



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

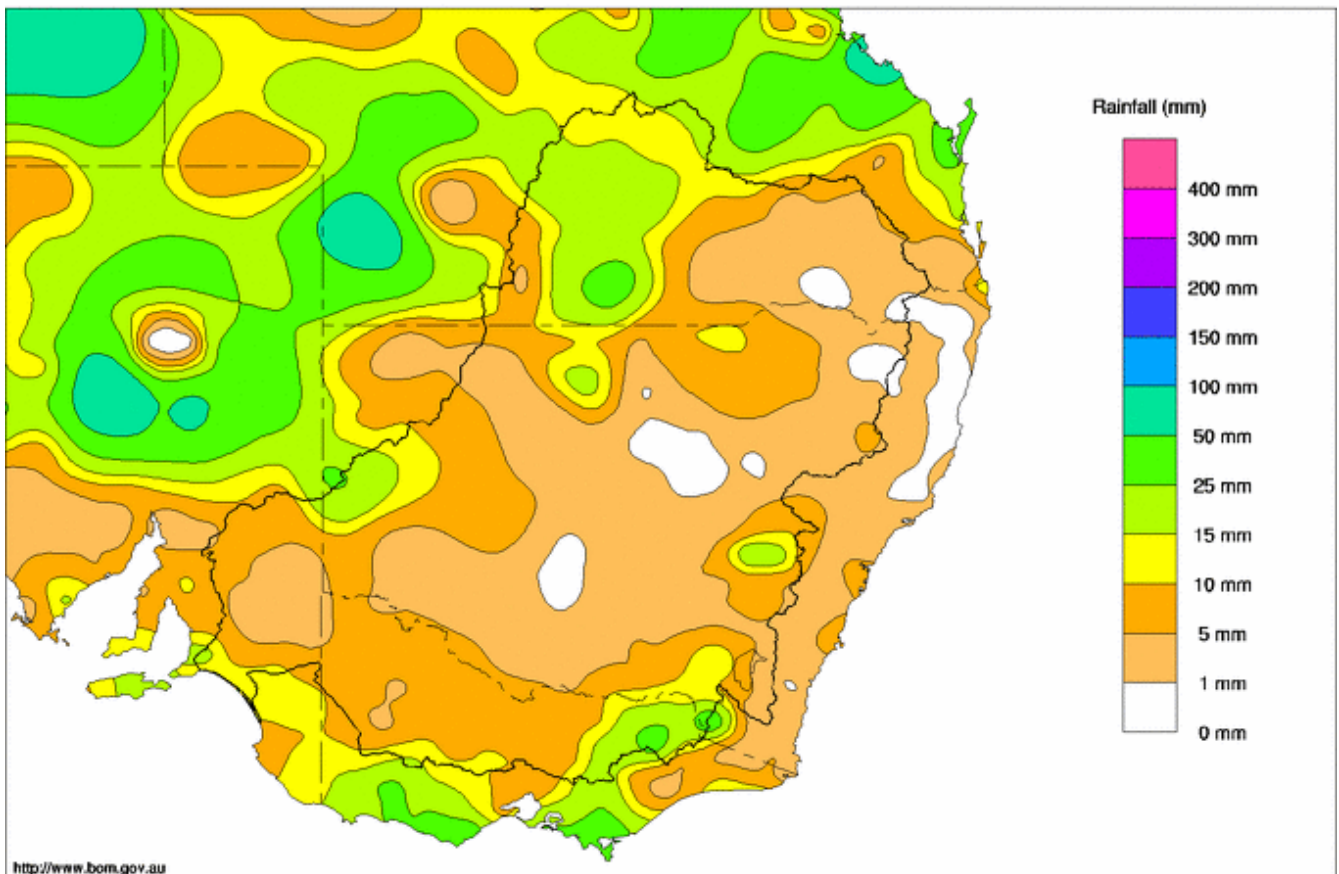
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2010

Trim Ref: D10/9382

Rainfall and Inflows

Most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin received light rain (up to 25 mm), with higher falls recorded in the Snowy Mountains (47 mm at Charlotte Pass) and Victorian Alps (52 mm at Mt Buffalo). In the upper Murray and its tributaries there was very little response in streamflows. For instance, at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River the flow temporarily increased from 400 to 670 ML/day, and at Biggara on the upper Murray the flow remained below 500 ML/day. For the month of April, Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) are currently tracking at about 3.5 GL/day, which is well below the April long term average of about 8 GL/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th April 2010
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 14/04/2010



River Operations

During the past week, the MDBA assumed control of the water in the Menindee Lakes when the volume reached 640 GL, or 37% capacity (see attached media release). The Lakes had been under NSW control since March 2002. As a result, MDBA active storage (which now includes Dartmouth & Hume Reservoirs, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes) increased by 193 GL to 2,230 GL (or 24% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir remained steady at 1,215 GL (31% capacity), while the volume of water stored in Hume Reservoir declined by 8 GL to 478 GL (16% capacity). Over the next few weeks, storage in Hume Reservoir is expected to reach a minimum of about 450 GL (15% capacity), before commencing to refill over the winter and spring months.

