RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

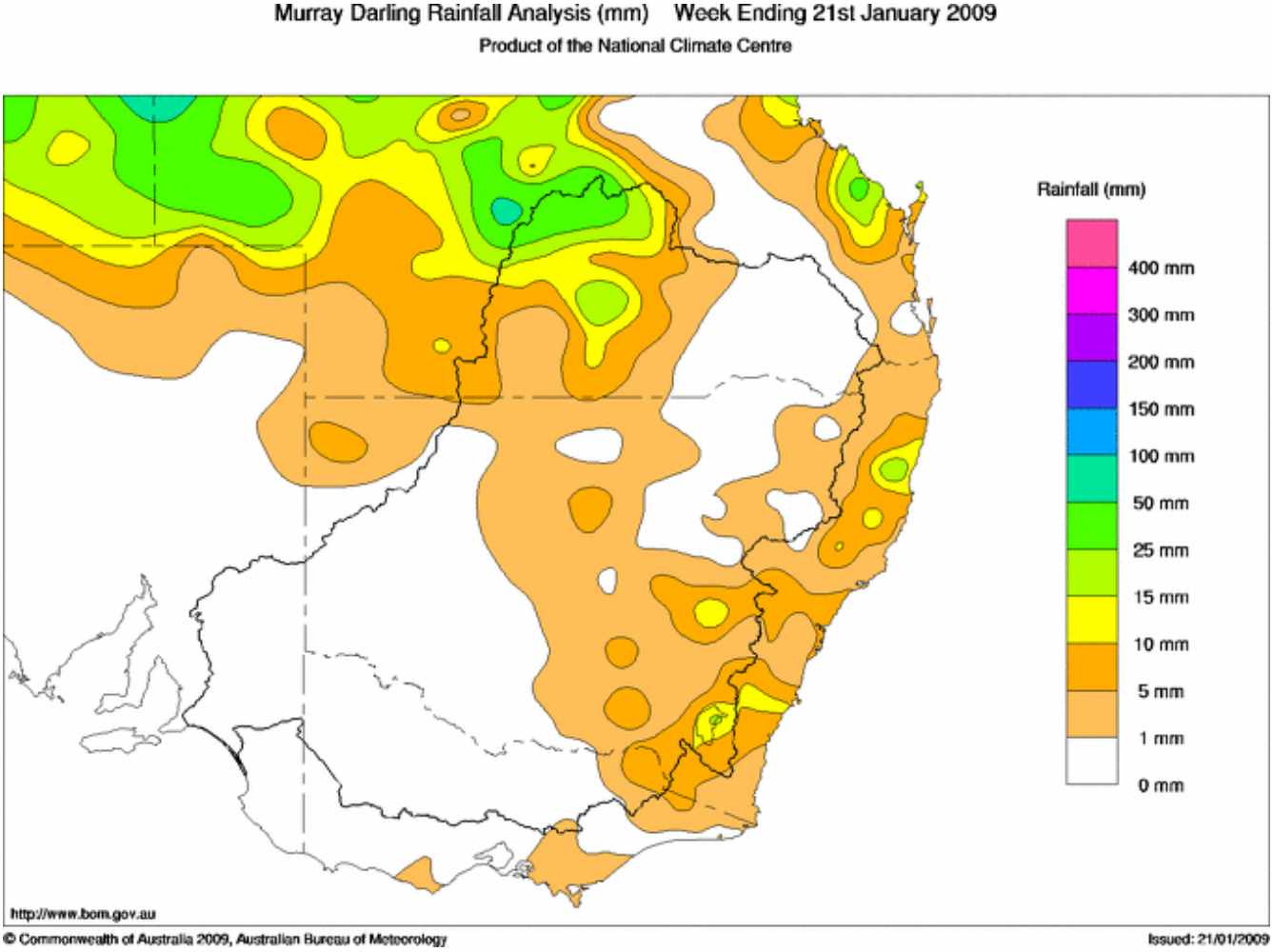
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2009

Trim Ref: D09/452 22 January, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

Most regions in the southern Basin experienced another week of little or no rain (see Map). Also, temperatures have been high, with some towns recording maximums in the low 40's. In the last couple of days, isolated thunderstorms, mainly across southern NSW, provided a small amount of relief. However, this rain had negligible effect on stream flows in the upper tributaries of the Murray which continue to recede. For instance, at Biggara on the upper Murray, the flow has gradually receded from about 1 100 ML/day in mid-December to 240 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta is being maintained at about 150 ML/day by releases from Lakes Buffalo and William Hovell.

In the northern half of the Basin, up to 50 mm of rain was recorded in the upper reaches of the Warrego catchment, but any effect on stream flows is likely to be very small.



River Operations

During the past week, MDBA active storage decreased by 66 GL to 1 611 GL (or 19 % capacity). A further 123 GL in Menindee Lakes remains under NSW control.

