

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, AS
Trim Ref : 08/9903*

26 September, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, rain was recorded across all regions of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). The amount of rain varied significantly, with the highest recordings (over 100 mm) in the Snowy Mountains of NSW. There were good streamflow responses in the upper Murray catchment, with an additional boost from snowmelt. At Bringenbrong on the upper Murray, the peak flow of 24 600 ML/day, was the highest since September 2005. There was less rainfall in other catchments, and the streamflow responses in the Mitta Mitta River (6 200 ML/day at Hinnomunjie), Kiewa River (4 300 ML/day at Mongans Bridge) and Ovens River (2 300 ML/day at Wangaratta) were less pronounced.

The rain has boosted the monthly inflow to the Murray system (excluding Darling inflows and Snowy releases), which on 24th September was 305 GL. The September inflow is now expected to be about 400 GL which is still well below the long term September average of 1 610 GL but above the record low of 120 GL in September 2006.

River Operations

The increased flows along the upper Murray provided a welcome boost to the storage in Hume Reservoir which increased by 48 GL to 1 001 GL (33 % capacity). A similar increase in storage is expected during the coming week as more water arrives from the upper Murray. As a result of increasing demand downstream, the Hume release was increased from 460 ML/day to 1 600 ML/day, which combined with inflow from the Kiewa River, targeted a flow past Doctors Point (near Albury) of 5 000 ML/day. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 20 GL to 813 GL (or 21 % capacity) and the release is being maintained at the minimum of 200 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.3 m AHD (or 60 cm below Full Supply Level) and should start to rise slightly as the extra water from Hume Reservoir arrives. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently 4 300 ML/day and, depending on downstream demand, might be increased slightly during the coming week.

NSW State Water has issued an update on the delivery of 30 GL of water allocated to the Wakool System as a stock and domestic replenishment flow (see attached Customer Notice).

Torrumbarry Weir pool level (86.0 m AHD or 5 cm below FSL) is being temporarily reduced by about 2 cm/day to supplement downstream flows. This lowering is expected to continue during the coming week, to a maximum of 20 cm below Full Supply Level. Euston Weir remains at Full Supply Level (47.6 m AHD) and the release, which is currently 3 000 ML/day, is expected to drop slightly during the coming week.

During the past week, the release from Menindee Lakes on the lower Darling River has increased from 300 to 1 000 ML/day and this water should start to arrive at Wentworth Weir on the Murray in about one week's time. The salinity of the water being released from Menindee Lakes was initially about 500 EC but has now declined to 350 EC. After combining with the fresher water in the Murray, this is likely to result in a salinity downstream of Wentworth Weir of no more than 300 EC.

The flow to South Australia has been increased to 2 900 ML/day and the release from Lock 1 is steady at about 1 800 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.26 m AHD and Lake Albert is steady at -0.20 m AHD.

