



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

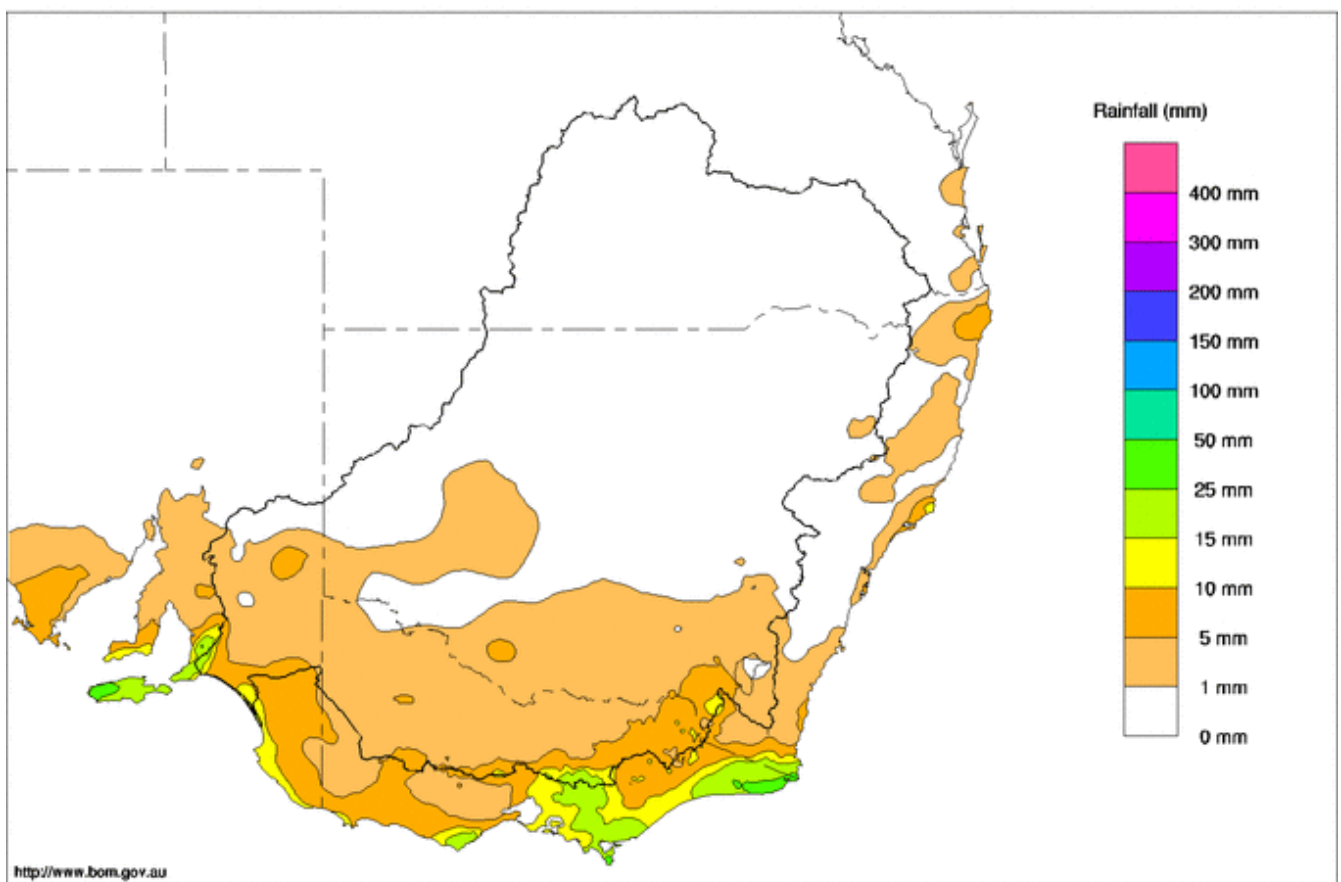
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015

Trim Ref: D15/61127

## Rainfall and Inflows

It was a dry week over much of the Murray-Darling Basin, with little or no rainfall recorded across most areas (Map 1). The highest weekly totals were recorded around the Mount Lofty ranges in South Australia including 19 mm at Mount Compass, Macclesfield and Meadows. Other notable totals included 15 mm at Woods Point and 13 mm at Mt Buller AWS in northeast Victoria and 10 mm at Cabramurra AWS on the southwest slopes of NSW.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 8th July 2015  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 8 July 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

Stream flows along the upper Murray tributaries remain fairly low for this time of the year due to a continuing lack of precipitation over the southern ranges. However, conditions may improve in the coming week with Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasting rainfall totals of 50 to 100 mm in the southeast ranges (for more information see the [BoM](#) website).

