



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 01 APRIL 2009

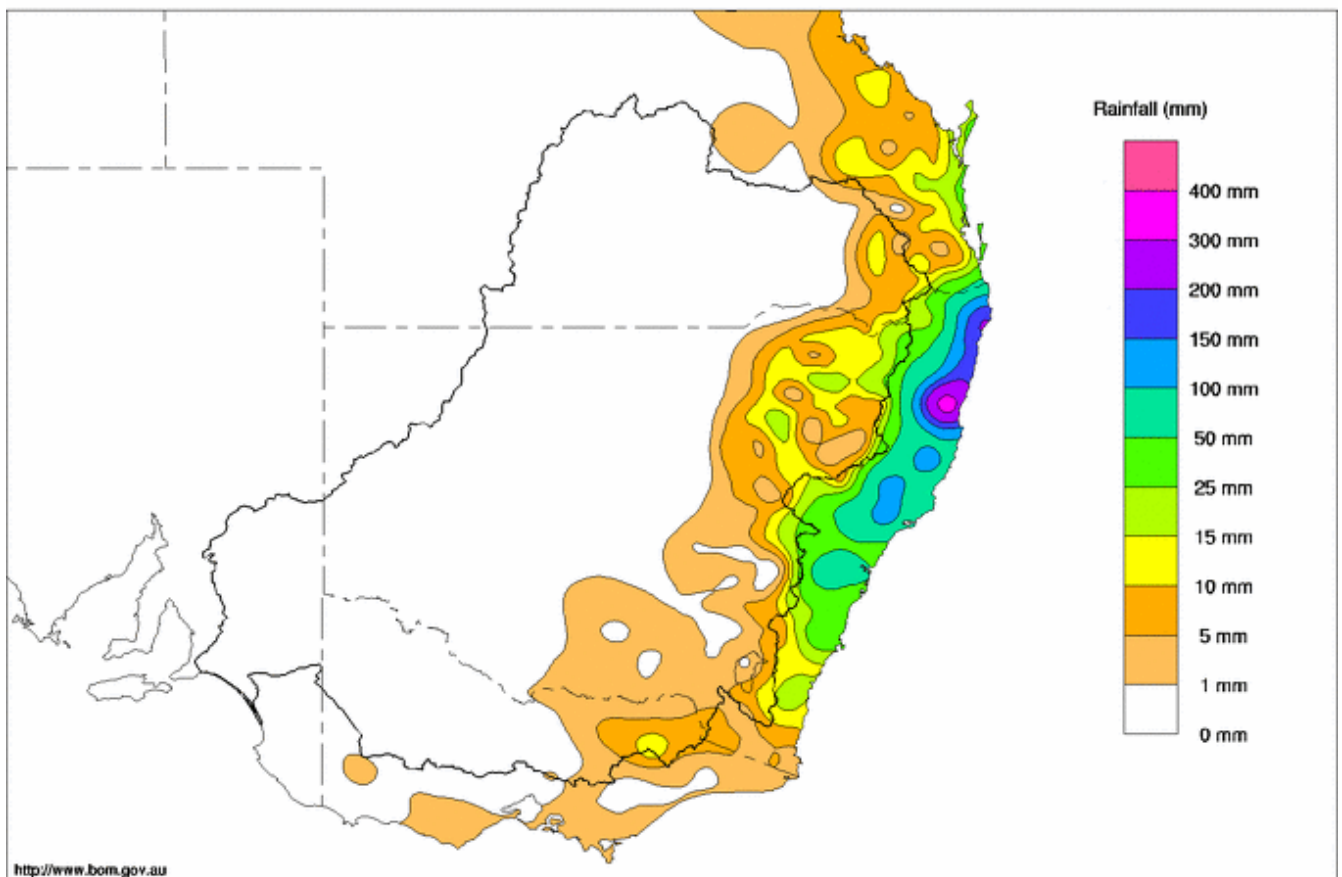
Trim Ref: D09/3986

3 April, 2009

## Rainfall and Inflows

Whilst the past week saw very heavy rain along parts of the NSW coast very little rain fell in the Basin. The eastern highlands, from Victoria to Queensland, received 1 to 15 mm. The western half of the Basin received no rain.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st April 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 01/04/2009

## River Operations

Dartmouth release is being incrementally increased from 500 to 3 000 ML/day, commencing 1 April and will reach 3 000 ML/day on Thursday 2 April. This increase in release transfers additional water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir, to keep the level of Hume Reservoir high enough to maintain the required flow downstream of the dam.

