

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 January 2008

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18 January, 2008

Trim Ref : 08/800



Rainfall and Inflows

The upper catchments of the Warrego and Maranoa Rivers in the far north of the Murray-Darling Basin were the only regions to receive good falls of rain during the past week (see Map). Further heavy falls of rain occurred near Charleville on the 17th January and the Bureau of Meteorology has reported moderate to major flooding in the upper Warrego and Nive Rivers.

In contrast, little or no rain fell across other regions of the Basin. Stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries continue to steadily recede in response to 3 weeks of dry weather. In the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has now dropped to 380 ML/day, the lowest since May 2007.

River Operations

As the flows in the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers have steadily receded, the release from Hume Reservoir has become the main source of water supplying downstream requirements. During the past week the Hume storage decreased by 50 GL to 595 GL (19.6 % capacity). However, total storage of the River Murray System increased by 16 GL to 1 744 GL (19 % of capacity) due to 90 GL of water entering Menindee Lakes.

The flows at the Edward and Gulpa offtakes remain steady at 800 and 300 ML/day respectively. Stevens Weir is currently 70 cm below full supply level and flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir is about 650 ML/day. Within the Barmah-Millewa Forest, a small volume of environmental water is being released into Toupna Creek (NSW) to save a threatened population of Southern Pygmy Perch (see attached media release).

Torrumbarry Weir pool level is currently 85.93 m AHD (12 cm below Full Supply Level) and is expected to be slowly raised back towards full supply level during the coming week. This will provide greater mid-river storage and operational flexibility.

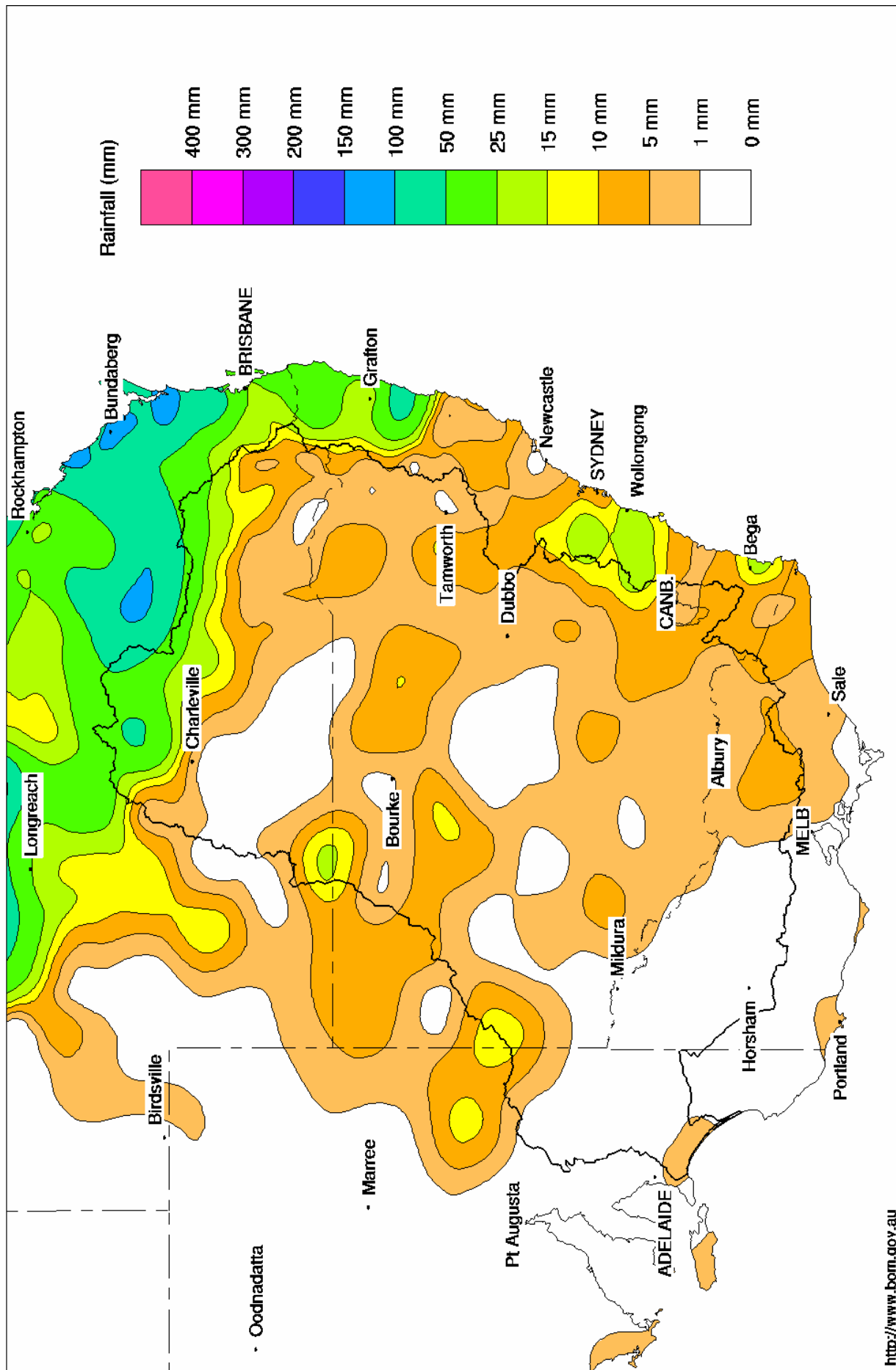
On the lower Darling River, water continues to be released from Weir 32, and is expected to reach the River Murray at Wentworth in one or two week's time. Menindee Lakes remains under the control of New South Wales, whose current plan is to release a total of 70 GL over the next few months. The NSW Department of Water and Energy has increased their estimate of the expected inflow to Menindee Lakes from 300 to 400 GL. However there is still some uncertainty to this volume due to the difficulty in estimating river losses along the Darling River and the potential impact of the most recent rain.

