



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2009

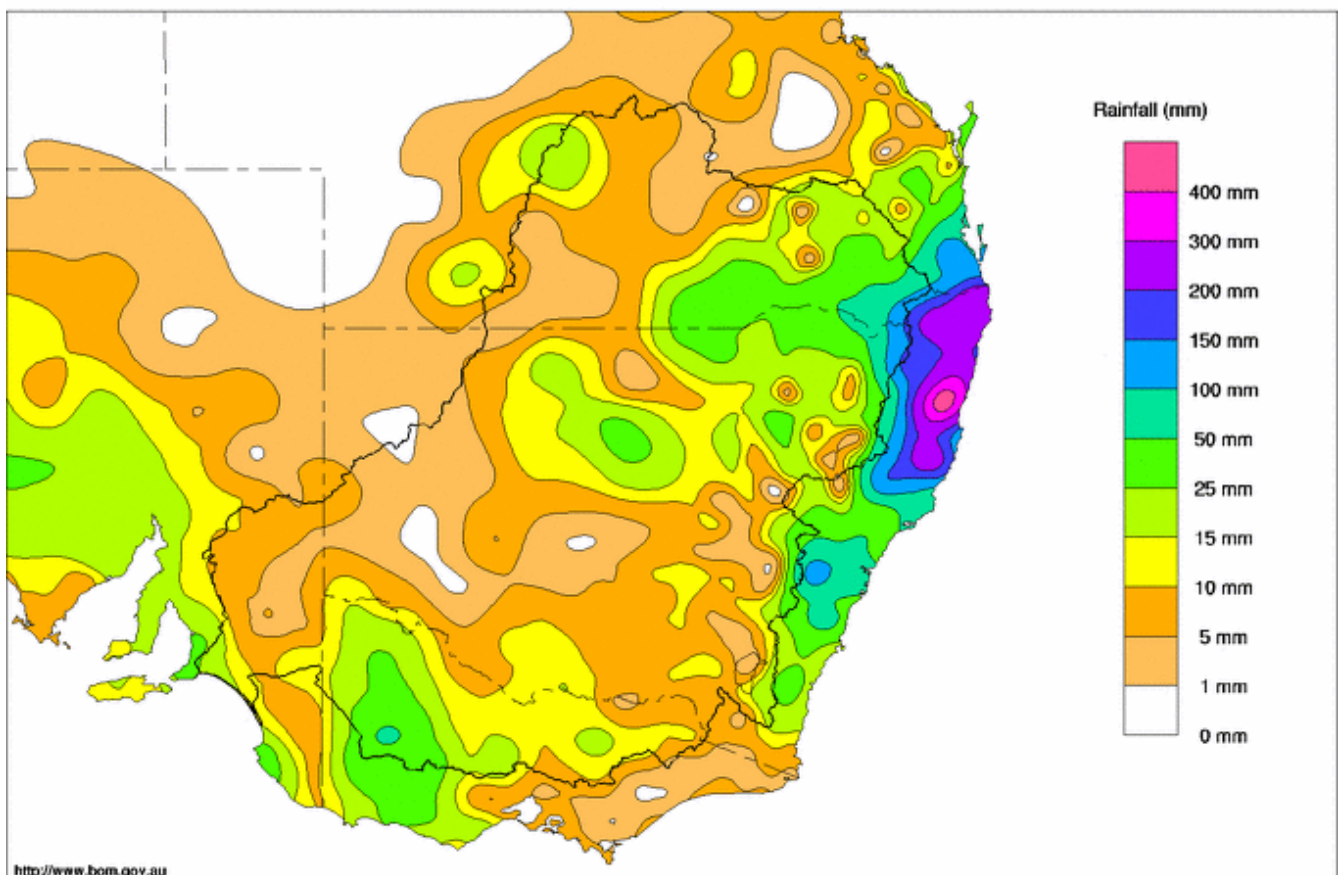
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## Rainfall and Inflows

Over the past week, there was very heavy rainfall (up to 400 mm) along the coast of south-east Queensland and northern NSW. This caused major flooding in coastal rivers. Further inland, within the Basin the rainfall was less intense, but some areas in the northern Murray-Darling Basin received over 100 mm. Tenterfield, on the edge of the Basin in north-eastern NSW, recorded the highest rainfall with 195 mm. Western Victoria received between 25 and 50 mm of rain whilst the rest of the basin recorded falls of between 5 to 15 mm.