The flow at Doctors Point was reduced from 8 500 to 7 000 ML/day before being temporarily increased to 11 000 ML/day on Wednesday 1 April. The flow at Doctors Point will be reduced to about 8 000 ML/day next week.



The release from Yarrowonga Weir was reduced from 5 000 to 4 500 ML/day in response to reduced downstream water demands and river losses. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been steadily reduced since early March. These reduced flows are now passing Euston Weir and the Sunraysia District. During the past week the flow past Euston Weir has fallen from 4 000 to 2 500 ML/day.

The red alerts issued by the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee for blue-green algae in Hume Reservoir and Lake Mulwala remain, as does the red alert covering the Murray from Hume Dam to Torrumbarry Weir (see attached media release). Sections of the Murrumbidgee and the Lower Darling rivers have also been issued red alerts. People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river whilst this red alert warning is in place. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee's freecall hotline on 1800 999 457.

The storage in Lake Victoria has been gradually increasing since mid-March, rising from 160 GL to around 175 GL (26% of capacity). This increase in storage is a result of decreasing river losses and reductions in the flow to South Australia. The flow to South Australia is currently being gradually reduced, over a period of three days, from 4 000 to 2 900 ML/day.

In South Australia, all weir pool levels are close to, or slightly above, full supply level (FSL) except for Lock 4 which remained 6 cm below FSL. The flow past Lock 1 this week averaged 1 800 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina held steady at around -0.95 m AHD and the water level in Lake Albert remained steady at around - 0.53 m AHD.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Week ending Wednesday 01 Apr 2009**

**Water in Storage**

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	418.08	853	22%	80	773	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.55	123	4%	30	93	-32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.22	175	26%	100	75	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		256	15%	(- -) #	0	-0
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 407</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>-32</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = 11%

# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	455	44%	3	452	-23
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	486	30%	24	462	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	441	13%	100	341	-23

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 31-Mar-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	514	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+11	598
Snowy-Murray Component	212	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	221
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	9.5	377
			Murray 1 Release	+15	807

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2008		This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	11.5	133.6	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.3	111
Wakool System loss	1.4	38.8	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.0	218
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	23.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	95
Licensed Pumps	2.9	101.2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	12
Lower Darling	0.1	10.1	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.8	131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>306.9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>567</b>

\* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	135 *	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.4	
Flow so far this month	4	
Flow last month	125	

\* Reduced to approx. 90 GL during April drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC) (microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)**

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	50	50	70
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	110	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	530	570	450
Lock 9	130	120	210
Lake Victoria	230	260	260
Berri	310	330	370
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	480	470	510
Mannum	630	600	620
Murray Bridge	720	720	630
Milang (Lake Alex.)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	6 140	5 420	4 060
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 510	11 260	6 960
Goolwa Barrages	29 930	29 670	22 140



