

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 February 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, as  
Trim Ref : 08/1805*

15 February, 2008



## ***Rainfall and inflows***

The northern half of the Basin continues to receive good falls of rain, with up to 100 mm recorded across northern NSW and southern Queensland (see map). In response to the continuing rain, most tributaries to the Barwon-Darling River are flowing, in particular the Moonie River (peaking at 24 000 ML/day at Nindigully), Culgoa River (5 500 ML/day at Collierina) and the Weir River (5 700 ML/day at Talwood). The Gwydir River at Tareeloi Weir (near Moree) also increased to 20 000 ML/day, but most of this water will be consumed or flow into the Gwydir wetlands, and only a small fraction is likely to reach the Barwon-Darling River. As a result of these tributary inflows, the flow in the Darling River at Bourke has increased again, from 3 000 to 8 000 ML/day during the past week.

Elsewhere in the Basin, 15-50 mm of rain fell across north-eastern Victoria and south-western NSW. The highest falls of up to 100 mm were recorded near Albury. However, the rain tended to be fairly patchy and there was only a small response in streamflows. The best response was in the Ovens catchment where the Buffalo River increased from 100 to 1 600 ML/day. In the south-west of the Basin (Sunraysia district and South Australia) the dry weather continued, with falls of only 0 to 5 mm.

## ***River Operations***

During the past week, total storage for the River Murray System (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 21 GL to 1 877 GL (or 20 % capacity). Although storage in Hume Reservoir fell by 21 GL, this was more than offset by increases at Dartmouth Reservoir (+6 GL), Lake Victoria (+26 GL) and Menindee Lakes (+10 GL). The increases in storage in Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes are due to the recent inflows from the Darling River. Lake Victoria storage is currently 354 GL, and in the next couple of weeks is expected to peak at about 360 to 400 GL (54 to 60 % capacity). The Menindee Lakes storage is currently at 350 GL (20% capacity), and a further 100 to 150 GL is expected to arrive over the next 6 to 8 weeks. Unless the storage level increases above 640 GL, which does not at present appear likely, Menindee Lakes will remain under NSW control.

As a result of the inflows from the Darling River, the bulk of South Australia's water requirements over the next few months can be supplied from Lake Victoria. This allows the release from Hume Dam to be gradually reduced and, as a result, the flows along the River Murray between Albury and Wentworth are expected to steadily fall over the coming weeks, unless there is significant rainfall along the river or in tributary catchments. For instance, the flow at Euston Weir is currently 6 000 ML/day and is forecast to reduce to about 3 000 ML/day by the end of February.

For the remainder of the irrigation season the water level in Lake Mulwala is likely to be maintained towards the lower end of the current operating range of 124.2 to 124.5 m AHD (40 to 70 cm below Full Supply Level). This will provide evaporative savings, by keeping various wetlands in the upper reaches of the lake dry. Importantly, it also maximises the storage of any future inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, which helps conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs. Euston and Torrumbarry Weirs are currently both at Full Supply Level, but will be drawn upon to supplement river flows if irrigation demand or evaporative losses increase significantly over the coming weeks. Euston Lakes remain disconnected from the Euston weir pool and significant water savings (up to 25 GL per year) are being achieved.

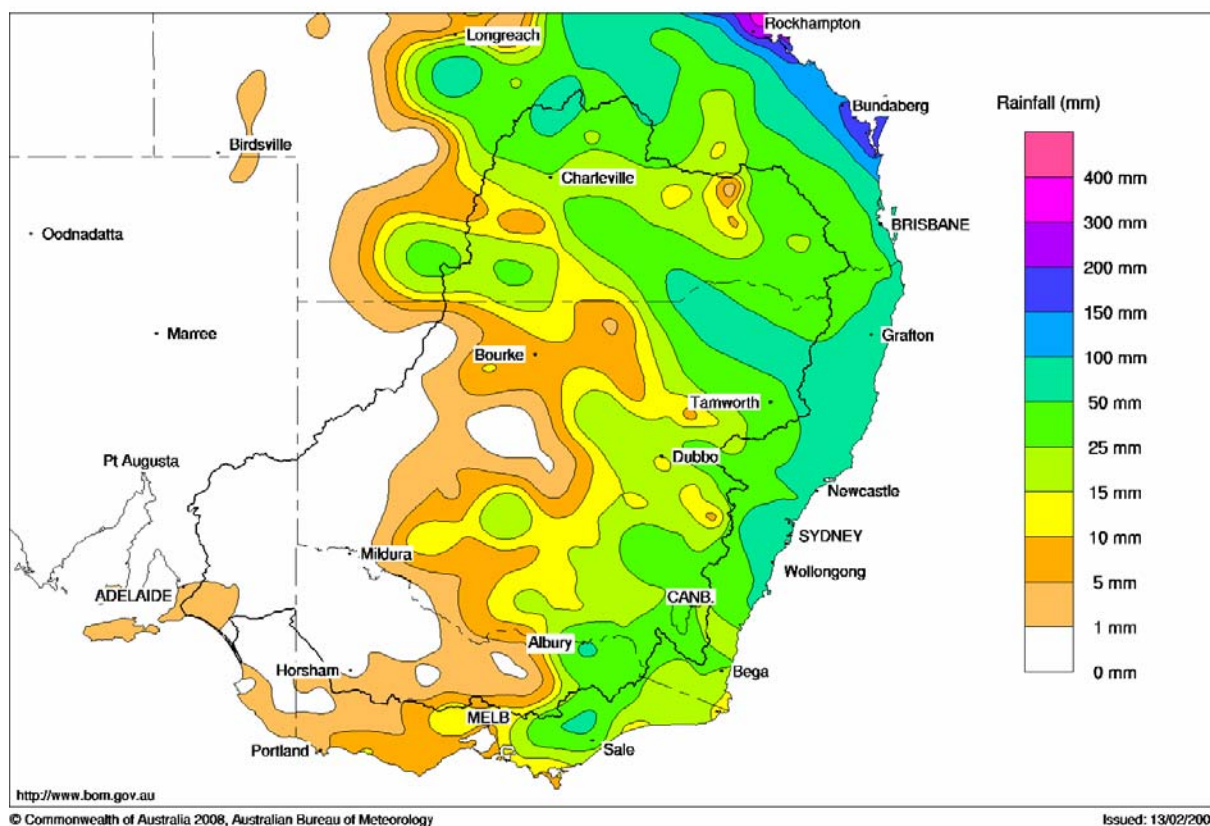
The flow at Burtundy in the lower Darling River is currently 2 900 ML/day and will recede to about 200 ML/day by the end of the month. The salinity at Burtundy is about 250 EC, and is expected to remain fairly constant over the coming weeks.

