

Water Report

Queensland Murray Darling Valleys

South-West Region

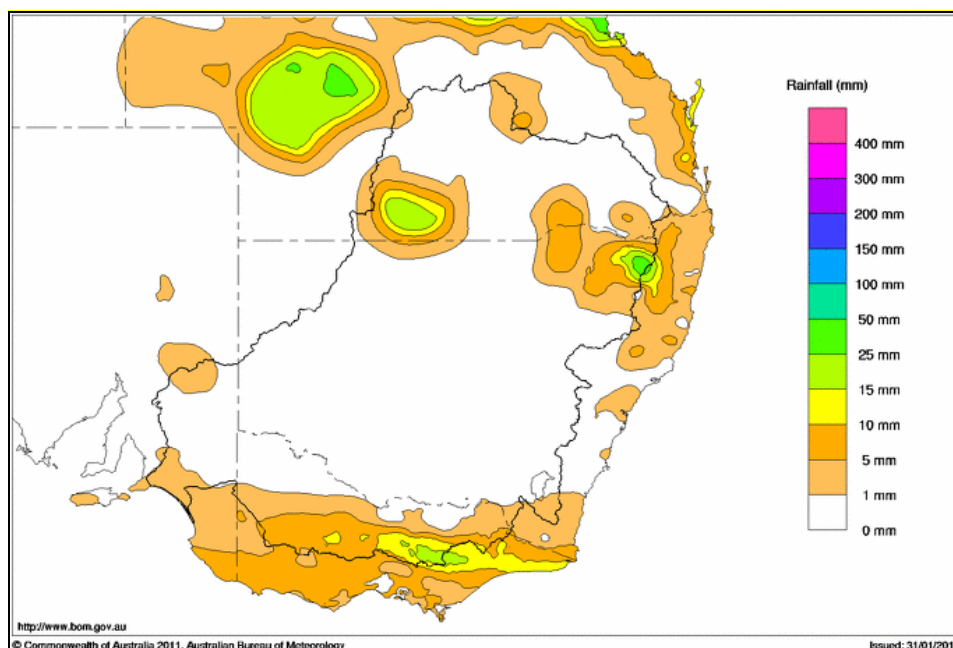
2nd February, 2011

Overview

Significant flooding events were recorded by the DERM streamflow gauging stations with hydrographers at their busiest across south west region during January, particularly the Condamine/Balonne River and Lower Balonne systems. Record heights were observed in parts of the system including Loudouns Bridge and Cotswold on the Condamine River, the Balonne River at Surat and the Culgoa River at Whyenbah. Good flows also occurred in the Border Rivers system and smaller flows were recorded in most other systems including the Paroo, Bulloo and Moonie Rivers. Currently, discharge is diminishing in all systems as the mass of flood water moves into NSW with little or no rainfall in the last week to bolster flow over most of the region. While diminishing, significant flows are still being recorded in the Condamine/Balonne system, particularly in the Lower Balonne. The Bureau of Meteorology has announced minor to major flood warnings for the Balonne River. All eyes are currently focused on the approaching cloud mass of cyclone Yasi which could have some influence on rainfall and resurgence of flows in the southwest in the coming week.

Water harvesting announcements continue for the Border & Weir Rivers in the south, Lower Balonne and Upper Condamine Water Management Areas.

This report is an update of streamflow conditions in south west region and was prepared on the 1st February, 2011.



Map showing south-west Queensland rainfall totals for the week ending 31st January 2011 (source: BOM)

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LEGEND	
	Catchment Boundary
	Catchment Name
	State Border
	SunWater Storages
	Border Rivers Commission Storages
	Other Storages
	Major Streams
	Towns
	Gauging Stations



Produced by Water Services, Department of Environment and Resource Management, 200 Tor Street, Toowoomba, QLD. Phone: 46881229. 25 Mar 2010