Along the Lower Murray, the increased flow to South Australia of 4 900 ML/day has resulted in Weirs 1 to 3 refilling to their Full Supply Levels and the flow past Lock 1 increasing from 850 to 1 230 ML/day. Weirs 4 to 6 however, all remain below their FSL. Salinity at Morgan remained constant at 485 EC. The level of the Lower Lakes is currently -0.14 m AHD (or 14 cm below sea level) and continues to gradually fall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th January 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 18 January, 2008

Water released to save Millewa State Forest native fish

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission and Forests NSW have started releasing a small amount of water into a Millewa State Forest creek to save a threatened population of Southern Pygmy Perch.

MDBC Chief Executive, Dr Wendy Craik AM said the water - up to 0.5 GL – was being made available through The Living Murray program.

“It is part of the 12.8 GL carried over from last water year for environmental emergencies such as this. This water is not available for irrigation use and will not impact on the availability of water for other users,” Dr Craik said.

“The MDBC partner governments agree this is one of the highest priority sites for use of the very small volume of environmental water available in the River Murray system this season.

“If we can help to save this rare native fish and preserve it in its natural habitat it will contribute to the overall biodiversity of the River Murray system,” Dr Craik said.

Forests NSW Riverina ecologist Gary Miller said that the population of Southern Pygmy Perch was under threat.

“We have been monitoring this site closely since last September, and there has been a significant deterioration in water quality and available habitat since Christmas,” Mr Miller said.

“We are able to deliver water directly into the portion of the creek required, which allows us to use a very small volume of water to great effect.

“We have released 125 megalitres into part of Toupna Creek within Millewa State Forest, to ensure the survival of a population of Southern Pygmy Perch.

“Ongoing monitoring of the population will occur with the possibility of another release should water quality deteriorate.”

Department of Primary Industries research scientist for freshwater fish ecology Lee Baumgartner said that the Millewa population of Southern Pygmy Perch was one of only a small number in the Murray-Darling Basin and that this population was under threat from the severe drought conditions.

“Researchers are undertaking an assessment program to closely monitor fish conditions before and after the watering takes place,” Mr Baumgartner said.

