

## Goulburn River environmental flows

### Encouraging fish migration and vegetation to re-establish

#### March 2017

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

The flow is planned to start on Tuesday 28 February and gradually rise to about 4,600 ML/day on Thursday 9 March at McCoy Bridge.

Releases from Goulburn Weir will start on Friday 24 February and peak on Sunday 5 March at Murchison.

The flow will remain above 4,000 ML/day for 12 days and above 3,000 ML/day for 18 days, from Friday 3 March to Tuesday 21 March at McCoy Bridge.

Flows will slowly reduce to 940 ML/day by Tuesday 4 April at McCoy Bridge and Friday 31 March at Murchison.

The dates and peak flow rates for this event may vary depending on climatic conditions and other system demands.

A graph showing the potential flow at McCoy Bridge during March is provided on the second page of this fact sheet.

##### **What is the environmental flow trying to achieve?**

The environmental flow aims to encourage golden perch and silver perch to migrate into the Goulburn River from the Murray River; encourage native vegetation to re-establish and grow on the lower river bank; and provide habitat for aquatic insects, which are an important food for fish.

##### **What does this mean for river levels?**

With a peak flow of up to 4,600 ML/day, river levels are likely to rise to 2.61m at Murchison (recently the level has been about 1m), 3.78m at Shepparton (recently about 2.9m) and 3.37m at McCoy Bridge (recently about 1.7m). 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.

Rainfall forecasts are regularly monitored by GMW and the delivery of environmental water will 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 GBCMA website at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/projects/environmental-water/monitoring](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/projects/environmental-water/monitoring)

##### **Are other environmental flows planned?**

A winter flow is proposed for June 2017. Further information on environmental flows planned for the remainder of the 2016/17 water year in the Goulburn River and other waterways across the region can be found at the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) website at [www.vewh.vic.gov.au](http://www.vewh.vic.gov.au) and the GBCMA website at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/projects/environmental-water](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/projects/environmental-water).

##### **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](http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood). River level and flow information can also be found at <https://waterline.g-mwater.com.au/waterstatus/>

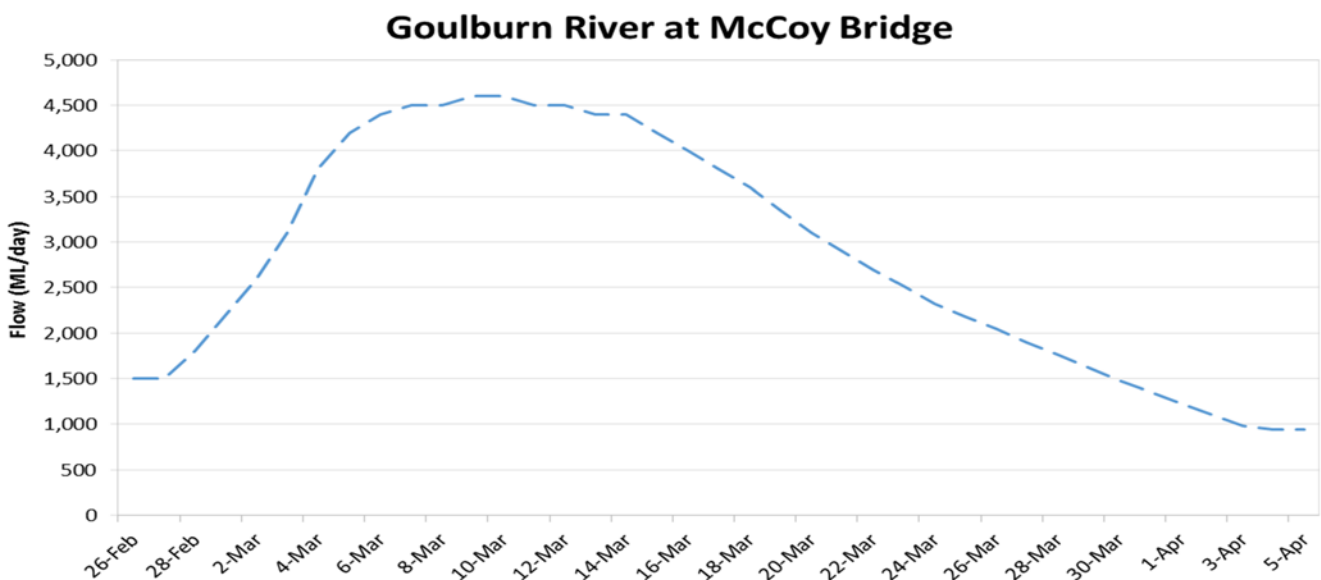
For planning of environmental releases in the Goulburn River, visit the GBCMA at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au) or phone (03) 5822 7700.

To help you in monitoring river flows, GMW publish daily updates on our website at [www.gmwater.com.au/water-resources/managing-water-storages](http://www.gmwater.com.au/water-resources/managing-water-storages)

because the forecast may change in response to rainfall and downstream flow requirements. Future planned releases will be published on this page as they are confirmed over the course of the season.

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

## The chart below shows the potential flow at McCoy Bridge during March



## The table below shows 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 4,600 ML/day	Minor Flood Level
Murchison Gauge	0.9 m	2.1 m	2.6 m	9.0m (29,200 ML/day)
Shepparton Gauge	2.8 m	3.4 m	3.8 m	9.5m (27,480 ML/day)
McCoy Bridge Gauge	1.5 m	2.6 m	3.4 m	9.0m (28,840 ML/day)