RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

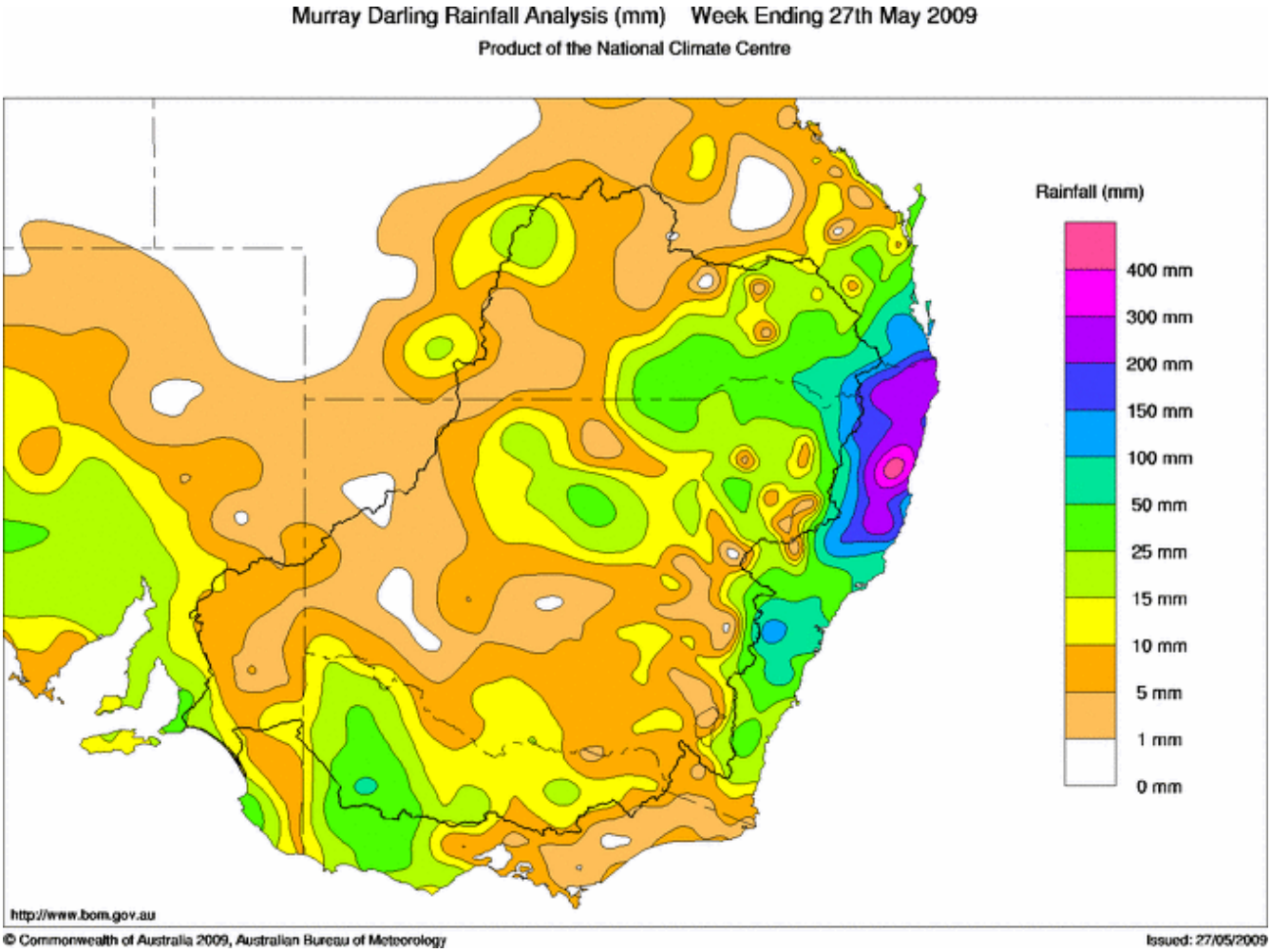
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2009

Trim Ref: D09/7621

Rainfall and Inflows

Over the past week, there was very heavy rainfall (up to 400 mm) along the coast of south-east Queensland and northern NSW. This caused major flooding in coastal rivers. Further inland, within the Basin the rainfall was less intense, but some areas in the northern Murray-Darling Basin received over 100 mm. Tenterfield, on the edge of the Basin in north-eastern NSW, recorded the highest rainfall with 195 mm. Western Victoria received between 25 and 50 mm of rain whilst the rest of the basin recorded falls of between 5 to 15 mm.