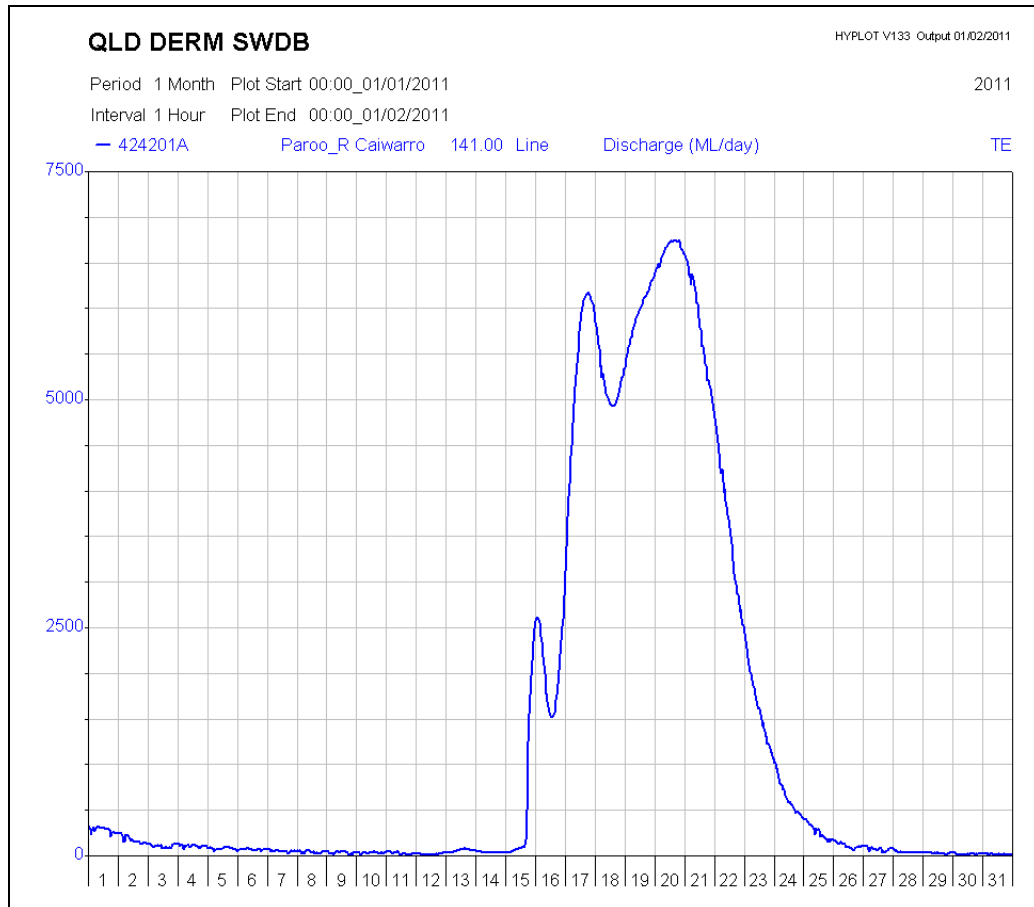
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Queensland Murray Darling Basin
Public Water Infrastructure
and Gauging Stations

Paroo River

An unregulated, ephemeral system, terminating in wetlands and floodplains north of Wilcannia, N.S.W.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on the Paroo River at Caiwarro (424201A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011

