

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 August 2008



*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS  
Trim Ref : 08/7266*

8 August, 2008

## **Rainfall and Inflows**

The southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin received some light falls of between 1 and 10 mm this week with some areas along the southern boundary of the Basin receiving between 15 – 50 mm. Woods Point in north-eastern Victoria received the highest fall of 48 mm. There was little or no rain recorded across the northern half of the basin.

## **July 2008 Summary**

Average rainfall has been observed across most of the Murray-Darling Basin, with only central NSW receiving below average rainfall during July (see map).

Murray System Inflows (excluding inflow to Menindee Lakes and release from Snowy Hydro), however, remained low totalling around 300 GL over July compared with the long term average of 1 200 GL. Total MDBC storage (which is Hume, Dartmouth, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes) increased by 200 GL during July to around 2 200 GL (23.5 % capacity). Total storage across the entire Basin also remains critically low (see media release attached).

## **River Operations**

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 8 GL over the week rising to about 740 GL (19% capacity). Hume storage increased by 35 GL to 680 GL (22.3% capacity), due largely to the rain experienced in late July. Hume release was maintained at 450 ML/day and will be maintained at this rate for as long as it is sufficient to meet downstream demands.

Release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased from 2 200 to 3 500 ML/day over the past week in order to maintain Lake Mulwala's pool level at around 124.5 m AHD (0.4 m below FSL). The increased flow downstream of Yarrowonga Weir has resulted in the flows at the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes increasing to 190 and 90 ML/day respectively.

Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River is being partially refilled by NSW State Water and the pool level is expected to reach around 3.5 m local gauge height within the next week, enabling water to be supplied down Wakool Canal to meet stock and domestic needs in Murray Irrigation's Wakool Irrigation District.

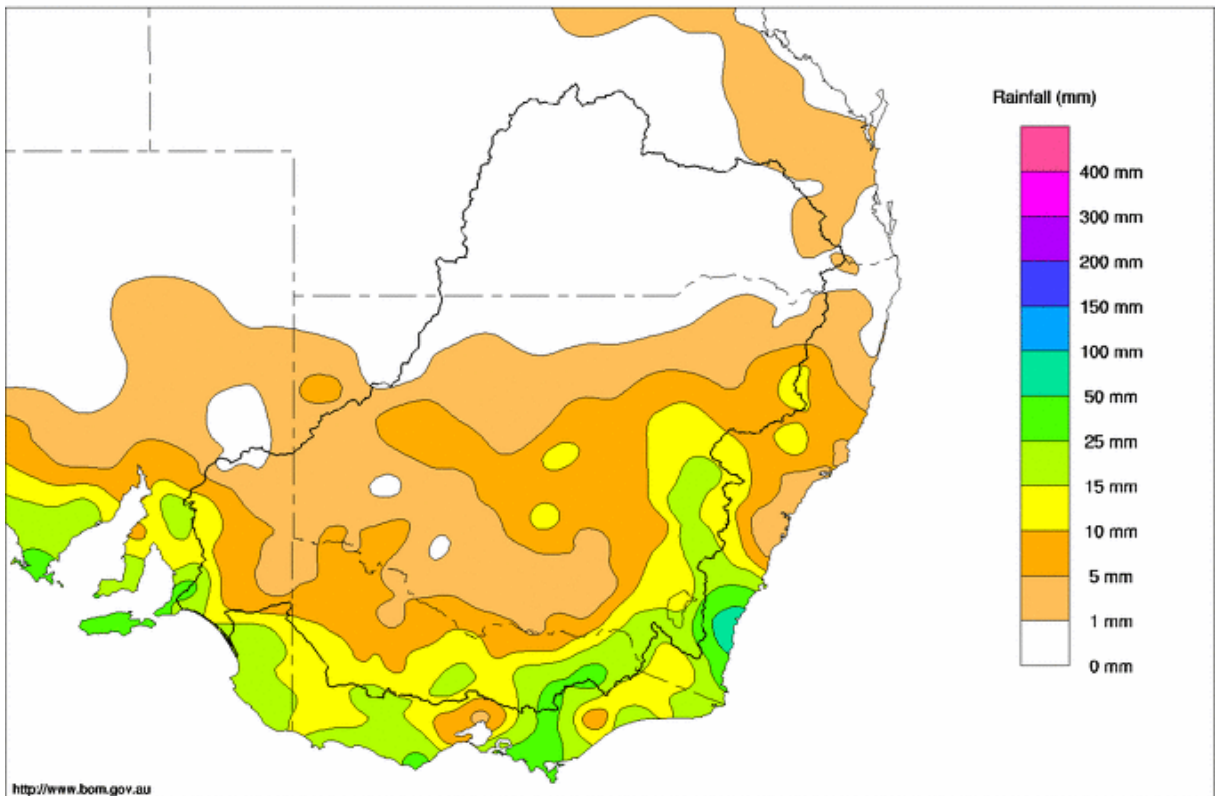
The higher release from Yarrowonga Weir has reached Torrumbarry Weir with the flow increasing from 2 000 to 2 300 ML/day. The higher flows are expected to reach Euston in a week's time. Torrumbarry Weir is being maintained at 85.85 m AHD (20 cm below FSL) and Euston Weir is also steady at around 47.56 m AHD (4 cm below FSL).

