

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

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4 December, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, the eastern half of the Basin continued to receive good falls of rain (see Map 1). The best falls were recorded in the northern tablelands and north-west slopes of NSW, particularly near Tamworth where 160 mm was recorded over 24 hours. This generated a very sudden rise in local streamflows, and the Peel River peaked at 80,000 ML/day downstream of Tamworth. However, the total volume is quite small (about 130 GL) and most of this water will naturally dissipate as it spreads across the lower floodplains of the Namoi River and its anabranches.

In the south of the Basin, 25 to 50 mm of rain was recorded in the Victorian Alps and Snowy Mountains, but the streamflow response was only small. At Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow increased from 700 to 1 300 ML/day and has already receded back to 700 ML/day.

November 2008 summary

November rainfall was above average across most of the Basin, with the exception of the lower Murray region in South Australia which was slightly below average (see Map 2). Despite the good rainfall, Murray system inflows for November (140 GL) remained well below the long term average (780 GL). A significant change in system inflows is only likely to occur after a much longer period of sustained rainfall.

Rainfall outlook for next 3 months

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest outlook for total rainfall during summer (December to February) shows a moderate shift in the odds favouring wetter than normal conditions over north-eastern NSW. However, over the remainder of south-eastern Australia the outlook shows no strong bias towards either wetter or drier conditions (see <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain.seaus.shtml>).

River Operations

MDBC active storage remained steady at 1 850 GL (or 22 % capacity) and an additional 220 GL in Menindee Lakes remains under NSW control.

Dartmouth release, which is currently 340 ML/day will be temporarily increased to 3 000 ML/day on Thursday 4th December and then reduced back to 340 ML/day over the following 5 days. This is the second 'pulsed' release for the season and will transfer a small volume of water to Hume Reservoir.

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been steady at 7 500 ML/day and the release from Yarrawonga Weir has also been steady at 7 500 ML/day. The NSW Government has announced that a small stock and domestic replenishment flow will be provided to Bullatale Creek, near Deniliquin. This will be the first flow in Bullatale Creek since January 2008 and should help replenish the creek environment.

The release from Stevens Weir on the Edward River has been increased from 800 to 1 150 ML/day to assist with the dilution of the higher salinity water from the Wakool River. At Kyalite on the lower reaches of the Wakool River (and downstream of the junction with the Edward River) the salinity peaked at 1 160 EC on 25th November and has now reduced to 830 EC. The salinity in the Murray downstream of the Wakool Junction is 390 EC and is expected to start decreasing over the next couple of weeks.

The tributary inflow from the Murrumbidgee River is currently 1 100 ML/day and is expected to decrease to about 700 ML/day over the coming weeks as the delivery of inter-valley trade water is reduced. Further downstream, the release at Euston Weir is 8 000 ML/day and is likely to reduce very slightly over the coming week.

