River Murray Weekly Report

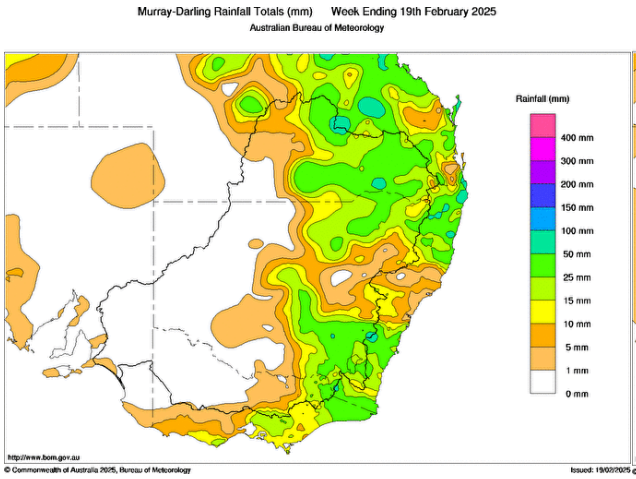
For the week ending Wednesday, 19 Feb 2025

Trim Ref: D25/3309

Rainfall and inflows

This week, modest rainfall occurred across some eastern parts of the Murray–Darling Basin (Figure 1). However, for much of the western Basin, no rainfall occurred. Notable New South Wales (NSW) rainfall totals for the week includes 28 mm at Tumbarumba and 33 mm at Jingellic. In Victoria, rainfall totals included 33 mm at Gibbo River Park and 30 mm at Hunters Hill.

Since the beginning of 2025, minimal rainfall has been recorded across much of western Victoria, western NSW and South Australia (Figure 2).



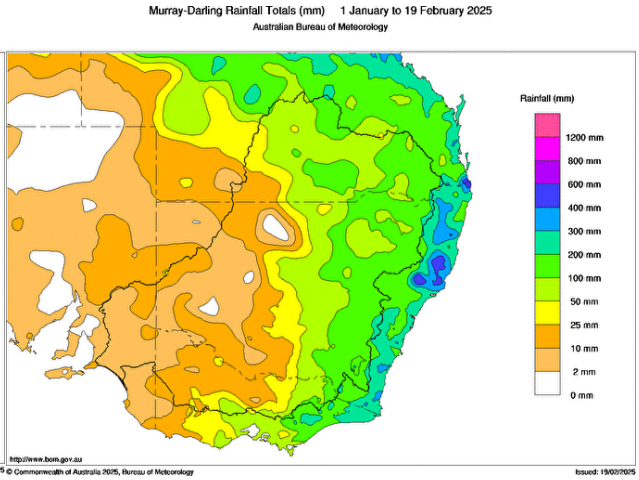


Figure 1 Rainfall totals across the Murray–Darling Basin for the week ending 19 February 2025. Figure 2 Rainfall totals across the Murray–Darling Basin since 1 January 2025 to 19 February 2025 (Bureau of Meteorology).

The Bureau forecasts minimal rain in the 8-day outlook.

River operations

- Bulk transfers from Dartmouth to Hume continue in February
- Releases from Menindee Lakes continue
- Risk of delivery shortfall remains low for the coming week

River Murray System update

Murray System inflows continue to track below the monthly long-term average for the 2024-25 water year, resulting in little change to system operations this week. Transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Dam, at rates between 2,500 megalitres per day (ML/day) and 5,900 ML/day, are expected throughout February. The release from Hume Dam averaged around 13,000 ML/day across the week.

Further down the system, Lake Victoria storage levels remain healthy for this time of year, enabling a reduction in transfers being made through the Murray Irrigation Ltd (MIL) system.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has continued calling water from the Menindee Lakes to meet River Murray System demands. The MDBA continues calling Inter Valley Transfers (IVT) from the Goulburn System at to support system demands throughout summer and autumn.

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

Water demand

The MDBA continues to actively monitor shortfall risks. A shortfall occurs when water cannot be delivered to users when and where it is needed. A ***delivery shortfall*** occurs when actual water use downstream is higher than it was forecast to be when river water was released from storages, weeks earlier, to meet the forecast needs for irrigation and environmental water. A ***system shortfall*** occurs when the combined capacity of the system is unable to supply all downstream requirements over the full season. More information about shortfalls can be found at Water demand and shortfalls | Murray–Darling Basin Authority (mdba.gov.au).

The risk of a ***delivery shortfall*** in the River Murray between Wakool Junction and the SA border over the coming week is low. The MDBA is continuing to monitor weather conditions and forecast demands and will continue to actively manage the risk of delivery shortfall across the high demand summer-autumn period as conditions evolve.

The risk of a ***system shortfall*** is currently negligible as there is shared resource available in Menindee Lakes.

The MDBA, Basin state governments and their agencies have different roles and responsibilities in managing delivery shortfalls. Read more information on delivery shortfall risks for Victorian water licence holders.

Water Quality

Water quality in the Menindee Lakes is gradually improving following Northern Basin inflows, with agencies continuing to carefully consider flow management options to best manage water quality.

WaterNSW advises Blue-Green Algae (BGA) red alerts for Lake Menindee and the Great Darling Anabranch (Silver City Hwy), with all lower Darling-Baaka sites at BGA amber/green alerts.

