

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 April 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, as
Trim Ref : 08/3443*

11 April, 2008



Rainfall and inflows

The dry weather has continued for another week, with most areas of the Murray-Darling Basin receiving less than 10 mm of rain (see Map). The only exception was in the alpine areas of north-east Victoria and the Snowy Mountains of southern New South Wales, where 15 - 50 mm was recorded. Daily inflows to the Murray River system continue to steadily recede.

River Operations

During the past week, irrigation demand for autumn plantings, particularly at the Yarrawonga Main Channel, has increased. To meet this increased demand, the flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) has been temporarily increased from 6 000 ML/day to 8 500 ML/day. During the next few weeks, the flow at Doctors Point is expected to be gradually reduced as the irrigation season draws to a close. Murray Irrigation Limited will be closing the Mulwala and Wakool offtakes on Monday 21st April, and Goulburn-Murray Water is expected to close Yarrawonga Main Channel and National Channel on 15th May 2008.

River flows downstream of Yarrawonga Weir are currently very low for this time of year. This will assist in minimising river losses and help conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs for next season. The release at Torrumbarry Weir is steady at about 1 900 ML/day and the river level at Swan Hill is 0.57 m (local gauge). During the past week, Torrumbarry Weir pool level has been lowered to 85.95 m AHD (10 cm below Full Supply Level) to supplement downstream flows.

The flow downstream of Euston Weir has reduced from 2 700 to 1 800 ML/day and is expected to be fairly steady for the coming week. These very low flows will increase the chance of needing to temporarily draw on weir pool levels in Sunraysia over the coming weeks to meet downstream requirements if there is a short-term increase in 'river losses' or irrigation diversions.

Since early January about 160 GL of water has been released from Menindee Lakes into the lower Darling River. During the past week, the release from Weir 32 on the lower Darling River has been reduced from 1 200 ML/day to 300 ML/day. Unless there are further inflows to the Menindee Lakes, the Weir 32 release is expected to remain steady at least until the end of April.

In consultation with South Australia, and in line with managing that State's lower than usual water availability for 2007/08, the flow to South Australia has been further reduced from 3 000 ML/day to 2 600 ML/day, and is expected to continue declining over the next couple of months.

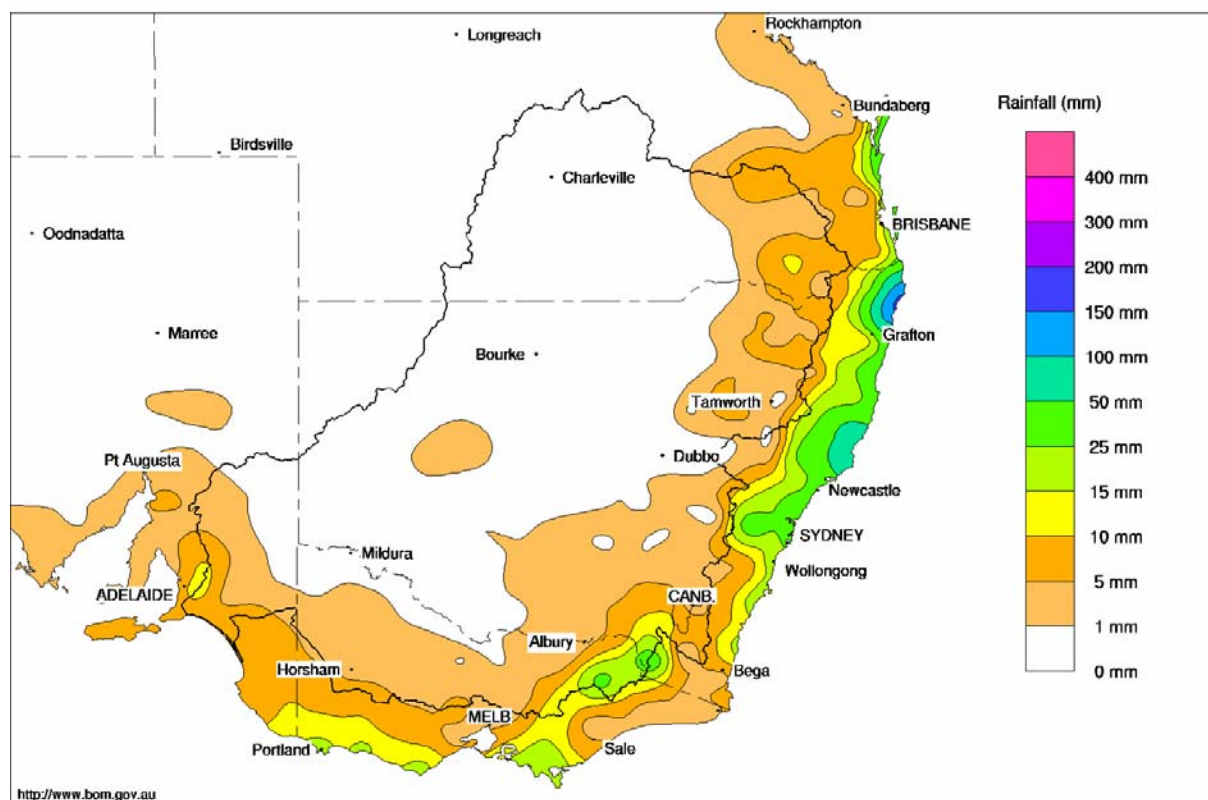
Along the lower Murray River, Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly above full supply level. Flow at Lock 1 is currently 1 400 ML/day, and is being continually reassessed so that a target flow of 700 ML/day is maintained downstream at Wellington.