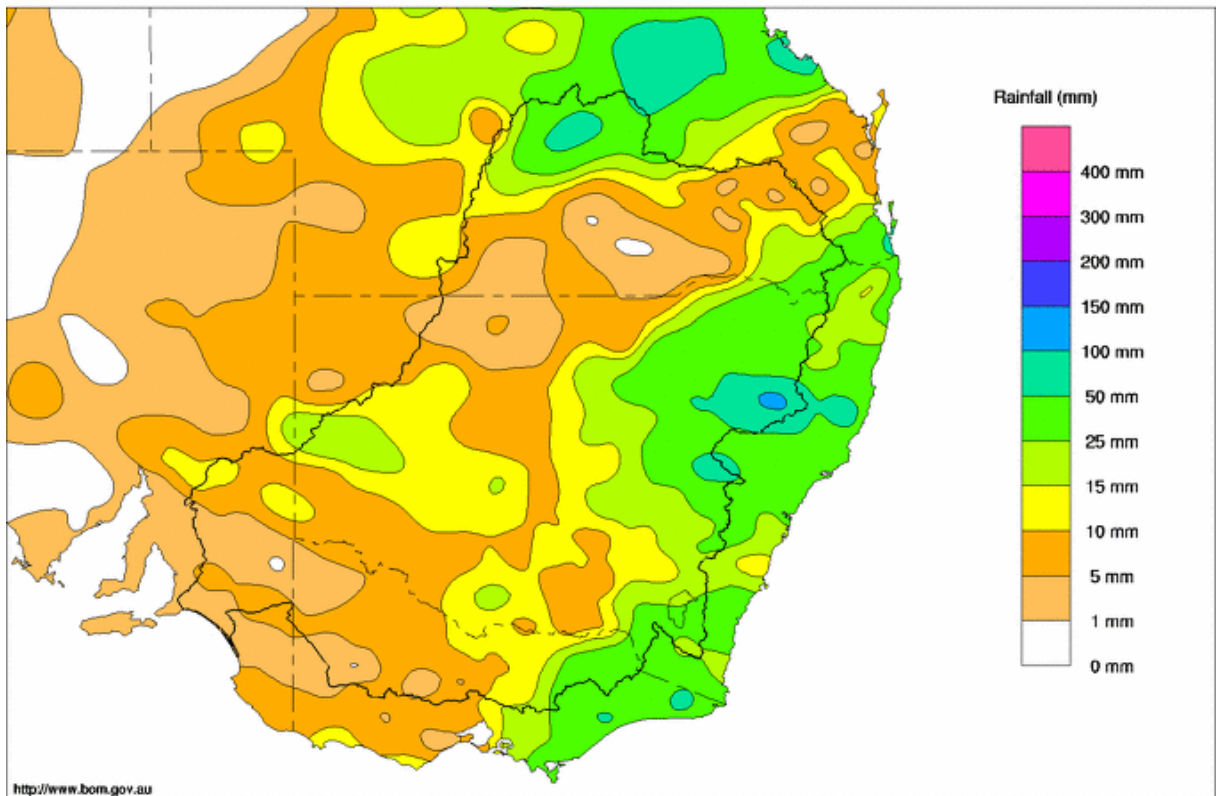
Storage in Menindee Lakes decreased by 24 GL to 218 GL (or 13 % capacity) and will continue to decrease over the coming weeks as water is released into the lower Darling River. Despite the good falls of rain in the northern Basin, there is negligible flow in the Darling River upstream of Menindee Lakes between Bourke and Wilcannia. Without further widespread rainfall, there is not likely to be a significant inflow to Menindee Lakes from the flow currently moving down the Namoi River.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 24 GL to 304 GL (or 45 % capacity) and the flow to South Australia has been increased to 4 300 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.48 m AHD and, over the next few weeks, is likely to fall below the record low level of -0.5 m AHD set in May 2008. Unless there is a significant improvement in water availability across the whole system, the water level is expected to continue falling throughout the summer months.

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

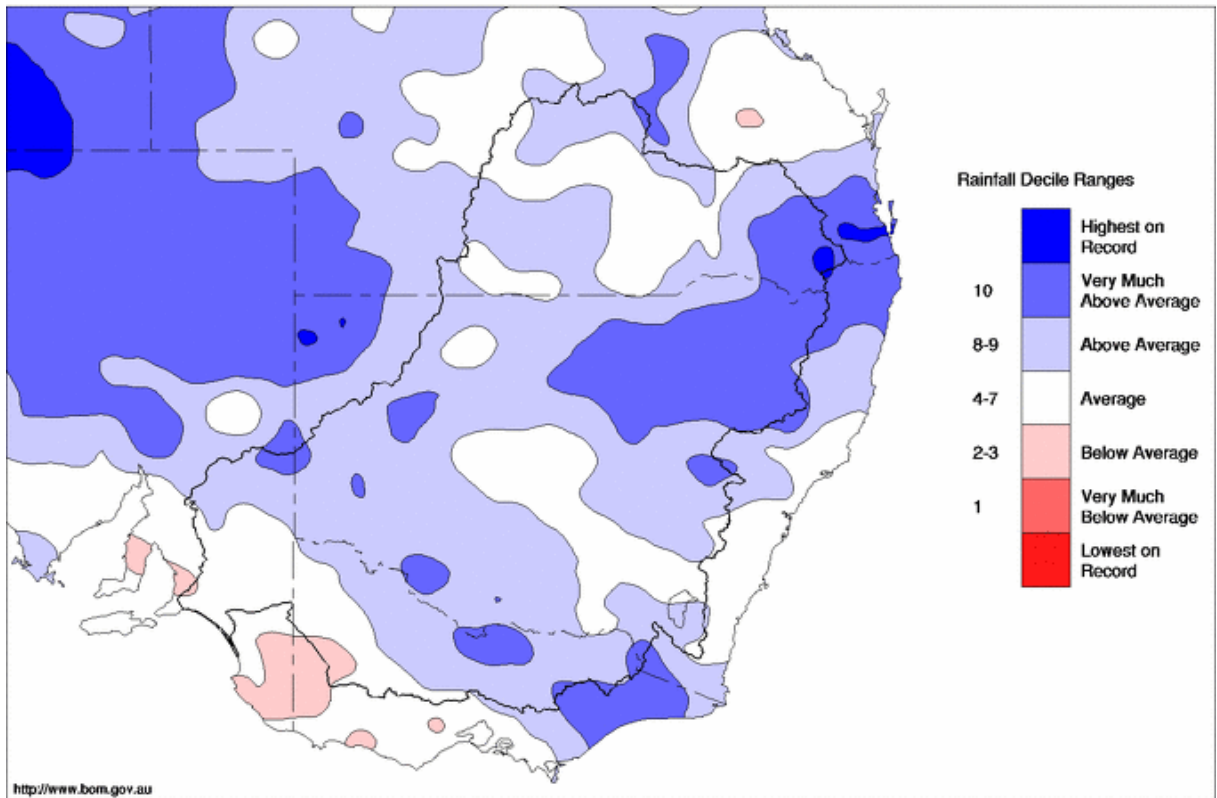
DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 3rd December 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles November 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 Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	419.14	880	23%	80	800	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.47	880	29%	30	850	-28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.60	304	45%	100	204	+24
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		218	13%	(- -) #	0	-24
Total		9 352		2 283	24%	--	1 854	-20