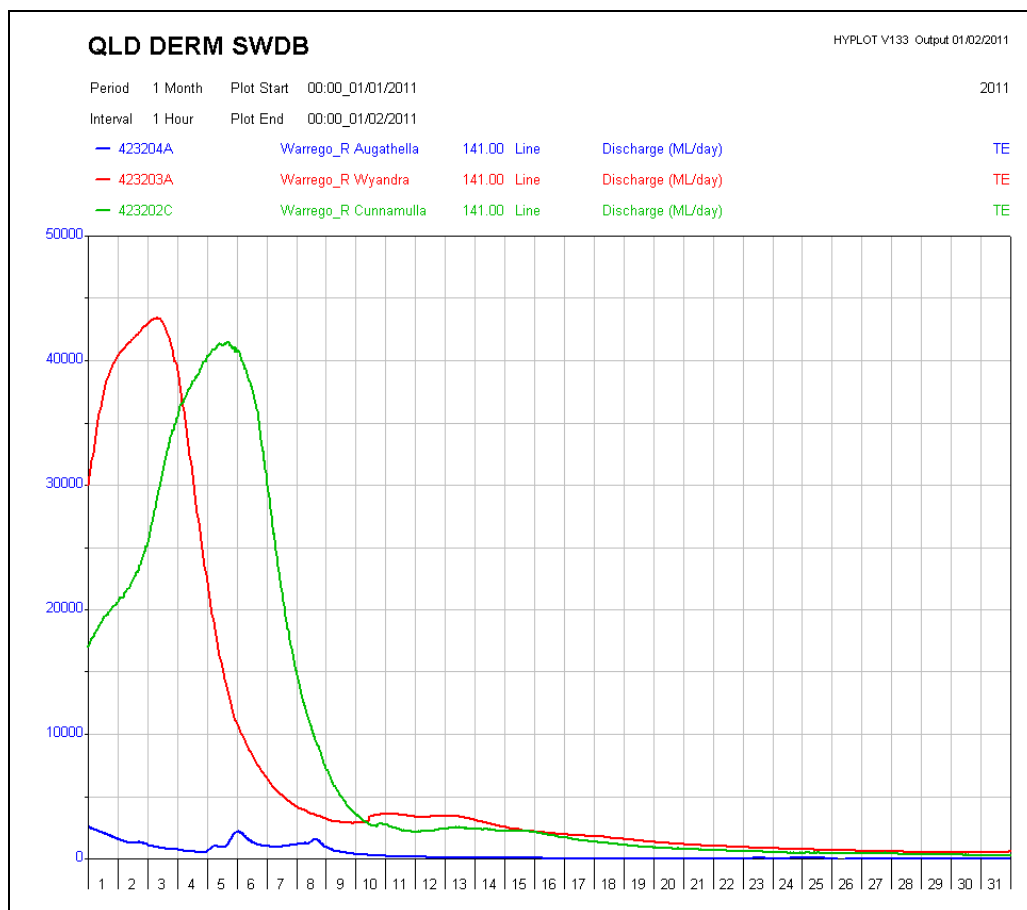


- A flow event beginning on the 15th January, 2011 peaked at **6,637 ML/day** on the 20th January, 2011. Flow quickly diminished and is currently discharging about **8 ML/day**.
- Total volume to pass the Caiwarro gauging station during January, 2011 was **39,185 ML**.

Warrego River

A largely unregulated, ephemeral system, which passes through Cunnamulla and joins the Darling River about 80kms SW of Bourke, N.S.W.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on the upper Warrego River at Augathella (423204A), Warrego River at Wyandra (423203A) and Warrego River at Cunnamulla Weir (423202C) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011

