



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2015

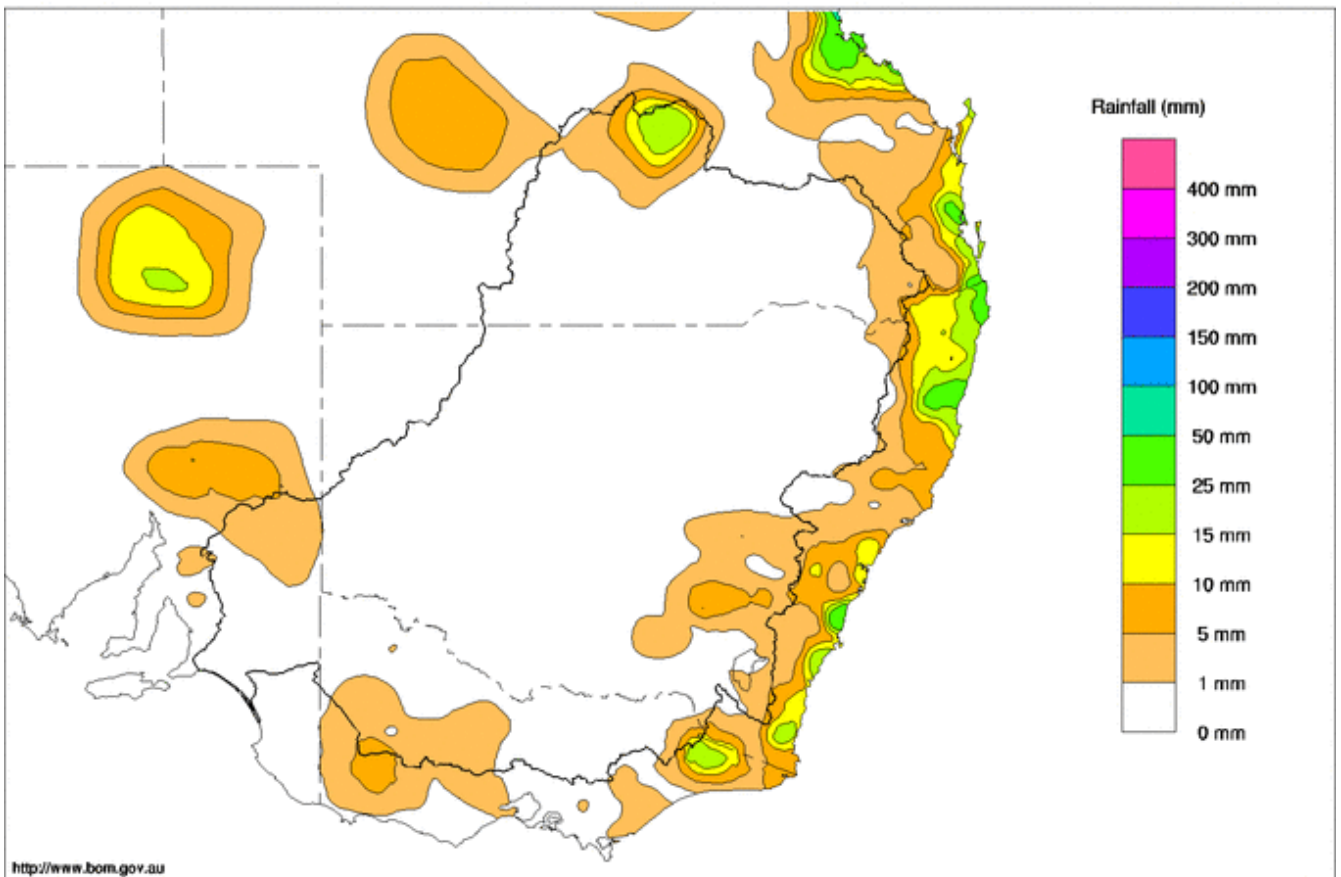
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Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were hot and dry across the Basin this week, with most areas recording little or no rainfall. Almost the entire Murray valley from Albury to South Australia sweltered through a series of mid to high 30 degree days, and similar or hotter temperatures were also experienced throughout western NSW.

