



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2009

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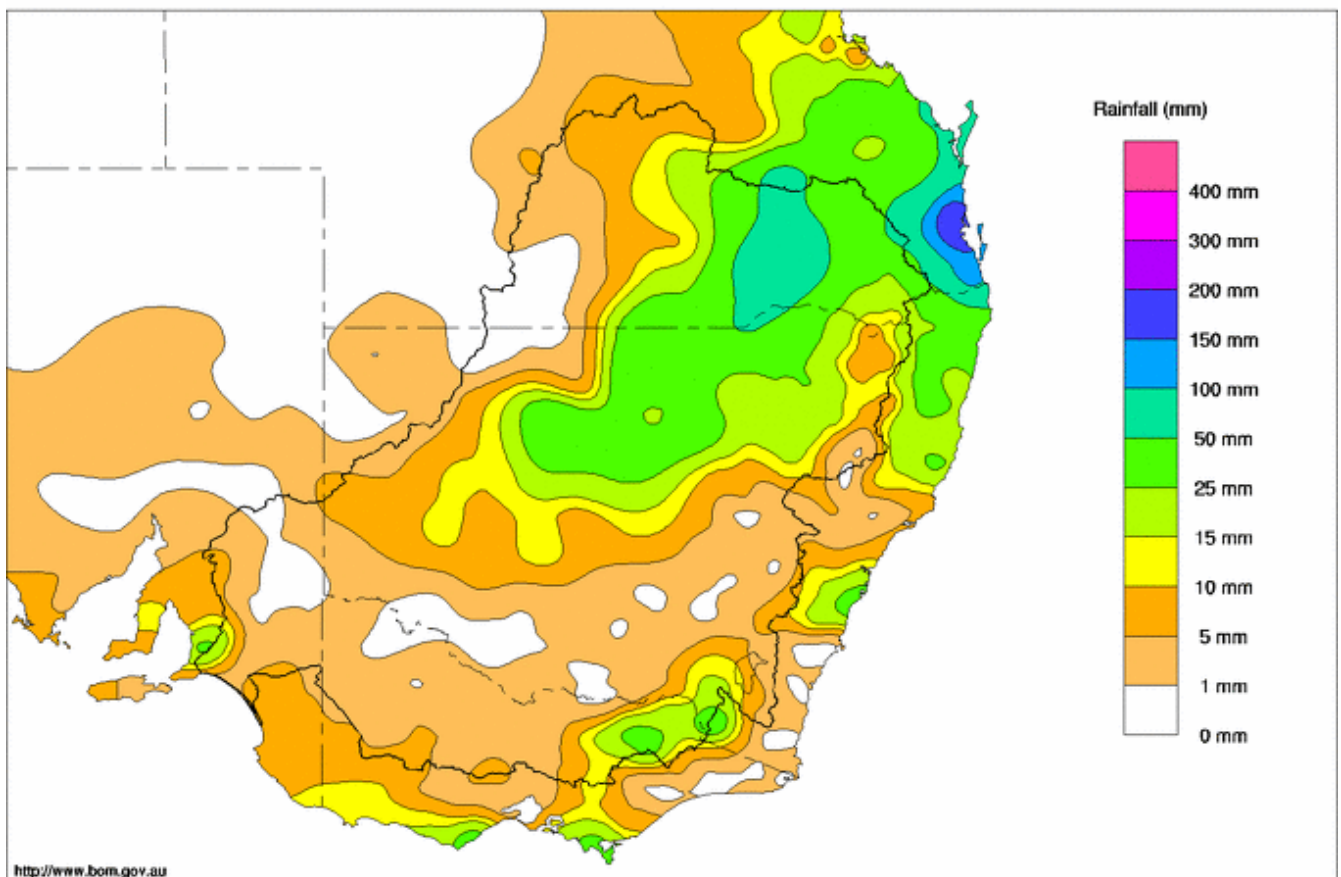
Rainfall and Inflows

After almost 3 weeks of dry weather, the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps received up to 50 mm of rainfall last Friday 15th May (see Map). Although this was only about half that received in the previous rainfall event in late April, the streamflow response in the upper Murray and its tributaries was very similar. This indicates that the catchments are slowly wetting up, and that future rainfall events are likely to generate steadily increasing streamflow responses. Most other regions in the southern Basin received up to 10 mm.