Whilst there was some stream flow response in the northern Basin most of the water from the northern NSW rain is expected to naturally dissipate across floodplains and along complex anabranch systems, as it very slowly moves downstream. Very little water is expected to reach Menindee Lakes. Updates will be provided over coming weeks. The rain in the southern basin has helped suppress evaporative and transmission losses.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 27th May 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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## River Operations

Reduced downstream demand and decreasing evaporative losses have resulted in the storage in Dartmouth Reservoir very gradually increasing since mid April. Dartmouth storage is currently 824 GL (21% of capacity) and the flow at Colemans remains at 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has been gradually rising since late April and increased by a further 19 GL over the past week to 186 GL (6.1% of capacity).

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) averaged around 1 200 ML/day over the past week and the release from Yarrawonga Weir was maintained at 5 500 ML/day to assist in lowering Lake Mulwala. During the week the level of Lake Mulwala reduced from 123.6 to 122.9 m AHD (2 m below FSL), consistent with the planned 10 cm / day reduction in lake level. 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.

The water released from Lake Mulwala has resulted in the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir increasing from 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day over the past week and the flow at Euston is expected to gradually increase over the coming week from 3 500 to 5 500 ML/day.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy continues to gradually lower Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River. The pool level was lowered this week to 2.45 m (local gauge height) (2.75 m below FSL) and is planned to be drawn down to a minimum height of around 0.45 m over the winter months.

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 was partially closed to allow maintenance works at Scaddings Bridge. The maintenance works are now complete and the weir pools are being gradually lowered back to their Full Supply Levels. Lock 9 is currently 9 cm above FSL (27.4 m AHD), down from 23 cm above FSL and Lock 8 is now only 38 cm above FSL (24.6 m AHD), down from 45 cm above FSL.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently 143 GL (or 21 % capacity) and the target flow to South Australia is 1 900 ML/day. The weir pools of Locks 1 to 6 have been gradually falling and currently range between 0 and 8 cm below FSL. As a result of the pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina, the water level in Lake Albert continues to gradually rise, and is currently about -0.28 m AHD. The water level in Lake Alexandrina remains steady at about -0.95 m AHD.

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DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 27 May 2009

### Water in Storage

| MDBA Storages       | Full Supply Level<br>(m AHD) | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level<br>(m AHD) | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | MDBA Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Total Storage for the week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                     |                              |                            |                                  | (GL)            | %          |                      |                             |                                              |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00                       | 3 906                      | 416.96                           | 824             | 21%        | 80                   | 744                         | +4                                           |
| Hume Reservoir      | 192.00                       | 3 038                      | 168.22                           | 186             | 6%         | 30                   | 156                         | +24                                          |
| Lake Victoria       | 27.00                        | 677                        | 21.84                            | 143             | 21%        | 100                  | 43                          | +3                                           |
| Menindee Lakes      |                              | 1 731 *                    |                                  | 222             | 13%        | (- -) #              | 0                           | -2                                           |
| <b>Total</b>        |                              | <b>9 352</b>               |                                  | <b>1 376</b>    | <b>15%</b> | <b>- -</b>           | <b>944</b>                  | <b>+28</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 | 393 | 38% | 3   | 390 | -4 |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 | 503 | 31% | 24  | 479 | +1 |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 390 | 405 | 12% | 100 | 305 | +4 |

