



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

## FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2009

Trim Ref: D09/2099

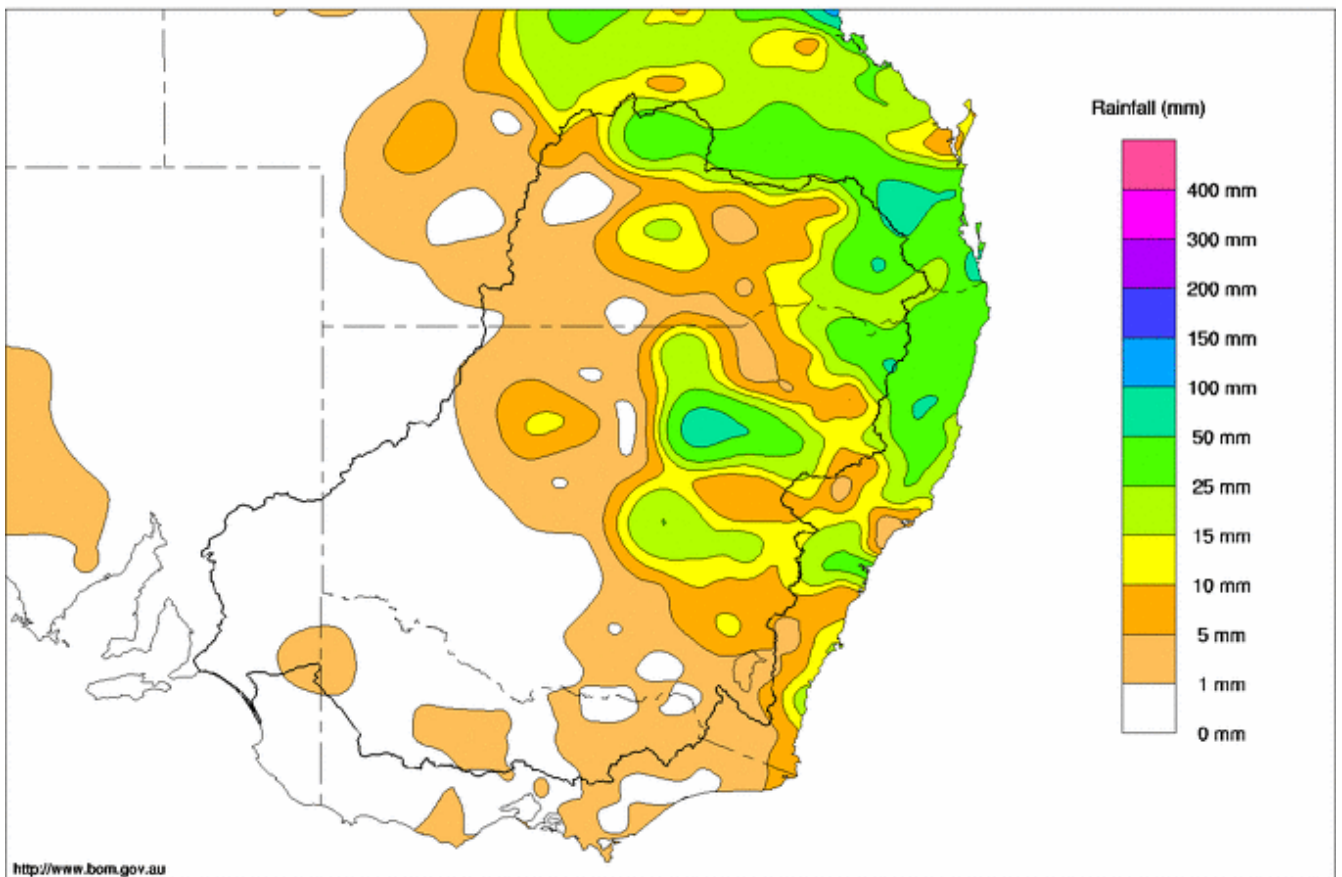
27 February, 2009

### Rainfall and Inflows

The highest falls of rain this week were once again recorded in the northern Basin, with 50-100 mm recorded on the NSW north-western slopes (near Coonamble and Coonabarabran), the NSW northern tablelands (near Glen Innes) and the Darling Downs in Queensland (see Map). The small flush of water in the Darling River which originated from very heavy localised rainfall near Bourke about two weeks ago, is now peaking at Wilcannia at a rate of 10 000 ML/day. To date, about 25 GL has arrived at Menindee Lakes. Further upstream, the Barwon River has received additional water from various tributaries, including the Border Rivers, Gil Gil Creek and the Namoi River. As a result, the Barwon River at the Macquarie junction is currently peaking at 13 000 ML/day.

The southern half of the Basin remains very dry, with less than 5 mm recorded in most areas. Streamflows in the tributaries of the upper Murray remain very low and Murray system inflows continue to track close to the historic minimum.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th February 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 25/02/2009



## River Operations

MDBA active storage continues to decline, and is currently at 1 195 GL (or 14% capacity), which is slightly lower than this time last year (1 280 GL) and well below the long term average (4 900 GL).

