

February 2020 rainfall event

Barwon-Darling

23 March 2020 - Update

- Menindee inflow forecast is now for 290,000ML to 355,000ML.
- No significant changes to forecast inflows from the Border Rivers, Moonie, Gwydir and Namoi.
- Local drainage continues at Beemery and generated around 11 GL gain over last 4 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 25-30 GL is expected from Bokhara River upstream of Beemery.
- More than 1,000 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 25 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 | 65,239 | 67,000 – 68,000 | 15 Feb 2020 | Inflows are from the Border Rivers |
| Presbury | 57,877 | 60,000-62,000 | 5 Feb 2020 | |
| Mogil Mogil | 190,572 | 192,000-195,000 | 27 Jan 2020 | Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 14 GL from Gil Gil and 75 GL from Moonie. Gain from localised inflows. |
| Collarenberi (total flow including Old Pockataroo anabranch) | 222,867 | 225,000 – 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 | 237,407 | 240,000 – 245,000 | 7 Feb 2020 | Gain from localised inflows |
| Walgett | 332,160 | 335,000 –340,000 | 9 Feb 2020 | Expected total inflows (observed and forecast) are 84-85 GL from Namoi at Goangra |
| Boorooma | 283,685 | 290,000 – 295,000 | 13 Feb 2020 | Flows likely out of bank |
| Geera | 318,951 | 325,000 - 330,000 | 12 Feb 2020 | Inflow considered from Mathaguy Ck and Castlereagh River. |
| Brewarrina | 283,219 | 290,000 – 300,000 | 16 Feb 2020 | |
| Beemery | 338,773 | 375,000 – 395,000 | 18 Feb 2020 | Based on observed flows at NSW gauges, around 25-30 GL inflow is expected from Bokhara. Gain from localised inflows. |
| Warraweena | 392,740 | 445,000 – 485,000 | 19 Feb 2020 | Based on observed flows at NSW gauges, around 130-150 GL inflow is expected from Culgoa. |
| Bourke | 360,462 | 405,000 – 445,000 | 20 Feb 2020 | |
| Louth | 304,185 | 380,000 – 430,000 | 24 Feb 2020 | Around 20-40 GL inflow considered as initial forecast from Warrego |
| Tilpa | 271,202 | 355,000 – 405,000 | 28 Feb 2020 | |
| Wilcannia | 204,799 | 330,000– 380,000 | 5 Mar 2020 | |
| Lake Wetherell and Lake Tandure | 143,520 | 290,000 - 355,000 | 10 Mar 2020 | Around 10-20 GL expected from Dolo-Bonley Creek system downstream of Wilcannia. |