

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 January 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001
Trim Ref : 08/295*

11 January, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

During the week there was heavy rainfall on the coast near the NSW-Queensland border which extended into the north-east of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). The Bureau of Meteorology issued flood warnings for the MacIntyre and Condamine Rivers. Flood warnings were also maintained in the lower Warrego River, Paroo River and lower Bogan River as a result of the heavy rain in December.

In contrast, the southern half of the Basin has been experiencing hot dry weather since Christmas, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. Renmark, for instance, received no rain during the past 2 weeks and the average maximum temperature was 38 °C. Streamflows in the upper Murray tributaries have been steadily receding from the peak flows that occurred a few days before Christmas.

River Operations

During the past week, total storage of the River Murray system declined by 32 GL to 1 728 GL (18.5 % capacity). The release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased from 7 000 to 7 800 ML/day to help meet the increasing demands downstream as a result of the hot and dry weather. The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.39 m (51 cm below Full Supply Level) and should remain fairly steady during the coming week.

Additional tributary water has been ordered from the inter-valley water trade accounts and is now being delivered from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers. The flow at McCoys on the Goulburn River is currently 740 ML/day and is expected to rise to about 1 250 ML/day over the coming week. The flow at Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River is currently 1 330 ML/day and should remain fairly steady over the coming weeks if it remains dry.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level is being temporarily lowered to about 10 cm below Full Supply Level to help supplement the downstream flow. The Euston Weir pool is currently being held steady at 10 cm below FSL, but may be temporarily drawn down by a further 10 cm if necessary.

The water released into the Wakool River for environmental, stock and domestic purposes, is currently about half way between Barham-Moulamein Road and Gee Gee Bridge. On the Edward River, Stevens Weir has been partially refilled and gravity diversions at the Wakool River offtake regulator have now commenced.

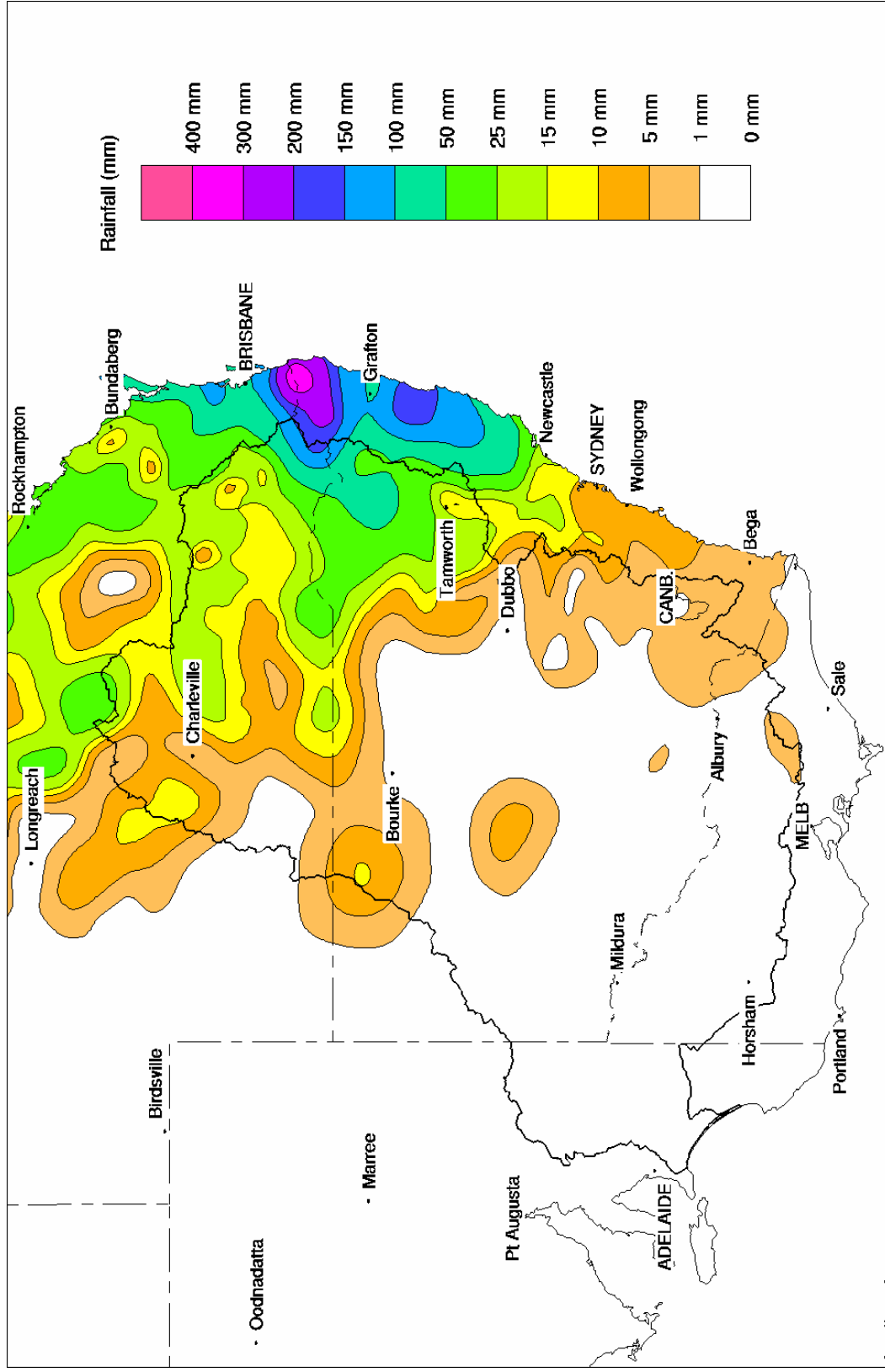
The flow peak in the Darling River has passed Brewarrina (at 30 000 ML/day) and is now approaching Bourke. Further downstream, water is entering Menindee Lakes and is expected to continue for the next six weeks. On the lower Darling River the release from Menindee Lakes commenced on 7th January. A total of approximately 70 GL is expected to be released by New South Wales by the end of March (see attached media release).