The initial spike of high salinity water (about 1700 EC) originating from the Menindee Lakes has been successfully diverted into Lake Victoria and diluted. In recent days the salinity in Lake Victoria has ranged between 185 and 220 EC, compared with an average of 170 EC for the previous week.

Along the lower reaches of the River Murray, cooler weather has reduced irrigation demand and evaporative losses, and this has allowed the flow to South Australia to be reduced to 3 500 ML/day. Water levels in Locks 1 to 6 are all at Full Supply Level or higher. Salinities upstream of Lock 1 have remained steady or slowly declined. At Morgan for instance, the salinity is currently 430 EC compared with 630 EC in early December 2007. However, salinities in the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, and also in the Lower Lakes, continue to increase. At Meningie in the Lower Lakes, the salinity is currently 4 500 EC. The water levels of the Lower Lakes continue to fall to historic lows, with Lake Alexandrina at about -0.3 m AHD (or 30 cm below mean sea level) and Lake Albert at about -0.5 m AHD (50 cm below mean sea level).

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th February 2008  
Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 13 Feb 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	411.07	684	18%	80	604	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.14	489	16%	30	459	-21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.10	354	52%	100	254	+26
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		350	20%	(- -) #	0	+10
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 877</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 317</b>	<b>+21</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **15%**

# 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		427	42%	3	424	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		424	26%	24	400	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		694	20%	100	594	-25

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Feb-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	607	+10	Snowy-Murray	+6	299
Snowy-Murray Component	472	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+3	145
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	2.5	154
			Murray 1 Release	+9	519

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.7	55.3
Wakool System loss	2.7	28.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	15.4
Licensed Pumps	1.8	56.8
Lower Darling	0.3	7.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>163.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.8	52
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.0	101
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	68 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	7
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	116
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>345 *</b>

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

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194 *	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.5	
Flow so far this month	57	
Flow last month	141	

\* Reduced to approx. 113 GL during February drought contingency operations

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	80	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	110	110	140
Burtundy (Darling)	240	230	1 120
Lock 9	310	200	150
Lake Victoria	200	210	180
Berri	260	270	370
Waikerie	-	390	580
Morgan	440	440	640
Mannum	860	850	600
Murray Bridge	860	830	590
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 470	3 250	2 660
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 090	3 060	2 280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 590	4 450	2 990
Goolwa Barrages	24 620	24 470	17 330



**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	-	-	-	2 610	R	1 750	1 790
Jingellic	4.0	1.43	207.95	2 700	R	2 100	1 840
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.54	218.43	920	R	720	790
Heywoods	5.5	2.09	155.72	6 020	F	6 140	6 360
Doctors Point	5.5	2.28	150.75	6 620	F	6 440	6 600
Albury	4.3	1.32	148.76	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.75	127.77	6 500	R	5 720	6 020
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.09	116.13	5 520	S	5 880	6 000
Tocumwal	6.4	1.60	105.44	5 930	F	6 170	6 320
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.71	80.26	4 720	F	4 840	5 300
Swan Hill	4.5	1.02	63.94	4 680	S	4 770	6 530
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.26	51.38	5 140	S	5 440	7 230
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.18	43.02	5 640	F	6 470	7 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 000	F	6 610	6 720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	27.84	6 660	S	7 640	7 930
Rufus Junction	-	2.90	19.83	3 240	R	3 470	3 870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.08	-	1 690	S	1 620	1 170
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.12	154.35	783	R	520	570
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.05	145.73	985	R	530	650
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.23	92.65	504	F	720	860
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.79	80.56	520	S	520	960
Edward at Liewah	-	1.38	56.76	756	F	840	770
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.06	55.55	22	R	10	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.60	57.56	1 140	R	1 140	1 310
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.69	-	1 445	F	1 950	830
Darling at Bourke	-	5.02	-	8 129	R	7 210	2 960
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.85	-	2 952	F	3 460	4 380