The condition of the Coorong and the Lower Lakes continues to deteriorate. There has been no flow over the barrages since October 2006. The Lower Lakes are now -0.5m below sea level which is 0.4 m lower than the previous minimum in April 1968, and 1.25 m below full supply level. This is the first major drying phase since the introduction of barrages more than 50 years ago. Salinity at Milang on Lake Alexandrina is about 3 700 EC compared to 1 600 EC last year, although the salinities in other sections of the lake are much higher.

The Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has recently issued a red alert warning for blue green algae at Hume Dam. For more information contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries by ringing toll free 1800 999 457.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th April 2008
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	410.88	679	17%	80	599	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.90	269	9%	30	239	-26
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.46	291	43%	100	191	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		586	34%	(- -) #	0	-6
Total		9 352		1 824	20%	--	1 029	-36

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **12%**

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	426	41%	3	423	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	422	26%	24	398	-19
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	488	14%	100	388	-15

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Apr-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	469	-15	Snowy-Murray	+13	416
Snowy-Murray Component	368	-6	Tooma-Tumut	+3	156
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	10.0	260
			Murray 1 Release	+15	647

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.2	93.0
Wakool System loss	0.3	19.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	20.7
Licensed Pumps	2.0	75.5
Lower Darling	0.2	9.9
TOTAL	12.1	218.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.5	103
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.6	196
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	87 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	11
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	160
TOTAL	28.1	557 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.7	
Flow so far this month	27	
Flow last month	109	

* Reduced to approx. 90 GL during April drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	80	90
Euston	180	210	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	220	200	140
Burtundy (Darling)	260	250	940
Lock 9	150	140	150
Lake Victoria	240	240	190
Berri	290	310	350
Waikerie	350	370	540
Morgan	430	440	590
Mannum	820	770	660
Murray Bridge	820	840	670
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 520	3 710	2 840
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 010	3 250	2 490
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 150
Goolwa Barrages	22 160	22 200	19 050



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	-	-	-	1 340	F	2 550	2 320
Jingellic	4.0	1.32	207.84	1 980	F	2 910	2 920
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	490	F	530	510
Heywoods	5.5	2.38	156.01	8 300	R	6 690	5 600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.47	150.94	8 530	R	7 100	5 990
Albury	4.3	1.45	148.89	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.83	127.85	6 920	R	5 880	5 630
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.84	115.88	4 170	F	4 360	4 440
Tocumwal	6.4	1.32	105.16	4 310	S	4 340	4 530
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.88	79.43	1 780	S	1 830	2 560
Swan Hill	4.5	0.56	63.48	1 810	S	2 000	3 030
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.33	50.45	1 970	F	2 580	3 110
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.48	42.32	2 010	F	2 510	2 620
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 480	F	2 480	2 500
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.81	27.57	2 490	S	2 470	2 690
Rufus Junction	-	2.62	19.55	1 920	F	2 330	2 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.48	-	1 410	S	1 330	1 340
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.69	153.92	216	F	320	260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.77	145.45	390	F	430	480
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	429	S	460	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.75	80.52	480	S	430	410
Edward at Liewah	-	0.95	56.33	457	F	520	510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.97	54.46	4	S	0	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	213	F	210	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	85	F	80	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	223	S	300	860
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.00	-	1 090	S	910	1 110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 700	990
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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	-0.62	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.34
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.08	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.17	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.08	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.26	No. 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-1.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.82	0.485	69.835	158
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.05	0.147	61.447	261