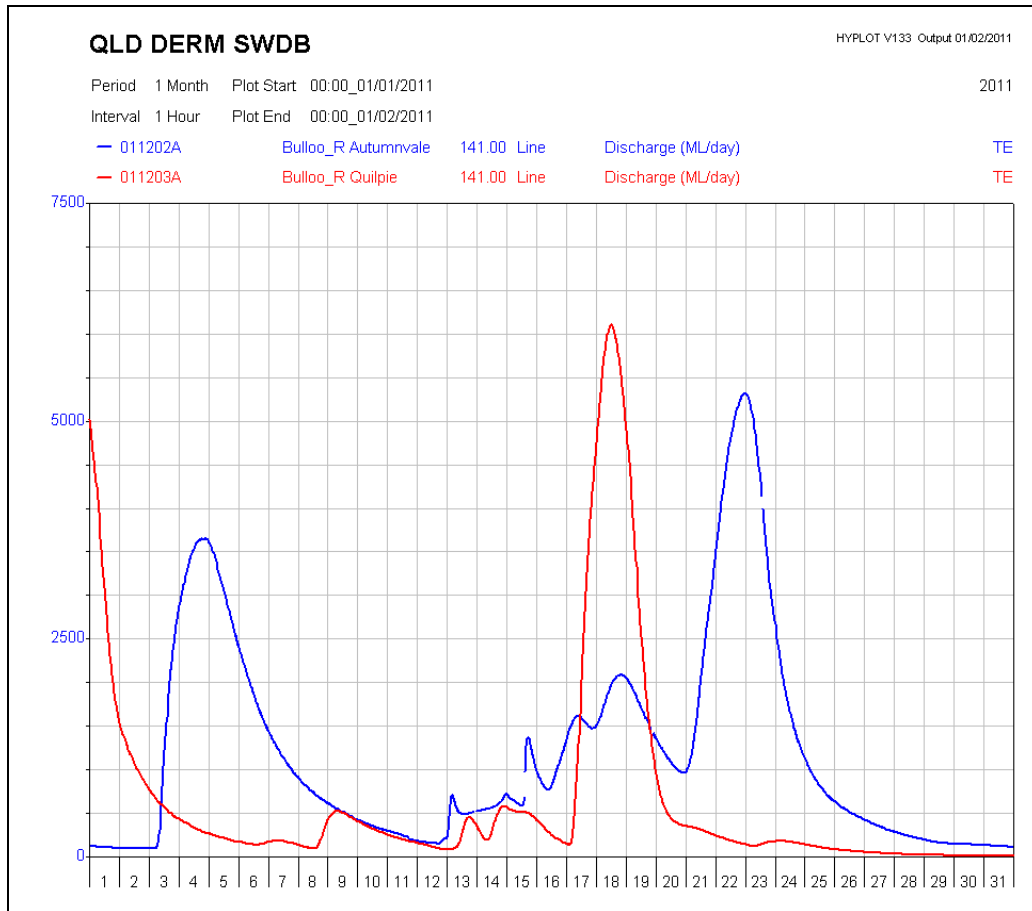


- Flow events in early January peaked at **42,346 ML/day** at Wyandra on the 3rd January, 2011. Flow peaked two days later at Cunnamulla reaching **41,060 ML/day**. Only small flows were recorded at Augathella during early January. Flow has since diminished in this part of the system.
- Total volumes to pass the Augathella, Wyandra and Cunnamulla gauging station during January, 2011 were **11,613 ML**, **222,304 ML** and **252,775 ML** respectively.

Bulloo River

The Bulloo River is an isolated drainage system in western Queensland. It is the only river in this region not part of either the Murray-Darling Basin or the Lake Eyre Basin; instead it flows into a number of ephemeral lakes blocked by low hills from reaching either Lake Frome or the Paroo River.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging stations on the Bulloo River at Autumnvale (011202A) and Quilpie (011203A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011

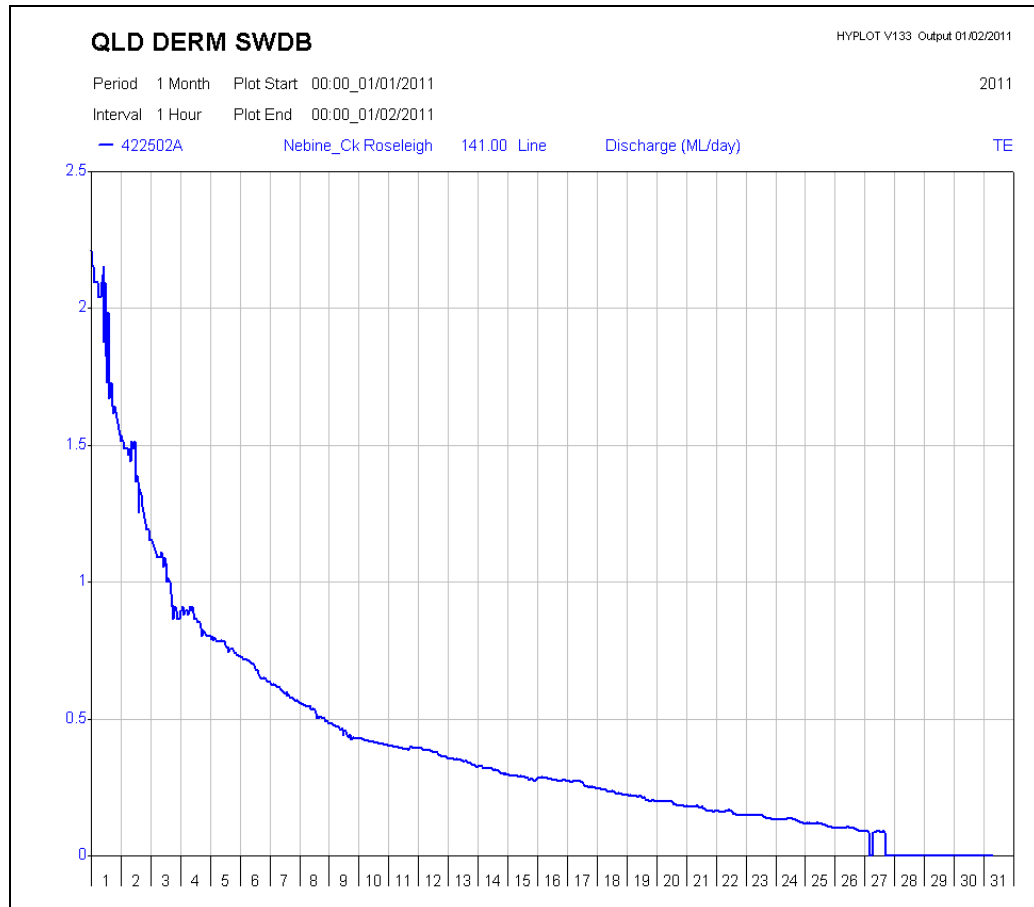


- Numerous flow events have been recorded in the Bulloo River in January. The largest was recorded at the Quilpie gauging station which reached **5,633ML/day** on the 18th January, 2011. This flow peaked about one week later downstream at the Autumnvale gauging station which also peaked at over **5,000 ML/day**.
- Currently discharge has diminished to about **105 ML/day** at Autumnvale and **15 ML/day** at Quilpie gauging stations.
- Total volume to pass the gauging stations during January, 2011 was about **20,500 ML** at Quilpie and **30,000 ML** at Autumnvale.

