

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

13 March 2020 - Update

- Water reached Lake Wetherell on 10 March. Menindee inflow forecast is now for 250,000ML to 305,000ML.
- No significant changes to forecast inflows from the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Namoi and Moonie Rivers from previous forecast.
- Last week's rainfall is generating significant local drainage with around 10 GL gain observed near Mogil Mogil, Walgett and Beemery.
- In the Condamine Balonne over 1,300 GL has been observed at St George. Flow arrived at Brenda (1st NSW station) 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 600 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 Dolo-Bonley 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 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. 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 16 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	56,191	60,000 – 65,000	15 Feb 2020	Inflows are from the Border Rivers
Presbury	51,171	55,000-60,000	5 Feb 2020	
Mogil Mogil	168,573	170,000-182,000	27 Jan 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 11 GL from Gil Gil and 65-67 GL from Moonie. Gain from Localised inflows.
Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch)	198,736	200,000 – 212,000	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	213,941	220,000 – 230,000	7 Feb 2020	Gain from localised inflows
Walgett	301,161	310,000 –320,000	9 Feb 2020	Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 82-83 GL from Namoi at Goangra
Boorooma	247,953	255,000 – 275,000	13 Feb 2020	Flows likely out of bank
Geera	272,031	285,000 - 305,000	12 Feb 2020	Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River.
Brewarrina	239,151	270,000 – 290,000	16 Feb 2020	
Beemery	253,489	295,000 – 325,000	18 Feb 2020	Around 20 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Bokhara. Gain from localised inflows.
Warraweena	273,235	400,000 – 430,000	19 Feb 2020	1,300 GL observed at St George. Current estimated forecast from Culgoa is 130 GL.
Bourke	253,684	360,000 – 390,000	20 Feb 2020	
Louth	186,334	325,000 – 375,000	24 Feb 2020	Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego
Tilpa	149,317*	300,000 – 350,000	28 Feb 2020	
Wilcannia	71,956	270,000– 320,000	5 Mar 2020	
Lake Wetherell	24,606	250,000 - 305,000	10 Mar 2020	Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bonley Creek system downstream of Wilcannia.

* Observed volume at Tilpa was changed based on new rating table.