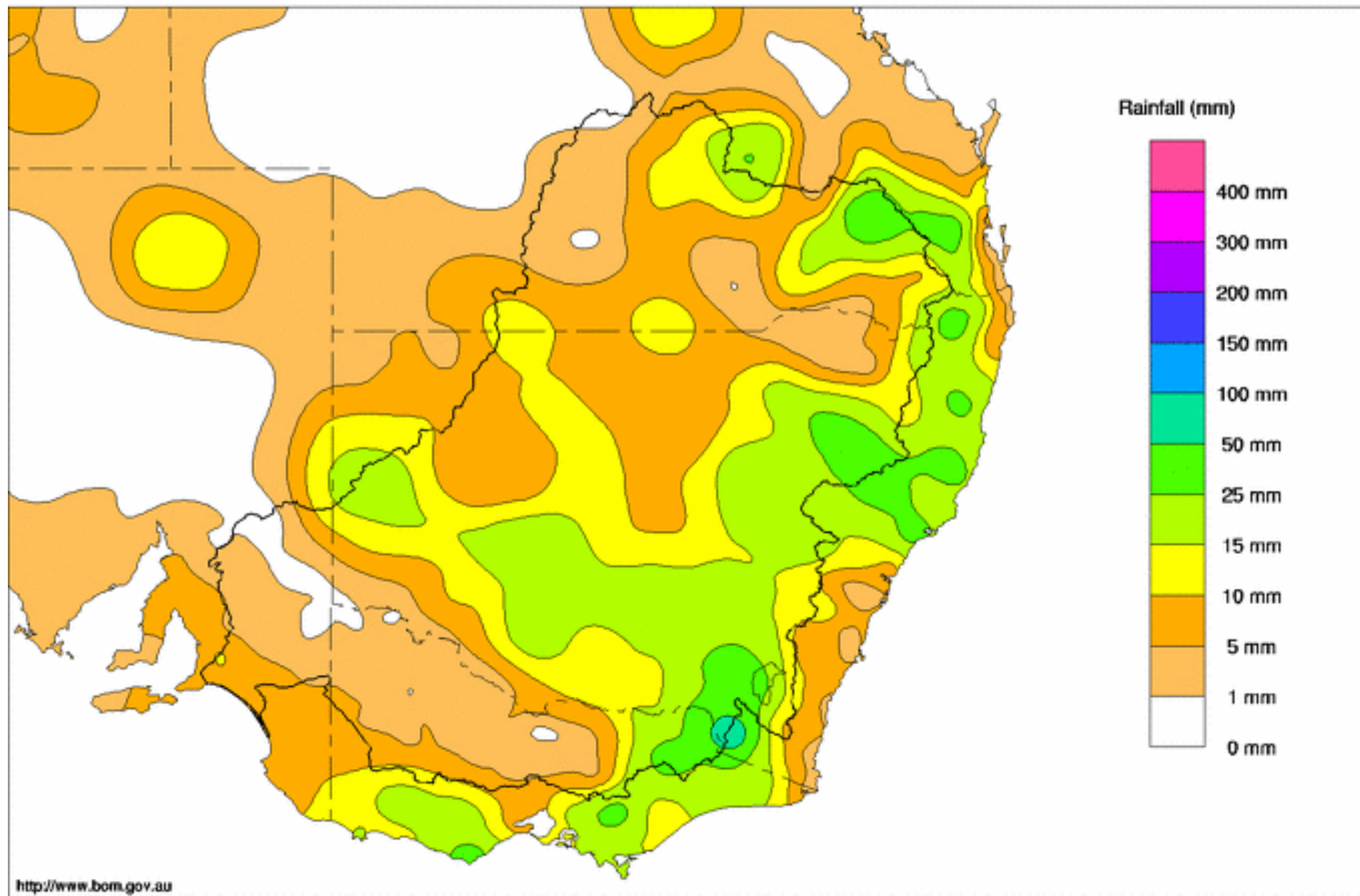
For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332

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General Manager

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Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au*

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th September 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	416.52	813	21%	80	733	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.61	1 001	33%	30	971	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.67	311	46%	100	211	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		494	29%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		2 619	28%	--	1 915	+52

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **23%**

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	489	48%	3	486	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	794	49%	24	770	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	781	23%	100	681	+13

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Sep-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	432	+85	Snowy-Murray	+0	313
Snowy-Murray Component	237	+66	Tooma-Tumut	+13	121
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-13.0	192
			Murray 1 Release	+26	433

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.1	31.1
Wakool System loss	0.0	.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	1.3
Licensed Pumps	2.0	7.8
Lower Darling	0.3	.9
TOTAL	4.7	41.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.2	14
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.1	12
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	6 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.1	2
TOTAL	14.9	36 *

* Please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures or those for FMIT (FMIT data that is now supplied by LMW).

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	
Flow this week	20.1	(2 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	59	
Flow last month	64	

* Reduced to approx. 70 GL during September drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	80	90	90
Euston	90	80	90
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	140	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	420	410	360
Lock 9	140	140	200
Lake Victoria	250	250	230
Berri	390	400	450
Waikerie	550	560	520
Morgan	620	590	520
Mannum	500	510	510
Murray Bridge	470	460	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 540	3 540	3 540
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 290	3 120	3 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 900	5 250	5 020
Goolwa Barrages	15 320	15 050	17 890



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	-	-	-	8 410	F	6 910	4 770
Jingellic	4.0	2.68	209.20	14 100	R	7 560	7 370
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.57	218.46	970	R	810	760
Heywoods	5.5	1.29	154.92	1 020	F	710	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.86	150.33	3 050	F	2 070	1 660
Albury	4.3	0.91	148.35	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.62	126.64	1 620	R	1 610	1 310
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.85	115.89	4 290	S	4 080	4 060
Tocumwal	6.4	1.27	105.11	4 320	R	4 110	4 240
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.00	79.55	2 370	F	2 530	3 340
Swan Hill	4.5	0.63	63.55	2 230	F	2 660	3 010
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.63	50.75	2 920	F	3 300	3 300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.70	42.54	3 200	R	3 250	3 170
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 530	F	2 430	2 900
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	2 280	R	2 090	2 720
Rufus Junction	-	2.75	19.68	2 430	F	2 420	2 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.14	-	1 870	S	1 850	1 740
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.09	155.32	2 510	R	1 620	1 450
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.53	146.21	2 305	R	2 120	2 520
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.04	92.46	280	S	300	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.41	80.18	170	F	350	590
Edward at Liewah	-	1.24	56.62	604	S	560	560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.85	54.34	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.35	56.31	139	S	130	120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	-	212	R	80	130
Darling at Bourke	-	3.93	-	9	R	10	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	58	F	60	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	13 280	10 520
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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	-0.59	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.12	+0.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.04	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.27
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	-0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.89