In the River Murray, there are numerous BGA amber/green alerts from Lake Hume to the South Australian border. Multiple sites on the Edward-Wakool system are at BGA amber/green alerts.

Victoria's Goulburn-Murray Water has issued BGA alerts for Torgannah/Hepburns Lagoons, Newlyn & Cairn Curran Reservoirs, Murray Valley Irrigation Area Ch 4 (d/s Lorenz Rd), and Torrumbarry Irrigation Area's Gum/No.2 Lagoons.

There are no current BGA alerts in SA (SA Health).

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 25 gigalitres (GL) to around 3,325 GL (86% capacity) over the week. During the week the release, measured at the Colemans gauge, increased from around 2,500 ML/day to approximately 5,700 ML/day, and will reduce in the coming week to approximately 3,000 ML/day. Flows in the Mitta Mitta are being varied to better mimic the natural variability of the system while transferring sufficient volume to Hume Dam to meet downstream demands.

Hume Dam storage reduced by 2 GL to 1,161 GL (39% capacity). The release from Hume Dam averaged around 13,000 ML/day across the week and has now increased to around 15,500 ML/day in response to higher demands. The release from Hume Dam will vary over the coming week in response to conditions.

Inflow from the Ovens River to the River Murray, measured at **Peechelba,** remained relatively steady at around 200 ML/day. The **Lake Mulwala** level remained within the normal operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD) during the week at 124.77 m AHD. The water level is currently falling and is expected to remain within the normal operating range over the coming week.

At **Yarrawonga Weir**, irrigation demands temporarily reduced across the week in response to some cooler weather, although they have since increased. At Mulwala Canal, demands have increased to 4,000 ML/day. Yarrawonga Main

Channel averaged around 1,200 ML/day. Releases from Yarrawonga Weir were reduced slightly to 8,700 ML/day throughout the week.

Downstream on the River Murray, the regulators through the **Barmah-Millewa Forest** remain closed. Flow through the **Kolety** (pronounced Kol-etch)/**Edward River offtake** remained steady around 1,550 ML/day, and **Gulpa Creek offtake** around 250 ML/day. Transfers using the Edward Escape have been reduced over the last few weeks.

Downstream at **Steven's Weir**, flows decreased this week to around 1,100 ML/day and will continue at this rate over the coming week.

Inflow to the Murray from the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoy's Bridge, averaged around 1,100 ML/day. Flows are forecast to remain around this rate into next week. 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.

The flow downstream of **Torrumbarry Weir** averaged 6,000 ML/day and is forecast to reduce to approximately 5,500 ML/day over the coming week. The diversion to **National Channel** remained around 1,700 ML/day through the week.

On the **Murrumbidgee River**, the flow at Balranald averaged around 490 ML/day across the week. Flows are likely to remain around this level over the coming week before increasing due to surplus water in the system from a rainfall rejection event. Trade to the Murrumbidgee is closed, with the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance currently 0.7 GL. Trade to the Murray from the Murrumbidgee is open.

The flow downstream of **Euston Weir** averaged around 5,500 ML/day and forecast to slightly reduce over the coming week.

Photo 1 – Adjusting flow at Mildura weir on the River Murray (D. Stubbs).

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Photo 2 - Kings Billabong along the River Murray (D. Stubbs).

Storage in the **Menindee Lakes** reduced to 730 GL (42% capacity). Inflows from rainfall in the northern Basin have slowed, however they continue to arrive at the Menindee Lakes at low rates. Approximately 340 GL has arrived up to 4 February 2025 with WaterNSW forecasting an additional 25 – 35 GL of inflows to arrive by the end of March 2025.

The release from the Menindee Lakes, measured at **Weir 32**, has reduced from around 1,500 ML/day to 1,200 ML/day.. It is likely transfers will continue in some capacity while conditions remain hot and dry.

The MDBA continues to work with WaterNSW, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) and NSW DPI Fisheries to support active management of the lakes until they reach the 480 GL storage trigger. At the current time it is anticipated this could occur in winter 2025, depending on demands and inflows. More information can be found in WaterNSW Community Updates.

The storage at **Lake Victoria** decreased by 24 GL over the last week to around 380 GL (56% capacity). Storage volume and operations at Lake Victoria are being managed in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy (LVOS) as specified in the Objectives and Outcomes for River Operations in the River Murray System.

The **flow to South Australia** averaged around 7,900 ML/day over the past week and is likely to decrease slightly for the remainder of February.

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is approximately 0.58 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.

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Photo 3 – Goolwa barrage (R. Brown).

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

TOM ZOUCH
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Australian Government | Murray–Darling Basin Authority

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Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Feb 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	478	3325	86%	71	3254	-25
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	180	1161	39%	23	1139	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	-999	380	56%	100	275	-24
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		730	42%	(480) #	250	-26
Total		**9 269**		**5608**	**60%**	- -	**4918**	**-66**
Total Active MDBA Storage							**57%^**	

* 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 18 Feb 2025

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2024
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1795	-13	Snowy-Murray	10	675
Snowy-Murray Component	628	-4	Tooma-Tumut	2	149
Target Storage	1460		Net Diversion	0	526
			Murray 1 Release	10	806

Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	194.0*
Flow this week	55.3
Flow so far this month	149.1
Flow last month	269.2

(7,900 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 19 Feb 2025)

NSW State Allocations (%)

Location	High Security	General Security
Murray Valley	100	110
Murrumbidgee Valley	95	37
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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