



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL 2010

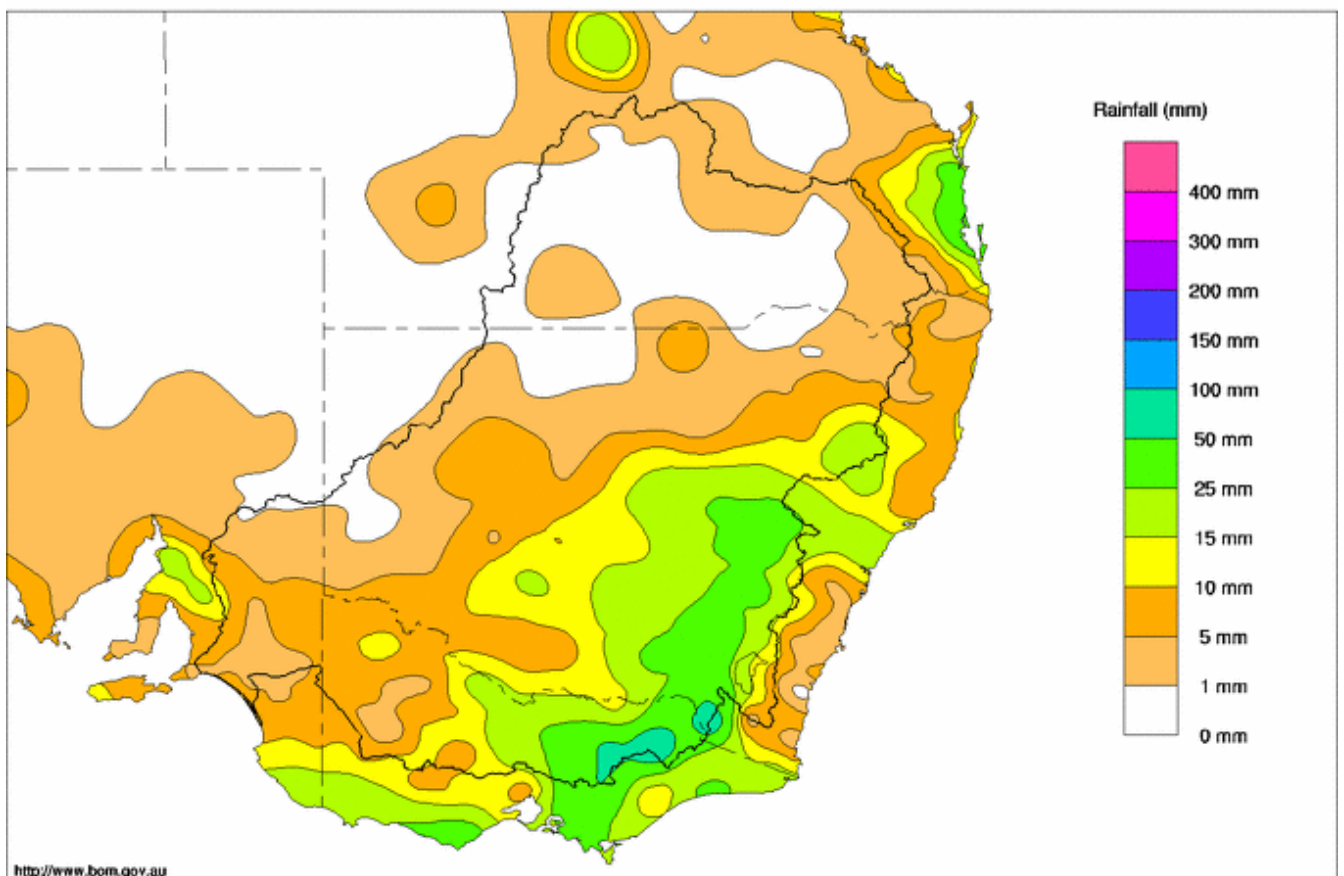
Trim Ref: D10/10763

Rainfall and Inflows

Good falls of rain were recorded across the south-east of the Basin, particularly at higher altitudes in the Victorian Alps and Snowy Mountains, where some locations received slightly over 100 mm (see Map). The rain was sufficient to increase streamflows in the upper Murray and its tributaries. For instance, the flow increased at Rocky Point on the Ovens River from 600 to 3,080 ML/day, at Hinnomunjie on the upper reaches of the Mitta Mitta River from 330 to 3,480 ML/day and at Mongans Bridge on the Kiewa River from 1,100 to 4,130 ML/day. Although these flows are quickly receding, it indicates that the catchments are relatively wet for this time of year and will continue to respond to any further rainfall over the coming weeks. The Bureau of Meteorology has indicated that on a Basin-wide scale, rainfall from 1st March to 26 April 2010 is close to the long term average for the whole of autumn. This already makes it the wettest autumn for the past 10 years.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th April 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2010, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 28/04/2010