In the past few days coastal areas of southern QLD and northern NSW have received very heavy falls of rain and this is causing major flooding in some coastal rivers. Further inland the rainfall has generally been less intense, but some areas have received over 100 mm. To date, the best streamflow responses have been the Moonie River which peaked at 25 000 ML/day and the upper reaches of the Border Rivers, where some streams have risen above 15 000 ML/day. The response in other catchments has been small but could be boosted if further rain falls in the next few days.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th May 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Algal Update

In response to cooler water temperatures along the Murray, algal levels have been steadily decreasing over the last few weeks. This has allowed all red alerts to be lifted. However, some sites remain on amber alert and further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457.

River Operations

During the past week MDBA active (useable water) storage increased by 29 GL to 914 GL (or 11 % capacity). Storage remains well below the May long term average (4 670 GL) and is less than this time last year (1 080 GL or 13 % capacity). There is an additional 225 GL in Menindee Lakes (which is under NSW control) compared with 560 GL in May 2008.

During the past week, storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 5 GL to 820 GL (or 21 % capacity) and the release is steady at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. After reaching a low of 64 GL (2.1 % capacity) on 21st April, storage in Hume Reservoir has been gradually increasing and is currently at 163 GL (5.4 % capacity). At Doctors Point, downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River junction, the normal minimum flow of 1 200 ML/day is being targeted.

The second phase of the Lake Mulwala drawdown is underway, and during the past week the water level decreased by 0.6 m to 123.7 m AHD (or 1.2 m below FSL). The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 3 000 to 5 500 ML/day to target a rate of drawdown of about 10 cm/day during the coming week. It is planned to have the lake fully lowered (to about 119.5 m AHD) by early June. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

During the past week, the release from Torrumbarry Weir has steadily increased from 2 300 to 4 000 ML/day as a result of the increased releases from Yarrawonga Weir and the closing of irrigation diversions along National Channel. The Torrumbarry release is expected to continue increasing to about 5 000 ML/day during the coming week.

In early autumn the NSW Government delivered a stock and domestic replenishment flow to the Wakool river system. In early May a portion of this water finally reached the River Murray at Wakool Junction and caused a small spike in salinity from 80 to 200 EC. A rise in salinity is normally associated with the first flush of water from the Wakool system and the magnitude of this event was quite small.

In recent weeks the pool levels at Weirs 11 (Mildura), 10 (Wentworth), 9 (Kulnine) and 8 (Wangumma) have all been temporarily raised above Full Supply Levels. This was implemented to capture flows in transit while the inlet to Lake Victoria is partially closed to allow maintenance works at Scaddings Bridge. The maintenance works are due to be completed during the coming week, and weir pool levels will be gradually lowered back to Full Supply Levels.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently 141 GL (or 21 % capacity) and the target flow to South Australia is 1 900 ML/day. Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly below, Full Supply Level. As a result of the pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina, the water level in Lake Albert has been gradually rising, and is currently about -0.3 m AHD. The water level in Lake Alexandrina remains steady at -1.0 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 20 May 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	416.82	820	21%	80	740	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	167.65	163	5%	30	133	+26
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	21.80	141	21%	100	41	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		225	13%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		1 348	14%	--	914	+29

* 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	397	39%	3	394	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	502	31%	24	478	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	401	12%	100	301	+0

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-May-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	450	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+15	54
Snowy-Murray Component	316	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	8
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	10.6	47
			Murray 1 Release	+21	63