Nebine/Mungallala Rivers

An ephemeral, unregulated system running through the Culgoa Floodplain National Park that straddles the Qld/N.S.W border before joining the Culgoa River.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on Nebine Creek at Roseleigh (422502A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011

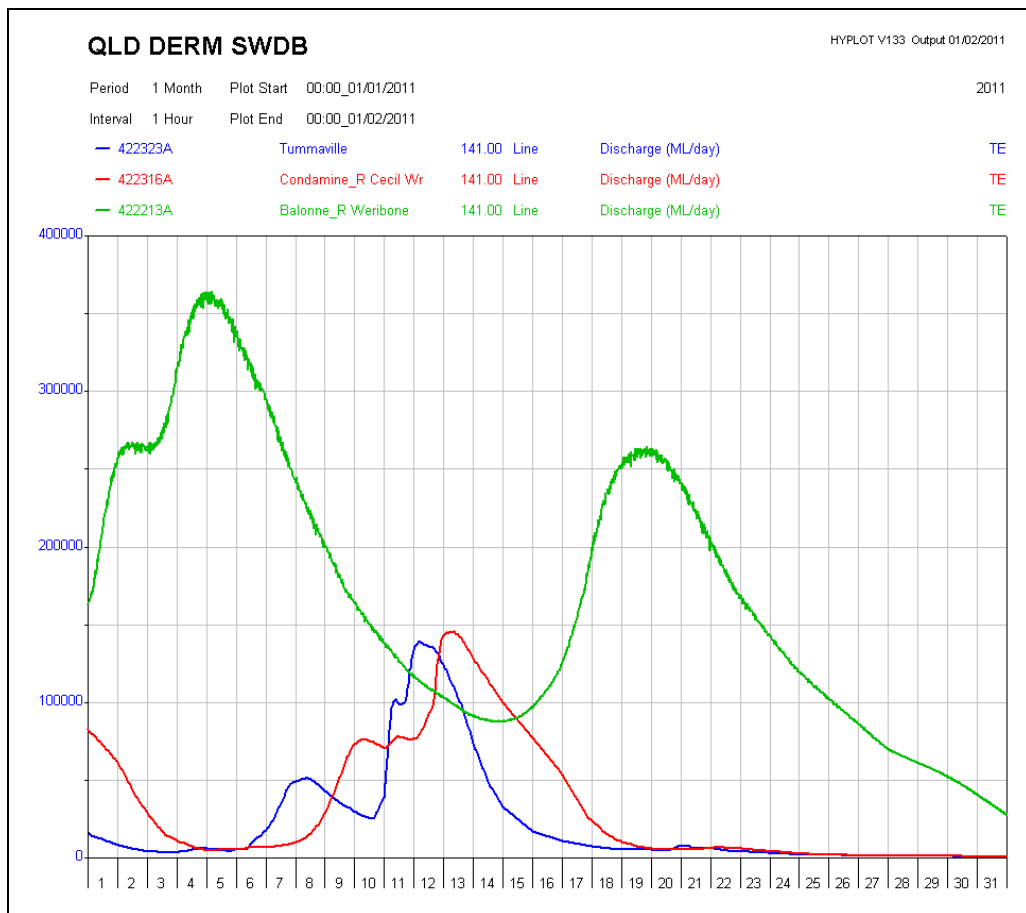


- Discharge in Nebine Creek declined steadily from just over **2 ML/day** at the beginning of January. No flow and is currently being recorded. Total volume to pass the gauging station during January is just **12 ML**.

Condamine/Balonne Rivers

An ephemeral system sourcing in the Great Dividing Range east of Warwick, traversing the Darling and Western Downs before joining up with the Maranoa River which feeds south from the Carnarvon Range to flow into Beardmore Dam near St George.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on the Condamine River at Tummaville (422323A) and Cecil Weir (422316A), and Balonne River at Weribone (422213A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011