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

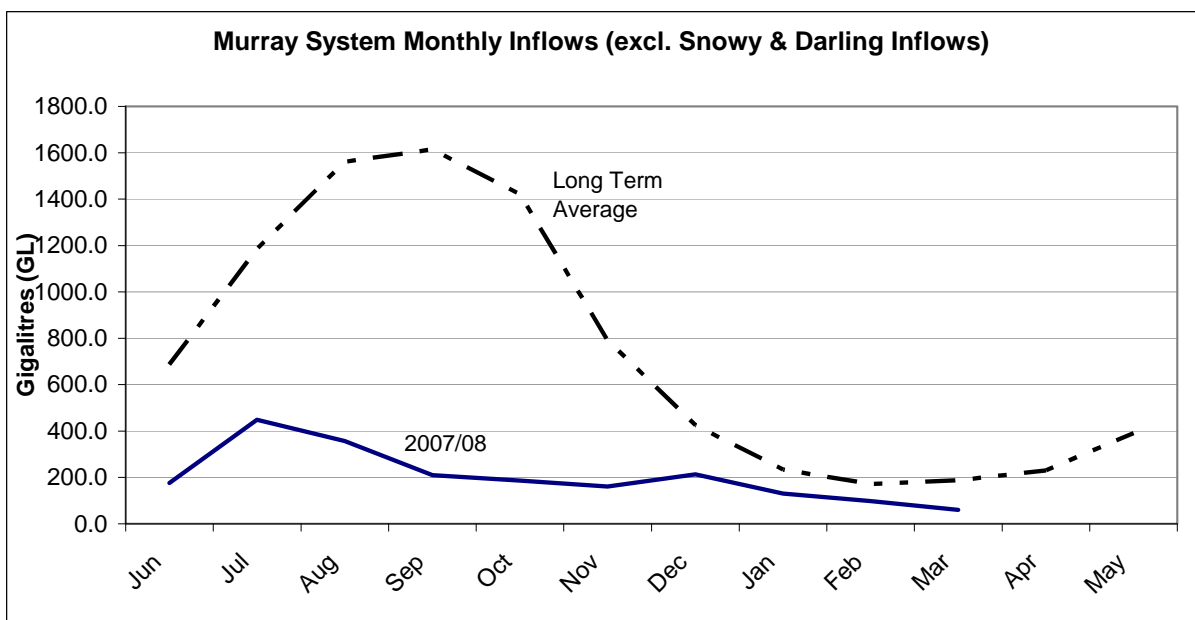
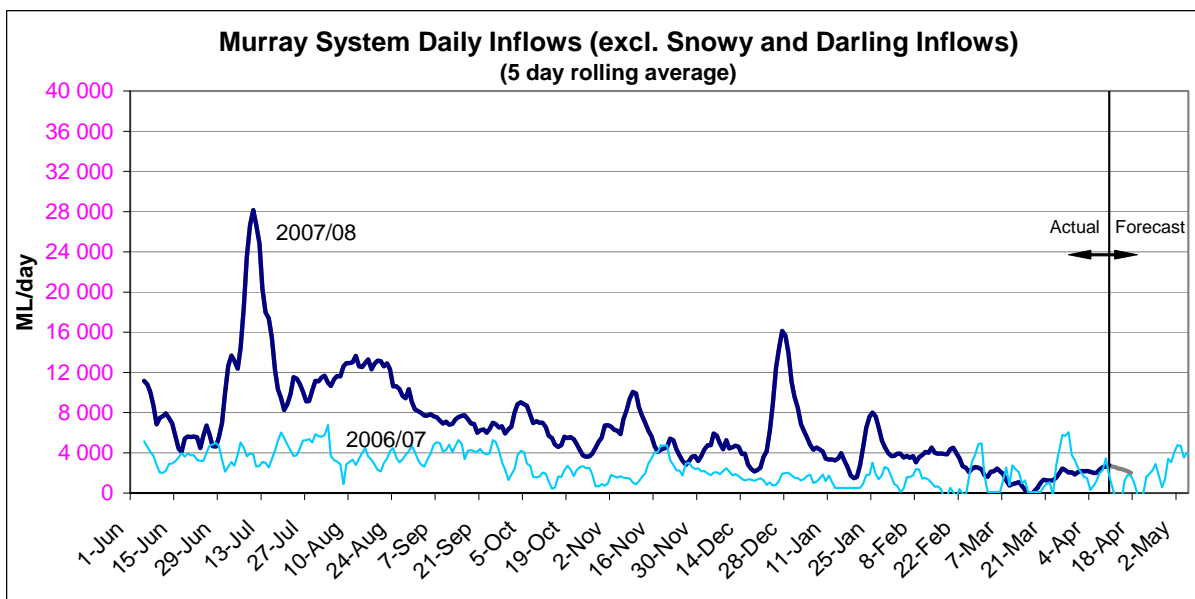
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.49

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.34	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 9th April 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	25%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	90%
General security	13%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	43%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	57%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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NSW : 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>