



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

## FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2009

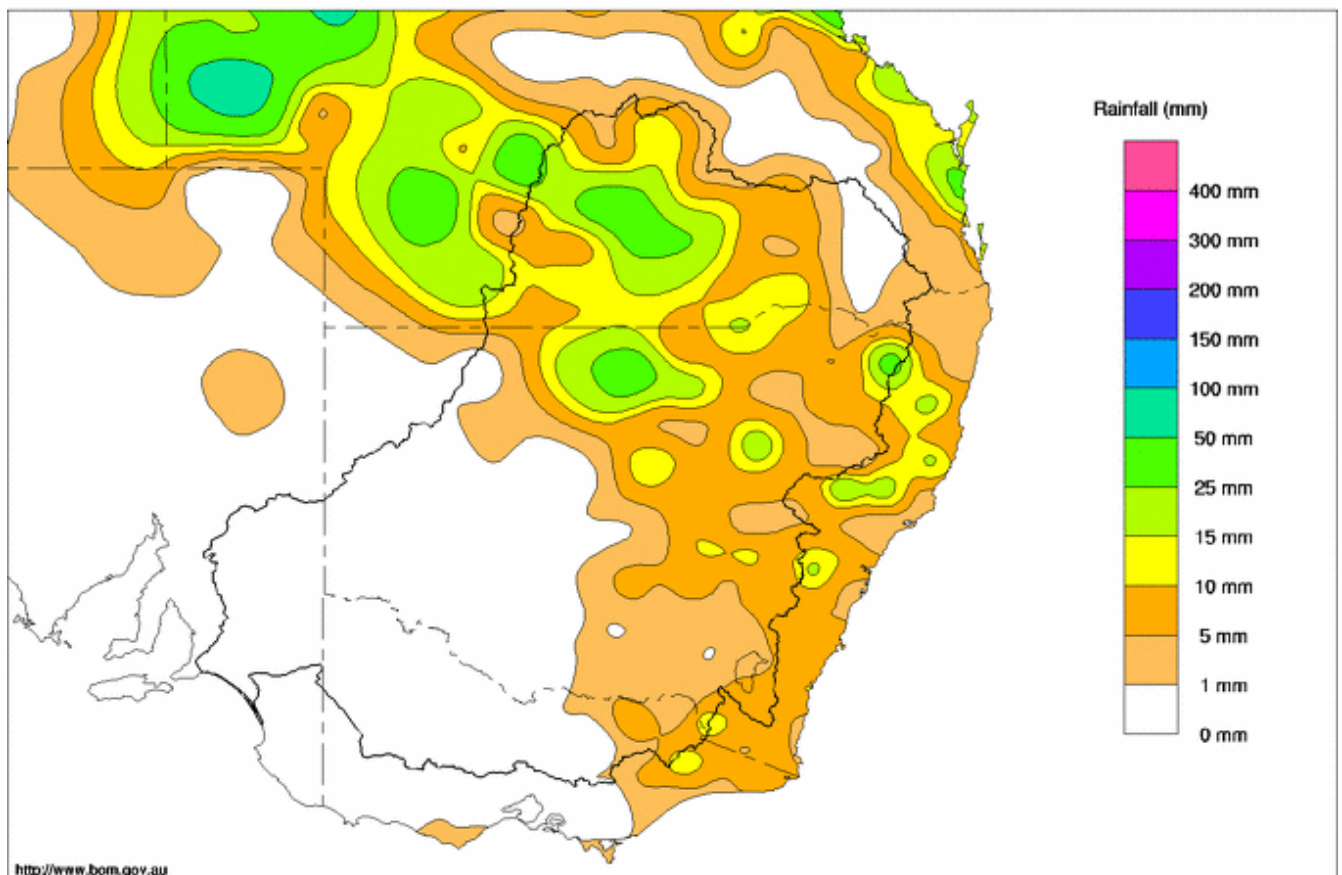
Trim Ref: D09/277

16 January, 2009

### Rainfall and Inflows

The north of the Basin experienced some light rain with some heavier falls of 25 to 39 mm falling over the northwest. Eugowra, in central NSW, received the greatest rainfall with 39 mm. Little or no rain was received across the south of the Basin (see map). Temperatures have remained high, with most towns along the Murray recording maximums in the mid to high 30's. This has contributed to the steady recession in stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th January 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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### River Operations

During the past week, storage in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 6 GL to a total of 880 GL (or 23 % capacity). Dartmouth release, which is currently 1 000 ML/day, was temporarily increased to 3 000 ML/day on Tuesday 13th January from 350 ML/day and is expected to be reduced back to 450 ML/day within the next two days. This is the fourth 'pulsed' release for the season and has helped transfer another small volume of water to Hume Reservoir.