River Operations

MDBA active storage (which now includes Menindee Lakes) increased by 133 GL to 2,474 GL (or 29% capacity), which remains well below the long term average for April of 4,790 GL

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 8 GL to 1,224 GL (31% capacity). During summer, the release from Dartmouth Dam was varied between 200 and 500 ML/day to target a flow downstream at Tallandoon of 600 ML/day. In response to reduced downstream demands and losses, as well as increased inflows from Snowy Creek, the release will now be held at its normal minimum of 200 ML/day, commencing on 5 May.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by only 2 GL to 473 GL (16% capacity), and is expected to remain fairly steady over the next few weeks, before beginning to rise over the winter and spring months. As a result of the rain, the flow at Doctors Point was reduced from 9,470 to 4,630 ML/day in response to both a reduction in downstream demand and increased inflows from the Ovens River. Over the next few weeks, the flow at Doctors Point is expected to continue declining as irrigation demand decreases and the main irrigation diversion channels are closed in early to mid May. The release at Yarrowonga Weir is currently 4,400 ML/day, and is also likely to be gradually reduced over the next few weeks.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release temporarily increased from 2,200 to 3,160 ML/day when diversions along National Channel were temporarily reduced in response to lower irrigation demand. Over the coming week, the release is expected to range between 2,200 to 2,600 ML/day, depending on National Channel diversions. Further downstream, the flow at Euston Weir has reduced from 3,630 ML/day to 2,590 ML/day and should remain fairly steady during the coming week. At Wentworth Weir the flow is 3,070 ML/day, and is expected to gradually decrease to about 2,400 ML/day during the coming week. If the weather remains dry, the low flows between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs are expected to continue for the next few weeks.

On the Darling River, the floodwaters moving towards Menindee Lakes peaked at Tilpa on 23 April with a flow of 32,700 ML/day, and are expected to peak at Wilcannia in the next few days at about 27,000 ML/day (see Figure 1). Since 1 March, about 1,100 GL of water has passed Bourke on the Darling River and about 790 GL has passed Wilcannia. The floodwaters in the lower reaches of the Paroo River are very slowly moving southwards, but it is still uncertain how much (if any) will eventually reach the Darling River. During the past week, storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 154 GL to 982 GL (57% capacity). MDBA forecasts continue to indicate that the Lakes are unlikely to spill, even if water from the Paroo River reaches the Darling River. The release from Menindee Lakes (measured at Weir 32) is steady at 300 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 27 GL to 485 GL (72% capacity) and is expected to continue decreasing over the next few weeks. The flow to South Australia is steady at about 6,800 ML/day, and consists of the normal entitlement flow for April plus water traded from upstream. The flow at Lock 1 remains steady at 4,900 ML/day and continues to replenish the Lower Lakes. In response, the water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased by a further 0.03 m to -0.55 m AHD.

Algal Alerts

All red alerts have been lifted for the River Murray. However, amber alerts remain in place at some 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.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

