

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 October 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, AS  
Trim Ref : 08/10108*

3 October, 2008



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

After good falls of rain on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, virtually no rain was recorded across the Basin during the past week (see Map 1). In response, streamflows in the catchments of the upper Murray and its tributaries have been steadily receding. For instance, at Biggara on the upper Murray, the flow has reduced from a peak of 14 000 ML/day on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 1 200 ML/day. Over the past few weeks streamflows in the alpine areas have been boosted by snowmelt, and only a small cover of snow now remains on the main range.

During the month of September, rainfall was below average across the southern half of the Basin and above average in the north (see Map 2). September inflows for the Murray system (excluding Snowy releases and the Darling) were 405 GL. This is well below the long term September average of 1 610 GL but above the record low of 120 GL in September 2006. For the months June to September 2008, total Murray system inflows were 1 080 GL, which is higher than the record low of 460 GL in June to September 2006 but well below the long term average of 5 000 GL.

The Bureau of Meteorology's rainfall outlook for October to December indicates a moderate to strong shift towards wetter than normal conditions over the northern half of the Basin and a shift towards drier than normal conditions in southern Victoria. The temperature outlook indicates a strong shift in the odds towards warmer than normal maximum temperatures over most of south-eastern Australia. Further information can be obtained from [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead)

## ***River Operations***

Storage in Hume Reservoir has increased by 50 GL to 1 050 GL (or 35 % capacity) while storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has increased by 23 GL to 835 GL (21 % capacity). Total MDBC active storage increased by 55 GL to 1 970 GL (or 23 % capacity).

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been increased from 5 000 to 6 500 ML/day to meet increasing water demand and transmission losses further downstream. The level of Lake Mulwala is 124.3 m AHD (or 60 cm below Full Supply Level) and is expected to gradually rise towards 124.5 m AHD (40 cm below FSL) as the additional water from Hume Dam arrives. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has remained steady at about 4 500 ML/day.

Torrumbarry Weir pool level is 85.95 m AHD (10 cm below FSL) and is being gradually raised back towards the full supply level of 86.05 m AHD. The Torrumbarry release is currently 3 000 ML/day and is likely to remain fairly steady during the coming week.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remains under NSW control) decreased by 14 GL to 480 GL (or 28 % capacity). The release from Menindee Lakes was increased by NSW from 950 to 2 300 ML/day and should peak at about 4 000 ML/day during the coming week. The increased flows along the lower Darling River have arrived at Burtundy and should reach the Murray at Wentworth in the next few days.

The flow to South Australia has been increased from 2 900 to 3 400 ML/day to help maintain the weir pool levels of Locks 1 to 6 and also provide a target flow past Lock 1 of about 2 000 ML/day. The salinity at Morgan (upstream of Lock 1) is 620 EC which is slightly lower than 12 months ago (770 EC). The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.26 m AHD and in Lake Albert is -0.22 m AHD. The salinity at Milang in Lake Alexandrina is 3 600 EC and at Meningie in Lake Albert is 5 000 EC. These are higher than the salinities recorded 12 months ago, of about 2 500 EC at both sites.