Highest weekly rain totals in Queensland included 23 mm at The Head and 20 mm at Derbyshire Downs. In NSW, 36 mm fell at Cooma and 14 mm at Young; whilst in Victoria, 7 mm was recorded at Nhill.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 11th February 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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

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Issued: 11/02/2015

Map 1 – Murray Darling Basin rainfall week ending 11 February 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

Stream flows in the upper tributaries continued receding this week, and are now down to their lowest point so far this summer. Upstream of Dartmouth Dam, the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from 220 ML/day to 180 ML/day. On the Upper Murray, the flow at Biggara receded from 330 ML/day to 290 ML/day; whilst on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta fell to 140 ML/day before increasing back up to 170 ML/day.



River Operations

- Works to be undertaken at Yarrawonga and Mildura weirs in autumn-winter
- Goulburn pulse enters the Murray

MDBA total storage decreased by 151 GL this week, with the active storage now 4,550 GL (54% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the storage decreased by 29 GL to 3,081 GL (80% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans gauge, will be held around 3,600 ML/day over the coming week as water is transferred downstream to Hume Reservoir.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 82 GL to 1,282 GL (43% capacity). Releases from Hume averaged 18,000 ML/day over the past week, but are expected to ease slightly in coming days due to the likelihood of storm activity and associated rainfall.

Diversions from the major irrigation offtakes at **Lake Mulwala** were steady this week at around 6,800 ML/day. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.75 m AHD and the downstream release from Yarrawonga Weir is steady at 10,100 ML/day. Planning is underway to perform a lowering of Lake Mulwala in late autumn-winter (see attached media release). The draw down will allow routine testing of the weir structure, erosion control works on the lake foreshore, as well as an opportunity to manage the invasive water weed *Egeria densa* (Figure 1). Lowering the water level and subjecting the exposed weed to frost has proven in the past to be an effective method for controlling its spread within the weir pool.



Figure 1 – Close up of the weed *Egeria densa* taken near Iraak, Victoria in 2008 (Source: Scott Jaensch, NSW Office of Water)

On the **Edward** River system, the combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes is steady at around 1,900 ML/day. Diversions to Wakool Main Canal decreased this week from 950 ML/day to 750 ML/day, which led to a corresponding increase in the flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir, which rose from 2,400 ML/day to 2,600 ML/day.



On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is 2,700 ML/day and rising as a pulse of water released from Lake Eildon makes its way into the Murray System. The pulse, which will be held at a peak of around 3,000 ML/day at McCoys Bridge for a week, is a combination of traded inter-valley transfer (IVT) water and environmental water.

At **Torrumbarry** Weir, diversions at National Channel are steady at 2,400 ML/day. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry is 6,600 ML/day and forecast to rise to around 8,000 ML/day in coming days as the Goulburn pulse passes downstream.

On the lower **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald was reduced this week from 700 ML/day to 380 ML/day. This flow is expected to remain around 300 to 400 ML/day over the coming week as further IVT water is delivered. Downstream on the Murray at **Euston**, the flow is 6,900 ML/day and forecast to remain steady over the coming week.

Planning is underway for major works at **Mildura Weir** this coming autumn-winter (see attached media release). These works include refurbishment of the Lock 11 lock chamber, as well as repairs on the concrete weir trestleway and installation of six mechanised trestles. The works on the lock are planned to commence after Easter and will take three to four months, during which time the lock will be closed to boat traffic. The works on the trestleway are planned to commence around late-autumn and will require the weir pool to be fully drawn down for a period of up to 10 weeks. Further advice with more specific dates and details will be issued over coming months.