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-May-2009

| Storage                | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL)   | This week | From 1 May 2009 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 449                 | n/a                | Snowy-Murray     | +13       | 67              |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 310                 | -                  | Tooma-Tumut      | +3        | 11              |
| Target Storage         | 1 290               |                    | Nett Diversion   | 9.9       | 56              |
|                        |                     |                    | Murray 1 Release | +16       | 80              |

### 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) | -0.6       | 159.4            | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)   | 0.0         | 136              |
| Wakool System loss      | 2.1        | 52.5             | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0.0         | 276              |
| Western Murray Irrig.   | 0.1        | 24.9             | Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 0.0         | 101              |
| Licensed Pumps          | 1.1        | 116.9            | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 9.0         | 27               |
| Lower Darling           | 0.1        | 10.8             | Licensed pumps - LMW            | 2.3         | 155              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>2.7</b> | <b>364.6</b>     | <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>11.3</b> | <b>695</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 | 93 * |                |
| Flow this week         | 12.5 | (1 800 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 50   |                |
| 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                  | 180     | 140                        | 90                          |
| Red Cliffs              | 100     | 100                        | 120                         |
| Merbein                 | 90      | 90                         | 120                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | 400     | 420                        | 470                         |
| Lock 9                  | 140     | 150                        | 200                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 260     | 260                        | 260                         |
| Berri                   | 310     | 320                        | 350                         |
| Waikerie                | -       | 380                        | 480                         |
| Morgan                  | 480     | 480                        | 510                         |
| Mannum                  | 590     | 610                        | 620                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 690     | 690                        | 640                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 5 780   | 5 760                      | 4 400                       |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 4 510   | 4 790                      | 4 250                       |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 10 540  | 10 110                     | 7 680                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 27 170  | 26 570                     | 23 520                      |

Week ending Wednesday 27 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                        | -                     | -            | -       | 2 020         | F     | 2 940                           | 3 590                           |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                   | 1.41         | 207.93  | 2 510         | F     | 3 340                           | 4 330                           |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                   | 1.32         | 218.21  | 370           | R     | 320                             | 360                             |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                   | 1.40         | 155.03  | 1 000         | S     | 830                             | 820                             |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                   | 1.51         | 149.98  | 1 310         | R     | 1 240                           | 1 280                           |
| Albury                           | 4.3                   | 0.68         | 148.12  | -             | -     | -                               | -                               |
| Corowa                           | 7.0                   | 0.48         | 126.50  | 1 260         | R     | 1 280                           | 1 320                           |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                   | 1.03         | 116.07  | 5 380         | F     | 5 450                           | 4 780                           |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                   | 1.51         | 105.35  | 5 620         | F     | 5 540                           | 4 430                           |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                   | 1.70         | 80.25   | 4 900         | F     | 4 650                           | 3 380                           |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                   | 0.89         | 63.81   | 3 950         | R     | 3 490                           | 2 340                           |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                   | 2.08         | 51.20   | 4 480         | R     | 3 720                           | 2 510                           |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                   | 0.91         | 42.75   | 3 910         | R     | 3 190                           | 2 200                           |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                     | -            | -       | 2 900         | F     | 2 160                           | 2 360                           |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                   | 2.93         | 27.69   | 3 360         | R     | 2 280                           | 2 210                           |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                     | 2.50         | 19.43   | 1 190         | F     | 1 160                           | 1 040                           |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                     | -0.70        | -       | 1 140         | F     | 1 230                           | 1 120                           |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                       |              |         |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                   | 0.91         | 154.14  | 450           | R     | 570                             | 710                             |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                  | 7.73         | 145.41  | 330           | S     | 360                             | 440                             |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                   | -            | -       | 330           | R     | 330                             | 340                             |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                     | 1.35         | 81.13   | 1 130         | F     | 960                             | 1 010                           |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                     | 1.69         | 57.07   | 990           | R     | 830                             | 470                             |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                     | 1.20         | 54.69   | 90            | R     | 70                              | 30                              |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                   | 0.36         | 56.32   | 150           | R     | 130                             | 120                             |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                     | 3.18         | -       | 20            | S     | 30                              | 0                               |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                     | 4.10         | -       | 330           | F     | 260                             | 100                             |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                     | 0.68         | -       | 50            | F     | 70                              | 110                             |

|                                                                           |       |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 2 830 | 3 780 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|