This week, the flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie Bridge averaged 600 ML/day. On the upper Murray at Biggara, the flow averaged 570 ML/day. On the Ovens River at Wangaratta, the flow rate receded to 820 ML/day.



## River Operations

- 50 to 100 mm of rain forecast across the southeast ranges;
- Lake Mulwala level to rise over coming week;
- Flow to South Australia increasing as environmental water delivery continues.

MDBA total storage increased by 12 GL this week. The active storage is now 4,058 GL (48% capacity), while total inflows to the River Murray system have receded to around 6,500 ML/day (see chart on page 6).

The storage volume in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 22 GL to 2,798 GL (73% capacity) as bulk transfers continue from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir. During the week, the flow at Colemans gauge gradually receded to 3,700 ML/day. The release from Dartmouth Reservoir is expected to be around 3,500 ML/day during the coming week (see attached flow advice). These bulk transfers during July are aiming to avoid the need for transfers at high flow rates later in the season.

Hume storage volume gained 27 GL this week and is now 1,003 GL (33% capacity). The estimated natural inflow to Hume Reservoir (including Dartmouth inflows but excluding the Snowy scheme) averaged about 3,500 ML/day. The release from Hume is currently 3,800 ML/day, which includes approximately 3,200 ML/day of environmental water (for more information, see the [Commonwealth Environmental Water Office](#) website).

Lake Mulwala is currently drawn down 3.37 m below the normal operating level (124.7 m AHD), and the release from Yarrowonga Weir is 5,000 ML/day. With rainfall forecast in the coming week an opportunity presents itself to commence the refilling of the lake with local tributary inflows. A portion of inflows generated from the Kiewa and Ovens catchments over the coming week will be captured to start trending the level up towards about 123.0 m AHD – a rise of about 1.7 m over current levels (see media release attached). Actual rises, and their timing, will be dependent on rainfall and streamflows and are therefore difficult to forecast however it can be anticipated that lake levels will be targeting around 124.7 m AHD by early August, ready for the irrigation season.

On the Edward-Wakool system, a combined volume of around 1,200 ML/day is flowing through the Edward River and Gulpa offtakes. The gates at these offtakes are currently clear of the water. At Stevens Weir, the gates were lifted clear of the water this week and the passing flow is currently 1,500 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has receded to 1,200 ML/day, as delivery of a winter pulse of environmental water from Eildon Reservoir draws to a close.

At Torrumbarry Weir, about 450 ML/day of environmental water continues to be diverted into National Channel to maintain winter base flows through Gunbower Creek. Downstream of the weir, the flow receded to 6,100 ML/day during the week and is expected to continue to fall away to around 4,500 ML/day in the coming week.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald is currently 1,900 ML/day. This higher flow is in response to rainfall in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment back in mid-June.

At Euston Weir, the pool level is currently 23 cm above Full Supply Level. The flow downstream is expected to remain close to 10,000 ML/day for much of the coming week before receding.

Work to re-instate Mildura Weir will commence on Wednesday 15 July. Once all the trestles are re-instated, there will be a temporary fall in the river level immediately downstream the weir of about 1 metre as inflows are stored. The weir pool level will be gradually raised and is expected to be at full supply level by late July. Prior to returning the weir's trestles into position, there may be an opportunity from 12-14 July to move boats across the base of the weir (see [MDBA](#) website for more details). The lock at Mildura Weir will remain closed for refurbishment until mid-September 2015.

The salinity at Mildura reduced to 173 EC during the past week. The salinity is expected to remain around this rate whilst flows continue at around 10,000 ML/day over the coming week. Salinity levels are expected to be closer to the levels experienced upstream at Colignan (currently around 70-80 EC) once the weir is re-instated and commences refilling. For more [salinity forecasts](#), see the MDBA website.



Storage in the Menindee Lakes increased by 3 GL to 87 GL (5% capacity). The flow at Weir 32 remains negligible.

At the South Australian border, the flow is increasing as environmental water originating from the winter pulse in the Goulburn River arrives. The flow has increased to 8,900 ML/day and is expected to reach a peak of about 9,200 ML/day next week.

The water level in the Lower Lakes has increased by 2 cm to 0.69 m AHD. Small releases have been maintained throughout the week at the Goolwa and Tauwitche barrages.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 08 Jul 2015**

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	468.26	2 798	73%	71	2 727	-22
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	178.85	1 003	33%	23	980	+27
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.03	451	67%	100	351	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		87	5%	(- -) #	0	+3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>4 339</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 058</b>	<b>+12</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							48% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	494	48%	3	491	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	528	32%	24	504	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 858	56%	100	1 758	+4

\* 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 07 Jul 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 145	-21	Snowy-Murray	+6	82
Snowy-Murray Component	1 069	-6	Tooma-Tumut	+4	35
Target Storage	1 170		Net Diversion	2	47
			Murray 1 Release	+8	127

