

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS
Trim Ref : 08/12385

21 November, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

For the week ending 9:00 am Wednesday 19 November, 25 to 79 mm of rain was recorded in the northern Basin with Coonabarabran in north-east NSW receiving the greatest fall of 79 mm. The southern Basin experienced lighter falls of rain, around 5 to 15 mm, with Mt Buller in central Victoria receiving the highest falls of 30 mm (see map). As of 9:00 am Thursday 20 November a further 60 mm had been received along the eastern highlands with more rain forecast over the next few days.

Streamflows in the upper Murray receded over the week, however, are expected to rise next week in response to the rain. It is too soon to gauge the impacts of the rain, however, given the dry state of catchments relatively minor rises in streamflows are expected.

River Operations

Dartmouth release is currently 350 ML/day (at Colemans gauge), and will be increased to around 3 000 ML/day over the coming weekend to transfer additional water to Hume Reservoir to meet the increasing demand for water along the River Murray. The transfer will include a 'pulsed' release that provides a variable flow rate aimed at benefiting the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users. During the coming months, further 'pulsed' releases are planned from Dartmouth Reservoir.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 31 GL to 937 GL (31 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) has been reduced from 7 500 to 6 500 ML/day. The water level in Lake Mulwala is steady at about 124.7 m AHD (or 20 cm below Full Supply Level), and the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been increased from 6 000 to 7 500 ML/day in response to increasing downstream demands.

Torrumbarry pool level has been gradually lowered over the past couple of weeks and is now at 85.85 m AHD (20 cm below FSL). If conditions remain dry, the pool level will remain at this level over the next week. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been reduced back to 800 ML/day after temporarily rising to 1 000 ML/day.

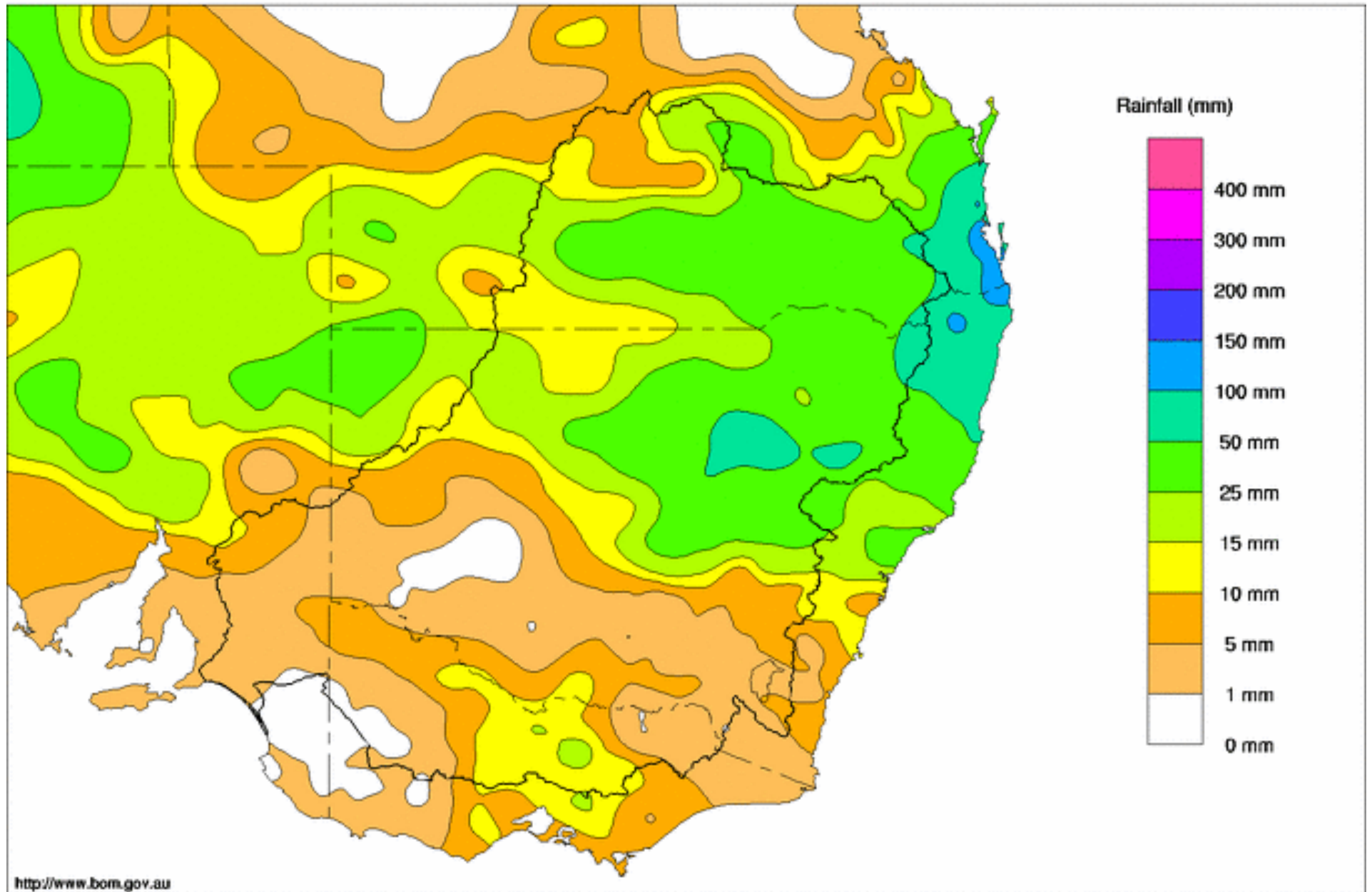
Storage in Lake Victoria has been increasing gradually since early November and has risen from 246 to 264 GL (39 % capacity). This rise in storage can be attributed to rises in Yarrowonga release and deliveries from the Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers. Lake Victoria storage will be drawn down over the summer months to help supply flow to South Australia.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has fallen slightly to -0.39 m AHD and the water level in Lake Albert has fallen to -0.42 m AHD. The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council has approved up to \$10 million for a management strategy to avoid acidification of the Lower Lakes. One of these strategies is to continue pumping water from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert until June 2009 (see www.mdbc.gov.au/news/MC_communique for more details).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th November 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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	418.81	871	22%	80	791	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.02	937	31%	30	907	-35
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.18	264	39%	100	164	+7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		269	16%	(- -) #	0	-28
Total		9 352		2 341	25%	--	1 862	-59