The higher salinity water originating from the Mildura Weir pool drawdown continues to be diverted into Lake Victoria and is likely to be completely passed into the Lake by early next week.

Flow to SA has been increased to 2 200 ML/day, allowing Lock 6 pool level to be increased from 19.1 to 19.2 m AHD (5 cm below FSL). Locks 6 - 1 are now all near, or at, FSL. Release at Lock 1 has increased to 1 750 ML/day from a low of 1 150 ML/day earlier in the week. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has been rising slowly and is currently about -0.34 m AHD.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th August 2008  
 Product of the National Climate Centre

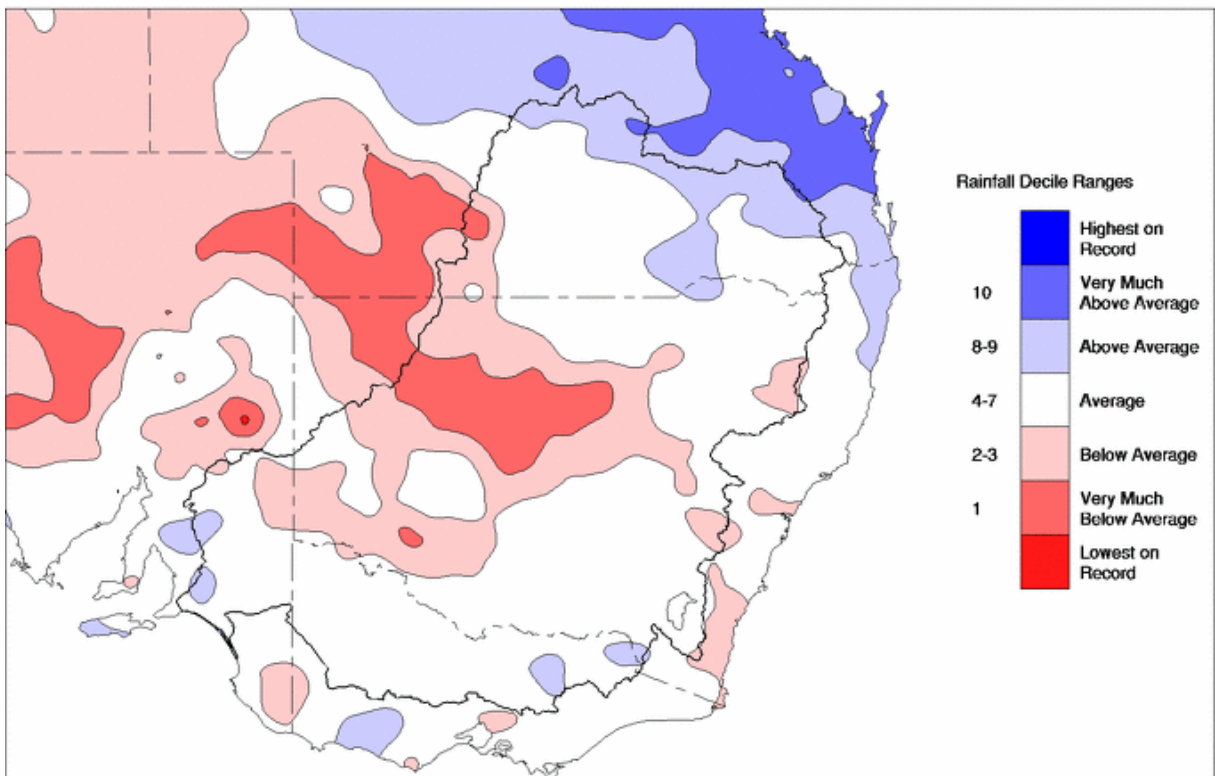


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Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles July 2008

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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**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	413.42	738	19%	80	658	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.38	678	22%	30	648	+35
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.70	314	46%	100	214	-1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		526	30%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 256</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 520</b>	<b>+38</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **18%**

# 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	451	44%	3	448	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	714	44%	24	690	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	619	18%	100	519	+27

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Aug-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	177	+8	Snowy-Murray	+10	238
Snowy-Murray Component	163	-4	Tooma-Tumut	+4	62
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	6.5	176
			Murray 1 Release	+13	280

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.4	12.7
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.2
Licensed Pumps	0.3	1.9
Lower Darling	0.0	.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	1 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3 *</b>

\* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	124 *	
Flow this week	11.4	(1 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	10	
Flow last month	40	

\* Reduced to approx. 68 GL during August drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	110	90	90
Euston	90	80	80
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	340	330	330
Lock 9	300	300	300
Lake Victoria	230	230	230
Berri	450	440	440
