

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 November 2008



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7 November, 2008

Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread falls of light rain (1 to 10 mm) were recorded across the Basin; with a few areas receiving up to 90 mm (see Map). The greatest falls occurred as two bands across southern and northern NSW. Bingara in the north-west slopes of NSW received the highest total of 94 mm. On the Murray, falls were generally 1 to 10 mm and had very little effect on inflows but did help to temporarily reduce evaporative losses.

October 2008 Summary

Below average rainfall has been observed across the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin, with significant portions of Victoria and southern NSW being very much below average (see map). In contrast, most of the northern half of the Basin received average rainfall during October.

Murray System Inflows (excluding inflow to Menindee Lakes and release from Snowy Hydro), totalled around 205 GL over October compared with the long term average of 1 400 GL, making October the 37th consecutive month to experience below average inflows (see attached Drought update).

Total active MDBC storage (which is Hume, Dartmouth, Lake Victoria) decreased by 50 GL during October to around 1 890 GL (22 % capacity).

River Operations

The release from Dartmouth Dam was increased from 200 to around 350 ML/day in order to target a minimum level in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon of about 1.4 m. The release from Dartmouth had been held at 200 ML/day since April 2008. The release from Hume Dam was decreased from 7 300 to around 6 800 ML/day to target a flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) of around 7 500 ML/day.

Yarrowonga Weir release has held steady at 6 000 ML/day over the past week and the lake level has remained close to 124.72 m AHD. Torrumbarry Weir pool is being gradually lowered to about 10 cm below Full Supply Level (86.05 m AHD) as part of a continuing operation to increase variability in the stream levels between Echuca and Torrumbarry.

The release from Stevens Weir will be reduced temporarily from 800 to around 700 ML/day over the next week in order to raise the level of Stevens Weir pool to 4.36 m from its current level of 4.23 m.

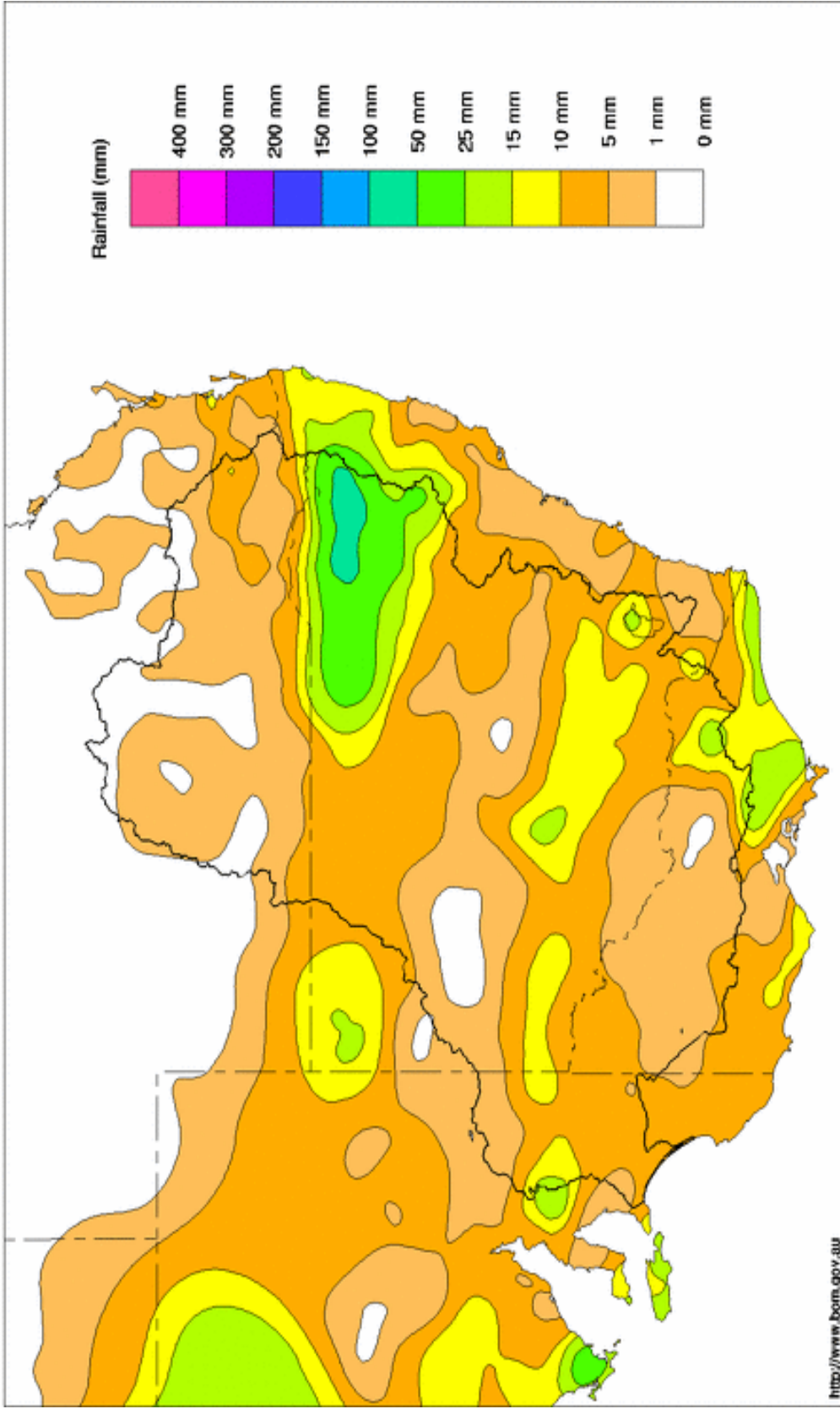
Flow to SA has been increased from 3 800 to 4 200 ML/day, resulting in Locks 1 to 6 pool levels rising towards their FSLs. Release at Lock 1 has increased to 2 000 ML/day from a low of 1 200 ML/day in late October. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has decreased to -0.34 m AHD and Lake Albert has risen slightly to -0.3 m AHD. The salinity at Milang on Lake Alexandrina has risen from 4 000 to 4 500 EC since late August and the salinity at Meningie on Lake Albert has risen from 5 000 to 5 600 EC since early August.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) 1st to 5th November 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 05/11/2008