The target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) is currently 7,200 ML/day and is likely to gradually decrease over the next couple of weeks as downstream irrigation demand decreases. Similarly, the release from Yarrowonga Weir, which is currently 5,000 ML/day, will be steadily reduced, and if it remains dry, will approach the normal minimum of 1,800 ML/day by mid-May. Similar reductions in flow will occur along the Murray between Yarrowonga Weir and Wentworth Weir.

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke peaked on 11 April at 36,000 ML/day and has now reduced to about 33,000 ML/day. Since 1 March 2010, about 820 GL of water has passed Bourke, and this is forecast to increase to a total of about 1,100 GL by the end of May. Downstream of Bourke, a small amount of additional water from the Warrego River is flowing into the Darling River, and there is a good chance that some water from the floods in the Paroo River (see Figure 1) will also reach the Darling. Current forecasts indicate that a total of about 1,000 GL will reach Menindee Lakes by mid-June.

Inflow to Menindee Lakes is steadily increasing, and during the past week the storage volume increased by 84 GL to 691 GL (40% capacity). This water is being stored in the Lakes and will improve the outlook for the 2010-11 water year. The release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) is steady at the normal April minimum of 300 ML/day.

Further downstream along the Murray, the flow at Wentworth decreased from 4,800 to 3,980 ML/day and is expected to continue decreasing to about 3,000 ML/day during the coming week.

The MDBA has announced that the weir pool level in Lock 8 will be gradually reduced to 30 cm below Full Supply Level in preparation for construction of the Mulcra Island Environmental Flows project (see attached media release).

During the past week, storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 11 GL to 536 GL (79% capacity). For the remainder of April, water stored in Lake Victoria will continue to supplement the flows along the Murray, to maintain a target flow to South Australia of 6,770 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow past Lock 1 has averaged 5,060 ML/day, and this is helping to gradually raise the water level in the Lower Lakes. During the past week, the level in Lake Alexandrina increased by 0.06 m to -0.63 m AHD, which is about 0.3 m higher than this time last year.

Algal Alerts

Red alerts have been lifted for all sections of the River Murray, with the exception of Heywoods, immediately downstream of Hume Dam. However, amber alerts remain in place for many locations between Hume Reservoir and Wentworth. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 or by visiting the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.



**Figure 1 – Flooding in the lower reaches of the Paroo River system, near Peery Lake (April 2010).
Photo courtesy of Peter Terrill, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change**

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 14 Apr 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.61	1 215	31%	80	1 135	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.99	478	16%	30	448	-8
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.80	536	79%	100	436	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		693	40%	(480 #)	213	+85
Total		9 352		2 922	31%	--	2 232	+68

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **26%**

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

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	431	42%	3	428	-14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	595	36%	24	571	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	816	24%	100	716	-4

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Apr-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	735	-28	Snowy-Murray	+32	746
Snowy-Murray Component	499	-30	Tooma-Tumut	+2	245
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	30.1	501
			Murray 1 Release	+34	988

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2009		This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	8.9	216	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	126
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.2	60	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	17.6	274
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	22	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	120
Licensed Pumps	2.6	97	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	21
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	236
TOTAL	11.8	402	TOTAL	25.6	777

* 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 is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	47.3	(6 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	88	
Flow last month	241	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	60
Euston	120	110	90
Red Cliffs	100	110	100
Merbein	110	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	260	250	450
Lock 9	170	170	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	230	230	310
Waikerie	270	260	360
Morgan	280	270	470
Mannum	300	290	550
Murray Bridge	310	1 020	670
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 430	5 400	5 610
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 820	1 930	4 780
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	18 260	19 030	12 370
Goolwa Barrages	19 750	20 370	14 340