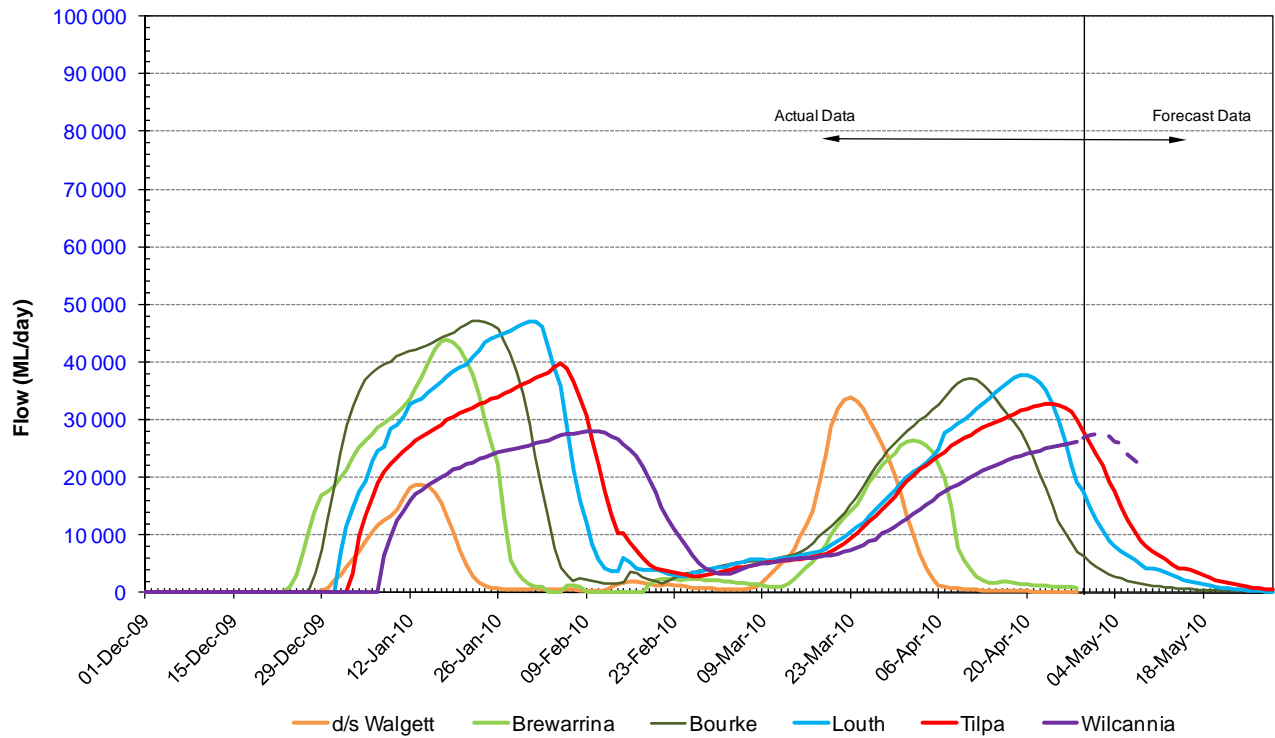


Figure 1. Flows at key sites along the Barwon-Darling River since December 2009

Note; Forecast flows for Wilcannia are dependent on both the timing and volume of any water that might overflow from the Paroo River

Week ending Wednesday 28 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	430.86	1 224	31%	80	1 144	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.94	473	16%	30	443	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.37	485	72%	100	385	-27
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		982	57%	(480 #)	502	+154
Total		9 352		3 164	34%	--	2 474	+133

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **29%**

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	400	39%	3	397	-15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	593	36%	24	569	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	808	24%	100	708	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Apr-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	708	-2	Snowy-Murray	+15	794
Snowy-Murray Component	468	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+5	252
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	10.3	542
			Murray 1 Release	+22	1 043

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	12.8	243	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	132
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.3	60	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	12.8	303
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	23	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.5	125
Licensed Pumps	2.9	102	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	22
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	242
TOTAL	16.3	435	TOTAL	22.0	824

* 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	(6 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	47.4	
Flow so far this month	189 *	
Flow last month	241	

* Flow to South Australia includes entitlement plus trade

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	60	60
Euston	120	130	90
Red Cliffs	120	120	100
Merbein	120	120	100
Burtundy (Darling)	260	290	440
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	230	230	300
Waikerie	260	260	360
Morgan	300	300	460
Mannum	290	280	530
Murray Bridge	310	360	650
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 290	5 390	5 600
Potalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 260	1 150	4 600
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	18 230	18 590	12 690
Goolwa Barrages	21 330	20 510	14 620

Week ending Wednesday 28 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	-	-	-	2 400	F	3 140	4 880
Jingellic	4.0	1.54	208.06	3 450	F	4 710	5 420
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	218.28	450	F	600	620
Heywoods	5.5	1.85	155.48	2 940	F	5 920	5 960
Doctors Point	5.5	2.04	150.51	4 630	F	7 320	7 290
Albury	4.3	1.08	148.52	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.60	127.62	6 150	F	7 750	6 570
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.86	115.90	4 350	F	4 440	4 490
Tocumwal	6.4	1.35	105.19	4 830	S	4 830	4 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.23	79.78	3 160	R	2 280	2 360
Swan Hill	4.5	0.63	63.55	2 290	S	2 240	2 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.51	50.63	2 610	F	2 730	3 480
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.59	42.43	2 590	F	3 090	3 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 890	F	3 180	3 170
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	3 070	S	3 020	3 250
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	R	6 400	6 380
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.21	-	4 980	R	4 900	4 970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.53	154.76	1 370	F	1 400	800
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.63	146.31	2 590	F	1 690	1 020
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	470	R	420	470
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.66	80.43	390	S	390	400
Edward at Liewah	-	1.01	56.39	500	S	490	560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.28	54.77	190	S	210	260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	180	F	180	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	110	S	130	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.91	-	7 030	F	13 280	29 110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.95	-	800	F	770	750

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 830	1 100
---	-------	-------

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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.01	+1.15
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.78
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.34	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.38
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.15	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.31
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.16	+0.44	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-0.96

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.45	0.897	70.247	579
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.01	0.077	61.377	210

