



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2009

Trim Ref: D09/1499

12 February, 2009

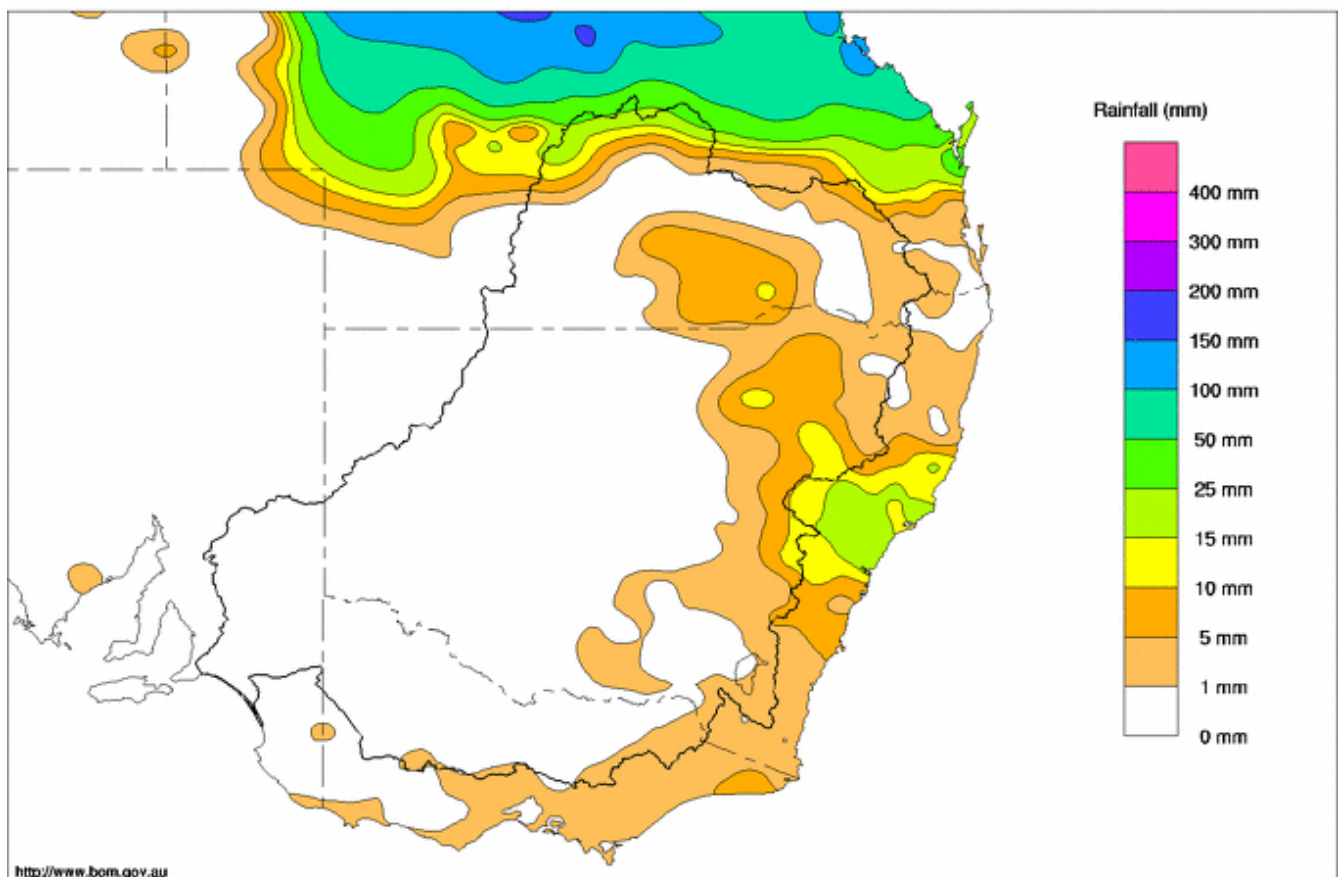
Rainfall and Inflows

During the past two weeks the southern half of the Basin experienced an unprecedented heat wave, with maximum temperatures reaching as high as 47°C in western Victoria and South Australia. In Mildura there were 12 consecutive days with temperatures above 40°C. Many towns along the Murray have received little or no rain since before Christmas. The heat wave finally came to an end last Sunday but the dry conditions persist (see Map). As a result, Murray system inflows continue to track towards historic lows.