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

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	504	49%	3	501	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	648	40%	24	624	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	758	22%	100	658	+7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 02-Dec-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	705	+40	Snowy-Murray	+0	355
Snowy-Murray Component	394	+33	Tooma-Tumut	+14	179
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-14.0	176
			Murray 1 Release	+2	534

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.6	54.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	22.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	7.3
Licensed Pumps	3.4	37.2
Lower Darling	0.4	3.8
TOTAL	6.2	125.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.8	39
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.5	60
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	34
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	7.7	139

* 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	29.0	(4 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	13	
Flow last month	125	

* Reduced to approx. 133 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	50	70
Euston	220	200	90
Red Cliffs	190	140	130
Merbein	130	100	130
Burtundy (Darling)	380	380	370
Lock 9	230	240	210
Lake Victoria	270	260	240
Berri	320	320	380
Waikerie	410	410	510
Morgan	490	500	550
Mannum	690	660	550
Murray Bridge	600	600	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 350	4 220	3 800
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 150	4 050	3 360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 470	6 390	5 320
Goolwa Barrages	19 550	21 070	17 360



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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	770	R	720	530
Jingellic	4.0	1.36	207.88	2 260	F	2 400	1 900
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	570	F	610	1 260
Heywoods	5.5	2.19	155.82	6 600	S	6 600	6 250
Doctors Point	5.5	2.36	150.83	7 430	F	7 700	6 960
Albury	4.3	1.34	148.78	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.87	127.89	7 230	R	7 030	6 530
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 510	S	7 460	7 500
Tocumwal	6.4	1.82	105.66	7 360	S	7 390	7 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.07	80.62	6 150	S	6 310	6 100
Swan Hill	4.5	1.25	64.17	6 160	F	6 180	5 600
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.62	51.74	6 650	S	6 520	6 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.57	43.41	8 020	S	7 950	7 520
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 320	F	6 180	5 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	27.84	7 560	S	7 480	6 870
Rufus Junction	-	3.00	19.93	3 750	R	3 580	3 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.31	-	1 630	F	1 710	1 900
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.07	154.30	640	F	990	680
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.08	145.76	1 061	S	1 100	1 080
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	341	F	340	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.01	80.78	740	F	800	700
Edward at Liewah	-	1.40	56.78	724	F	830	780
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.18	54.67	78	F	100	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.56	57.52	1 101	S	1 160	1 570
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.55	-	869	R	430	100
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	14	F	30	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.82	-	2 746	S	2 870	3 160

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 520	4 170
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

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	+0.72
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.10	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-1.06

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.29	1.317	70.667	1307
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.00	1.032	62.332	1267.16