In South Australia, increased irrigation and losses from evaporation during the recent hot weather have caused water levels to drop in some weir pools (see attached media release from South Australia). As a result, flow to South Australia has been increased from 4 500 to 4 900 ML/day on 10th January. The water level of the Lower Lakes is currently -0.13 m AHD (or 13 cm below sea level) and continues to gradually fall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th January 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



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NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

Monday 7 January, 2008

WATER RELEASES FROM MENINDEE LAKES TO RE-START TODAY

Releases downstream from the Menindee Lakes will commence today for the first time in months, helping to replenish the Lower-Darling River in Far Western NSW.

"The drought has been particularly severe in this part of the State and we've had to stop downstream water releases from the Menindee Lakes on a number of occasions in order to prevent the Lakes from drying up," said Department of Water and Energy Acting Deputy Director-General Rob O'Neill.

"The last time the water release gates were closed was in October last year, however good pre-Christmas rainfall in the upper Barwon-Darling catchment has generated enough water to secure Broken Hill's water supply for at least 18 months, provide a 100 per cent allocation to high security and stock and domestic users, and increase the water stored in Menindee Lakes.

"This means we now have enough water to re-start releases downstream of the Lakes, which will greatly benefit the community and environment along this stretch of the River."

Mr O'Neill said that an initial release of 500 megalitres of water would occur today, with this volume increased over the coming days until the maximum release rate of 5,000 megalitres per day is reached.

"This rate will be maintained for four days and then reduced over 10 days to the minimum rate required to maintain flows over Burtundy Weir

"Under this release pattern, approximately 55 gigalitres of water will be released from the Menindee Lakes by the end of January and approximately 70 gigalitres by the end of March.

"The flow peak in the Barwon-Darling River is now near Brewarrina and whilst we expect flows into the Lakes to continue for the next six weeks, these downstream releases can only be maintained until March, unless there is further rain in the catchment."

Mr O'Neill said that details of the management of flows within the Menindee Lakes system will be provided when inflows can be estimated more accurately, but that a high priority is to flood the wetlands in Lake Wetherell as soon as possible.

Landholders requiring further details of expected river heights should contact the Menindee Office of State Water (08) 8091 4401.

Media contact: Bunty Driver 03 5898 3910 or 0407 403 234

MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 9
JANUARY
2008

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River Murray levels in South Australia

Increased irrigation and losses from evaporation during recent very hot weather have caused water levels to drop in some River Murray weir pools in South Australia.