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by only 1 GL to 880 GL (or 23 % capacity), and should remain fairly steady over the coming weeks. Dartmouth release has been increased slightly from 450 to 500 ML/day to help maintain flows along the Mitta Mitta River.

Hume storage decreased by 39 GL to 618 GL (or 20 % capacity) and, if it remains dry, will continue to gradually decrease over the next few weeks. The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) has been increased from 10 500 to 11 500 ML/day to meet the increasing demands and losses further downstream. Similarly, the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 7 500 to 8 700 ML/day.

As a result of the recent hot and dry weather, there have been big increases in both irrigation demand and transmission losses along the Murray. This has caused a steady reduction in river flows downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, from 6 000 ML/day in early January to 3 900 ML/day. This will result in very low flows passing through the Sunraysia district over the next two weeks. Additional water, which has been released from Hume Reservoir and Lake Mulwala, should arrive at Torrumbarry Weir next week and in the Sunraysia district in early February. The Torrumbarry weir pool is currently being drawn down (by up to 20 cm) to help provide a temporary boost to downstream flows. If required, weir pools in the Sunraysia district will also be used to maintain downstream flows, until the additional water from upstream storages arrives. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

Over the past four weeks, there has been a small flow (500 to 1 500 ML/day) passing Bourke on the Darling River, and this has now reached Wilcannia. However, unless there are further inflows to the Barwon-Darling system, the volume of water that finally reaches Menindee Lakes will be small.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 27 GL to 323 GL (or 48 % capacity). Lake Victoria is currently supplying the bulk of South Australia's water requirements and is expected to continue falling over the coming weeks. As a result of the recent hot weather, the weir pool levels at Locks 1 to 6 are between 4 and 13 cm below full supply level. The flow to South Australia has been increased from 4 300 to 4 800 ML/day to bring the weir pool levels back towards their full supply levels and maintain a flow past Lock 1 of 1 400 ML/day.

Salinities upstream of Lock 1 remain low: at Morgan for instance, it is 480 EC which is similar to this time last year. However, in the Lower Lakes salinities continue to rise as a result of low inflows and high evaporative losses. The salinity in Lake Albert is 8 000 EC compared with 3 600 EC twelve months ago. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about -0.67 m AHD and is likely to continue falling during the remainder of summer.

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DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 21 Jan 2009

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	419.12	880	23%	80	800	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.70	618	20%	30	588	-39
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.79	323	48%	100	223	-27
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		123	7%	(- -) #	0	-9
Total		**9 352**		**1 943**	**21%**	**- -**	**1 611**	**-76**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **19%**

\# 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		520	51%	3	517	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		575	35%	24	551	+12
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		692	20%	100	592	-31

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Jan-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	781	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+29	401
Snowy-Murray Component	407	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	208
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	26.3	193
			Murray 1 Release	+33	591

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	71.3
Wakool System loss	0.1	21.9
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	14.2
Licensed Pumps	4.4	59.5
Lower Darling	0.6	6.5
TOTAL	**6.4**	**173.5**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	62
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.8	107
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.8	64
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	5
Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	52
TOTAL	**28.8**	291

* 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	32.6 (4 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	93
Flow last month	136

* 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	80	70	70
Euston	70	60	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	130	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	500	490	390
Lock 9	250	250	220
Lake Victoria	280	270	250
Berri	320	320	370
Waikerie	-	-	500
Morgan	480	480	530
Mannum	750	710	600
Murray Bridge	750	740	590
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 990	4 890	4 020
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 760	4 690	3 620
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	8 010	7 710	5 810
Goolwa Barrages	26 640	26 250	18 150

Week ending Wednesday 21 Jan 2009

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	7 210	F	5 340	3 140
Jingellic	4.0	1.96	208.48	6 930	R	4 930	3 020
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	R	680	900
Heywoods	5.5	2.69	156.32	10 550	R	10 000	9 450
Doctors Point	5.5	2.70	151.17	11 300	R	10 690	9 850
Albury	4.3	1.67	149.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.25	128.27	9 670	S	9 490	8 740
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.48	116.52	8 710	R	8 030	7 540
Tocumwal	6.4	1.91	105.75	7 880	R	7 560	7 330
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.43	79.98	3 910	F	4 080	4 940
Swan Hill	4.5	0.89	63.81	3 950	S	4 290	5 060
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.04	51.16	4 340	F	4 720	5 450
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.93	42.77	4 320	S	4 800	5 690
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	2 710	F	3 110	4 170
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	1 940	F	2 140	3 280
Rufus Junction	-	3.10	20.03	4 280	S	4 210	3 620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.49	-	1 420	S	1 500	1 440
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.66	153.89	170	F	350	300
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.58	145.26	130	F	160	210
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	360	S	340	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.38	81.15	1 150	S	1 150	1 090
Edward at Liewah	-	1.64	57.02	940	R	890	920
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.82	54.31	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.40	56.36	170	F	170	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.36	-	350	R	640	870
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	740	S	840	1 100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.78	-	210	F	300	550