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

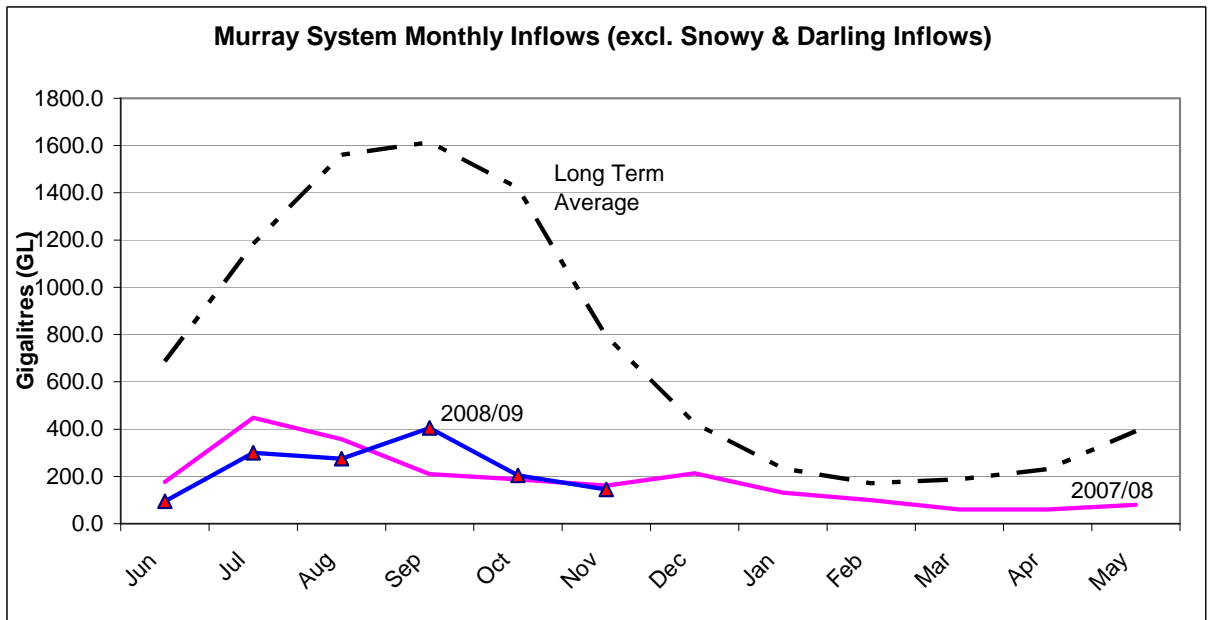
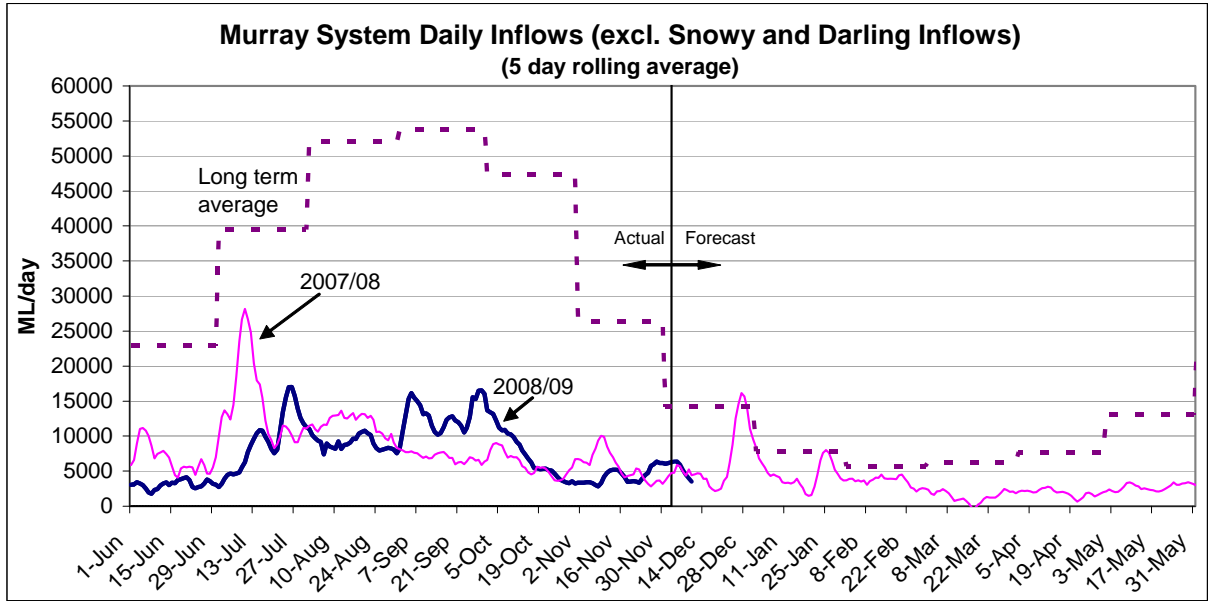
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.48

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.44	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.36	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 3rd December 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	2%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	9% (& extra 2% Feb 09)

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	40%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	24%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	21%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	15%
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- 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>