Week ending Wednesday 14 Apr 2010

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	-	-	-	6 120	F	5 590	1 740
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 850	R	5 850	2 810
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	F	550	590
Heywoods	5.5	2.25	155.88	5 780	F	5 990	5 990
Doctors Point	5.5	2.31	150.78	7 210	S	7 460	6 790
Albury	4.3	1.31	148.75	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.82	127.84	7 370	F	6 380	8 100
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.97	116.01	5 050	S	5 030	5 520
Tocumwal	6.4	1.45	105.29	5 380	S	5 540	5 910
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.14	79.69	2 840	F	3 090	2 600
Swan Hill	4.5	0.76	63.68	3 130	R	2 830	2 530
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.80	50.92	3 610	R	3 370	3 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.81	42.65	3 550	S	3 620	3 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 270	F	3 480	3 810
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	27.72	3 980	F	4 640	5 940
Rufus Junction	-	3.42	20.35	6 280	R	6 360	6 380
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.22	-	5 060	S	5 060	4 990
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.14	154.37	760	R	750	520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.04	145.72	960	F	880	670
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.31	92.73	660	F	850	540
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.63	80.41	370	F	470	470
Edward at Liewah	-	1.13	56.51	580	R	540	570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.37	54.86	290	F	310	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	210	S	210	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	130	F	110	180
Darling at Bourke	-	9.57	-	35 010	F	36 190	30 810
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.07	-	1 180	F	1 560	2 800

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 240	1 400
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.05	+1.12
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.23
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.81
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.40
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.06	-0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.33
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.14	+0.42	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	-0.97

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.51	0.82	70.17	475
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.05	0.072	61.372	206

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.63

Barrages

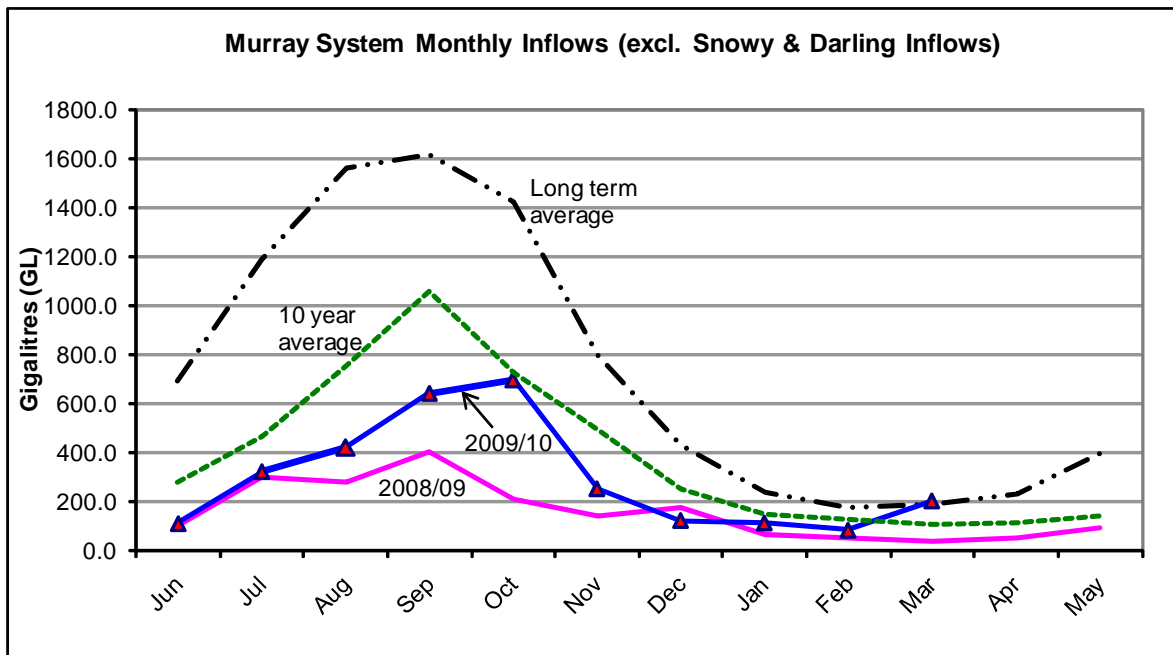
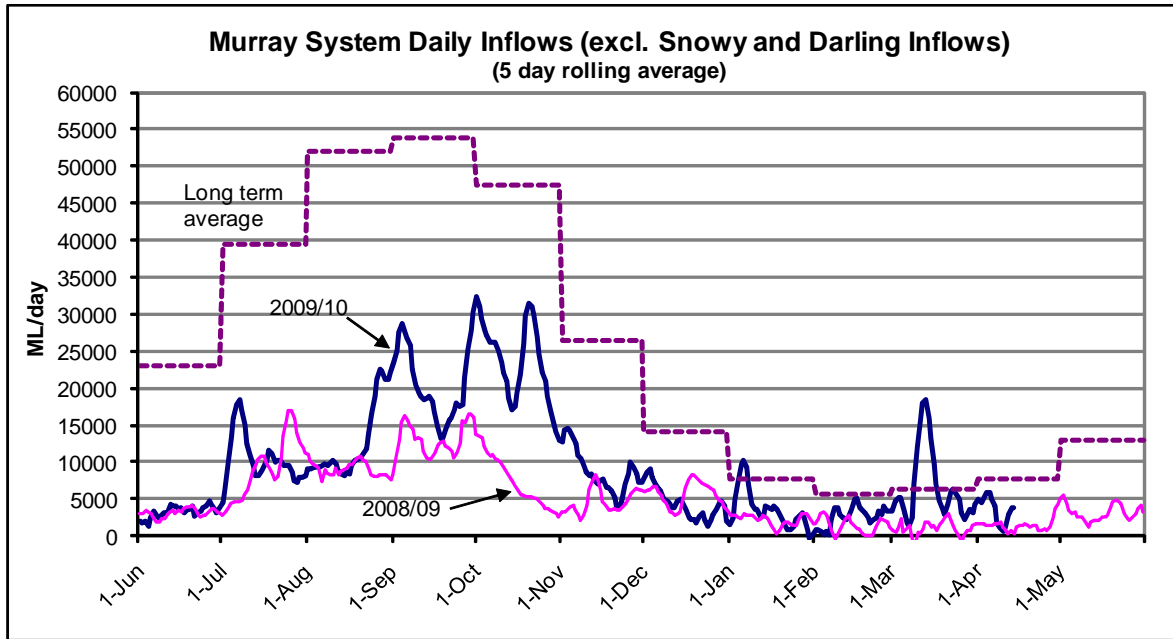
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.05	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	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