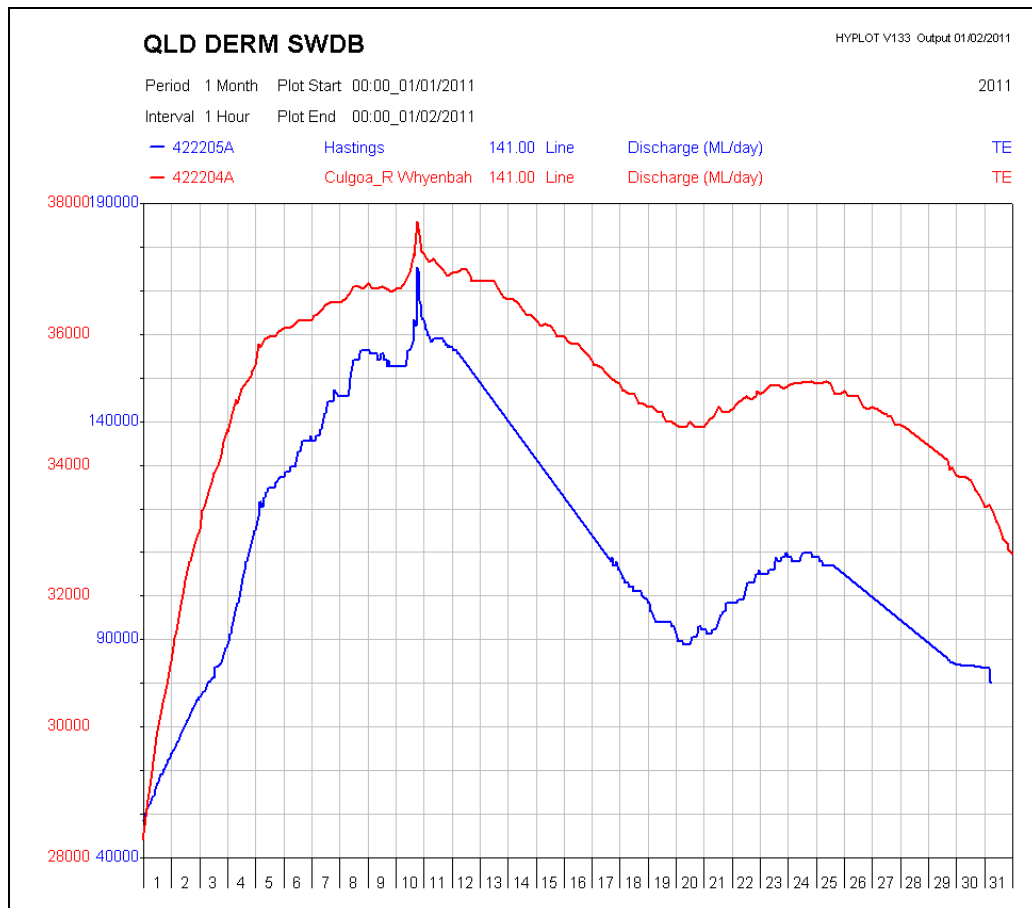


- Two large flood flow events were recorded in the Balonne River during January. The first peaked at **352,711 ML/day** on the 5th January, 2011. The second peaked at **258,980 ML/day** on the 19th January, 2011. Flow in the Condamine River in the middle of January took about 7-10 days to arrive at the Weribone gauging station on the Balonne River. The Condamine River becomes the Balonne River after its confluence with Dogwood Creek about half way between Chinchilla and Surat.
- Current discharge is **883 ML/day** at Tummaville, **882 ML/day** at Cecil Weir and **22,860 ML/day** at Weribone. Flow along this part of the system is falling.
- Total volumes to pass the gauging station at Tummaville, Cecil Weir and Weribone during January were **665,880 ML**, **987,847 ML** and **5,256,657 ML** respectively.
- Water harvesting announcements in the Upper Condamine Water Management Area began on the 4th December, 2010 (Event 6) and remain current.

Lower Balonne River

A partially-regulated, ephemeral system that bifurcates south of St George, into the Culgoa, Narran, Bokhara and Birrie Rivers. The Narran River terminates in the Narran Wetlands between Brewarrina and Walgett; remaining channels meet the Barwon River west of Brewarrina.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on the Balonne-Minor at Hastings (422205A) and Culgoa River at Whyenbah (422204A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011.