Storage in Hume Reservoir has decreased by 47 GL to 657 GL (or 22 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been increased from 9 300 to 10 500 ML/day to offset the gradually receding inflows to the Murray from the Ovens River and meet higher demands and losses. If temperatures remain high and tributary inflows continue to recede then the flow at Doctors Point may be increased further over coming weeks. The water level at Lake Mulwala is currently around 124.7 m AHD (or 20 cm below full supply level) and Yarrawonga release remains steady at 7 500 ML/day.

Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) is advising water users in parts of the Gunbower Creek to avoid contact with water and seek alternative supplies for domestic and stock purposes after identifying the presence of high levels of blue-green algae (see media release at [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)). As summer is the most common time for algae blooms to emerge, water users all along the Murray are advised to remain vigilant for signs of blue green algae.

High temperatures over the past two weeks have resulted in increased transmission losses and increased irrigation diversions all along the Murray. Consequently, river flows downstream of Lake Mulwala are falling. For instance Torrumbarry Weir release has decreased from 5 300 to 4 600 ML/day whilst Torrumbarry Weir pool level has remained steady at FSL. Euston Weir release has fallen from 6 100 to 5 200 ML/day and Euston Weir pool also remains steady at FSL. Lake Victoria storage volume has fallen 12 GL to 350 GL (52% capacity) as the storage is being used to meet an increasing proportion of the flow to South Australia.

Flow to South Australia has averaged 4 300 ML/day over the past week. Locks 1 to 6 have fallen 5 to 8 cm below full supply level due to rising evaporation losses and increasing pumping along the lower Murray. The release from Blanchetown Weir (Lock 1) has averaged 1 400 ML/day over the past week. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has been falling and is currently about -0.61 m AHD, compared with -0.15 m AHD this time last year. The level in Lake Albert is slightly higher (-0.44 m AHD) as a result of the ongoing pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Week ending Wednesday 14 Jan 2009**

**Water in Storage**

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	419.14	880	23%	80	800	-6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.14	657	22%	30	627	-47
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.06	350	52%	100	250	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		132	8%	(- -) #	0	-10
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 019</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>1 677</b>	<b>-75</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 20%

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

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	522	51%	3	519	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	564	35%	24	540	-24
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	723	21%	100	623	-25

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Jan-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	798	-6	Snowy-Murray	+15	372
Snowy-Murray Component	432	-16	Tooma-Tumut	+5	206
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	10.0	166
			Murray 1 Release	+18	558

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	68.9	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	60
Wakool System loss	0.0	21.9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.1	93
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	12.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.5	59
Licensed Pumps	4.1	55.1	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	5
Lower Darling	0.6	5.9	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>260</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	217 *	
Flow this week	29.9	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	60	
Flow last month	137	

\* Reduced to approx. 135 GL during January drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	60	70	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	470	460	380
Lock 9	250	250	220
Lake Victoria	280	270	250
Berri	330	350	370
Waikerie	-	-	500
Morgan	470	470	530
Mannum	730	740	590
Murray Bridge	730	720	580
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 770	4 730	3 980
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 630	4 590	3 580
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	7 570	7 250	5 740
Goolwa Barrages	26 580	25 030	17 740



Week ending Wednesday 14 Jan 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	-	-	-	4 790	R	3 140	1 900
Jingellic	4.0	1.56	208.08	3 600	S	3 020	1 940
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.01	218.90	2 300	R	900	430
Heywoods	5.5	2.55	156.18	9 680	S	9 450	7 920
Doctors Point	5.5	2.59	151.06	10 100	S	9 850	9 010
Albury	4.3	1.56	149.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.17	128.19	9 160	F	8 740	8 270
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.34	116.38	7 590	R	7 540	7 650
Tocumwal	6.4	1.82	105.66	7 310	F	7 330	7 460
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.64	80.19	4 690	R	4 940	5 630
Swan Hill	4.5	1.04	63.96	4 810	S	5 060	5 670
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.23	51.35	5 080	F	5 450	6 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.09	42.93	5 180	R	5 690	6 660
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 910	F	4 170	5 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	2 980	S	3 280	4 750
Rufus Junction	-	3.01	19.94	3 800	R	3 620	3 710
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.60	-	1 090	F	1 440	1 320
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	330	R	300	490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.60	145.28	150	F	210	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.10	92.52	340	F	330	320
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.28	81.05	1 040	S	1 090	990
Edward at Liewah	-	1.58	56.96	870	F	920	1 060
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.87	54.36	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.43	56.39	190	F	200	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.59	-	1 010	F	870	460
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	970	R	1 100	1 490
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.86	-	400	F	550	850

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 680	800
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.73
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.08	-0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.07	+0.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.05	+0.03
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.06	+0.01
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.36	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.05	-1.35

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.75	0.789	70.139	422
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.32	0.179	61.479	295

