

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

6 March 2020 - Update

- Menindee inflow forecast is now for 205,000ML to 250,000ML to commence arriving by mid March.
- No changes to forecast inflows from the Border, Gwydir or Namoi.
- Forecast inflows from the Moonie river into the Barwon-Darling have been increased by 5 GL due to observed rainfall.
- Around 5 GL gain observed upstream of Mogil Mogil over last 2 days probably due to rain and local drainage.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,300 GL has been observed at St George station. Flow arrived at Brenda (1st NSW station) on 23 February and inflows to the Darling River at Warraweena from about 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 500 GL has been observed in the Warrego River at Cunnamulla. During the April 2019 event, around 318 GL was observed at Cunnamulla and 25 GL of that reached Dicks Dam near the junction with the Darling River. 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.
- Forecasts include estimated extractions from Mungindi to Culgoa junction from 27 Feb 2020 and also 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. 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 Monday 9 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 | 45,850 | 55,000 – 60,000 | 15 Feb 2020 | Inflows are from the Border Rivers |
| Presbury | 42,789 | 48,000-52,000 | 5 Feb 2020 | |
| Mogil Mogil | 143,356 | 155,000-165,000 | 27 Jan 2020 | Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 10 GL from Gil Gil and 60-65 GL from Moonie. Gain from Localised inflows. |
| Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch) | 174,232 | 190,000 – 200,000 | 6 Feb 2020 | Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 22 GL from Mehi. Total observed flows at Garwon (Old Pockataroo) are 9.7 GL |
| Tara | 188,135 | 205,000 – 220,000 | 7 Feb 2020 | Gain from localised inflows |
| Walgett | 261,136 | 280,000 –300,000 | 9 Feb 2020 | Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 78-80 GL from Namoi at Goangra |
| Boorooma | 204,163 | 240,000 – 265,000 | 13 Feb 2020 | Flows likely out of bank |
| Geera | 222,131 | 260,000 - 285,000 | 12 Feb 2020 | A small volume may join from Mathaguy Ck, and a small inflow from Castlereagh is considered |
| Brewarrina | 187,603 | 245,000 – 265,000 | 16 Feb 2020 | |
| Beemery | 162,622 | 245,000 – 270,000 | 18 Feb 2020 | Water going through Cato Creek anabranch may re-join. Around 20 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Bokhara |
| Warraweena | 166,573 | 360,000 – 390,000 | 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. 1,300 GL observed at St George. Current estimated forecast from Culgoa is 130 GL. |
| Bourke | 151,472 | 315,000 – 345,000 | 20 Feb 2020 | |
| Louth | 94,893 | 300,000 – 350,000 | 24 Feb 2020 | Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego |
| Tilpa | 61,731 | 270,000 – 320,000 | 28 Feb 2020 | |
| Wilcannia | 2,797 | 235,000– 285,000 | 5 Mar 2020 | |
| Lake Wetherell | 0 | 205,000 - 250,000 | 10-17 Mar 2020 | |