In contrast, there has been very heavy rainfall in northern Queensland, but this has not penetrated into the northern catchments of the Murray-Darling Basin. Streamflows in the Condamine, Balonne, Maranoa and Warrego Rivers all remain low. However, there is a small flow along most reaches of the Barwon-Darling River, and about 400 ML/day continues to flow past Wilcannia. Over the past 3 weeks, a small volume of water (about 10 GL) has entered Menindee Lakes, but this has been insufficient to offset evaporative losses and storage in the lakes continues to gradually fall.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th February 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 11/02/2009



River Operations

MDBA active storage continues to decline (by 83 GL) and is currently at 1 371 GL or 16 % of capacity. The bulk of the water currently stored in Dartmouth Reservoir (872 GL or 22 % of capacity), is being reserved to supply critical human needs and individual carryover by irrigators for 2009-10. Hume Reservoir, which is currently at 487 GL (or 16 % capacity), is supplying the bulk of downstream water requirements and, if it remains dry, is likely to fall to about 300 GL (10 % capacity) in the next couple of months.

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume and the Kiewa River) has been averaging 12 300 ML/day and, is likely to remain fairly steady during the coming week. The release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently 9 500 ML/day and should also remain fairly steady while the dry weather persists.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy has advised landholders along the Wakool River system that a planned stock and domestic water release will be postponed until conditions improve (see their media release attached).

At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow has increased from 5 800 to 6 200 ML/day and the weir pool remains at full supply level. In late January, the releases from Lake Mulwala and Hume Reservoir were increased, and this additional water should start to arrive at Euston Weir in the next few days. This should allow the Euston weir pool to be refilled to full supply level, and the release should increase from 4 100 ML/day to about 5 500 ML/day during the coming week. The release at Wentworth Weir dropped to 800 ML/day last weekend, but has already recovered to 1 200 ML/day in response to lower irrigation demand and reduced transmission losses. During the coming week, the release should continue to increase (to above 2 000 ML/day) as the higher flows from upstream arrive.

In recent weeks, Lake Victoria has been supplying the bulk of the flow to South Australia, and as a result, the storage level has been steadily falling. The current storage level is 223 GL (or 33 % capacity) but almost half this is dead storage. Over the coming weeks, an increasing proportion of the flow to South Australia will be supplied by the higher flows arriving along the Murray.

The recent heatwave caused increases in irrigation demand and evaporative losses, and all the weir pools in South Australia dropped up to 15 cm below full supply level. With the arrival of cooler weather, combined with a temporary increase in the flow to South Australia (from 5 000 to 5 500 ML/day) it should be possible to refill these weir pools during the next couple of weeks.

The lower lakes continue to suffer from low water levels and high salinity. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about -0.8 m AHD, compared with -0.3 m AHD in February 2008 and the full supply level of +0.75 m AHD. The water level in Lake Albert is currently about -0.5 m AHD and is being maintained by the pumping from Lake Alexandrina. Salinity in Lake Albert is steadily rising and is currently about 8 900 EC. As a comparison, the salinity in the upper Murray is about 50 EC, at Morgan (upstream of Lock 1) is about 500 EC, and seawater is generally about 50 000 EC.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 11 Feb 2009

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 Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	418.82	872	22%	80	792	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.11	487	16%	30	457	-53
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.74	223	33%	100	123	-20
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		110	6%	(- -) #	0	-7
Total		9 352		1 691	18%	--	1 371	-83

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **16%**

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

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	521	51%	3	518	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	598	37%	24	574	+32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	593	17%	100	493	-24

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Feb-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	626	-54	Snowy-Murray	+32	498
Snowy-Murray Component	316	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	215
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	32.4	283
			Murray 1 Release	+32	689

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.5	78.7	Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	69
Wakool System loss	1.4	24.7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.5	141
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	18.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.1	80
Licensed Pumps	n/a	72.9	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	6
Lower Darling	n/a	8.3	Licensed pumps - LMW	7.0	75
TOTAL	4.8	202.6	TOTAL	23.2	371