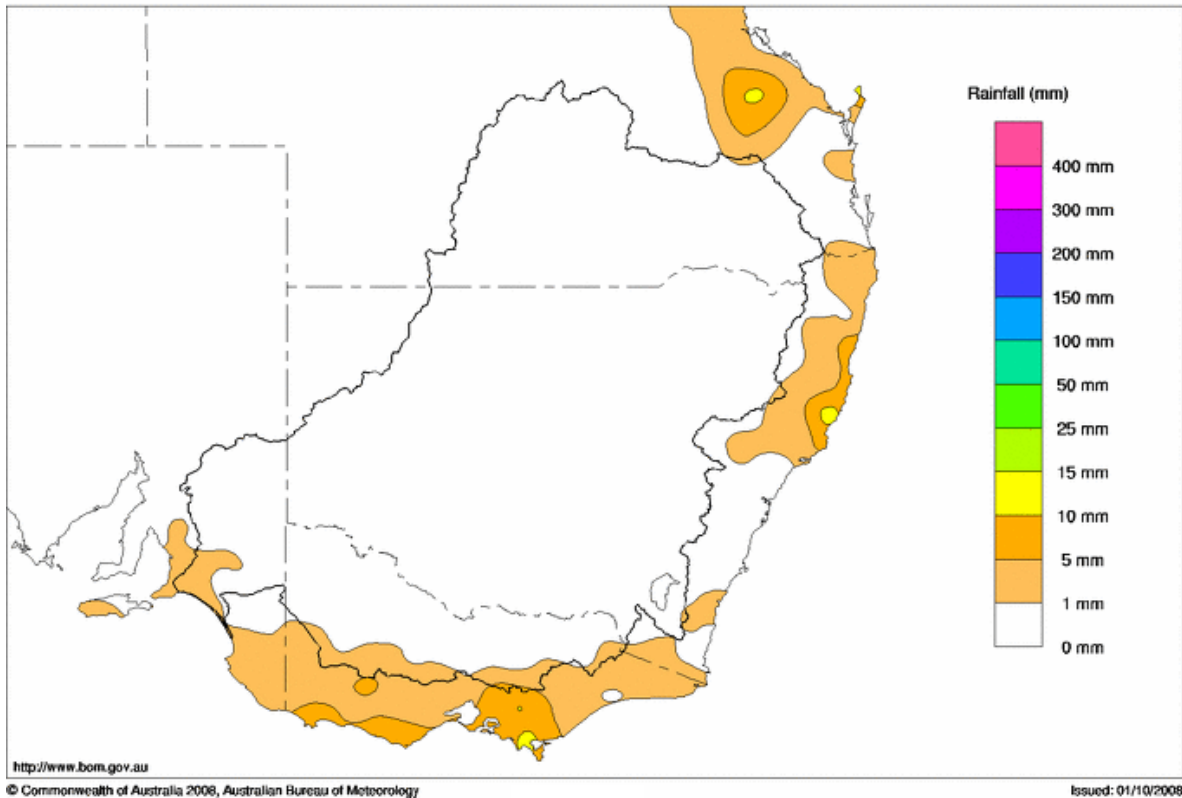
**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332**

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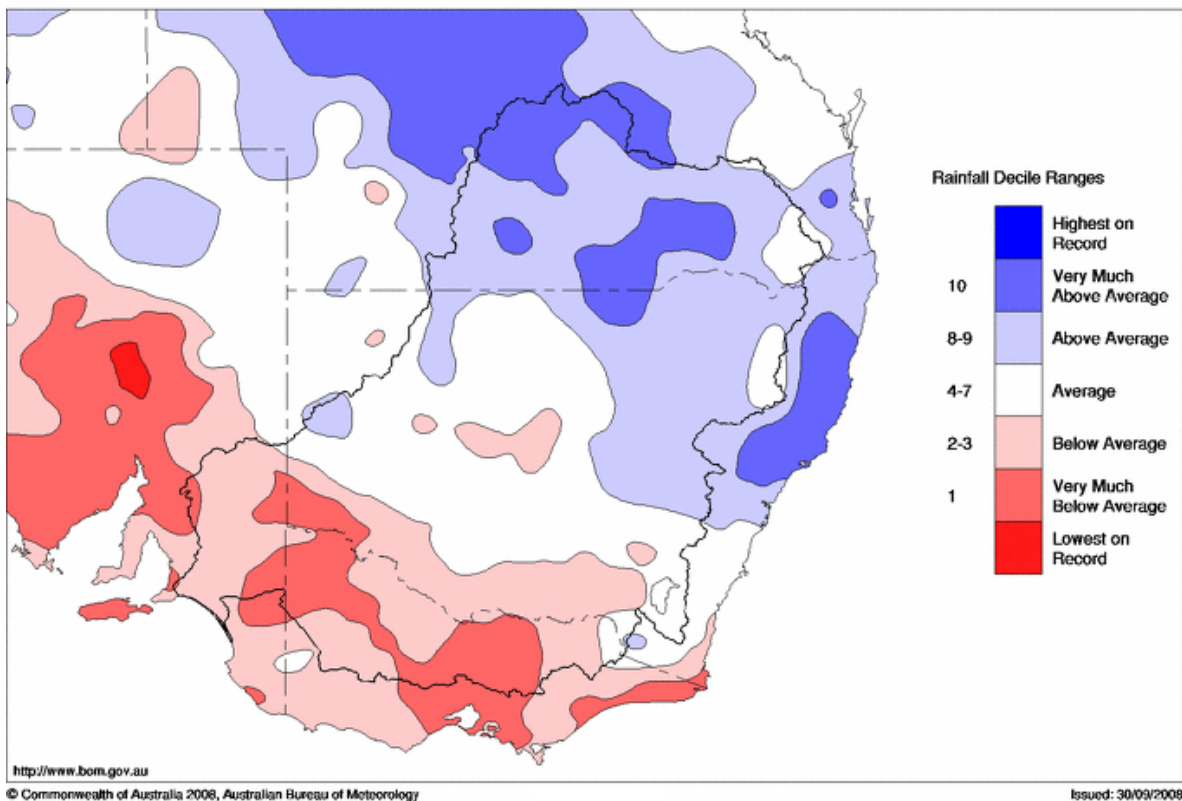
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st October 2008  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles September 2008  
 Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 2

