

For the week ending Wednesday, 29 Jan 2025

### Trim Ref:D25/1756 Rainfall and inflows

Rainfall for the week was confined to parts of the Northern Basin and the south-east of the Southern Basin. St George Airport in the Border Rivers region of Queensland recorded a weekly total of 29 mm, while Bakers Bend recorded 53 mm. In New South Wales, Haystack (Beardy River) in the Northern Tablelands recorded 32 mm. In Victoria, Hunters Hill in Northeast Victoria recorded a weekly total of 23 mm and Gelantipy in the Snowy catchment recorded 21mm. In South Australia, Basin conditions were dry.

> Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 29th January 2025 Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Figure 1: Rainfall totals across the Murray-Darling Basin for the week ending 29 January 2025 (Source: <u>Bureau of</u> <u>Meteorology</u> (the Bureau))

The Bureau's 8-day rainfall forecast is relatively dry with rainfall ranges between 1 to 5 mm across the Southern Basin, and 5 to 25 mm for the Northern Basin, with high temperatures forecast next week.





## **River operations**

- Bulk Transfers from Dartmouth to Hume continue in February
- Flows increase in the Mitta Mitta River
- Risk of delivery shortfall remains low for the coming week

### **River Murray System update**

Hot and dry conditions persist in most of the Basin. Transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Dam are expected to continue throughout February, with higher flow rates, if conditions continue to remain dry. Releases from Dartmouth are expected to vary between 1,000 ML/day and 8,400 ML/day through February. The release from Hume Dam decreased from 22,000 ML/day to 13,000 ML/day this past week and increased to 16,500 ML/day today.

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

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has continued calling water from the Menindee Lakes at Weir 32, with our call at Weir 32 likely to reduce over coming weeks. The MDBA continues calling Inter Valley Transfers (IVT) from the Goulburn at modest rates to manage system demands throughout summer and autumn.

The MDBA reminds river users that River Murray levels downstream of Hume Dam to South Australia may vary. Stakeholders are encouraged to review our <u>River Data</u> 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 <u>Water</u> <u>demand and shortfalls</u> | <u>Murray–Darling Basin Authority (mdba.gov.au)</u>.

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 <u>delivery shortfall risks for Victorian water licence holders</u>.

### Water Quality

Inflows from the Northern Basin continue to bring variable quality water into the Menindee Lakes. Management options are limited, and agencies continue to collaborate to best manage flows to maintain water quality.

<u>WaterNSW</u> advises red alerts for blue-green algae (BGA) along the Darling-Baaka at Wilcannia. Most sites in the Menindee Lakes are under various BGA alerts, with red alerts at Lake Menindee (Site 19 & Outlet Reg). Burtundy is under BGA red alert, with all other lower Darling-Baaka sites at amber/green alerts. The Great Darling Anabranch (Silver City Highway) is under BGA red alert.

In the River Murray, there are numerous BGA amber/green alerts from Lake Hume to the SA border.







Victoria's <u>Goulburn-Murray Water</u> has issued BGA alerts for Lake Eildon, Torgannah & Hepburns Lagoons, Murray Valley Irrigation Area 4 (d/s Lorenz Rd), and Torrumbarry Irrigation Area Gum/No.2 Lagoons.

There are no current BGA alerts in SA (<u>SA Health</u>), however a marine algal bloom (non-BGA) persists in the south Coorong.

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

### **River operations**

Over the last week MDBA active storage volume reduced to 5,309 GL, or 64% capacity.

At **Dartmouth Dam**, the <u>storage</u> decreased by 6 GL to around 3,389 GL (88% capacity) over the week. The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, increased to around 1,500 ML/day last week. Into next week flows will gradually increase to approximately 5,500 ML/day to transfer additional water to Hume Dam.

**Hume Dam** storage reduced by 84 GL to 1,310 GL (44% capacity). The release from Hume Dam is currently 16,500 ML/day. The release from Hume Dam will vary over the coming week in response to conditions.



Figure 2: Edward at Moulamein looking upstream, Billabong Creek entering on left of image. (W Lucardie)

Inflow from the Ovens River to the River Murray, measured at **Peechelba**, decreased slowly to around 380 ML/day and is forecast to continue to recede. The **Lake Mulwala** level increased above the normal operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD) briefly on Monday and is currently 124.88 m AHD. The water level is expected to remain within the normal operating range over the coming week.

