February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

9 March 2020 - Update

- Menindee inflow forecast is now for 230,000ML to 285,000ML to commence arriving by mid March.
- No significant changes to forecast inflows from the Border, Moonie, Gwydir or Namoi.
- Around 4 GL gain observed upstream of Mogil Mogil over last 3 days.
- Significant rainfall observed near Brewarrina over the weekend. Around 5 GL gain observed between Brewarrina to Beemery section over last 3 days.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,300 GL has been observed at St George station. Around 10% (130 GL) inflow is forecast from this event. Around 20 GL of inflow is also considered as an initial forecast from the Bokhara River upstream of Beemery.
- More than 500 GL has been observed in the Warrego River at Cunnamulla. An initial 20-40GL inflow is considered at Dicks Dam as inflow from the Warrego River and expected to arrive during 3rd week of March, including flows from local rain that commenced on 6 March.
- Significant rainfall generated flows in the Dolo-Boney Creek system which joins the Darling river downstream of Wilcannia. There is no gauging station to measure these flows however initial advice indicates around 10-20 GL may flow into the Darling river from this system.
- Forecasts include estimated extractions from Mungindi to Culgoa junction starting from 27 Feb and downstream of Culgoa junction from 6 Mar.

Forecast Flows

The Barwon-Darling system is an unregulated river system, which travels through a very arid environment with significant losses due to high evaporation and long flow-travel times. It is very difficult to accurately forecast downstream flows as local conditions can vary significantly over the number of weeks it takes the water to travel along the river. In addition, sections of the river had ceased to flow for an extended time and significant losses occur with wetting up the riverbed. The below summaries are the current forecast estimates of flows along the system and assume that the Barwon-Darling temporary water restrictions have been lifted. Unless there is a substantial change to the forecast, the next update will be provided on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

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Location	Observed volume (ML)	Total forecast volume – including observed (ML)	Date or expected date of flow arrival	Comments about inflows to each section
Mungindi	50,194	55,000 – 60,000	15 Feb 2020	Inflows are from the Border Rivers
Presbury	44,836	50,000-55,000	5 Feb 2020	
Mogil Mogil	157,476	160,000-170,000	27 Jan 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 10 GL from Gil Gil and 64-65 GL from Moonie. Gain from Localised inflows.
Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch)	187,678	190,000 – 200,000	6 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 23 GL from Mehi. Total observed flows at Garwon (Old Pockataroo) are 10 GL
Tara	203,173	205,000 – 220,000	7 Feb 2020	Gain from localised inflows
Walgett	285,683	300,000 –310,000	9 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 80-81 GL from Namoi at Goangra
Boorooma	225,666	245,000 – 265,000	13 Feb 2020	Flows likely out of bank
Geera	245,812	270,000 - 290,000	12 Feb 2020	Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River.
Brewarrina	204,339	255,000 – 275,000	16 Feb 2020	
Beemery	200,615	265,000 – 290,000	18 Feb 2020	Water going through Cato Creek anabranch may re-join. Around 20 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Bokhara. Gain from Localised inflows.
Warraweena	210,703	370,000 – 400,000	19 Feb 2020	Flows reaching the Barwon from St George are extremely variable, but we can expect at least 10-15% will reach the Barwon. Current estimated forecast from Culgoa is 130 GL.
Bourke	195,426	325,000 – 355,000	20 Feb 2020	
Louth	135,036	310,000 – 360,000	24 Feb 2020	Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego
Tilpa	100,046	280,000 – 330,000	28 Feb 2020	
Wilcannia	26,452	250,000– 300,000	5 Mar 2020	
Lake Wetherell	0	230,000 - 285,000	10-15 Mar 2020	Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bolney Creek system downstream of Wilcannia.