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)	-2.5	160.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	-0.1	136
Wakool System loss	1.7	50.4	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	270
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	24.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	101
Licensed Pumps	1.0	115.8	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	18
Lower Darling	0.1	10.8	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.3	153
TOTAL	0.3	361.8	TOTAL	3.6	678

* 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	93 *	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	12.7	
Flow so far this month	38	
Flow last month	93	

* Reduced to approx. 60 GL during May drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	40	40	60
Euston	80	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	120
Burtundy (Darling)	440	460	470
Lock 9	150	140	200
Lake Victoria	290	300	260
Berri	360	340	350
Waikerie	400	400	480
Morgan	460	480	510
Mannum	630	630	630
Murray Bridge	700	700	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 760	5 740	4 370
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 840	5 220	4 240
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 320	10 330	7 620
Goolwa Barrages	27 820	28 070	23 440

Week ending Wednesday 20 May 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	-	-	-	3 650	F	3 690	3 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.63	208.15	4 250	R	4 270	4 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.29	218.18	330	F	360	270
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	154.90	670	R	820	970
Doctors Point	5.5	1.48	149.95	1 200	F	1 280	1 260
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.63	126.65	1 650	R	1 320	1 310
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.04	116.08	5 520	R	4 780	2 980
Tocumwal	6.4	1.42	105.26	5 150	S	4 430	3 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.46	80.01	4 020	R	3 380	2 070
Swan Hill	4.5	0.71	63.63	2 790	S	2 340	1 960
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.65	50.77	3 020	R	2 510	2 630
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.62	42.46	2 570	R	2 200	2 890
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 710	F	2 360	2 480
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	1 960	S	2 210	2 660
Rufus Junction	-	2.49	19.42	1 130	S	1 040	1 080
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.71	-	1 110	F	1 120	1 160
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.12	154.35	730	F	710	360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.82	145.50	480	F	440	240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.10	92.52	340	R	340	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.05	80.83	790	S	1 010	710
Edward at Liewah	-	1.13	56.51	530	R	460	430
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.11	54.60	40	R	30	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.32	56.28	110	S	120	120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	20	R	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	260	R	100	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	80	F	110	170

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 790	1 330
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-1.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+0.21
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.07	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	-0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+0.14
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.31	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.04
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+0.37	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.03	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.41	+0.27	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-1.46

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.42	0.485	69.835	158
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.52	0.02	61.32	169