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.55

Barrages

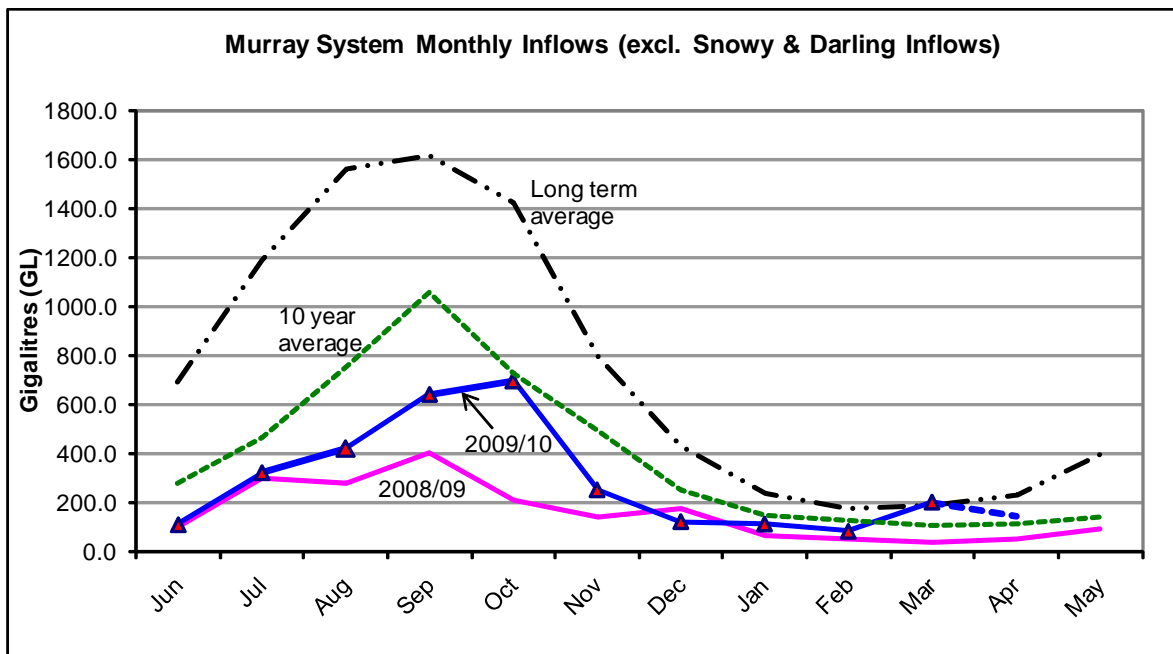
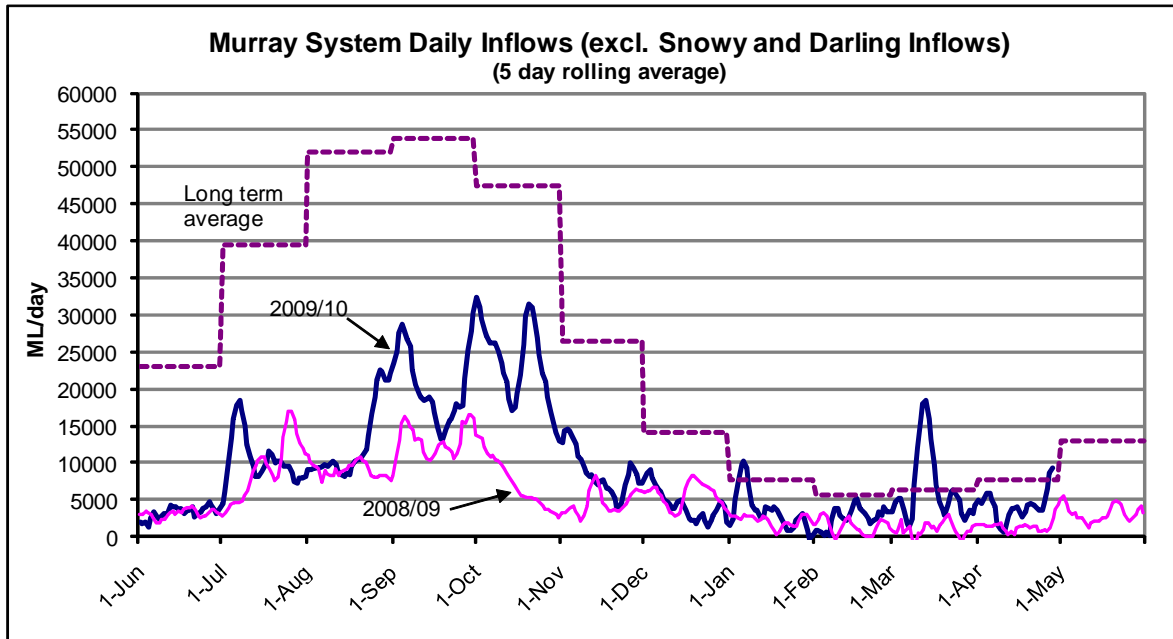
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.06	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 28 April 2010



State Allocations (as at 28 April 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	27%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
------------------	------

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	27%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	71%
------------------	-----

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
---------------	-----

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.aspx>

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