Week ending Wednesday 14 April 2010



State Allocations (as at 14 April 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	27%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	27%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	71%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

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

Monday, 12 April 2010

Basin Agreement rules applied as Authority assumes control of Menindee Lakes water

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority assumed control of the water in the Menindee Lakes over the weekend.

The Lakes have been under New South Wales Government control since March 2002. They reverted to MDBA control when their volume reached 640 GL (or 37% capacity).

Chief Executive Rob Freeman said the Authority will apply the water sharing arrangements set out in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

He said that under the terms of the Agreement the water held in Menindee Lakes would be shared between New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Mr Freeman said the lakes are slowly rising however the bulk of the water from the recent flooding in Queensland was still a long way upstream.

“In general terms, each state will be entitled to a one-third share after we allow for storage and transmission losses, however, supply of this water must occur within the terms of the Agreement,” Mr Freeman said. “Initial estimates are that the inflows should be about 1,000 GL - possibly by the end of May.

“This water will be held in the Menindee Lakes and will ensure that we start the coming water year in July in a moderately better position than we have experienced over the past few years.

“It’s not a drought-breaker for the Murray-Darling but it will certainly improve the outlook for the 2010-11 water year,” Mr Freeman said.

In the River Murray System irrigation allocations for 2010-11 are still highly dependent on future rainfall and system inflows.

“Only if the volume of water reaching Menindee Lakes exceeds their storage capacity, will the excess water be passed downstream to the Murray and then either be captured in Lake Victoria or flow directly through to the Lower Lakes in South Australia.

“At this time, it is too early to predict the precise volume that will reach Menindee Lakes. The floodwaters that originated in Queensland in early March are slowly moving across a huge area of floodplain in northern NSW.

“Much of the floodwater soaks into the floodplain or evaporates and some is harvested for local use. The floodwater will take up to three months to find its way to Menindee Lakes as the Darling River falls at only 7 cms per kilometre,” Mr Freeman said.

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141



Receive MDBA updates via http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

Trim ref: D10/9101

Lock 8 weir pool lowered for Mulcra Island environmental works

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced today that the Lock 8 weir pool would be partially lowered in preparation for construction of the Mulcra Island Environmental Flows project.

Lock 8 weir pool is on the River Murray about 50 km west of Wentworth, near the South Australian border.

The level will be gradually lowered 30 cm below full supply level, starting in the next few days and, depending on the construction work, is likely to remain lower for a couple of months.

River pumpers, boat operators and other river users in the Lock 8 weir pool are advised to take these changing water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

The Mulcra Island Environmental Flows Project involves the installation of a large environmental regulator on Potterwalkagee Creek and four smaller regulators.

The works proposed for Mulcra Island under The Living Murray program will improve the health of the Potterwalkagee Creek, and the Mulcra Island floodplain, providing habitat for waterbirds, fish and frogs and watering stressed river redgums.

The works will increase the frequency and area of flooding on the island's floodplain and wetlands by diverting environmental water from the Murray River at Lock 8 through the Potterwalkagee Creek.

The water will be ponded behind the environmental regulators for several months to water the floodplain vegetation. Most of the water will then return to the Murray River downstream of Lock 8.

The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth governments, coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

The Authority will issue further advice if there are significant changes to this plan.

For more information, see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/services/publications/more-information?publicationid=53>

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141

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