### 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      | -1.94 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River    | 22.10       | -0.03 | +0.23 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | +0.01 | -     | No. 6 Murtho         | 19.25       | -0.07 | -0.07 |
| No. 15 Euston     | 47.60       | +0.01 | -     | No. 5 Renmark        | 16.30       | -0.00 | -0.01 |
| No. 11 Mildura    | 34.40       | +0.02 | +0.08 | No. 4 Bookpurnong    | 13.20       | -0.04 | +0.12 |
| No. 10 Wentworth  | 30.80       | +0.06 | +0.29 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | -0.04 | -0.01 |
| No. 9 Kulnine     | 27.40       | +0.09 | +0.34 | No. 2 Waikerie       | 6.10        | -0.08 | +0.00 |
| No. 8 Wangumma    | 24.60       | +0.38 | +0.24 | No 1. Blanchetown    | 3.20        | -0.04 | -1.45 |

| Murrumbidgee  | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. |         | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
|               |             |                 | local (m)     | (m AHD) |               |
| No. 7 Maude   | 75.40       | -0.45           | 0.467         | 69.817  | 146           |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90       | -0.57           | 0             | 61.3    | 156           |

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

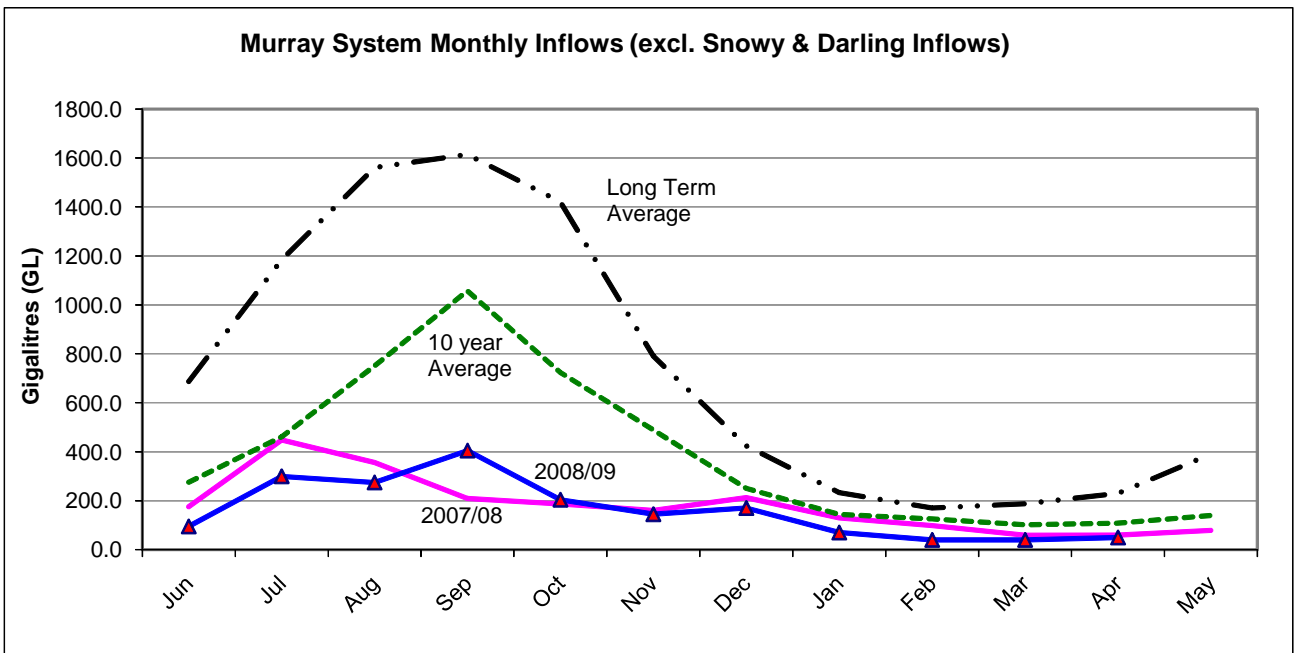
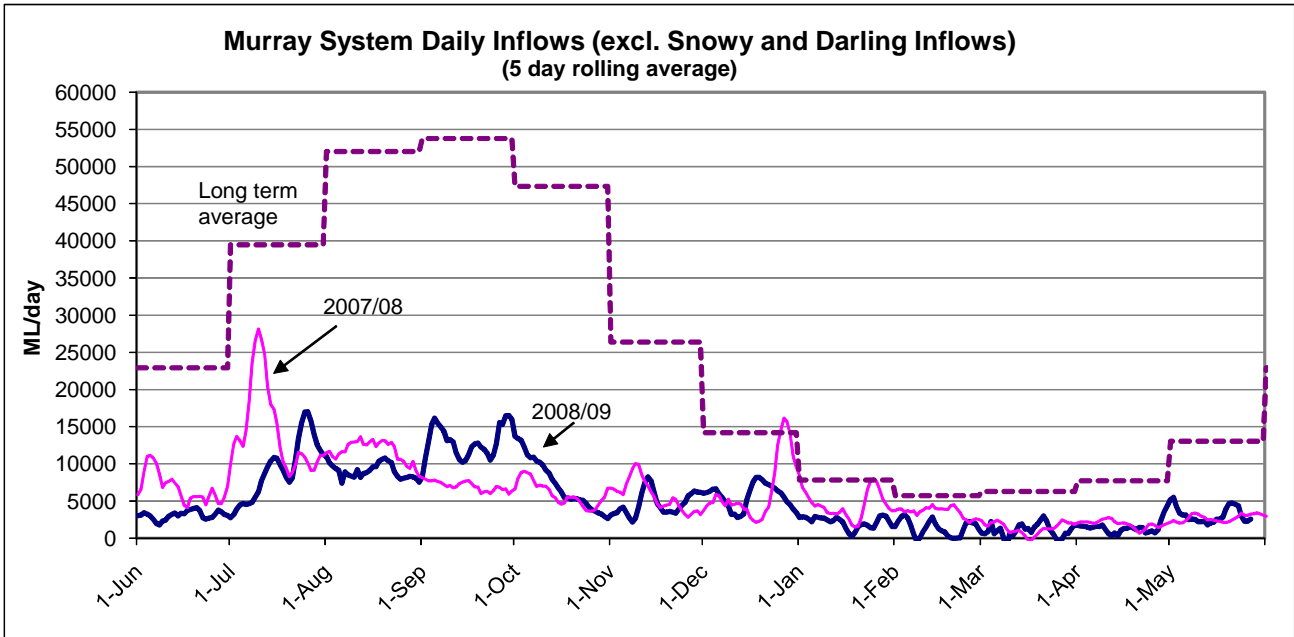
|                                                    | (m AHD) |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | -0.95   |

### Barrages

#### Fishways @ Barrages

|                | Openings     | Level (m AHD) | Status     | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa         | 128 openings | -0.96         | All closed | -         | Closed        |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | -             | 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



**State Allocations (as at 27th May 2009)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High security    | 95% |
| General security | 9%  |

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 35% |
|------------------|-----|

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High security    | 95% |
| General security | 21% |

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 33% |
|------------------|-----|

**NSW - Lower Darling**

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| High security    | 100% |
| General security | 50%  |

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| High security | 18% |
|---------------|-----|

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>