Whilst there was some stream flow response in the northern Basin most of the water from the northern NSW rain is expected to naturally dissipate across floodplains and along complex anabranch systems, as it very slowly moves downstream. Very little water is expected to reach Menindee Lakes. Updates will be provided over coming weeks. The rain in the southern basin has helped suppress evaporative and transmission losses.



River Operations

Reduced downstream demand and decreasing evaporative losses have resulted in the storage in Dartmouth Reservoir very gradually increasing since mid April. Dartmouth storage is currently 824 GL (21% of capacity) and the flow at Colemans remains at 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has been gradually rising since late April and increased by a further 19 GL over the past week to 186 GL (6.1% of capacity).

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) averaged around 1 200 ML/day over the past week and the release from Yarrawonga Weir was maintained at 5 500 ML/day to assist in lowering Lake Mulwala. During the week the level of Lake Mulwala reduced from 123.6 to 122.9 m AHD (2 m below FSL), consistent with the planned 10 cm / day reduction in lake level. It is planned to have the lake fully lowered (to about 119.5 m AHD) by early June. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

The water released from Lake Mulwala has resulted in the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir increasing from 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day over the past week and the flow at Euston is expected to gradually increase over the coming week from 3 500 to 5 500 ML/day.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy continues to gradually lower Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River. The pool level was lowered this week to 2.45 m (local gauge height) (2.75 m below FSL) and is planned to be drawn down to a minimum height of around 0.45 m over the winter months.

In recent weeks the pool levels at Weirs 11 (Mildura), 10 (Wentworth), 9 (Kulnine) and 8 (Wangumma) have all been temporarily raised above Full Supply Levels. This was implemented to capture flows in transit while the inlet to Lake Victoria was partially closed to allow maintenance works at Scaddings Bridge. The maintenance works are now complete and the weir pools are being gradually lowered back to their Full Supply Levels. Lock 9 is currently 9 cm above FSL (27.4 m AHD), down from 23 cm above FSL and Lock 8 is now only 38 cm above FSL (24.6 m AHD), down from 45 cm above FSL.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently 143 GL (or 21 % capacity) and the target flow to South Australia is 1 900 ML/day. The weir pools of Locks 1 to 6 have been gradually falling and currently range between 0 and 8 cm below FSL. As a result of the pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina, the water level in Lake Albert continues to gradually rise, and is currently about -0.28 m AHD. The water level in Lake Alexandrina remains steady at about -0.95 m AHD.

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DAVID DREVERMAN
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Week ending Wednesday 27 May 2009

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	416.96	824	21%	80	744	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.22	186	6%	30	156	+24
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	21.84	143	21%	100	43	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		222	13%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		**9 352**		**1 376**	**15%**	**- -**	**944**	**+28**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **11%**

\# 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		393	38%	3	390	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		503	31%	24	479	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		405	12%	100	305	+4

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-May-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	449	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+13	67
Snowy-Murray Component	310	-	Tooma-Tumut	+3	11
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	9.9	56
			Murray 1 Release	+16	80

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-0.6	159.4
Wakool System loss	2.1	52.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	24.9
Licensed Pumps	1.1	116.9
Lower Darling	0.1	10.8
TOTAL	**2.7**	**364.6**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	136
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	276
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	101
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	9.0	27
Licensed pumps - LMW	2.3	155
TOTAL	**11.3**	695

* 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	93 *	
Flow this week	12.5	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	50	
Flow last month	93	