**Week ending Wednesday 01 Apr 2009**

**River Levels and Flows**

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 510	F	2 100	2 600
Jingellic	4.0	1.38	207.90	2 380	R	2 410	1 790
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.40	218.29	480	R	490	500
Heywoods	5.5	2.51	156.14	7 960	R	7 390	8 140
Doctors Point	5.5	2.47	150.94	8 650	R	7 580	8 350
Albury	4.3	1.47	148.91	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.72	127.74	6 330	F	7 100	8 040
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.89	115.93	4 530	S	4 830	5 510
Tocumwal	6.4	1.38	105.22	4 930	F	5 100	5 910
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.06	79.61	2 570	S	2 860	4 120
Swan Hill	4.5	0.70	63.62	2 730	F	3 200	4 390
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.81	50.93	3 540	F	4 050	5 260
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.82	42.66	2 540	F	3 250	4 550
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 080	F	4 490	5 550
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 990	F	4 260	4 660
Rufus Junction	-	2.88	19.81	3 190	F	3 350	3 410
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.76	-	1 620	F	1 810	1 790
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.60	153.83	130	F	130	150
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.56	145.24	110	F	130	140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	360	F	360	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.89	80.66	620	F	660	840
Edward at Liewah	-	1.58	56.96	880	F	940	1 060
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.97	54.46	0	S	0	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.40	56.36	170	F	170	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	S	70	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	370	S	450	850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.90	-	610	F	830	500

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)		670
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)**

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+0.63
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.07	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.23	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-1.51

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.76	0.608	69.958	250
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.71	0.12	61.42	244

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.95

**Barrages**

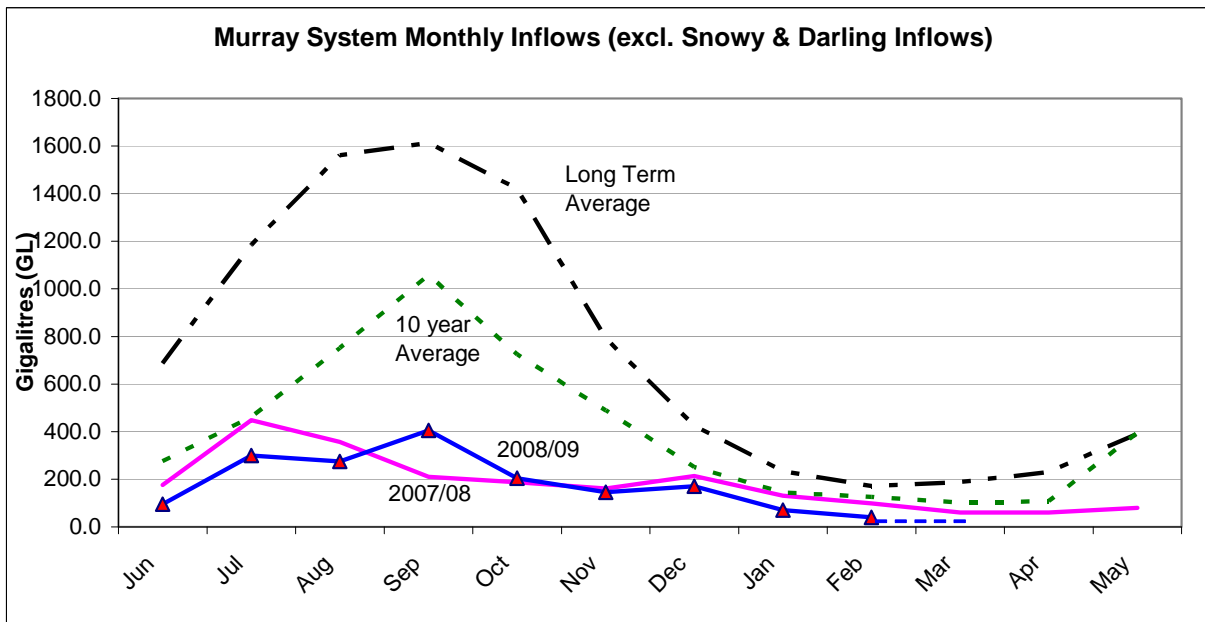
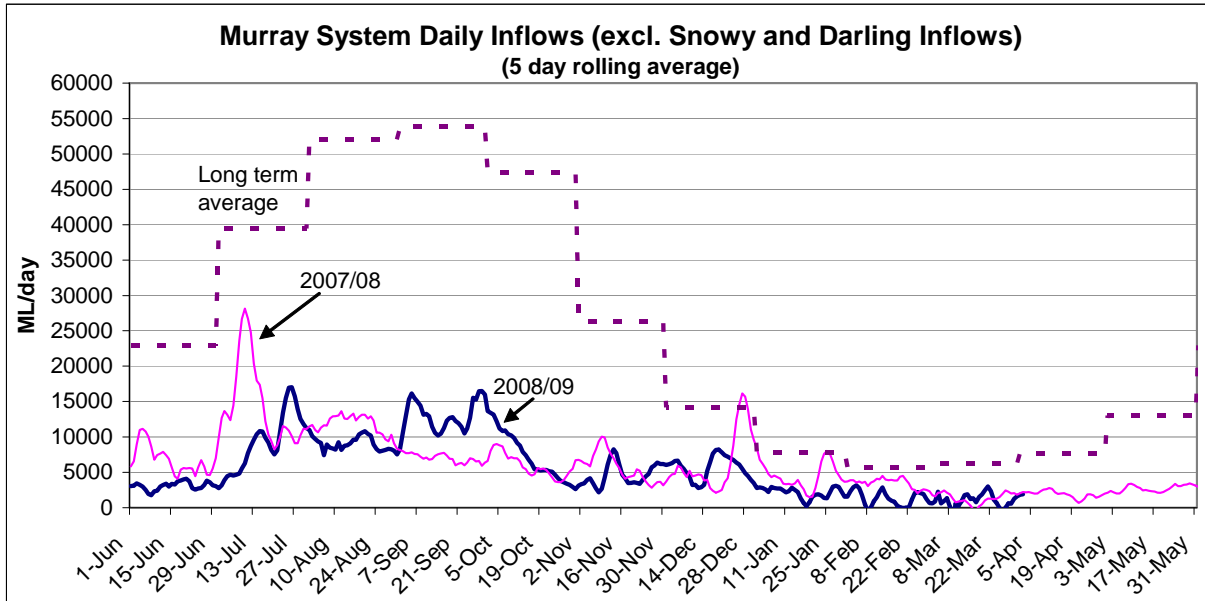
**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.96	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.72	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



