

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

20 March 2020 - Update

- Menindee inflow forecast is now for 270,000ML to 335,000ML. Inflow is currently filling the Lake Wetherell floodplain and associated lakes, with high losses so the total forecast loss between Wilcannia and Lake Wetherell has been increased.
- No significant changes to forecast inflows from the Border Rivers, Moonie, Gwydir and Namoi.
- Local drainage continues at Tara and Beemery and generated around 6 GL gain over last 2 days.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,400 GL has been observed at St George and major flows have already arrived in NSW. Based on observed flow at upstream NSW gauges and BoM's water level forecast, around 130-150 GL inflow is now expected from Culgoa River upstream of Warraweena and around 20-25 GL is expected from Bokhara River upstream of Beemery.
- More than 1000 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 Monday 23 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	63,461	66,000 – 68,000	15 Feb 2020	Inflows are from the Border Rivers
Presbury	56,754	59,000-62,000	5 Feb 2020	
Mogil Mogil	183,288	185,000-195,000	27 Jan 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 14 GL from Gil Gil and 75-77 GL from Moonie. Gain from localised inflows.
Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch)	214,557	220,000 – 230,000	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	231,239	235,000 – 245,000	7 Feb 2020	Gain from localised inflows
Walgett	326,040	330,000 –340,000	9 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 84-85 GL from Namoi at Goangra
Boorooma	275,064	280,000 – 295,000	13 Feb 2020	Flows likely out of bank
Geera	307,387	310,000 - 330,000	12 Feb 2020	Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River.
Brewarrina	271,878	280,000 – 300,000	16 Feb 2020	
Beemery	315,708	335,000 – 370,000	18 Feb 2020	Based on observed flows at NSW gauges, around 20-25 GL inflow is expected from Bokhara. Gain from localised inflows.
Warraweena	358,894	430,000 – 470,000	19 Feb 2020	Based on observed flows at NSW gauges, around 130-150 GL inflow is expected from Culgoa.
Bourke	332,238	390,000 – 430,000	20 Feb 2020	
Louth	273,852	350,000 – 415,000	24 Feb 2020	Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego
Tilpa	238,872	330,000 – 390,000	28 Feb 2020	
Wilcannia	165,323	300,000– 360,000	5 Mar 2020	
Lake Wetherell and Lake Tandure	92,670	270,000 - 335,000	10 Mar 2020	Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bonley Creek system downstream of Wilcannia.