* Reduced to approx. 60 GL during May drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	40	40	60
Euston	180	140	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	120
Burtundy (Darling)	400	420	470
Lock 9	140	150	200
Lake Victoria	260	260	260
Berri	310	320	350
Waikerie	-	380	480
Morgan	480	480	510
Mannum	590	610	620
Murray Bridge	690	690	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 780	5 760	4 400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 510	4 790	4 250
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 540	10 110	7 680
Goolwa Barrages	27 170	26 570	23 520

Week ending Wednesday 27 May 2009

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 020	F	2 940	3 590
Jingellic	4.0	1.41	207.93	2 510	F	3 340	4 330
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.32	218.21	370	R	320	360
Heywoods	5.5	1.40	155.03	1 000	S	830	820
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 310	R	1 240	1 280
Albury	4.3	0.68	148.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.48	126.50	1 260	R	1 280	1 320
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.03	116.07	5 380	F	5 450	4 780
Tocumwal	6.4	1.51	105.35	5 620	F	5 540	4 430
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.70	80.25	4 900	F	4 650	3 380
Swan Hill	4.5	0.89	63.81	3 950	R	3 490	2 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.08	51.20	4 480	R	3 720	2 510
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.91	42.75	3 910	R	3 190	2 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	2 900	F	2 160	2 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.93	27.69	3 360	R	2 280	2 210
Rufus Junction	-	2.50	19.43	1 190	F	1 160	1 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.70	-	1 140	F	1 230	1 120
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.91	154.14	450	R	570	710
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.73	145.41	330	S	360	440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	-	-	330	R	330	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.35	81.13	1 130	F	960	1 010
Edward at Liewah	-	1.69	57.07	990	R	830	470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.20	54.69	90	R	70	30
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.36	56.32	150	R	130	120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	20	S	30	0
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	330	F	260	100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	50	F	70	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 830	3 780

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	-1.94	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+0.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.00	-0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.12
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.29	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	-0.01
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.34	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.08	+0.00
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.38	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	-1.45

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.45	0.467	69.817	146
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.57	0	61.3	156