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

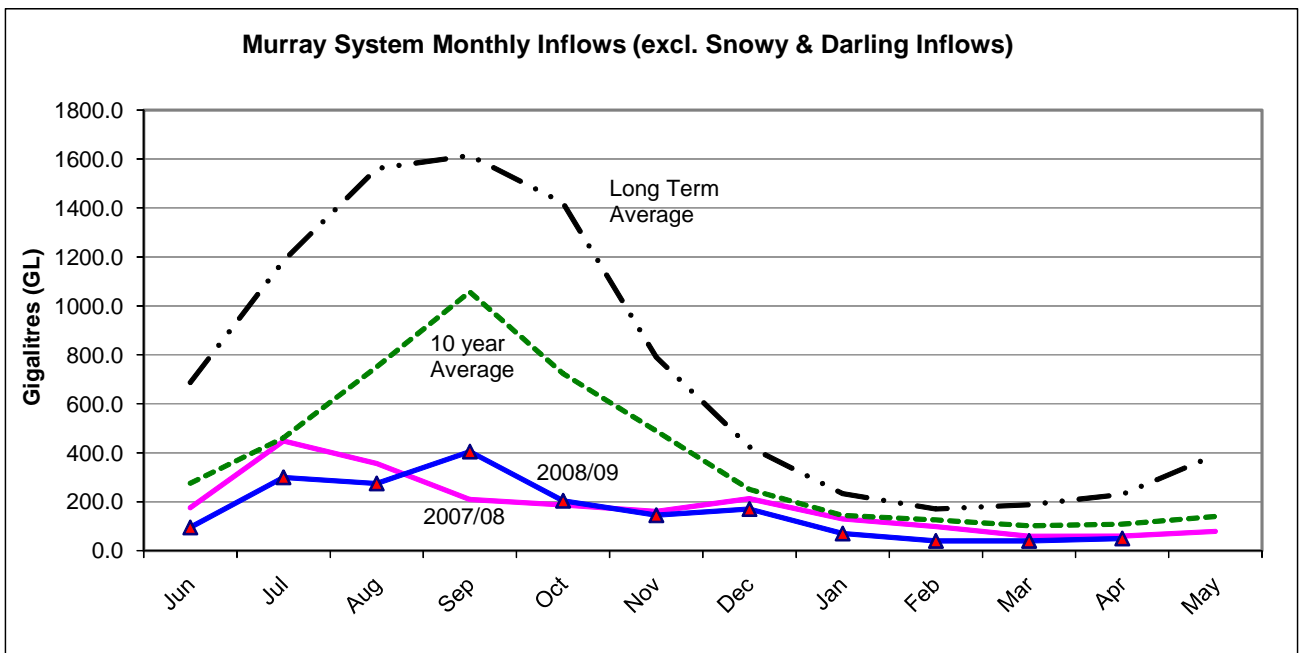
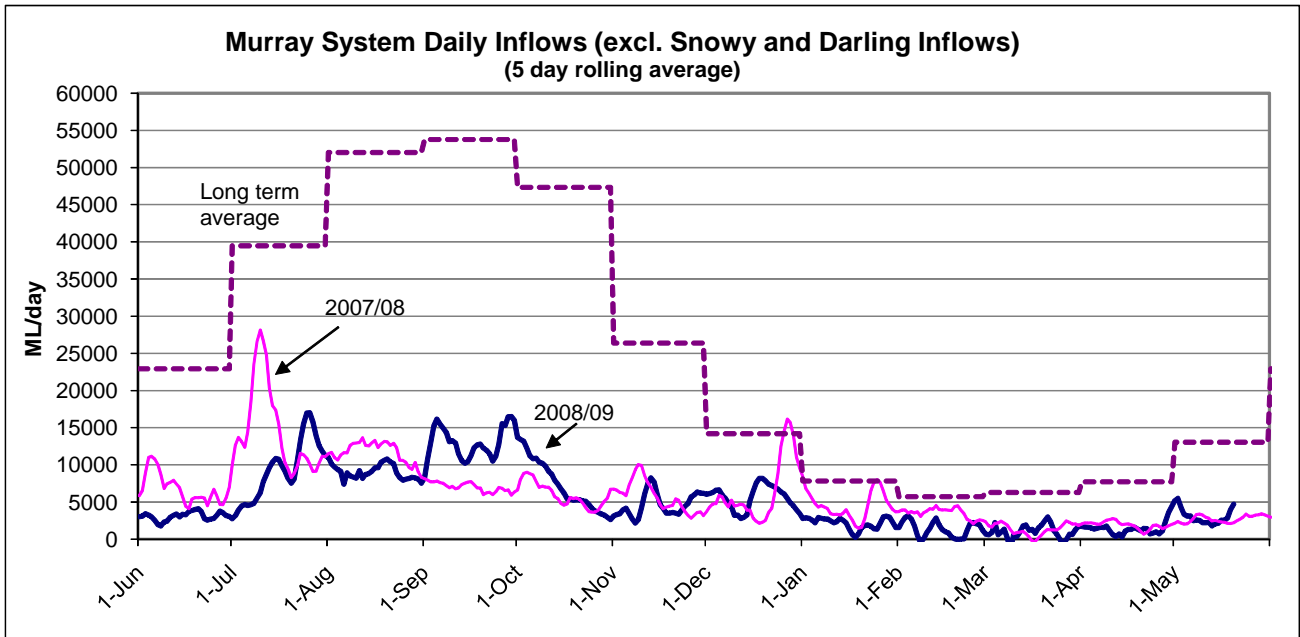
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.96

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-1.00	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	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



State Allocations (as at 20th May 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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