Storage in Hume Reservoir, which is continuing to supply the bulk of downstream water requirements, decreased by 52 GL to 370 GL (or 12 % capacity). In the next couple of weeks Hume storage is likely to fall below 300 GL (or 10 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume and the Kiewa River) has been averaging about 11 500 ML/day and is likely to remain fairly steady during the coming week.

Yarrowonga release is currently 9 500 ML/day and is also likely to remain fairly steady during the coming week. Further downstream, releases from Torrumbarry Weir (6 500 ML/day) and Euston Weir (6 000 ML/day) are also steady. The flow past Wentworth Weir has increased slightly from 2 900 to 3 300 ML/day and should continue to gradually increase during the coming week. Release from Menindee Lakes is steady and is maintaining a flow at Burtundy of 100 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 22 GL to 168 GL (or 25 % capacity) As the storage level decreases, an increasing proportion of the flow to South Australia (which is currently 5 000 ML/day) is being supplied by the higher flows arriving along the Murray. The cooler weather has allowed the weir pool levels at Locks 1 to 6 to slowly recover, however Locks 4 and 6 remain slightly below their full supply levels.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently -0.89 m AHD and continues to slowly decline. The salinity in Lake Alexandrina continues to slowly rise, and is currently 5 000 EC at Milang and 32 000 EC upstream of Goolwa Barrage. The water level in Lake Albert is steady at -0.55 m AHD and the salinity is 10 000 EC.

The MDBA recently announced that relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream sites along the Murray, will be extended until 30 June 2009 (see attached media release).

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Week ending Wednesday 25 Feb 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)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	418.66	868	22%	80	788	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.53	370	12%	30	340	-52
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.14	168	25%	100	68	-22
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		131	8%	(- -) #	0	+24
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 537</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 195</b>	<b>-52</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = 14%

# 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	515	50%	3	512	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	540	33%	24	516	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	552	16%	100	452	-21

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Feb-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	581	-27	Snowy-Murray	+25	540
Snowy-Murray Component	270	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	214
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	24.9	326
			Murray 1 Release	+24	735

**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)	2.4	83.0	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	73
Wakool System loss	2.0	29.8	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.8	163
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	20.4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	86
Licensed Pumps	n/a	81.4	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	8
Lower Darling	n/a	9.4	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>224.1</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>433</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	194 *	(5 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	36.0	
Flow so far this month	130	
Flow last month	141	

\* Reduced to approx. 135 GL during February 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	80	70	90
Red Cliffs	90	90	130
Merbein	100	110	130
Burtundy (Darling)	610	620	420
Lock 9	170	170	220
Lake Victoria	310	300	260
Berri	360	360	370
Waikerie	420	420	490
Morgan	530	510	520
Mannum	710	710	620
Murray Bridge	700	740	610
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 880	4 970	4 200
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 090	5 100	3 840
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	9 820	6 250
Goolwa Barrages	32 270	32 270	20 540



Week ending Wednesday 25 Feb 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	-	-	-	4 500	F	3 900	2 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.62	208.14	4 100	R	4 090	2 050
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	F	540	560
Heywoods	5.5	2.77	156.40	11 240	S	11 120	11 260
Doctors Point	5.5	2.72	151.19	11 500	R	11 370	11 660
Albury	4.3	1.67	149.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.40	128.42	10 700	S	10 590	11 030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.59	116.63	9 520	S	9 510	9 480
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	9 010	S	8 990	9 010
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.16	80.71	6 480	S	6 530	6 380
Swan Hill	4.5	1.22	64.14	6 030	R	5 860	5 460
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.49	51.61	6 070	R	5 950	5 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.22	43.06	5 960	R	5 690	4 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 360	F	4 120	2 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	3 280	R	2 940	1 930
Rufus Junction	-	3.13	20.06	4 450	S	4 530	4 530
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.64	-	1 770	R	1 670	1 650
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.59	153.82	120	F	140	170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.58	145.26	130	F	140	170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	370	F	420	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.35	81.12	1 120	F	1 190	1 210
Edward at Liewah	-	1.76	57.14	1 070	R	1 000	860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.17	54.66	80	R	70	50
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	220	S	210	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.60	-	1 090	F	1 470	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.86	-	6 670	R	4 990	6 420
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.73	-	120	F	120	120

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	n/a	n/a
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+0.84
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.31	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.35	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-1.39

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.67	0.372	69.722	95
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-3.40	0.215	61.515	328