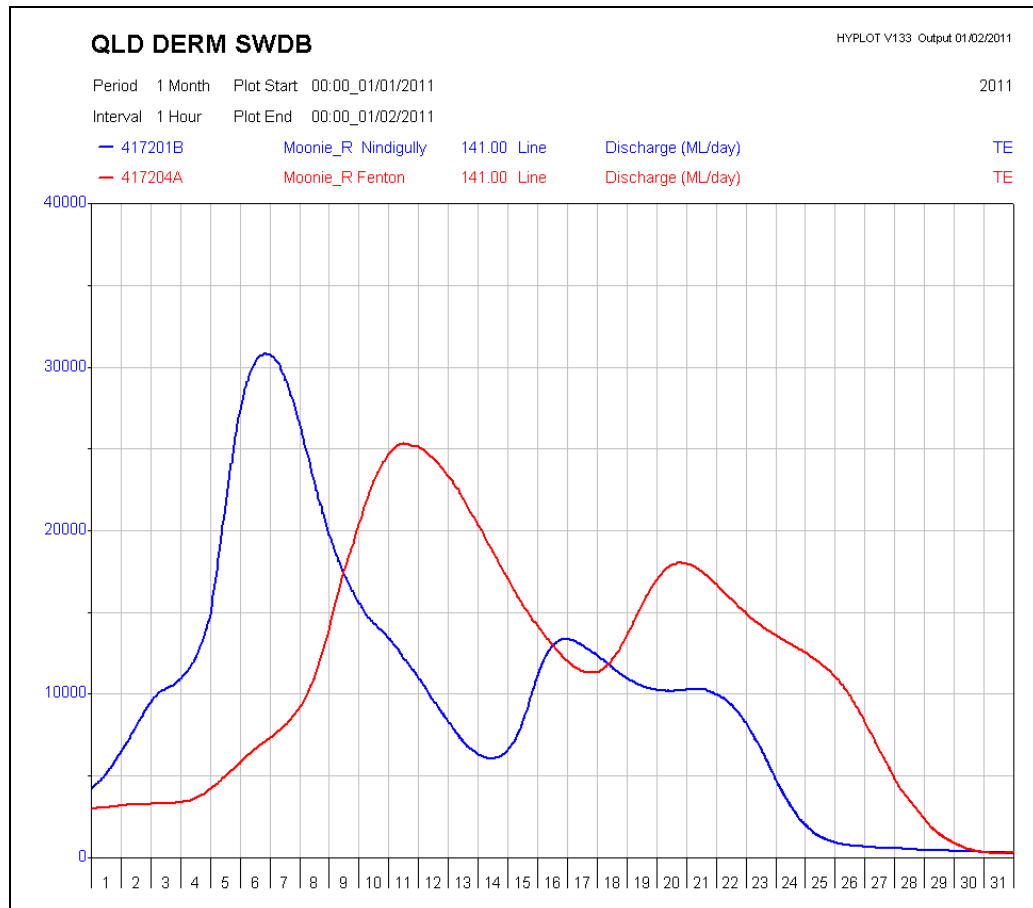


- Two significant major flood flow events have occurred in the lower Balonne system during January. The first peaked at **158,927 ML/day** at Hastings and **37,050 ML/day** at Whyenbah on 10th January 2011. The second peaked at **108,859 ML/day** at Hastings and **35,261 ML/day** at Whyenbah on 24th January, 2011.
- Discharge is diminishing as the flow peak moves downstream into N.S.W. Current discharge is **79,960 ML/day** at Hastings and **32,563 ML/day** at Whyenbah.
- Total volume to pass the Hastings and Whyenbah gauging stations during January was in excess of **3,375,346 ML** and **1,089,069 ML** respectively.
- Water harvesting announcements for the Lower Balonne Water Management Area continue with holders of water harvesting entitlements with flow conditions up to and including **120,000 ML/day** able to take water in accordance with entitlement conditions.

Moonie River

An ephemeral system which commences near Tara and joins the Barwon River in NSW north of Collarenebri.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging stations on the Moonie River at Nindigully (417201B) and Fenton (417204A) showing a stream discharge (ML/day) for January 2011