* 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		498	49%	3	495	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		694	43%	24	670	-24
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		740	22%	100	640	-8

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Nov-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	645	+6	Snowy-Murray	+5	355
Snowy-Murray Component	339	-1	Tooma-Tumut	+0	158
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	4.9	197
			Murray 1 Release	+7	531

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)	1.5	51.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.9	38
Wakool System loss	1.7	21.8	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.4	53
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	5.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.1	27
Licensed Pumps	4.0	30.2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	4
Lower Darling	0.4	3.1	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	8.4	112.0	TOTAL	10.3	124

* 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	29.3	(4 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	80	
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	100	80	80
Red Cliffs	110	110	130
Merbein	130	140	130
Burtundy (Darling)	370	370	370
Lock 9	270	280	210
Lake Victoria	260	270	240
Berri	320	320	390
Waikerie	-	-	530
Morgan	520	530	560
Mannum	630	610	530
Murray Bridge	600	580	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 170	4 130	3 750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 760	3 720	3 280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 780	5 940	5 210
Goolwa Barrages	17 670	17 700	17 070



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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	350	F	1 140	3 510
Jingellic	4.0	1.18	207.70	1 190	F	2 010	3 840
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	480	R	480	580
Heywoods	5.5	2.34	155.97	7 810	R	7 130	6 010
Doctors Point	5.5	2.48	150.95	8 770	R	7 860	6 790
Albury	4.3	1.43	148.87	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.82	127.84	6 920	S	6 780	6 690
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.18	116.22	6 460	F	6 500	6 250
Tocumwal	6.4	1.67	105.51	6 450	R	6 420	6 150
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.90	80.45	5 600	R	5 430	5 110
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 280	R	5 070	4 640
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.32	51.44	5 430	R	5 200	4 540
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	7 000	R	6 170	4 330
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 250	F	4 250	2 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	6 300	R	6 000	5 390
Rufus Junction	-	2.96	19.89	3 570	R	3 660	3 540
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.25	-	1 830	F	1 980	2 060
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.87	154.10	391	F	480	630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.80	145.48	423	F	550	860
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	327	S	340	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.04	80.82	780	F	920	810
Edward at Liewah	-	1.31	56.69	654	R	580	420
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.23	54.72	128	R	90	80
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.11	58.07	1 655	R	1 600	810
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.12	-	12	R	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	25	R	20	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.00	-	3 250	S	3 210	3 460

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 980	3 430
---	-------	-------

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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.65
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.17	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.37	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.02	No. 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-1.00

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.28	1.628	70.978	1923
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.784	63.084	2312



