
Target Storage	1340		Net Diversion	17	651
			Murray 1 Release	17	938

Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	135.0*
Flow this week	50.8
Flow so far this month	119.8
Flow last month	246.1

(7,300 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 16 Apr 2025)

NSW State Allocations (%)

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