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194 *	(5 400 ML/day)
Flow this week	37.9	
Flow so far this month	58	
Flow last month	141	

* Reduced to approx. 135 GL during February drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	50	50	70
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	110	110	130
Merbein	120	120	140
Burtundy (Darling)	570	560	400
Lock 9	230	230	220
Lake Victoria	300	290	250
Berri	340	360	370
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	550	500	520
Mannum	680	710	610
Murray Bridge	790	790	600
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 080	5 310	4 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 900	4 920	3 750
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	8 890	8 840	6 110
Goolwa Barrages	32 400	31 720	19 520



Week ending Wednesday 11 Feb 2009

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	-	-	-	2 530	F	4 760	4 850
Jingellic	4.0	1.61	208.13	4 100	R	4 940	5 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	590	S	550	590
Heywoods	5.5	2.83	156.46	11 840	R	11 650	11 180
Doctors Point	5.5	2.81	151.28	12 400	R	12 310	12 100
Albury	4.3	1.79	149.23	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.45	128.47	10 900	F	11 270	11 130
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.59	116.63	9 520	S	9 660	9 120
Tocumwal	6.4	2.09	105.93	9 090	S	9 130	8 570
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.08	80.63	6 210	R	6 080	5 210
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	5 210	R	4 790	4 470
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.24	51.36	5 110	R	4 770	3 550
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.88	42.72	4 110	R	3 950	4 080
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 430	F	2 030	1 890
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	1 210	R	1 090	870
Rufus Junction	-	3.23	20.16	5 050	S	5 050	4 620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.55	-	1 470	F	1 410	1 250
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.76	153.99	270	F	350	710
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.60	145.28	150	R	140	150
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	360	R	350	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.28	81.05	1 050	F	1 140	1 100
Edward at Liewah	-	1.59	56.97	890	F	910	940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.10	54.59	30	S	20	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	180	R	180	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.07	-	-	F	20	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	590	F	690	750
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	130	S	120	170

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	n/a	n/a
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.02	+0.90
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.11	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.12	+0.44
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.14	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.06
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.00	-0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.04	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	-0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	-1.30

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.89	0.375	69.725	95
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.02	0.217	61.517	330