### 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 Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	417.40	835	21%	80	755	+22
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.05	1 049	35%	30	1 019	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.53	297	44%	100	197	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		480	28%	(- -) #	0	-14
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 662</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 972</b>	<b>+43</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **23%**

# 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	502	49%	3	499	+13
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	790	48%	24	766	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	783	23%	100	683	+3

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30-Sep-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	524	+92	Snowy-Murray	+0	313
Snowy-Murray Component	189	-48	Tooma-Tumut	+17	138
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-17.3	175
			Murray 1 Release	+19	452

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.0	33.2
Wakool System loss	0.3	.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	1.7
Licensed Pumps	1.5	9.4
Lower Darling	0.2	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>45.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.4	17
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.6	20
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	9
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>50</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	170 *	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	21.2	
Flow so far this month	3	
Flow last month	77	

\* Reduced to approx. 105 GL during October drought contingency operations.

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	70	70	80
Euston	70	80	90
Red Cliffs	120	130	130
Merbein	120	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	450	440	370
Lock 9	140	140	190
Lake Victoria	240	240	230
Berri	370	360	440
Waikerie	560	550	520
Morgan	610	620	530
Mannum	540	510	510
Murray Bridge	460	510	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 670	3 630	3 550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 600	3 240	3 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 960	5 070	5 030
Goolwa Barrages	13 790	14 710	17 530



**River Levels and Flows**

	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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	4 730	F	4 830	6 910
Jingellic	4.0	2.01	208.53	7 280	F	9 910	7 560
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.46	218.35	730	F	780	810
Heywoods	5.5	1.92	155.55	4 640	S	3 850	710
Doctors Point	5.5	2.28	150.75	6 620	S	6 020	2 070
Albury	4.3	1.25	148.69	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.58	127.60	5 490	R	4 150	1 610
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.92	115.96	4 720	S	4 590	4 080
Tocumwal	6.4	1.35	105.19	4 770	S	4 600	4 110
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.19	79.74	2 980	R	2 620	2 530
Swan Hill	4.5	0.64	63.56	2 350	R	2 270	2 660
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.53	50.65	2 570	F	2 670	3 300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.53	42.37	2 480	R	2 540	3 250
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 380	F	1 910	2 430
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	1 580	F	1 740	2 090
Rufus Junction	-	2.82	19.75	2 750	R	2 560	2 420
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.23	-	1 970	S	1 810	1 850
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.87	155.10	2 050	F	2 210	1 620
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.26	145.94	1 549	S	1 850	2 120
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.05	92.47	280	S	280	300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.65	80.42	380	F	450	350
Edward at Liewah	-	0.93	56.31	406	F	490	560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.82	54.31	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.30	56.26	106	S	120	130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	33	F	120	80
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	34	S	30	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	350	R	140	50

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 660	13 280
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.61	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.11	+0.51
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.10	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	-0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.05	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.03	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	-0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-0.98

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.35	0.494	69.844	164
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.27	0.025	61.325	172.305