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

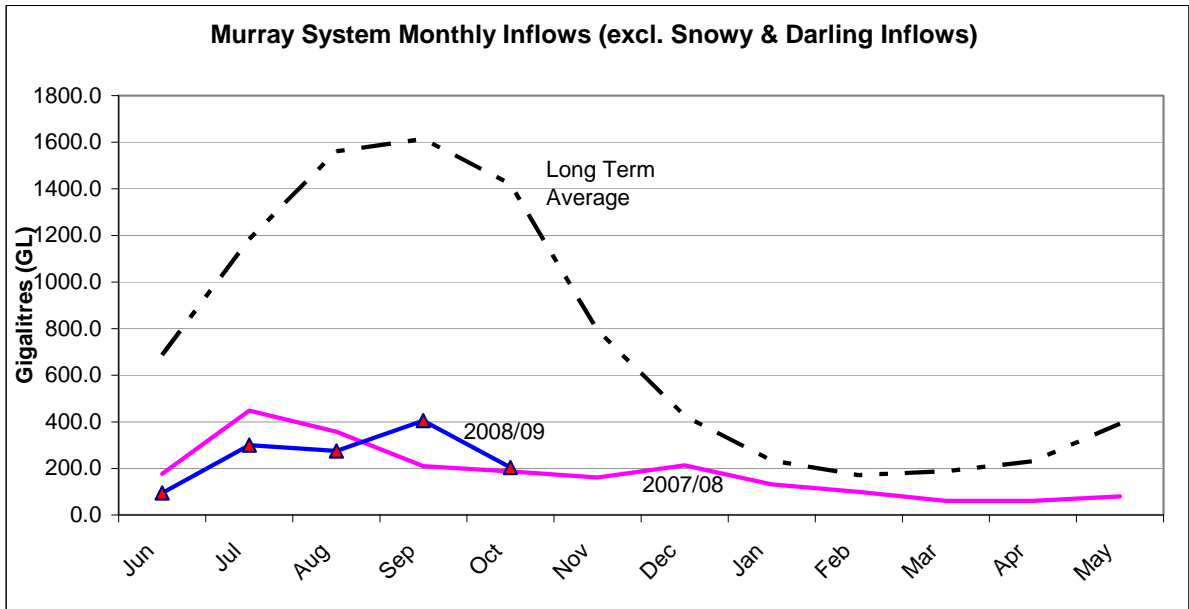
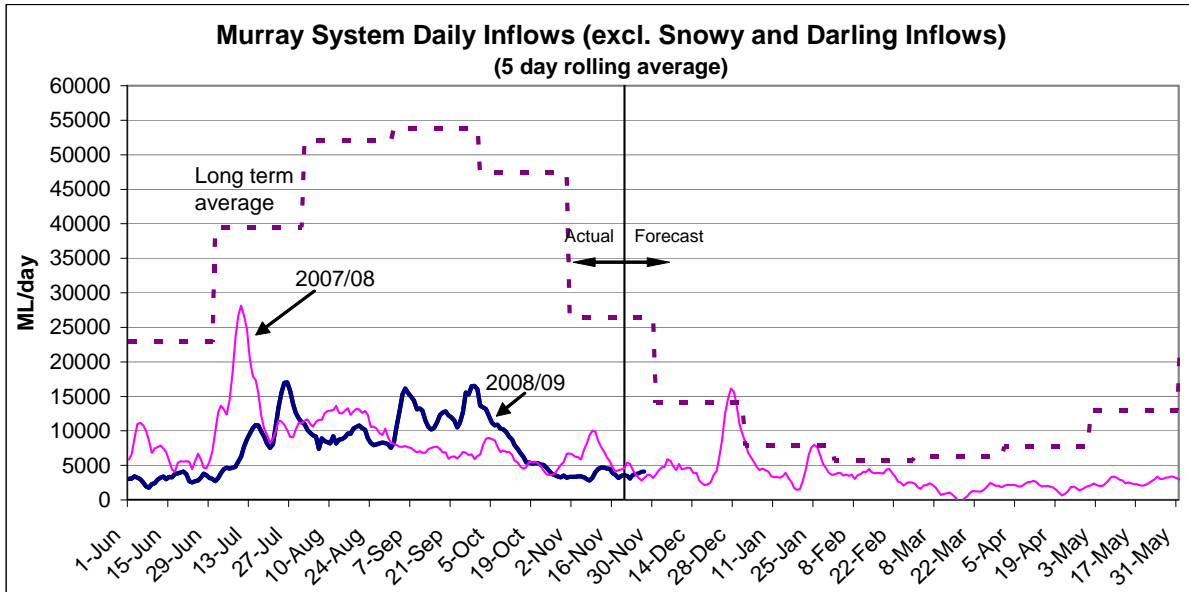
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.42

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.38	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.38	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 19 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	21%
------------------	-----

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	18%
------------------	-----

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	15%
---------------	-----



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>