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.78

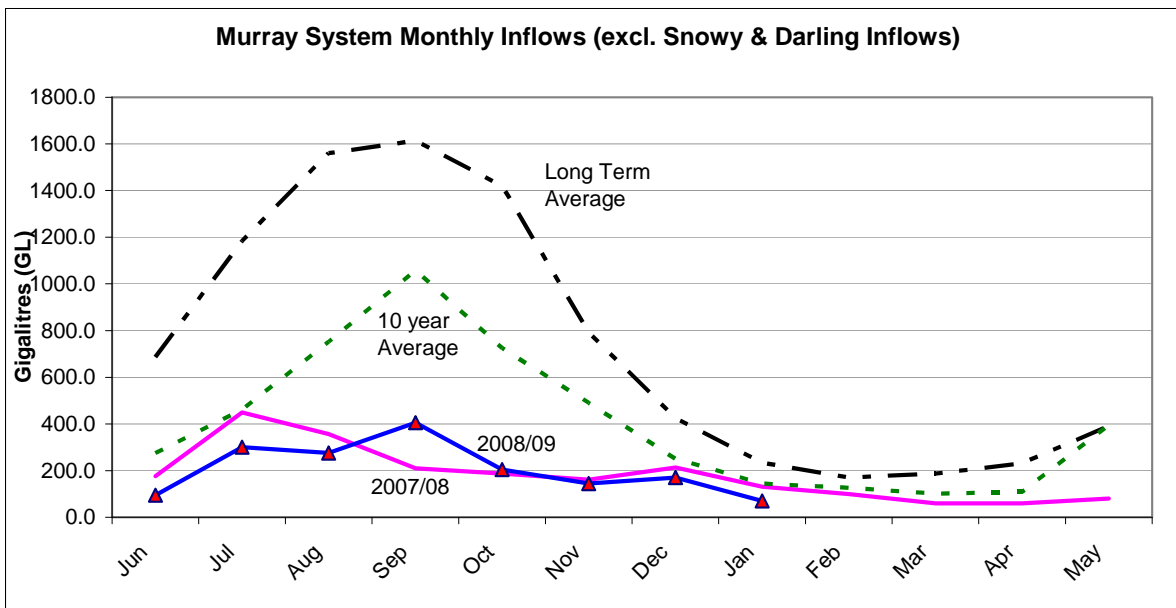
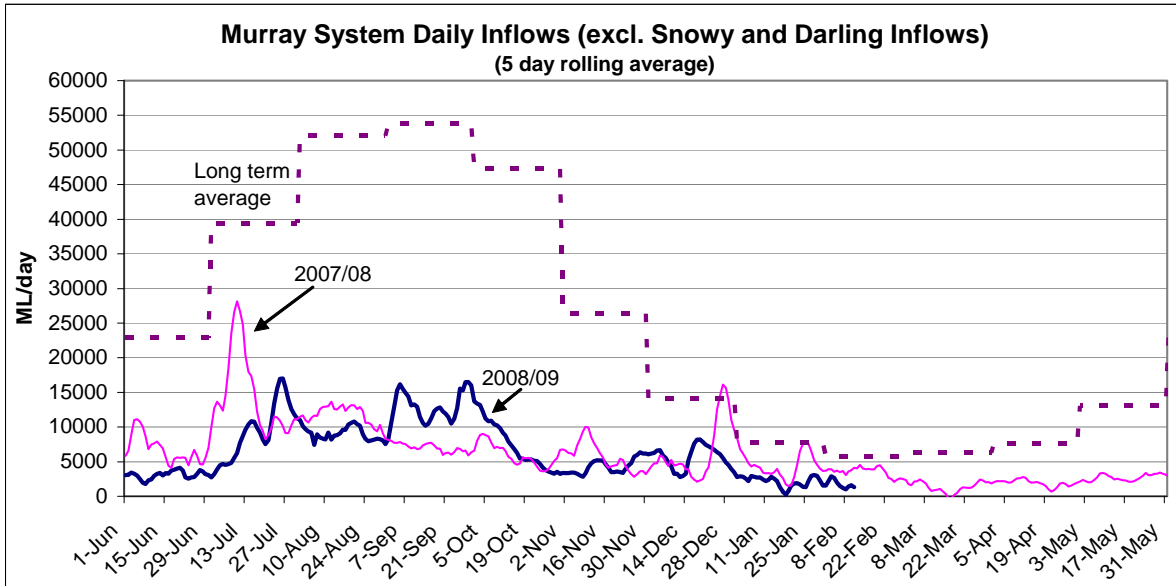
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.71	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.58	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 11th February 2009



State Allocations (as at 11th February 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	29%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%
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NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html

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

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



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

6 February 2009

STOCK AND DOMESTIC WATER RELEASES POSTPONED

The NSW Department of Water and Energy today advised landholders along the Wakool River system that a planned stock and domestic water release will be postponed until conditions improve.

Water released to date as part of a negotiated stock and domestic replenishment flow has resulted in fish kills in both the Merran Creek and Colligen Creek and flows will be reduced to prevent further fish kills.

“We know that landholders in these systems are desperate for stock and domestic water, but we are also not prepared to destroy the fish populations in this system to deliver it,” said the Department’s Deputy Director-General, David Harriss.

The fish kills in both creeks are the result of the severely reduced oxygen levels in the water at the head of the flow, caused by high water temperatures coupled with high organic loads. In some localised areas this may be exacerbated by the impact of acid-sulphate sediments.

“While we expect there to be further fish deaths in these and other systems as a result of the heat, we do not want to contribute to more fish kills, particularly in the deeper refuge pools in the Wakool River.

Mr Harriss said that the Department met with landholder representatives from the Wakool River system today and agreement had been reached to postpone the releases until conditions improve to a level that will not have such an adverse environmental impact.

“We still remain committed to delivering this water for stock and domestic users in these areas,” Mr Harriss said.

Landholders who are in immediate need of domestic household supply or water for critical stock needs are advised to contact the Department of Primary Industries drought support workers. Drought Support workers are available in Corowa (02 60 334245) and Hay (02 69931608).

Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 403 234