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	710	1 580

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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.07	+0.77
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.11	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.13	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.07	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.09	+0.39
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.03
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.08	+0.00
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	-0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	-1.24

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.71	0.748	70.098	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.185	61.485	300

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.67

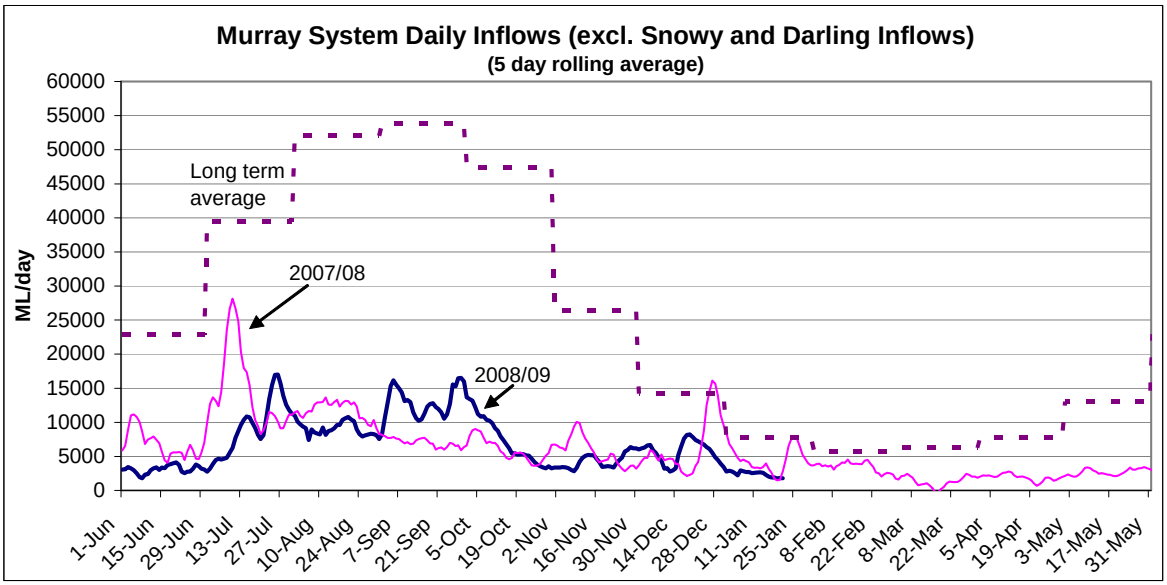
Barrages

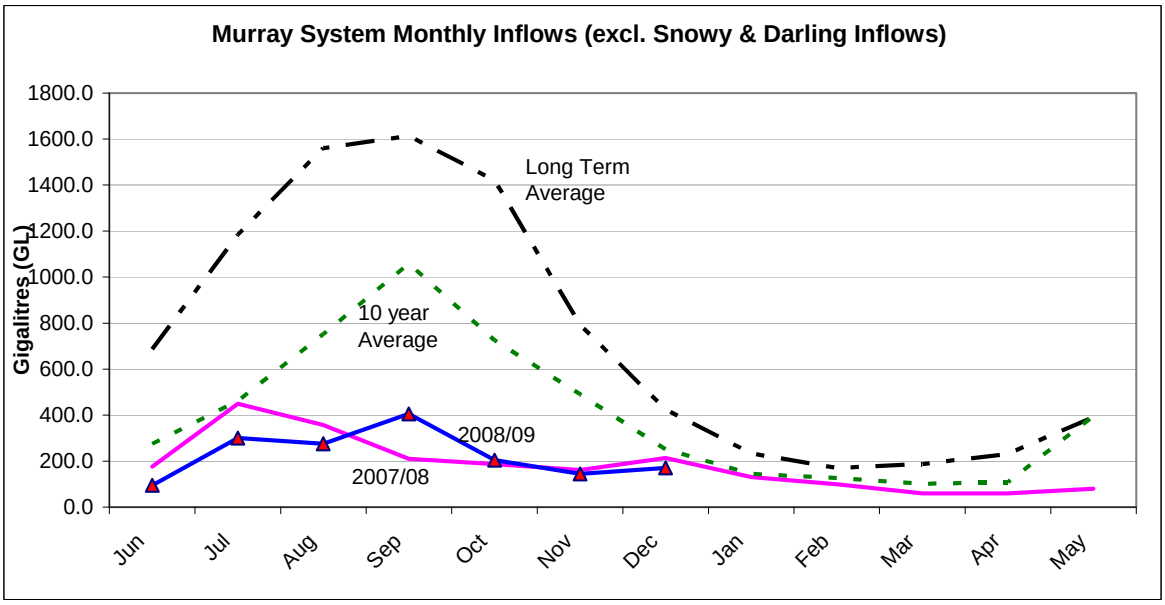
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.66	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.52	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 21st January 2009





State Allocations (as at 21st 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%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	29%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18% (on 1st Feb)

NSW : 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