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	0
Western Murray Irrigation	0.0	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0	0
Licensed Pumps	0.2	0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.9	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

\* 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	108.5 *
Flow this week	52.0
Flow so far this month	57.5
Flow last month	113.5

(7 400 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	90	60	80
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	170	190	130
Merbein	180	220	130
Burtundy (Darling)	920	920	830
Lock 9	290	260	140
Lake Victoria	170	170	200
Berri	290	280	230
Waikerie	320	320	290
Morgan	320	340	280
Mannum	320	330	320
Murray Bridge	350	350	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	760	760	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	540	550	640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 130	2 400
Goolwa Barrages	1 370	1 590	1 610





**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 08 Jul 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	-	-	-	1 540	F	1 500	1 960
Jingellic	4.0	1.63	208.15	3 680	R	2 990	3 520
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.37	219.26	3 760	F	3 970	3 210
Heywoods	5.5	2.02	155.65	3 800	S	3 610	4 070
Doctors Point	5.5	2.05	150.52	4 600	R	4 400	4 920
Albury	4.3	1.11	148.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.35	127.37	4 370	F	4 380	4 820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.97	116.01	5 020	R	5 230	6 010
Tocumwal	6.4	1.49	105.33	4 990	R	5 750	6 010
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.05	80.60	6 120	F	7 060	9 140
Swan Hill	4.5	1.41	64.33	7 380	F	8 250	8 140
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.32	52.44	9 300	F	9 770	8 270
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.92	43.76	10 470	F	10 450	7 440
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	10 460	F	9 760	6 630
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.10	27.86	10 540	R	9 260	6 750
Rufus Junction	-	3.82	20.75	8 580	R	7 080	3 790
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.76	-	7 440	R	6 270	3 300
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.30	154.53	980	R	940	1 110
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.09	145.77	820	F	890	1 080
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.62	93.04	1 170	F	1 660	4 620
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.63	81.40	1 480	F	1 420	750
Edward at Liewah	-	1.45	56.83	820	F	900	1 040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.33	54.82	270	R	240	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.25	58.21	1 880	R	1 010	500
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.38	-	480	F	560	420
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.17	-	690	F	830	760
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.02	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume	3 500	4 750
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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	-3.57	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.04	+1.51
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+0.20
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.23	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.31
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-3.31	+0.29	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+1.16
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.46	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	+0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.00	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.29	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	+0.01

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.69
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**Barrages**

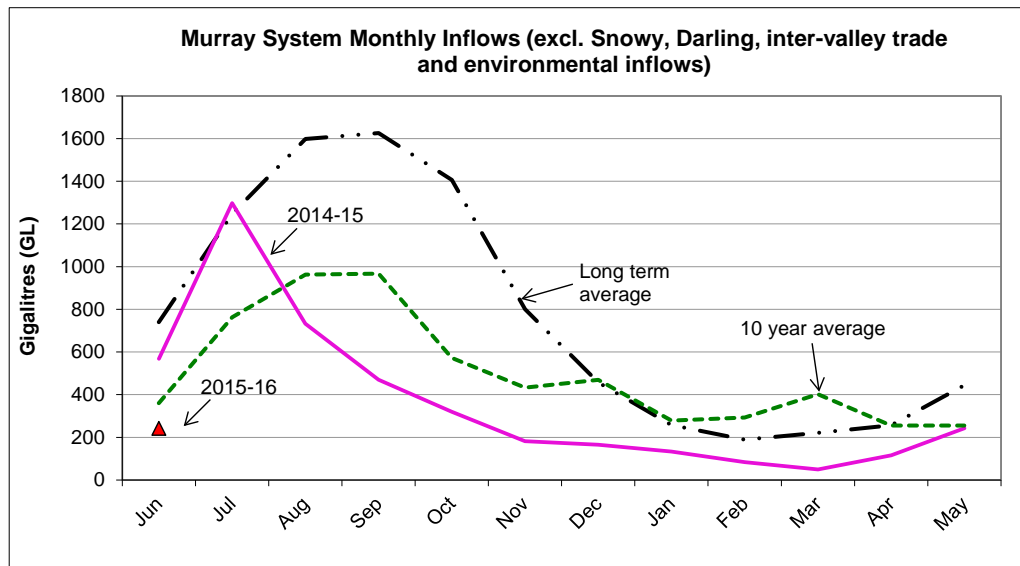
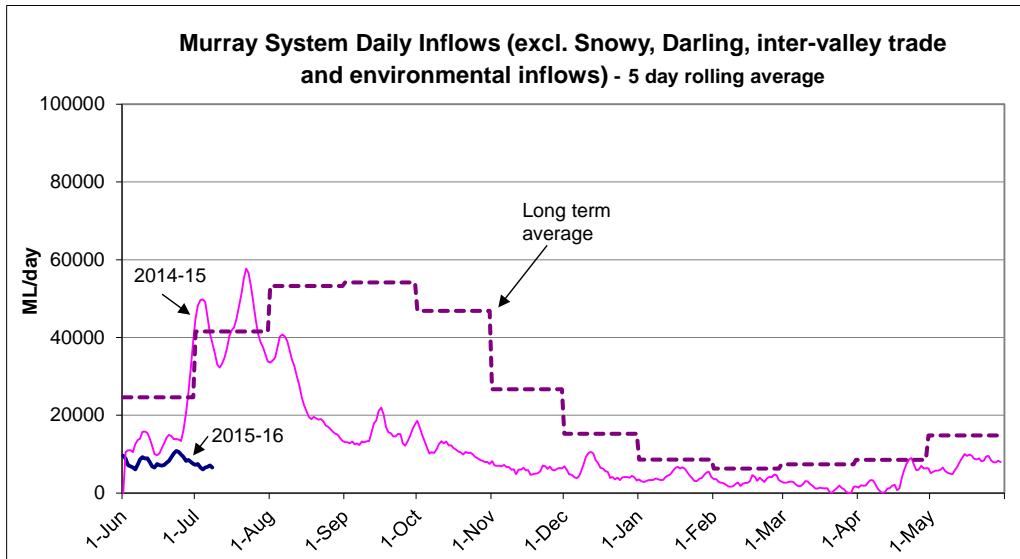
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.73	3	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.71	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 08 Jul 2015