Waikerie	450	450	460
Morgan	470	480	480
Mannum	500	530	540
Murray Bridge	610	610	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 850	3 680	3 730
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 550	2 780	2 720
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 030	5 010	5 020
Goolwa Barrages	21 490	20 990	21 110



**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	-	-	-	3 490	R	2 400	4 440
Jingellic	4.0	1.64	208.16	4 250	F	4 190	6 640
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.47	218.36	750	F	780	880
Heywoods	5.5	1.11	154.74	430	S	430	430
Doctors Point	5.5	1.49	149.96	1 230	R	1 240	1 780
Albury	4.3	0.66	148.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	-	-	1 220	F	1 340	1 810
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 500	S	2 750	1 930
Tocumwal	6.4	1.03	104.87	3 060	R	2 450	1 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.97	79.52	2 270	F	2 230	2 060
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 110	R	2 010	1 960
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.37	50.49	2 120	S	2 040	2 100
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.45	42.29	2 200	R	2 200	2 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 810	F	1 860	2 030
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	1 500	S	1 560	1 790
Rufus Junction	-	2.70	19.63	2 150	R	1 500	960
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.27	-	1 750	R	1 380	1 510
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.34	154.57	1 050	R	1 080	1 690
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.89	146.57	3 413	R	3 090	4 920
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	364	F	400	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.31	80.08	100	F	100	100
Edward at Liewah	-	0.34	55.72	133	S	130	130
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.90	54.39	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.35	56.31	139	R	110	90
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	15	F	30	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	49	S	60	60
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	S	50	80

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 360	6 770
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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	-0.36	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.20	+0.39
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.12	-0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-1.02

<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	-3.86	0.544	69.894	202
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.25	0.04	61.34	182.71



