

Goulburn River environmental flows

Improved water quality and increased food sources

When is the increased flow scheduled to occur and how much water will be released?

The flow is planned to start from Goulburn Weir on Wednesday 20 June and gradually rise up to about 9,500 ML/day on Thursday 28 June at Murchison.

The flow will take about four days to reach McCoy Bridge. The flow will start increasing on 24 June and peak on about 2 July.

The flow will then slowly recede to between 500 ML/d and 830 ML/day by 24 July at Murchison and 28 July at McCoy Bridge. The duration for these planned flows is about 33 days.

A graph showing the potential flow at Murchison during June and July is provided on the second page of this fact sheet.

The dates and actual flow rates for this event may vary depending on climatic conditions.

What is the environmental flow trying to achieve?

A winter fresh will improve water quality and increase food sources and habitat for water bugs; this in turn increases food for fish.

A winter fresh will also encourage plant seed dispersal and prime the system for other natural winter and spring flows.

What does this mean for river levels?

With a peak flow of up to 9,500 ML/day, river levels are likely to rise to about 4.3m at Murchison (through May the level has been between 0.6m and 1.4m), about 5.6m at Shepparton (between 2.7m and 3.1m through May) and about 5.4m at McCoy Bridge (between 1.4m and 2.1m through May).

The table on the second page of this fact sheet shows relevant river levels and corresponding flow rates.

What if it rains?

If rain results in increased river flow, it is possible the timing and size of the environmental flows could change or not be delivered.

Rainfall forecasts are regularly monitored by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) and the delivery of environmental water may reduce or stop if rainfall is expected to result in higher river flows.

How do we know if environmental flows are effective?

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office has established the Lower Goulburn River Long term Intervention Monitoring Project to monitor and evaluate the ecological outcomes of environmental water use.

The project monitors river bank vegetation, fish movement and spawning, waterbug populations, bank stability and erosion, river productivity and water quality. To find out more about the project go to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) website at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/projects/environmental-water/monitoring

Will there be other planned environmental releases?

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder's (VEWH) Seasonal Watering Plan for 2018/19 includes plans for environmental water use across Victoria and can be viewed on the VEW's website at www.vevh.vic.gov.au.

Will I be notified of changing river levels that are not due to environmental flows?

No. These communications provide information about planned releases relating to environmental flows above 3,000 ML/day. Changing river levels also occur due to natural events and information on flow and levels can be found in the links on the second page of this fact sheet.

Frequently asked questions



Who do I contact for more information?

For information on river levels and to monitor levels in the Goulburn River, visit the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood.

River level and flow information can also be found on the GMW website at <https://waterline.g-mwater.com.au/waterstatus/>

For planning of environmental releases in the Goulburn River, visit the GBCMA website at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 5822 7700.

To help you monitor river flows, GMW also publishes daily updates at www.gmwater.com.au/water-resources/managing-water-storages, as the actual river flows may change in response to rainfall and downstream flow requirements. Future planned releases will be published on this page as they are confirmed.

There is also an automated advisory service that provides information about downstream releases from Goulburn Weir which is updated daily. This service can be reached by phoning (03) 5794 5991.

Graph: Potential flow at Murchison during June and July 2018

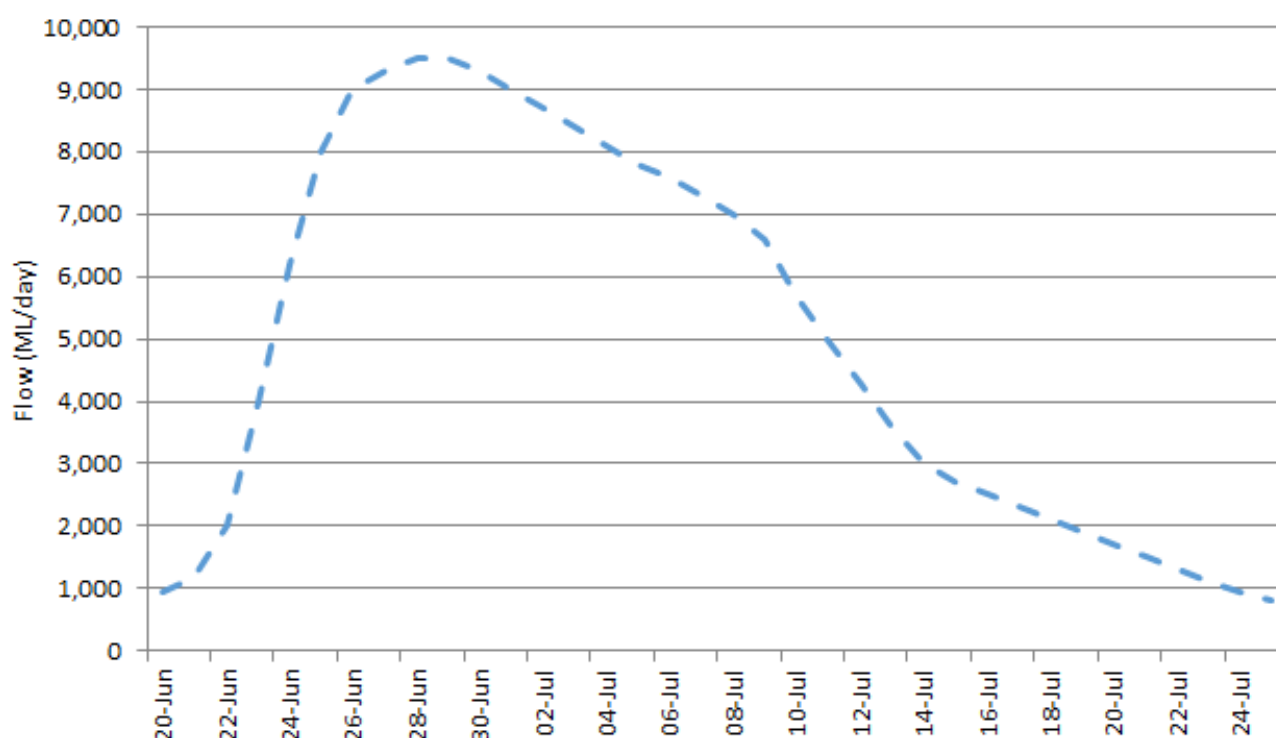


Table: Relevant river levels and corresponding flow rates

Location	Level with flows of 1,000 ML/day	Level with flows of 3,000 ML/day	Level with flows of 9,500 ML/day	Minor Flood Level
Murchison Gauge	0.8 m	1.9 m	4.3 m	9.0m (29,900 ML/day)
Shepparton Gauge	2.8 m	3.4 m	5.6 m	9.5m (30,300 ML/day)
McCoy Bridge Gauge	1.5 m	2.6 m	5.4 m	9.0m (28,300 ML/day)