State Allocations (as at 08 Jul 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	80%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	35%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	8%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	42%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	20%
General security	0%

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>

# Mitta Mitta Flow Advice



10 July 2015

## Mitta Mitta flow update

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, on the Mitta Mitta River are advised to take into account forecast releases of water from Dartmouth Dam and make any necessary adjustment to their river activities.

Forecast releases in late July are expected to be higher than previously planned due to the dry conditions in early July, and high releases from Hume Reservoir.

The information below assumes dry conditions, with little or no rainfall for the period.

### Forecast Mitta Mitta flows 10 July–25 July 2015

Date	Releases from Dartmouth Dam	Colemans Gauge		Tallandoon Gauge	
		Flow (ML/day)	Height (m)	Flow (ML/day)	Height (m)
Friday 10 July	Steady	3,500	2.00	3,600	2.35
Monday 20 July	Reduced to 2,600 ML/day then held steady	2,600	1.80	2,700	2.15

The releases from Dartmouth Dam may vary from those forecast. And flows on the Mitta Mitta may increase at any time if there's rainfall in the river catchment.

A further flow advice will be issued when there is a significant change to releases.

Landholders and river users on the Mitta Mitta are advised to regularly check the current flows and forecasts on the MDBA website for more information on releases from Dartmouth Dam: [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/storage-volumes)

Live river data for Dartmouth Dam, the Mitta Mitta and other sites on the Murray system can be seen at <http://livedata.mdba.gov.au>

Summary information about the River Murray system is available in the River Murray weekly report at: [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report)

## ENDS

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# MEDIA RELEASE



10 July 2015

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## Lake Mulwala on the rise

Communities around Lake Mulwala are advised that water levels in the lake will be rising over the next four weeks, and people should consider adjusting their activities for changing water levels.

MDBA head of River Management David Dreverman said the rain forecast for the next week would be an opportunity to use flows from the Kiewa and Ovens rivers to start refilling the lake.

"We'll use some of these inflows to raise the lake in the first instance by about 1.7 metres above the current level, or 123 metres Australian Height Datum.

"We expect the lake to be back to the normal operating height by early August, ready for the new irrigation season.

"The actual timing of the rise will depend on the amount of rain that falls in the catchments and the volume of stream flows," Mr Dreverman said.

Lake users, including pumpers, boat operators and recreational users, are advised to show extra caution of snags and other hazards in these unusual conditions.

Mr Dreverman said most of the works program has been completed, including routine testing of the weir's anchors on the floor of the lake. Erosion control works on the lake foreshore are expected to continue for another three weeks.

"We limited any potential disruption from these activities by discussing the work with local tourism operators, the council and industry, and appreciate the community's cooperation.

"It's essential that we maintain river infrastructure for local use and to support the industries and environment that rely on the efficient management of the river," Mr Dreverman said.

Lowering the lake by 3.5 metres also enabled drying out the aquatic weed *Egeria densa*, which had regrown since the previous drawdown.

"Based on the current results and community feedback on the science around *Egeria* management, it appears that a draw-down of the lake about every 4 or 5 years would prevent *Egeria* from becoming a major problem," Mr Dreverman said.

More information on lake levels over the coming weeks will be provided in the MDBA's River Operations Weekly Report on the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts)

**ENDS**

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