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.89

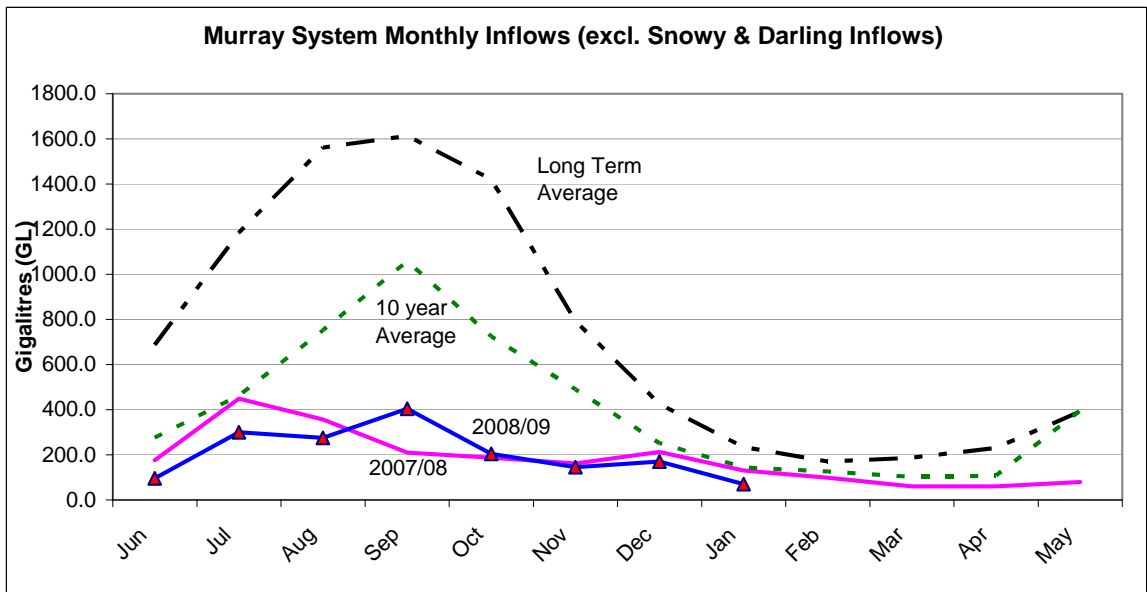
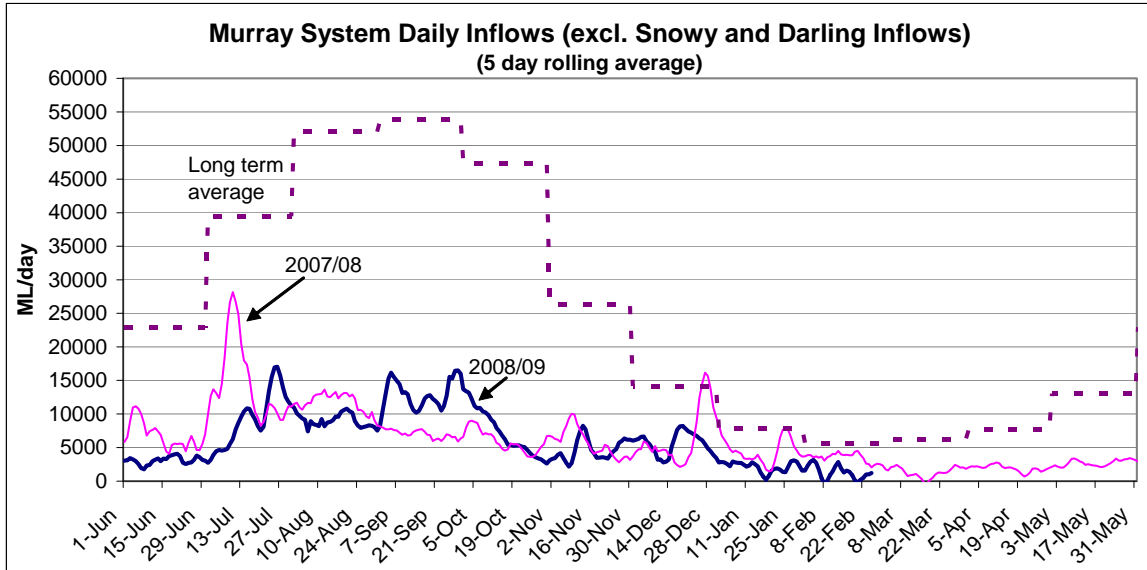
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.84	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.70	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 25th February 2009



**State Allocations (as at 25th February 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	30%
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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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>

# MEDIA RELEASE

23 February, 2009



## Relaxation of water trading rules through Barmah Choke extended to end of June

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced today that relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke downstream to other stretches of the Murray River will be extended until 30 June - the remainder of the 2008/2009 water season.

Chief Executive Rob Freeman said that the decision is based on the extended drought conditions and the lower than normal flows in the river for the 2008/09 water season.

“The minimal net trades through the Barmah Choke at the end of January and the serious outlook for the Murray system means there is virtually no risk of exceeding the channel capacity of the Choke,” he said.

“Extending the relaxation rule will continue to enable entitlement holders above the Choke to sell their water allocations to downstream users which will help them manage their irrigation businesses.

“Allocation transfers downstream through the Barmah Choke are not normally allowed because the Choke constrains the volume of water that can pass and we cannot guarantee delivery every season.”

However, because of the extended drought conditions and the lower than normal flows in the river, transfers of allocations are guaranteed.

“If weather conditions change and we have more water within the river, we may need to cease this trading arrangement. However, any allocation transfers approved up until that time would be honoured,” Mr Freeman said.

Trade in entitlements from above to below the Choke will continue to be prohibited.

**Media inquires contact: Sam Leone, Phone: (02) 6279 0141**

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