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.95

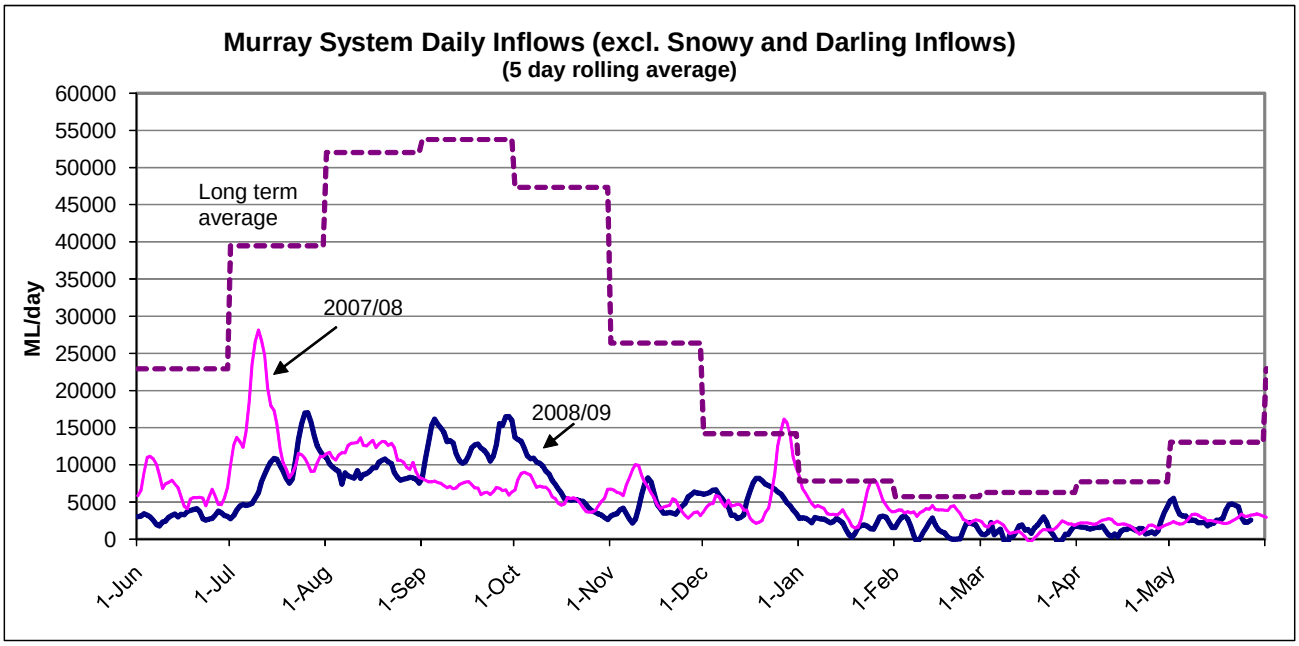
Barrages

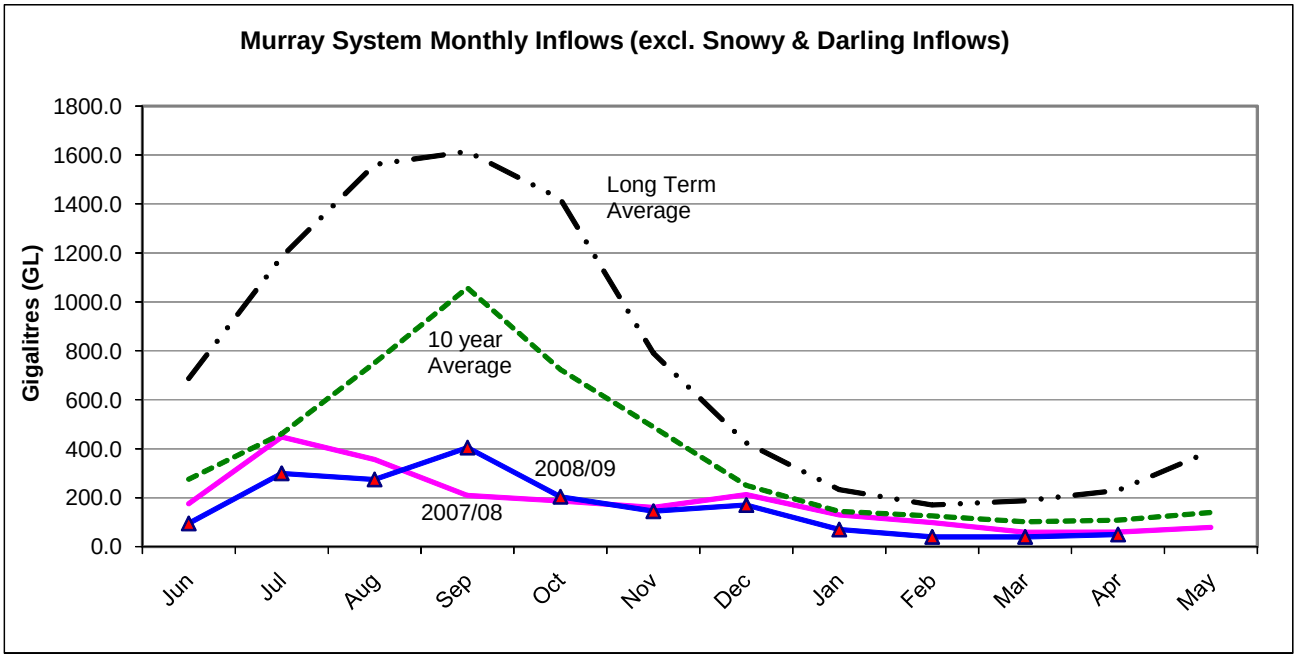
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.96	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 27th May 2009





State Allocations (as at 27th May 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	33%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%

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