Media contact: Sam Leone 0407 003 662

TRIM REF: 08/735

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 | 410.56 | 672 | 17% | 80 | 592 | -3 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 174.43 | 595 | 20% | 30 | 565 | -50 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 23.70 | 314 | 46% | 100 | 214 | -21 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 163 | 9% | (- -) # | 0 | +90 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 1 744 | 19% | -- | 1 371 | +16 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **16%**

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 | 424 | 41% | 3 | 421 | -5 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 449 | 28% | 24 | 425 | -11 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | 768 | 23% | 100 | 668 | -20 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Jan-2008

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2007 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 573 | +5 | Snowy-Murray | +5 | 286 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 462 | -4 | Tooma-Tumut | +1 | 136 |
| Target Storage | 1 520 | | Nett Diversion | 3.7 | 150 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +10 | 486 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2007 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | .5 | 44.8 |
| Wakool System loss | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 1.4 | 12.5 |
| Licensed Pumps | 4.2 | 47.6 |
| Lower Darling | 0.4 | 6.4 |
| TOTAL | 6.5 | 116.5 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2007 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 4.4 | 47 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 5.9 | 71 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 5.2 | 57 * |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.2 | 7 |
| Licensed pumps - LMW | 6.4 | 86 |
| TOTAL | 22.2 | 267 * |

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 217 * | (4 800 ML/day) |
| Flow this week | 33.6 | |
| Flow so far this month | 71 | |
| Flow last month | 114 | |

* Reduced to approx. 109 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2007 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 70 | 70 | 100 |
| Euston | 240 | 180 | 110 |
| Red Cliffs | - | - | - |
| Merbein | 110 | 110 | 140 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 2 090 | 2 020 | 1 310 |
| Lock 9 | 120 | 120 | 150 |
| Lake Victoria | 200 | 200 | 180 |
| Berri | 310 | 300 | 390 |
| Waikerie | - | 420 | 620 |
| Morgan | 490 | 480 | 670 |
| Mannum | 830 | 830 | 560 |
| Murray Bridge | 710 | 700 | 560 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 3 310 | 3 170 | 2 550 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 2 900 | 2 980 | 2 230 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 3 640 | 3 640 | 2 800 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 22 980 | 21 800 | 15 940 |



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 | - | - | - | 1 180 | F | 1 350 | 1 690 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.19 | 207.71 | 1 230 | R | 1 880 | 1 400 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.49 | 218.38 | 800 | F | 810 | 810 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 2.41 | 156.04 | 9 250 | F | 9 360 | 8 430 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 2.54 | 151.01 | 9 480 | F | 9 910 | 9 350 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.52 | 148.96 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 2.20 | 128.22 | 9 360 | F | 9 270 | 7 980 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.41 | 116.45 | 7 780 | S | 7 780 | 7 340 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 1.90 | 105.74 | 7 800 | S | 7 770 | 7 290 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.07 | 80.62 | 6 040 | R | 5 960 | 5 870 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.20 | 64.12 | 5 830 | R | 5 700 | 6 650 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.35 | 51.47 | 5 500 | S | 5 540 | 6 990 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.18 | 43.02 | 5 700 | S | 5 860 | 7 050 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 4 860 | F | 5 260 | 5 200 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.83 | 27.59 | 3 510 | S | 3 860 | 3 440 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.18 | 20.11 | 4 540 | R | 4 100 | 3 560 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | 0.11 | - | 1 230 | F | 1 140 | 810 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.70 | 153.93 | 246 | F | 520 | 710 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.80 | 145.48 | 440 | F | 550 | 980 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.52 | 92.94 | 936 | R | 770 | 760 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.93 | 80.70 | 670 | F | 660 | 350 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 0.66 | 56.04 | 290 | F | 380 | 520 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.94 | 55.43 | 1 | F | 0 | 10 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 1.79 | 57.75 | 1 319 | S | 1 320 | 1 320 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.41 | - | 478 | R | 330 | 630 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 6.44 | - | 16 427 | F | 24 800 | 24 770 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.24 | - | 0 | F | 0 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 1 700 | 2 110 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | -0.50 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | -0.02 | +0.87 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | -0.12 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | -0.07 | +0.00 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.10 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | -0.10 | +0.04 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.02 | +0.06 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | -0.08 | +0.40 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.02 | +0.19 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | -0.01 | +0.15 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | -0.04 | -0.30 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.01 | +0.13 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | -0.30 | +0.08 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.05 | -0.64 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -0.05 | 1.415 | 70.765 | 1479 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | +0.04 | 1.274 | 62.574 | 1590 |