A small pulse of water is currently making its way down the **upper Darling** River, with the flow at Louth currently 300 ML/day. This flow has originated from the Culgoa and Warrego Rivers following widespread rain throughout southern Queensland in late December. Over the past week, the total storage at **Menindee Lakes** (currently managed by NSW) decreased by 8 GL to 130 GL (8% capacity). Releases from the lakes, measured at Weir 32, are 160 ML/day, whilst the flow downstream at Burtundy is estimated to be around 10 ML/day.

At **Wentworth Weir**, the flow is 6,000 ML/day and expected to reduce to around 5,200 ML/day over the coming week. The Wentworth weir pool is continuing to be held at around 10 cm above its full supply level of 30.80 m AHD to assist diverters within the weir influence pump water while there are low flows in the lower Darling.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume has decreased by 32 GL to 381 GL (56% capacity). The daily flow to South Australia is targeting 9,400 ML/day. This is around 2,500 ML/day above the usual February entitlement flow rate due to the delivery of additional environmental water made available to sustain higher barrage releases into the Coorong.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average water level in Lake Alexandrina decreased by 4 cm this week to 0.58 m AHD. This reduction in lake level was significantly influenced by the hot weather and increased evaporation experienced over South Australia in the past week. Barrage releases averaged around 2,300 ML/day for the week.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 11 Feb 2015

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Total Storage for the Week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	473.37	3 081	80%	71	3 010	-29
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.25	1 282	43%	23	1 259	-82
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.36	381	56%	100	281	-32
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		130	8%	(- -) #	0	-8
Total		9 269		4 874	53%	--	4 550	-151
Total Active MDBA Storage							54% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	450	44%	3	447	-63
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	520	32%	24	496	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 316	69%	100	2 216	-54

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10 Feb 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 267	-13	Snowy-Murray	+9	231
Snowy-Murray Component	1 124	-19	Tooma-Tumut	+0	201
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	9	30
			Murray 1 Release	+22	498

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	25.6	630	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.5	204
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.4	46	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.8	446
Western Murray Irrigation	1.2	18	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.3	80
Licensed Pumps	6.7	184	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.8	47
Lower Darling	3.3	54	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	222
TOTAL	40.2	932	TOTAL	42.6	999

* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	194.0 *
Flow this week	65.1
Flow so far this month	103.5
Flow last month	266.5

(9 300 ML/day)

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	110	90	90
Euston	100	100	100
Red Cliffs	140	130	120
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	370	390	760
Lock 9	130	120	140
Lake Victoria	220	210	210
Berri	200	210	220
Waikerie	320	290	290
Morgan	270	280	280
Mannum	280	280	340
Murray Bridge	330	330	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	790	780	760
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	730	720	600
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 510	2 520	2 400
Goolwa Barrages	1 120	1 140	1 150



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 11 Feb 2015

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	-	-	-	3 910	F	2 730	870
Jingellic	4.0	1.68	208.20	4 140	R	3 670	1 290
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.36	219.25	3 710	F	4 110	4 540
Heywoods	5.5	3.34	156.97	17 200	F	17 990	16 360
Doctors Point	5.5	3.22	151.69	17 450	F	18 540	16 690
Albury	4.3	2.30	149.74	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.51	129.53	17 860	F	17 660	16 950
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.67	116.71	10 170	S	10 130	10 150
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	9 610	S	9 540	9 540
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.28	80.83	6 620	R	6 390	6 610
Swan Hill	4.5	1.21	64.13	6 140	S	6 130	6 800
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.95	52.07	7 650	F	7 830	8 610
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	6 890	F	7 280	8 870
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	5 950	R	6 440	8 310
Rufus Junction	-	3.91	20.84	9 190	R	8 620	8 920
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.68	-	6 200	R	5 840	6 210
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.85	154.08	330	F	490	330
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	170	R	170	210
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.40	93.82	2 680	R	1 540	1 110
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.38	82.15	2 600	S	2 550	2 100
Edward at Liewah	-	2.66	58.04	2 110	R	2 050	1 840
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.42	54.91	410	F	490	600
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.73	56.69	380	S	450	980
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.56	-	960	F	1 040	170
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	260	F	190	170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	0	F	10	70