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.32	0.382	69.732	101
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.96	0.031	61.331	176.254



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

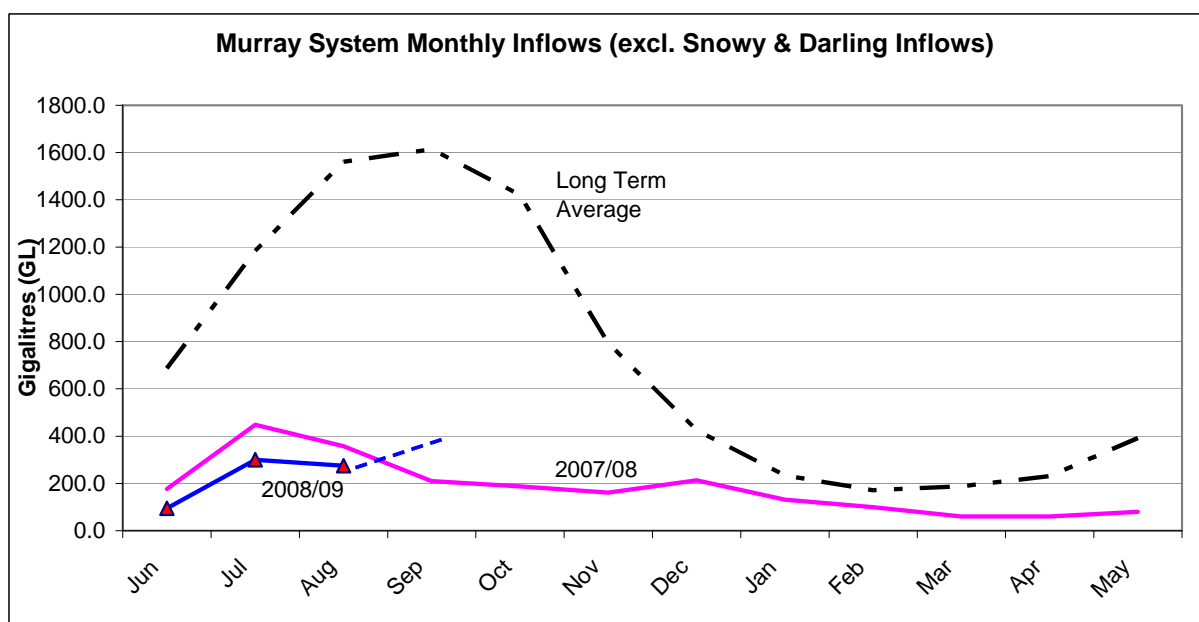
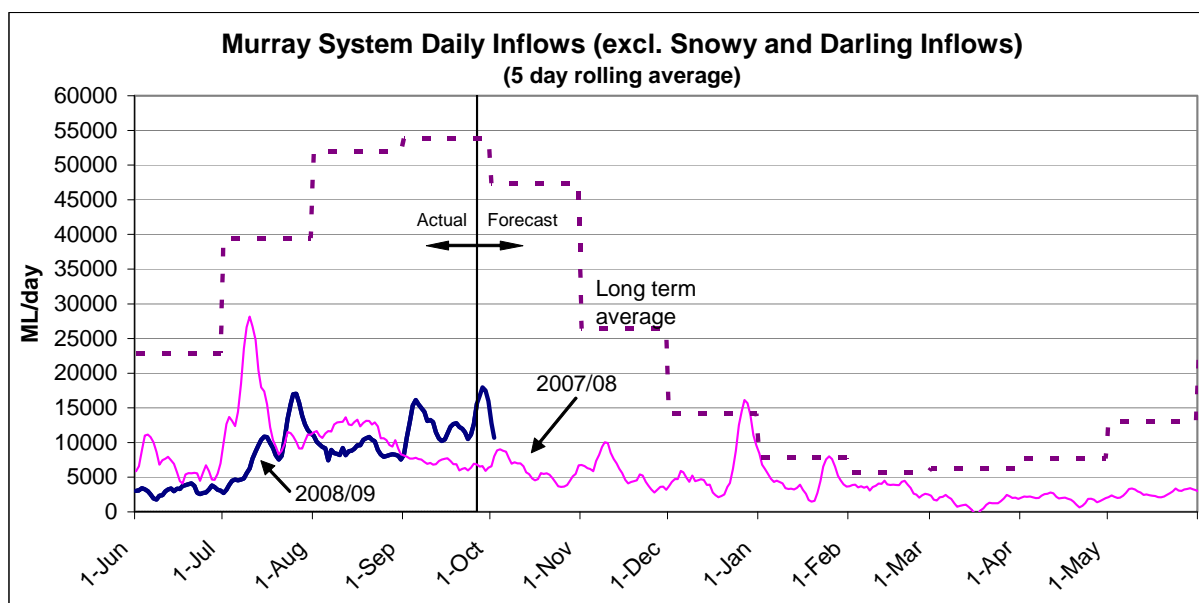
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.25