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 880	1 600
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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	-0.66	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.59
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.30
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.29	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.27	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.12	-0.83

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.14	1.395	70.745	1443
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.07	1.217	62.517	1510



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	-0.26

**Barrages**

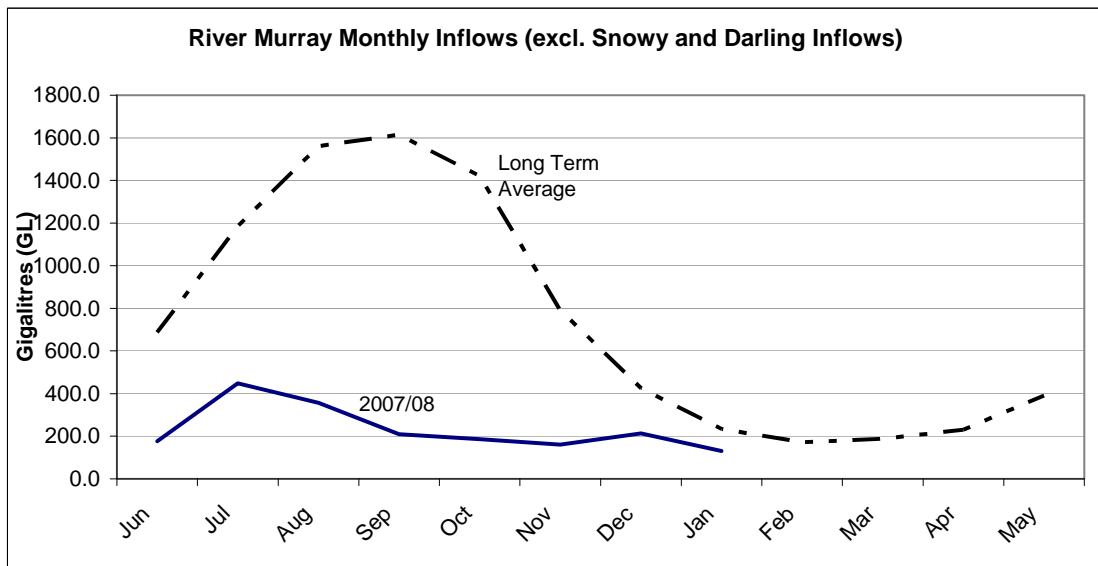
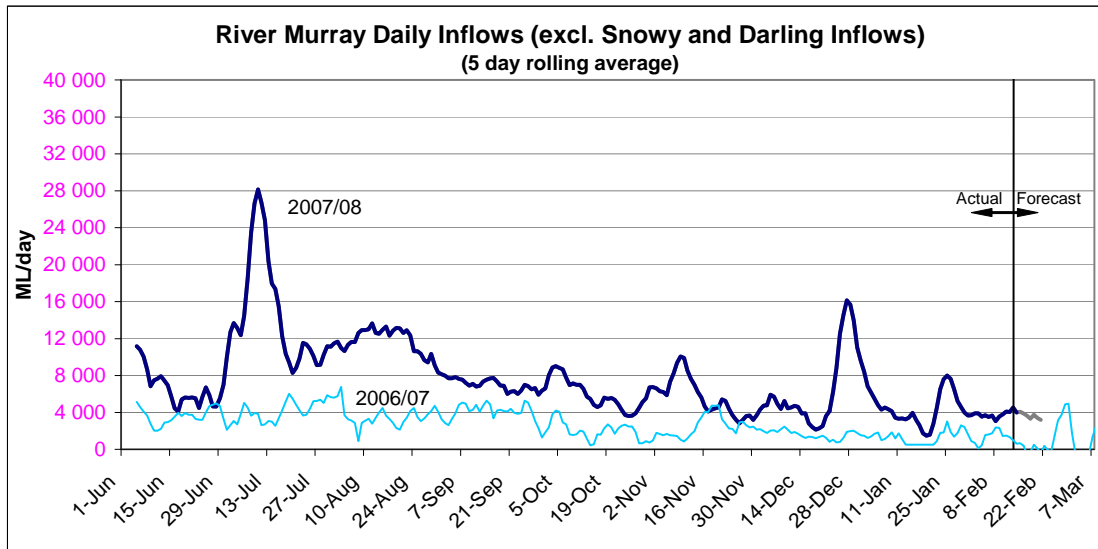
**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.23	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.22	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.21	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

# RMW Weekly Report

Week ending Wednesday 13 Feb 2008



## State Allocations (as at 13th Feb 2008)

### NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	90%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

### NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	90%
General security	9%

### South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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### Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	36%
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### Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	51%
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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.dwbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>