At **Yarrawonga Weir**, irrigation demands remained steady across the week. At Mulwala Canal, demands averaged around 5,500 ML/day, while Yarrawonga Main Channel averaged around 1,500 ML/day. Releases from Yarrawonga Weir averaged 8,800 ML/day throughout the week to assist in meeting downstream demands over the summer





period. Into the coming weeks, flow may vary slightly to manage the Yarrawonga pool level and demands downstream.

Downstream on the River Murray, the regulators through the **Barmah-Millewa Forest** are now all closed. Flow remained relatively steady over the week through the **Kolety** (pronounced Kol-etch)/**Edward River offtake** around 1,500 ML/day, and flow through the **Gulpa Creek** offtake at around 250 ML/day. During the week, transfers using the Edward escape have been reduced.

Downstream at **Steven's Weir**, flows averaged around 2,000 ML/day. The flow will vary over the coming week, decreasing to around 1,100 ML/day during February.

Inflow to the Murray from the **Goulburn River**, measured at McCoy's Bridge, averaged around 700 ML/day. Flows are forecast to remain around this level for the coming week. Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray systems is available at the Victorian Water Register <u>website</u> and the <u>Goulburn-Murray Water website</u>.

The flow downstream of **Torrumbarry Weir** averaged around 5,500 ML/day, with the flow around 5,300 ML/day today and forecast to remain near to this over the coming week. The <u>diversion</u> to **National Channel** reduced to around 1,700 ML/day last week.

On the **Murrumbidgee River**, the flow at <u>Balranald</u> this week averaged around 870 ML/day. Flows are likely to recede over the coming days. Trade to the Murrumbidgee is closed, with the <u>Murrumbidgee IVT</u> account balance currently 0.6 GL. Trade to the Murray from the Murrumbidgee is open.

The flow downstream of **Euston Weir** averaged around 5,900 ML/day across the week and forecast to reduce in the coming week.



Figure 3: Washpen Creek downstream of Lake Caringay. (T Milne)

Storage in the **Menindee Lakes** reduced to 799 GL (46% capacity). Inflows from rainfall in the northern Basin continue to arrive at the Menindee Lakes. Approximately 308 GL had arrived up to 15 January 2025 with <u>WaterNSW</u> forecasting an additional 30 – 80 GL of inflows to arrive by end of February 2025.

The release from the Menindee Lakes, measured at **Weir 32**, continued to target 1,500 ML/day. In February, the MDBA expects to reduce its call, however it is likely transfers will continue while conditions remain hot and dry.

The MDBA continues to work with WaterNSW, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (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 autumn 2025, depending on demands and inflows. More information can be found in <u>WaterNSW Community Updates</u>.

The <u>storage</u> at **Lake Victoria** decreased by 36 GL over the last week to around 492 GL (73% capacity). Storage volume and operations at Lake Victoria are being managed in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy (LVOS) as specified in the <u>Objectives and Outcomes for River Operations in the River Murray System</u>.

The **flow to South Australia** averaged around 8,900 ML/day over the past week and is likely to reduce slightly during February.



Figure 4: Lock 7. (T Milne)

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is approximately 0.65 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 <u>River Murray Flow Report</u> and the <u>Water Data SA</u> website.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

JACQUI HICKEY Executive Director, River Management



**Australian Government** 









#### Water in Storage

#### Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 2025

0						0		
MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current	Storage	Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	479	3389	88%	71	3318	-6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181	1310	44%	23	1287	-84
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26	492	73%	100	385	-36
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		799	46%	(480) #	319	-38
Total		9 269		5991	65%		5309	-164
Total Active MDBA Storage 67%^								

\* 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 28 Jan 2025

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2024
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1845	6	Snowy-Murray	7	637
Snowy-Murray Component	662	-5	Tooma-Tumut	6	145
Target Storage	1520		Net Diversion	1	492
			Murray 1 Release	7	766

#### Flow to South Australia (GL)

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

Entitlement this month	217.0*	
Flow this week	62.2	(8,900 N
Flow so far this month	250.0	
Flow last month	336.3	

1L/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 29 Jan 2025) ne /0/1

Location	High Security	General Security
Murray Valley	97	58
Murrumbidgee Valley	95	35
Lower Darling	100	100

VIC State Allocations (%)			
Location	High Reliability	Low Reliability	
Murray Valley	100	0	
Goulburn Valley	100	0	

#### SA State Allocations (%)

ocation	High Security
Aurray Valley	

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





100

### Week ending Wednesday 29 Jan 2025



Murray System Monthly Inflows (excl. Snowy, Darling, inter-valley trade and environmental inflows)