Week ending Wednesday 05 Nov 2008

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	418.72	869	22%	80	789	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.46	985	32%	30	955	-36
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.02	249	37%	100	149	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		331	19%	(- -) #	0	-26
Total		9 352		2 433	26%	--	1 892	-71

* 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	496	48%	3	493	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	738	45%	24	714	+10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	754	22%	100	654	-9

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Nov-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	627	-8	Snowy-Murray	+6	344
Snowy-Murray Component	333	+0	Tooma-Tumut	+4	154
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	2.5	190
			Murray 1 Release	+7	511

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)	2.2	46.8	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	36
Wakool System loss	3.5	17.5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.3	44
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	4.7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.8	23
Licensed Pumps	3.1	22.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	3
Lower Darling	0.3	2.4	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	9.6	93.3	TOTAL	10.3	107

* 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	180 *	
Flow this week	28.9	(4 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	21	
Flow last month	111	

* Reduced to approx. 126 GL during November drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	80	80	80
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	360	360	380
Lock 9	300	290	190
Lake Victoria	280	260	240
Berri	320	320	400
Waikerie	460	460	530
Morgan	590	600	560
Mannum	600	580	530
Murray Bridge	580	570	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 020	4 050	3 700
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 440	3 520	3 220
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 260	5 350	5 110
Goolwa Barrages	16 230	16 610	17 020



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	-	-	-	470	R	1 250	1 330
Jingellic	4.0	1.18	207.70	1 240	S	2 310	2 170
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.42	218.31	520	R	390	370
Heywoods	5.5	2.25	155.88	7 270	S	7 330	6 460
Doctors Point	5.5	2.42	150.89	7 960	S	8 120	7 230
Albury	4.3	1.38	148.82	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.89	127.91	7 360	F	7 420	6 140
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.10	116.14	5 930	F	5 950	5 420
Tocumwal	6.4	1.56	105.40	5 890	S	5 880	5 180
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.67	80.22	4 790	R	4 460	3 500
Swan Hill	4.5	0.92	63.84	4 120	R	3 710	2 950
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.91	51.03	3 880	R	3 430	2 840
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.73	42.57	3 350	R	2 790	2 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	1 670	1 110
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.95	27.71	4 470	R	3 750	3 590
Rufus Junction	-	2.98	19.91	3 580	R	3 530	3 230
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.23	-	2 060	S	1 870	1 510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.96	154.19	497	R	600	610
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.92	145.60	669	R	550	600
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.08	92.50	314	S	300	240
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.09	80.86	820	F	680	480
Edward at Liewah	-	0.83	56.21	351	F	370	310
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.17	54.66	71	S	40	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.42	56.38	183	R	130	100
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	15	S	10	-
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	49	F	80	140
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.14	-	3 520	R	3 320	3 500

