

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

16 March 2020 - Update

- Water reached Lake Wetherell on 10 March. Menindee inflow forecast is now for 260,000ML to 315,000ML.
- Small increases to forecast inflows from the Border Rivers, Gwydir and Namoi after adjusting for upstream usage.
- Small increase to forecast inflows from Moonie River due to rain.
- Local drainage continues at Walgett and Beemery and generated around 16 GL gain over last 4 days.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,300 GL has been observed at St George. Flow arrived at Brenda on 23 February and inflows to the Darling River at Warraweena from 2 March. 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 900 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, including flows from local rain that commenced on 6 March.
- Forecasts include estimated extractions from Mungindi to Culgoa junction from 27 Feb 2020 and downstream of Culgoa junction from 6 Mar 2020.

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. 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 18 March 2020.

Location	Observed volume (ML)	Total forecast volume – including observed (ML)	Date or expected date of flow arrival	Comments about inflows to each section
Mungindi	59,967	65,000 – 67,000	15 Feb 2020	Inflows are from the Border Rivers
Presbury	54,340	57,000-62,000	5 Feb 2020	
Mogil Mogil	174,208	180,000-185,000	27 Jan 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 13 GL from Gil Gil and 68 GL from Moonie. Gain from localised inflows.
Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch)	205,917	210,000 – 215,000	6 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 25 GL from Mehi. Total observed flows at Garwon (Old Pockataroo) are 10 GL
Tara	223,357	230,000 – 235,000	7 Feb 2020	Gain from localised inflows
Walgett	311,445	320,000 – 335,000	9 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 84-85 GL from Namoi at Goangra
Boorooma	259,918	270,000 – 285,000	13 Feb 2020	Flows likely out of bank
Geera	288,223	300,000 - 320,000	12 Feb 2020	Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River.
Brewarrina	255,368	275,000 – 295,000	16 Feb 2020	
Beemery	283,199	315,000 – 345,000	18 Feb 2020	Around 20 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Bokhara. Gain from localised inflows.
Warraweena	312,650	410,000 – 440,000	19 Feb 2020	1,300 GL observed at St George. Current estimated forecast from Culgoa is 130 GL.
Bourke	291,606	370,000 – 400,000	20 Feb 2020	
Louth	226,673	335,000 – 385,000	24 Feb 2020	Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego
Tilpa	188,677	310,000 – 360,000	28 Feb 2020	
Wilcannia	111,290	280,000– 330,000	5 Mar 2020	
Lake Wetherell	61,360	260,000 - 315,000	10 Mar 2020	Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bonley Creek system downstream of Wilcannia.