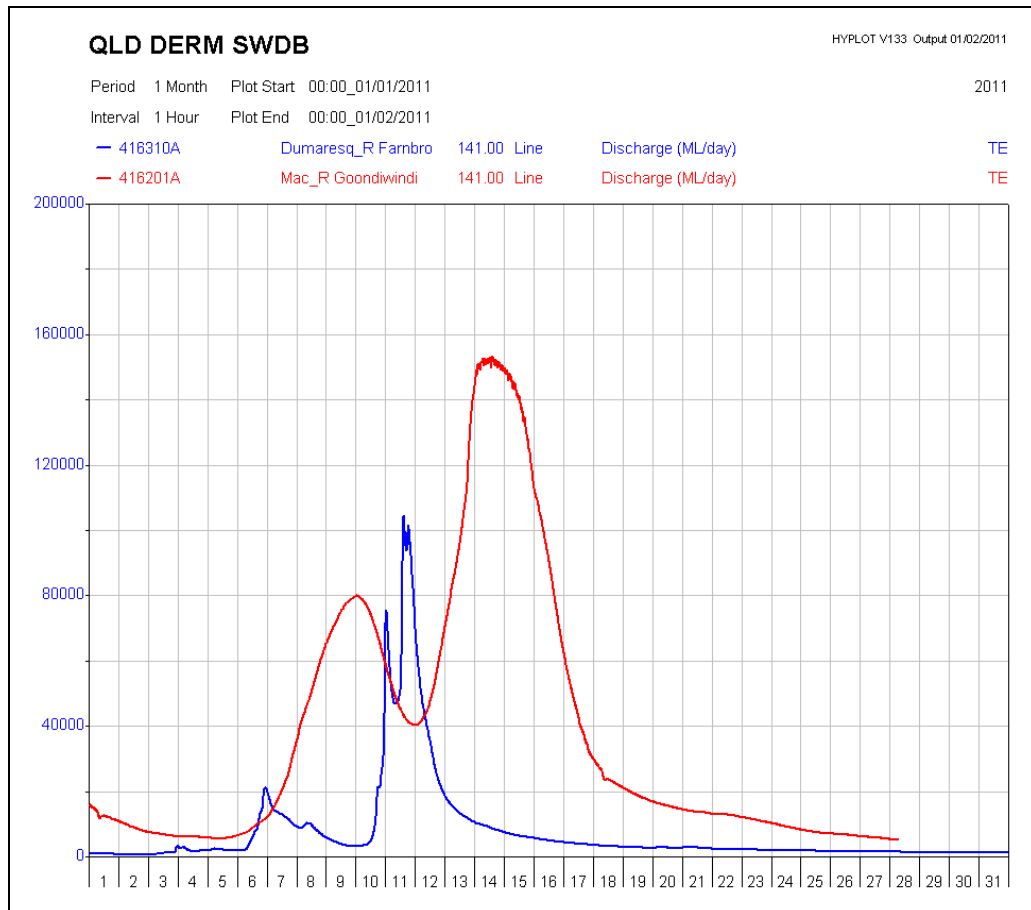


- Two flow events have occurred in this system during January. The most significant of these occurred on the 6th January, 2011 which reached about **30,000 ML/day**. This flow peaked at some **25,000 ML/day** 5 days later downstream at Fenton. A second smaller flow in the Moonie River peaking on 16th January at Nindigully reached about **13,000 ML/day** and **17,500 ML/day** at Fenton on the 21st January, 2011.
- Flow has now diminished in this system. Total volumes to pass the Nindigully and Fenton gauging stations during January were **306,924 ML** and **354,945 ML** respectively.

Border Rivers

A partially regulated system which is largely defined by the Macintyre River feeding from NSW to join the Dumaresq River border stream and Macintyre Brook from Queensland. Storages include Glenlyon, Pindari and Coolmunda Dams. The Macintyre River becomes the Barwon where it is joined by the Weir River. Downstream of Mungindi the river ceases to form the NSW/Qld border and traverses into NSW as the start of the Barwon Darling system.

Hydrograph from DERM's gauging station on the Dumaresq River at Farnbro (416310A) and Macintyre River at Goondiwindi (416201A) showing stream discharge (ML/day) for January, 2011



- Two flow events were recorded in the Border Rivers during January. The first peaked in the Dumaresq River reaching **13,231 ML/day** on the 7th January, 2011. This flow peaked at **74,277 ML/day** in the Macintyre River about 3 days later. The second flow event was recorded in the Dumaresq River on the 12th January reaching **37,505 ML/day**. This flow peaked downstream in the Macintyre River on about the 14th January, 2011 and reached over **150,000 ML/day**.
- Current flow in the Macintyre River at the Goondiwindi town gauging station is about **5,000 ML/day** and falling. Total volume to pass the Goondiwindi gauging station during January was over **900,000 ML**.
- Water harvesting announcements are current for allocation holders on the Border Rivers, Macintyre Brook, Lower Weir Rivers Water Management Areas and Callandoon Creek Management Area.

Note:

Flow data in this report is based on the latest available **telemetry data** and **has not been quality controlled**.

DERM's Data User Agreement is available on the DERM's website at the following address:

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/water/monitoring/current_data/user_licence.html

Should you have any further enquiries in regard to this report, please contact Martin Moran, Senior Natural Resource Officer, or Steven Williams, Natural Resource Officer of the Department of Environment & Resource Management on telephone (07) 4688 1299.