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 840	2 820
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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	-0.04	+0.68
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+0.43
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.31	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.98

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.27	1.416	70.766	1479
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.71	62.01	868.493



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

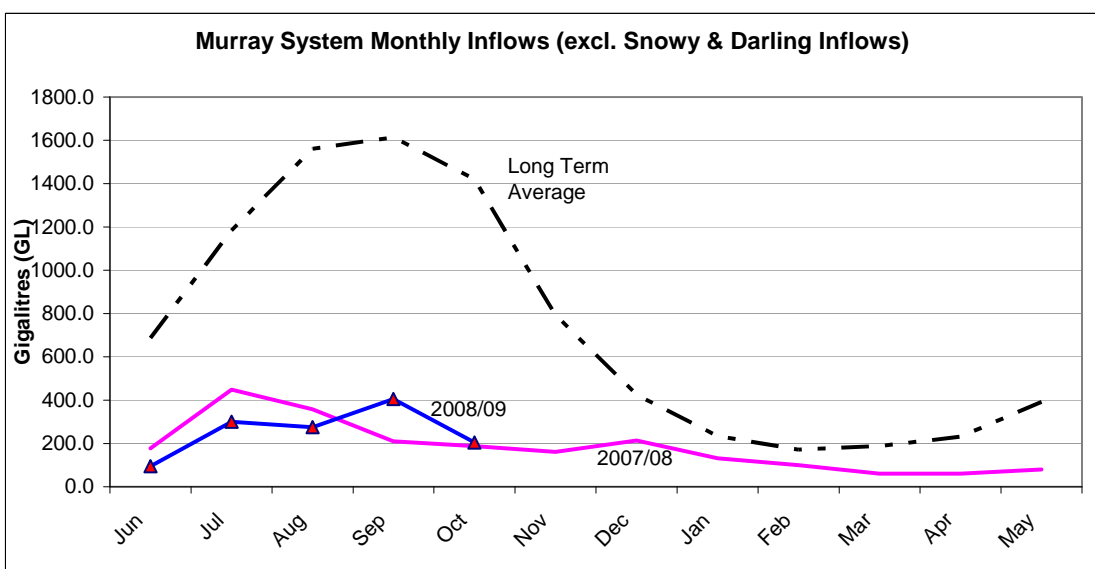
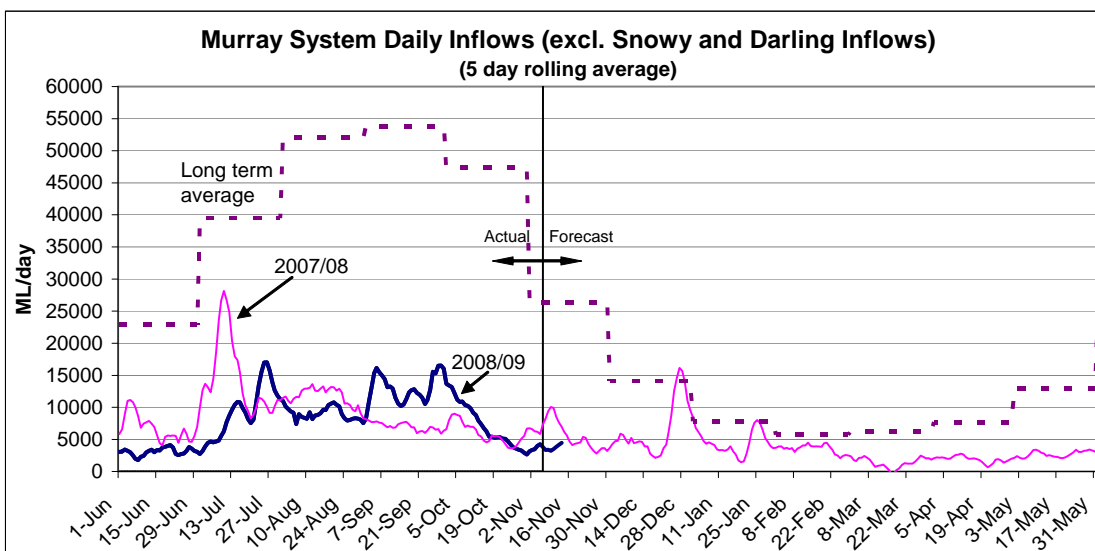
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.36

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.24	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.32	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



State Allocations (as at 5 November 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	2%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	30%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	19%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	14%
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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>