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

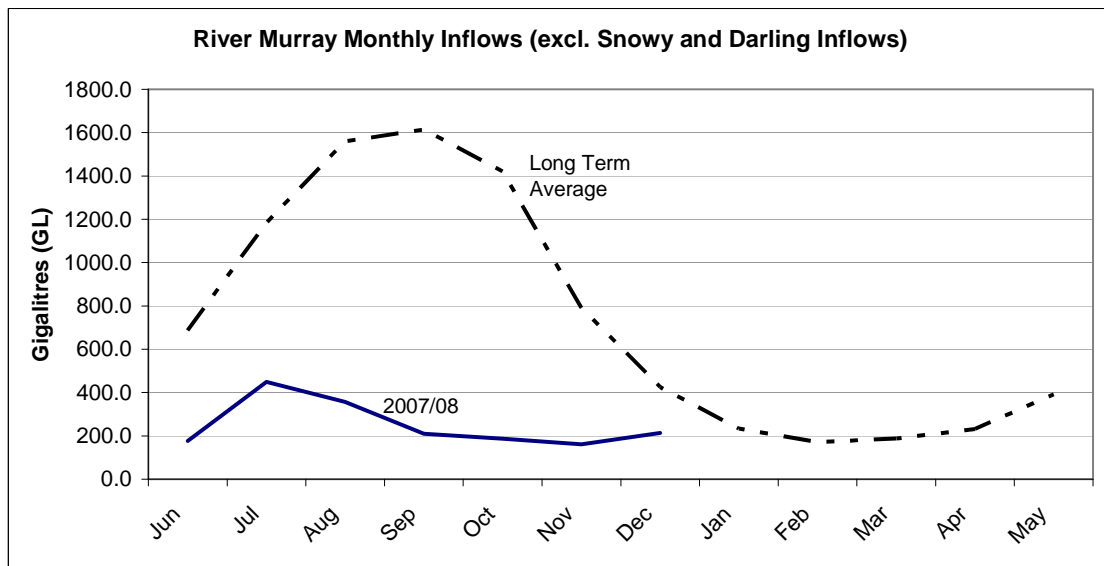
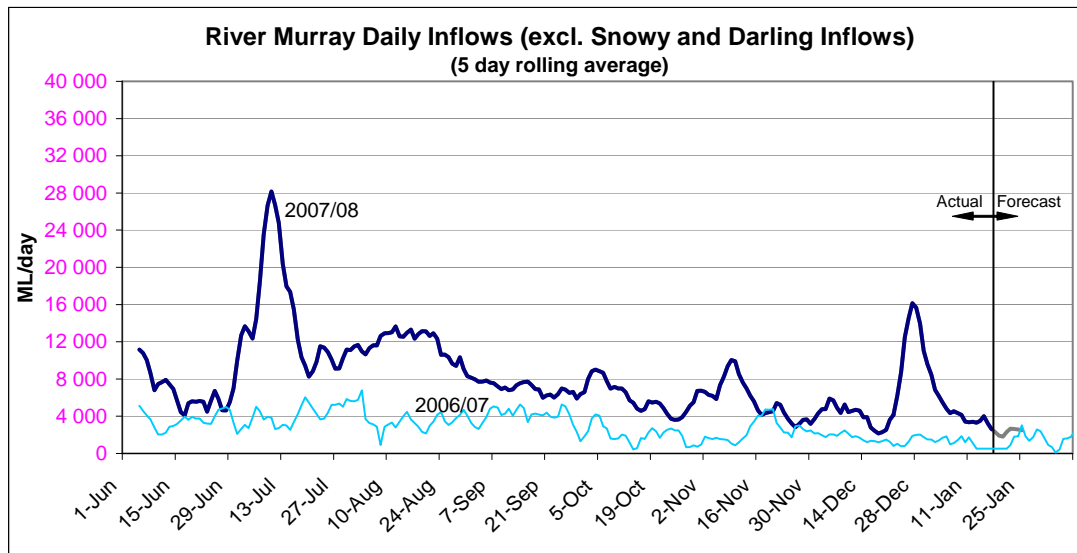
| | |
|--|---------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | (m AHD) |
| | -0.14 |

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | -0.24 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | -0.18 | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | -0.27 | All closed | Closed | Closed |

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



State Allocations (as at 16 Jan 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Suspended water re-credit | 65% |
| 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% |
|-----------------------|-----|

Victoria - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 33% |
|------------------|-----|

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 45% |
|------------------|-----|



NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc

VIC : <http://g-mwater.dds.n.com/news.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>