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.61

Barrages

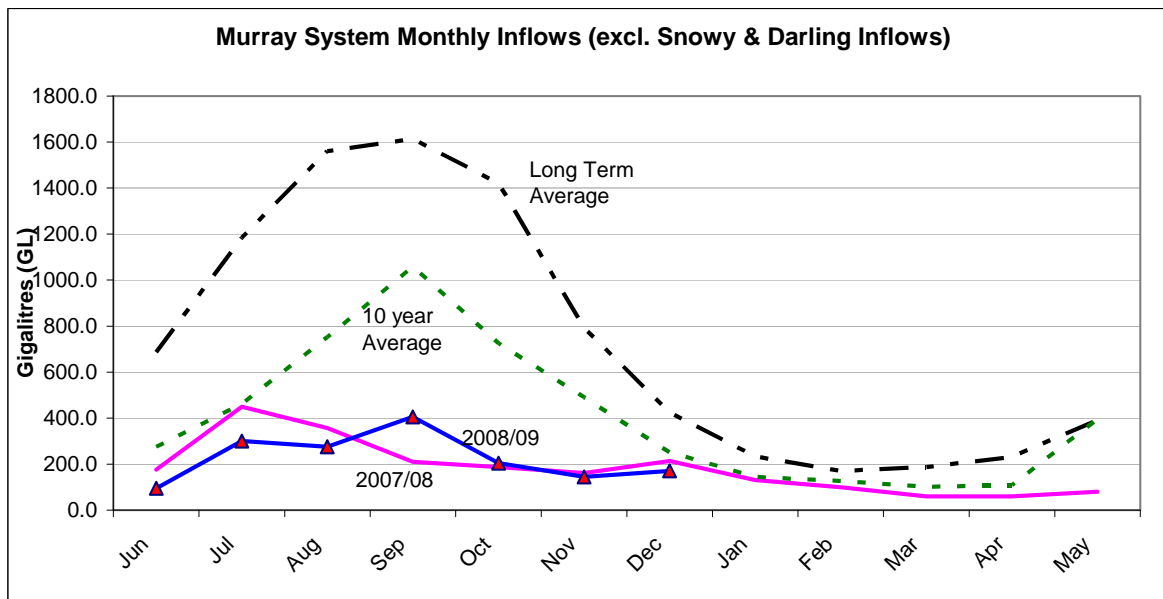
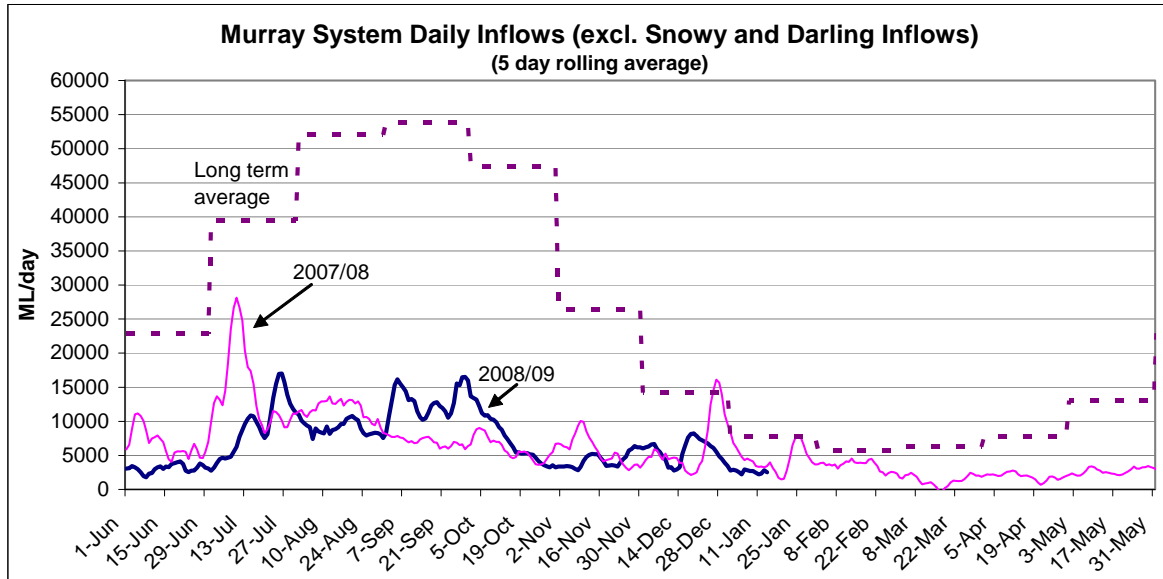
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.80	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.50	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 14th January 2009



**State Allocations (as at 14th January 2009)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	95%
General security	9%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	21%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	50%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	35%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	29%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	18% (on 1st Feb)
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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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>