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Acting Chief Executive, Peter O'Neill, said that the reach between Lock 2 and Lock 3 had been most severely affected with the weir pool falling up to 10 cm from normal pool level.

"While this fall is well within normal operating limits, the reduced level may cause some irrigators concern, particularly if wind conditions further reduce the level in certain areas," Mr O'Neill said.

"The recent impact of increased irrigation and evaporation on weir pool levels was greater than expected, and flow into South Australia has been increased from 3 800 ML/day to 4 500 ML/day to recover the pool levels," he said.

"In addition, the flows at each of the weirs have been adjusted in a bid to raise the Lock 2 weir pool as a priority. It is anticipated that all weir pool levels from Lock 1 upstream will return to normal pool level by the end of this week."

"Because of the lag between when flows to the state are adjusted and the impact of these changes on downstream weir pools, there will be times when weir pool levels fluctuate within reasonably small limits."

"The river within South Australia is currently being managed very carefully to conserve water and to ensure there is sufficient water available to maintain weir pool levels throughout the summer."

Under continuing drought conditions, river levels below lock one are expected to continue to fall over the coming months. Lower Lake levels are currently at about -0.1m AHD, or 10cm below sea level.

For further information about weir pool levels or the River Murray visit www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au or contact the Drought Link hotline on 180 20 20.

ENDS

Week ending Wednesday 09 Jan 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	410.71	676	17%	80	596	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.01	645	21%	30	615	-49
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.91	335	50%	100	235	-19
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		73	4%	(- -) #	0	+34
Total		9 352		1 728	18%	--	1 446	-32

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **17%**

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	429	42%	3	426	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	460	28%	24	436	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	788	23%	100	688	-14

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Jan-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	568	+12	Snowy-Murray	+1	281
Snowy-Murray Component	466	+0	Tooma-Tumut	+3	135
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	-1.7	147
			Murray 1 Release	+8	476

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.1	42.9
Wakool System loss	0.0	5.0
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	11.2
Licensed Pumps	3.8	43.3
Lower Darling	0.4	6.0
TOTAL	8.6	108.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.4	43
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.3	65
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	47 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	79
TOTAL	14.0	240 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217 *	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	30.0	
Flow so far this month	38	
Flow last month	114	

* Currently reduced to approx. 145 GL during January drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	90	160	100
Euston	100	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	110	110	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 940	1 660	1 280
Lock 9	120	120	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	180
Berri	300	290	390
Waikerie	420	420	620
Morgan	480	480	670
Mannum	820	820	550
Murray Bridge	690	670	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 690	2 930	2 520
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	2 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 520	3 570	2 770
Goolwa Barrages	20 290	22 410	15 690



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	-	-	-	3 290	R	1 690	1 070
Jingellic	4.0	1.18	207.70	1 170	S	1 400	1 980
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.50	218.39	820	S	810	790
Heywoods	5.5	2.50	156.13	10 030	R	8 430	5 890
Doctors Point	5.5	2.63	151.10	10 500	F	9 350	6 690
Albury	4.3	1.60	149.04	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.23	128.25	9 550	R	7 980	5 380
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.41	116.45	7 780	R	7 340	7 000
Tocumwal	6.4	1.86	105.70	7 550	R	7 290	7 210
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.99	80.54	5 720	R	5 870	7 920
Swan Hill	4.5	1.18	64.10	5 760	R	6 660	7 770
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.43	51.55	5 840	F	6 990	7 000
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.35	43.19	6 700	F	7 050	5 520
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 190	F	5 200	4 260
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	4 790	R	3 440	2 800
Rufus Junction	-	3.02	19.95	3 790	R	3 560	3 160
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.03	-	850	R	810	1 420
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	405	F	710	800
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.97	145.65	788	R	980	2 120
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.39	92.81	741	S	760	1 940
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.81	80.58	550	F	350	490
Edward at Liewah	-	1.03	56.41	501	F	520	480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.99	55.48	5	F	10	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.80	57.76	1 329	F	1 320	650
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.34	-	303	F	630	830
Darling at Bourke	-	8.66	-	28 595	R	24 770	15 240
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.24	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 110	4 450
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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	-0.54	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.72
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.12	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.05	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.38
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.06	+0.03
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.24	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.09	+0.01
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.24	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	-0.72