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

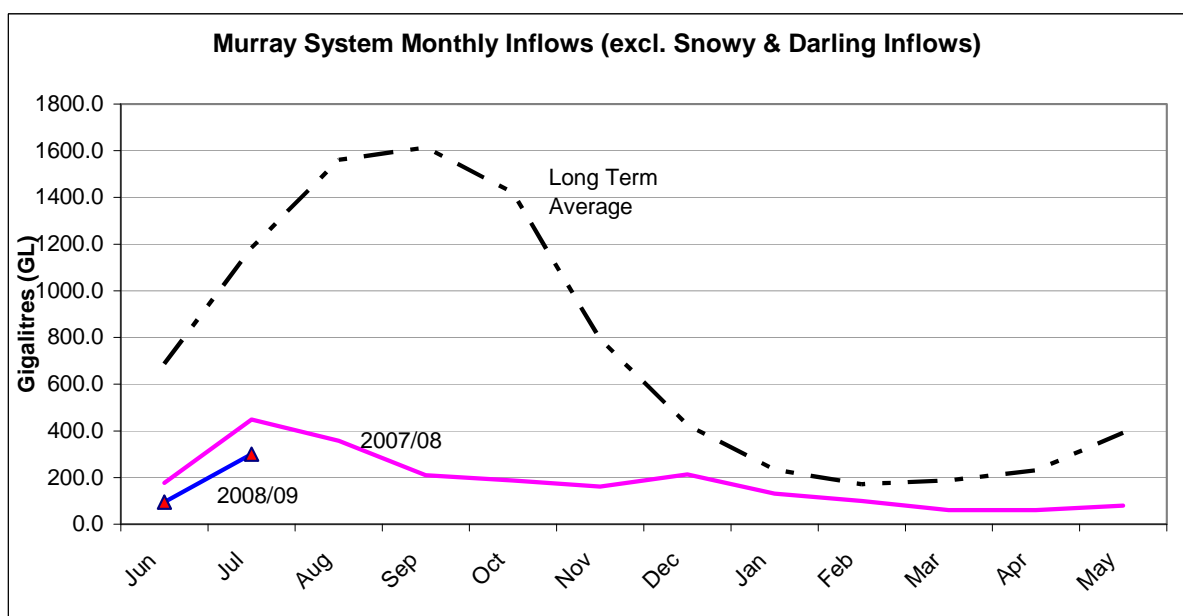
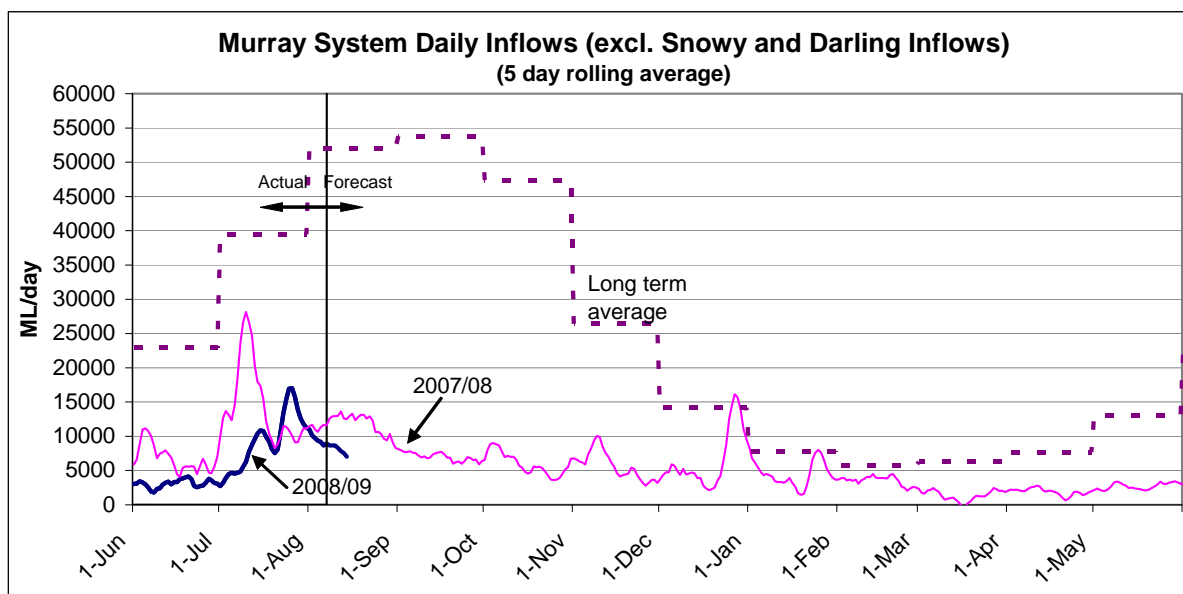
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.36

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.30	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.30	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 6th August 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	25%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	30%
General security	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	0%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	0%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	0%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	2%
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NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state\\_mm\\_murr\\_water\\_quality.shtml#alloc](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc)  
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>