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.21	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.30	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 24th September 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	50%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	75%
General security	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	6%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	4%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation on 1st Oct.	11%
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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>

WAKOOL SYSTEM UPDATE

24 September 2008

This notice provides customers within the Wakool System with an update on the delivery of 30 GL currently allocated to the Wakool System as a stock and domestic replenishment flow.

Customers are encouraged to assist State Water with the delivery of this water by contacting the Duty Operations Officer on (03) 5898 3925 to advise when the replenishment flows reach their property.

Merran Creek System (Includes Coobool, Little Barbers and Waddy Creek)

On Monday 15 September, State Water fully opened both the Old Merran Cutting and New Merran Cutting regulators.

Flow in the Merran Creek at Franklings Bridge peaked at 120 ML/day on 18 September but has now receded to about 90 ML/day following a reduction in the Murray River level at Barham.

Combined flow into the Merran Creek at Franklings Bridge up until 23 September has been about 950 ML.

On 23 September, water in the Merran Creek had reached Nacurrie Road South.

Flows downstream of the Little Barbers Creek offtake regulator will cease once there is sufficient flow in transit to reach the bottom house in the system at Woodara.

On 23 September, a small flow in the Barbers Creek was passing downstream of Sandy's Bridge.

Flows into the Coobool System at St Helena Regulator are likely to start by about Friday 26 September when the water level upstream of the regulator rises sufficiently to deliver an adequate flow downstream of the regulator.

Flows into the Waddy Creek are expected to start when water in the Merran Creek is close to reaching the junction with the Waddy Creek.

Wakool-Yallakool System

On Wednesday 24 September, two bays of the Yallakool Offtake regulator will be “stripped” in preparation for flows into the Yallakool Creek.

Flow downstream of the Yallakool Offtake will progressively be increased over the coming week to about 220 ML/day as the water level in the Edward River upstream of Stevens Weir is increased by about one metre (this is earlier than previous advice).

All other flows into the Wakool/Yallakool System will start as follows:

Location	29 September	30 September	1 October
Yallakool Escape	80 ML/day	80 ML/day	80 ML/day
Wakool Town Escape	0 ML/day	0 ML/day	0 ML/day
Wakool River Offtake	0 ML/day	0 ML/day	0 ML/day
Wakool Escape	50 ML/day	100 ML/day	150 ML/day

After reviewing the operation of the Wakool River Offtake from the 2007-08 water year, it has been decided that initially no water will be diverted downstream of this regulator.

If however Edward River flows increase sufficiently to enable at least 30 ML/day to be gravity diverted downstream of the Wakool River Offtake, this decision will be reviewed.

Flows from the Wakool Town Escape (65 ML/day) are not expected to commence until flows in the Wakool River arrive at the junction with the escape.

Private weir owners located on the Merribit Creek, Bookit Creek and Wakool River at Widgee will be required to “strip” these regulators so they do not restrict stream flows.

Colligen-Niemur System

Flows into the Colligen/Niemur System are currently planned to start as follows:

Location	29 September	30 September	1 October
Colligen Offtake	100 ML/day	200 ML/day	300 ML/day
Niemur Syphon Escape	60 ML/day	120 ML/day	170 ML/day

It is currently planned to continue flows downstream of the Colligen Offtake until there is enough water in transit to reach the Niemur Syphon Escape.

As flow downstream of the Colligen Offtake will be higher than last season, this will be the first opportunity for the new fish ladder to operate within design parameters.

Flows from the Niemur Syphon Escape are expected to continue until there is sufficient water in transit to reach the Wakool River.

Restrictions To Diversions

Customers are reminded that a Section 323 Order under the *Water Management Act 2000* banning extractions for irrigation remains in force for the entire Wakool System.

This order also restricts both stock and domestic and basic landholder right diversions to a maximum of 5 ML via a suction line not greater than 50 mm.

Applications for an exemption to these restrictions can be made by contacting DWE's Licensing Division at Deniliquin on (03) 5898 3900.

To ensure the system is run fairly, customers should report any possible breaches to DWE's Compliance Unit hotline on 1800 633 362 or email: watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports will be treated confidentially.

Customers requiring further information on river flows can contact the Duty Operations Officer on (03) 5898 3925.

Authorised by:

Dan Berry

General Manager Water Delivery