Natural Inflow to Hume	1 250	480
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(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)

Weirs and Locks Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+1.58
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.17
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.31
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.94
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.12	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.07	-0.40	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.47	+0.09	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	-0.07

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.58
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Barrages

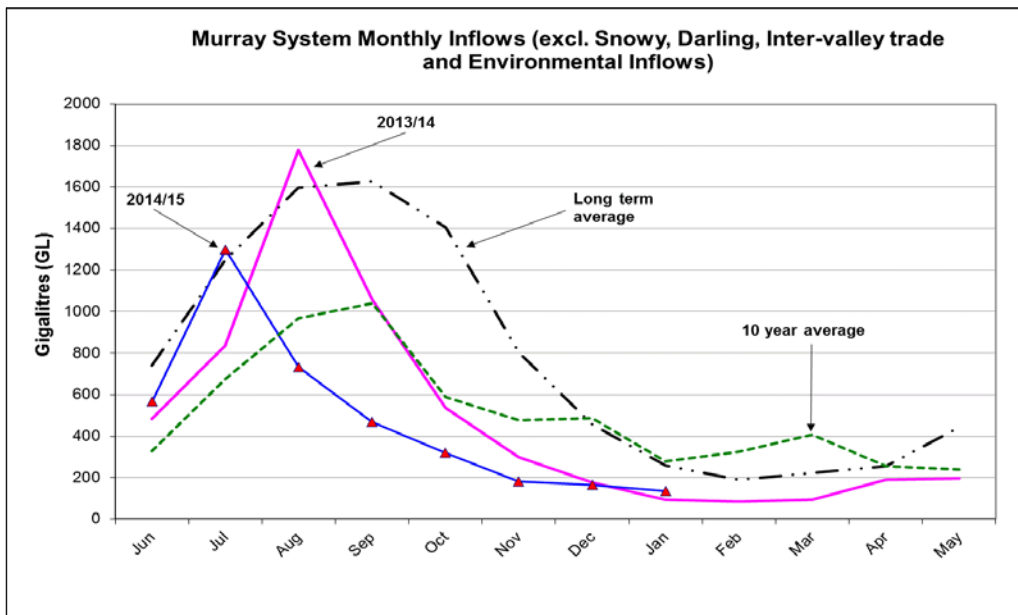
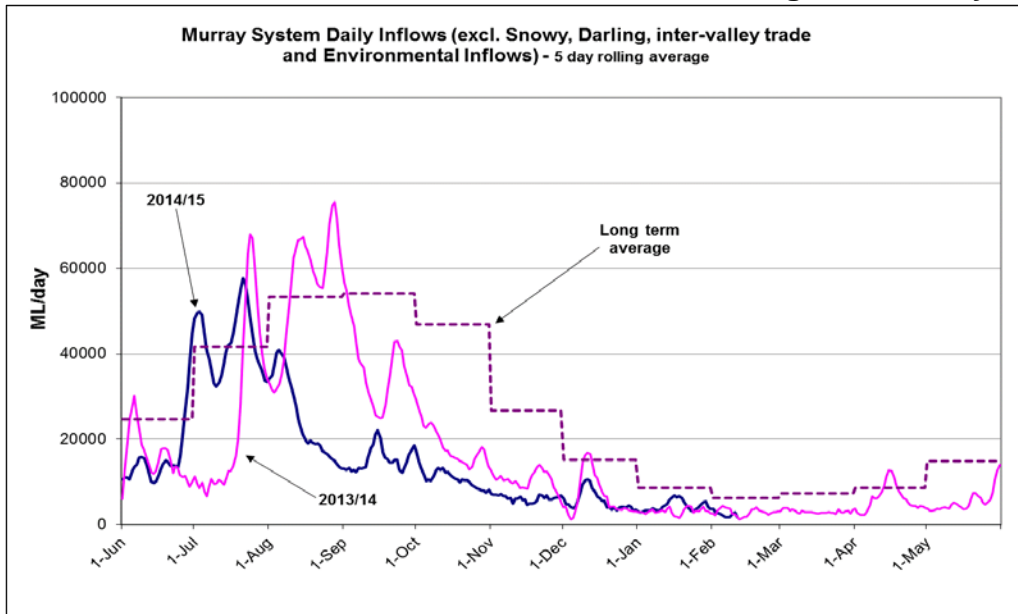
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	4	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.57	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.57	6	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 11 Feb 2015