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	1.505	70.855	1668
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.223	62.523	1520



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

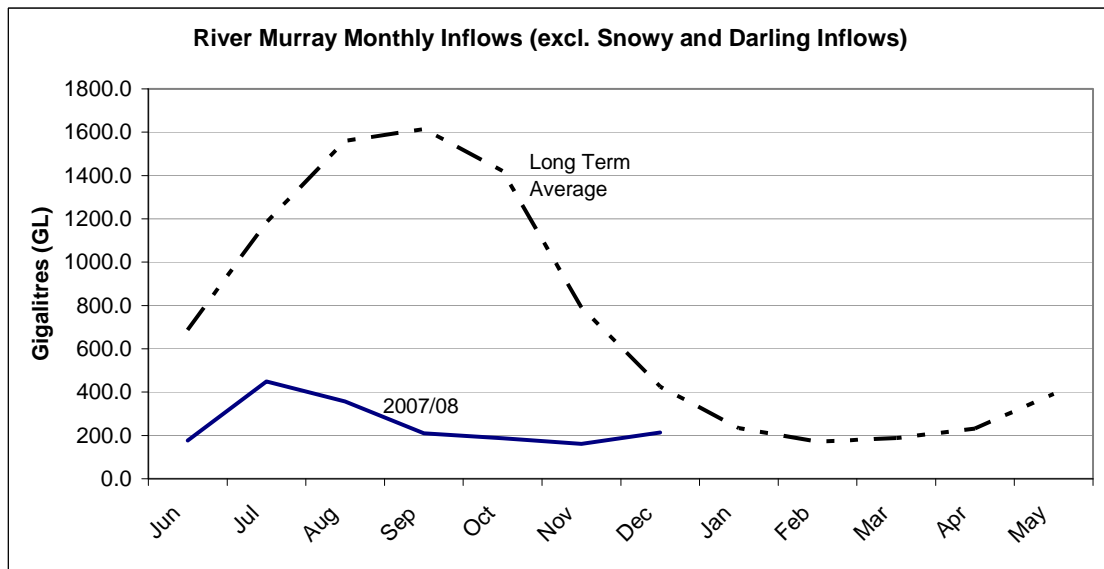
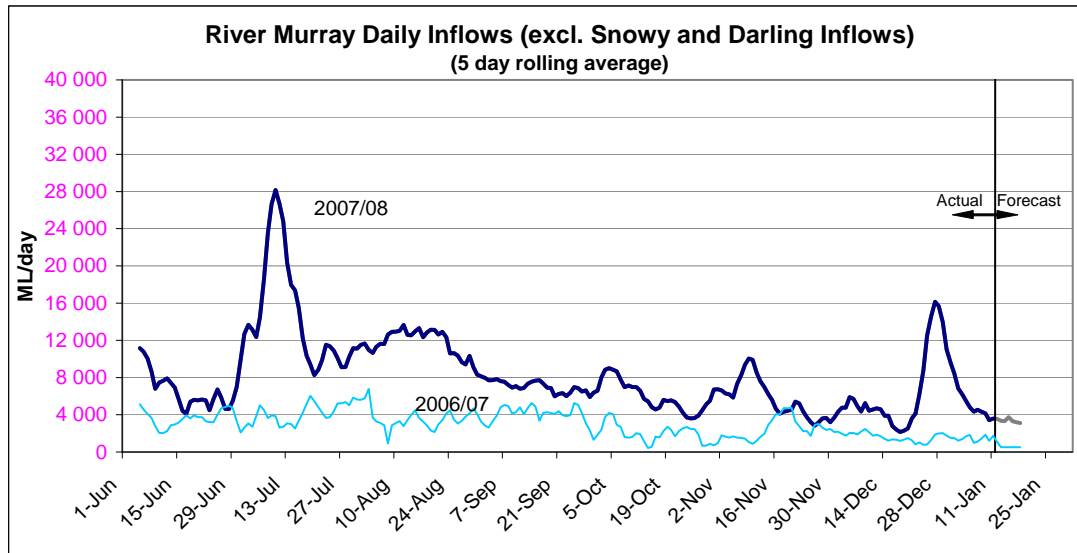
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	-0.13

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.11	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.05	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.04	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 9 Jan 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	55%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High Security	90%
General security	3%

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	33%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	45%
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NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc

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

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