Week ending Wednesday 1st April 2009



State Allocations (as at 1st April 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	33%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%
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NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr\\_toc\\_currnr.html](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html)

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwibc.sa.gov.au/media.html>



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

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## Media Release - Department of Water and Energy

Date: 2 April 2009

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# MID MURRAY RIVER STILL ON RED ALERT

Chairman of the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (MRACC) Richard Scott today confirmed the continuation of the red alert warning for blue green algae in the mid Murray River.

“The results from sampling over the past week continue to confirm the presence of high numbers potentially toxic blue green algae in the stretch of river from Hume Dam to Torrumbarry Weir,” he said.

Sampling in this stretch of the Murray River was increased following the issuing of the red alert warning by the Murray RACC last Wednesday.

“We want to get as much information to the public as possible prior the school holiday period.

“Unfortunately there is little sign of the blooms dispersing and the warm, still weather conditions forecast continue,” Mr Scott said.

“We have also increased sampling downstream between Torrumbarry Weir and Tooleybuc because of the likelihood of the bloom impacting on that part of the river,” he said.

The Murray RACC issued the red alert warning last week when routine monitoring by both NSW and Victorian authorities detected very high numbers of blue green algae in a 400 km stretch of the Murray River from Albury to Torrumbarry Weir.

Mr Scott said that this bloom occurred due the extremely low inflows into the Murray River system as a result of the ongoing drought.

The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins.

People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river whilst this red alert warning is in place.

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae and to remove stock from foreshores where surface scum is visible or blue-green algae are suspected.

People should not eat mussels or crayfish from red alert warning areas. Any fish caught should be cleaned and washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and red alert warning areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee free call Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457. Further information can also be obtained from the Department of Water and Energy’s website [www.dwe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au) or Goulburn Murray Water’s website at [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)

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