State Allocations (as at 11 Feb 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	53%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	49%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

MEDIA RELEASE



12 February 2015

Lake Mulwala to be lowered this winter

Communities around Yarrawonga Weir are advised that the MDBA will lower Lake Mulwala between late autumn and mid-winter to undertake structural works and manage the aquatic weed *Egeria densa*.

Lake users, including boat operators, recreational users and pumpers, should consider adjusting their activities for changed water levels.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the lake drawn-down would start in late April and the lake would be refilled to its normal operating range by late July.

“We are very aware of the importance of Lake Mulwala to the local community, so we’ve been talking with people in the area to limit any disruption to local activities,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Starting in late April, the water level will be gradually lowered by 1.2 metres, reaching about 123.5 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD) by mid-May.

“We’ll adjust the rate at which the lake is lowered to make sure supply is maintained to the major irrigation offtakes.”

Mr Dreverman said the second phase of the draw down, from mid-May, would see the water level lowered to about 121.7 metres AHD, three metres below the normal operating level. It would be held at that level until about mid-July.

“We expect to start refilling Lake Mulwala by mid-July, ready for the start of the irrigation season.

“This draw down will allow routine testing of the weir structure and work to control erosion on the lake foreshore.

“It’s also an opportunity to prevent the invasive water weed *Egeria densa* from becoming a problem. Subjecting the exposed weed to frost is the best way to stop it spreading to the extent that caused problems in 2009.”

The MDBA will issue further advice in the coming weeks. The works plan may be altered in response to a survey of *Egeria* in March, and changing weather and river conditions. More information will be available in the River Operations Weekly Report on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141.

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MEDIA RELEASE



13 February 2015

Major works ahead for Mildura lock and weir

River users in Sunraysia are advised that the Mildura lock will be closed and the weir pool lowered from late autumn while major, long-standing maintenance work is completed.

This will involve closing the lock for up to four months for detailed inspection and repair work.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said river communities could rightly expect safe and efficient operations of all river infrastructure.

“This job has to be done about every 15 years to prevent breakdowns at the lock, and it makes sense to do it at the same time as the work on the Mildura weir.

“The work on the weir includes structural repairs and installation of six new trestles. This will require the weir pool to be lowered for about 10 weeks from mid to late May,” Mr Dreverman said.

“The timing will be finalised in the coming weeks, after speaking with local community and industry groups.

“We’re very aware of the community’s needs around the river, so it’s important that we take advice from local tourism, irrigation and other groups to minimise the impact.

“Our aim is to start the lock works after the busy Easter period and finish the weir upgrade before the irrigation season starts. We’ll only know the likely duration of work on the lock once it’s empty and we’re able to do a thorough inspection.”

Mr Dreverman said work at the lock would include things like taking off the main gates for sandblasting and repainting, updating the valves and checking the integrity of the lock chamber.

“The purpose of the weir upgrade is to improve the safety of operations by installing new mechanised trestles to regulate the pool height and flow of water through the weir. This is a job that has been done manually for the past 90 years using large timber drop bars.”

Mr Dreverman said the result for people in Sunraysia will be improved and updated river operations.

The MDBA will issue further advice on this year’s work in the weeks to come.

ENDS

Contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141

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