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

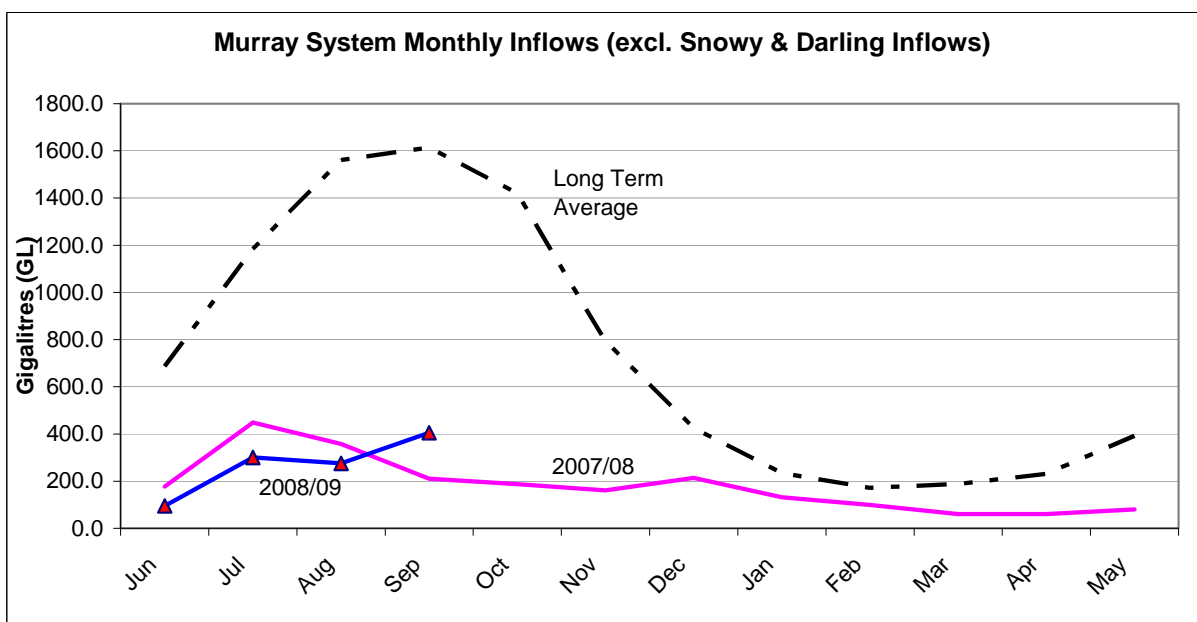
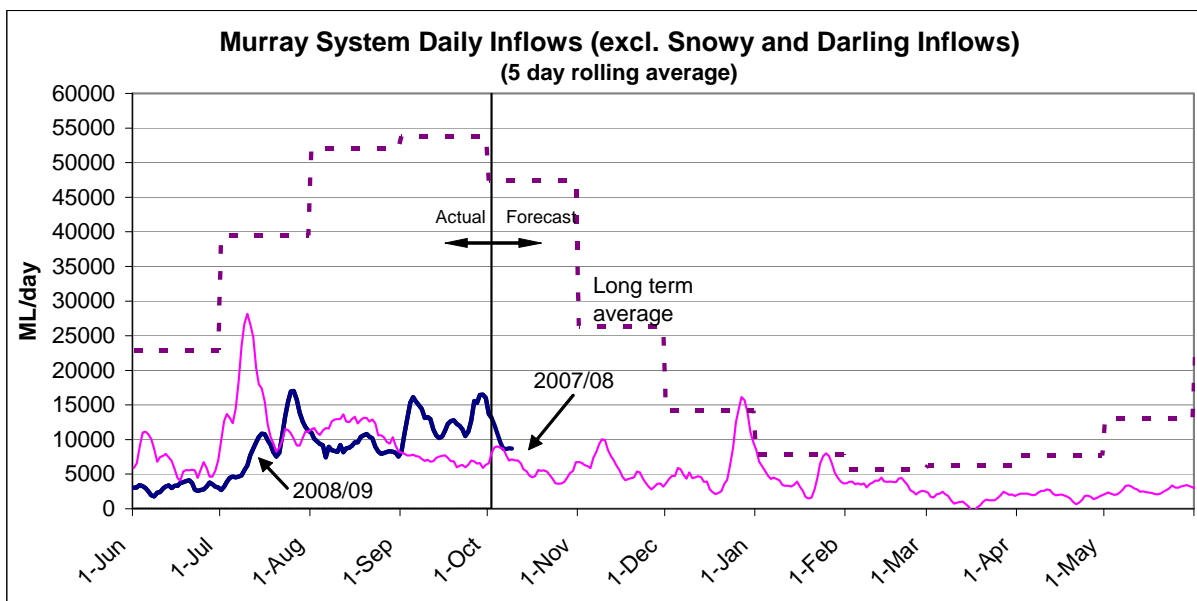
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.27

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.00	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.26	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 1st October 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	80%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	5%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	20%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	13%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	9%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	11%
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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>