



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2009

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1 May, 2009

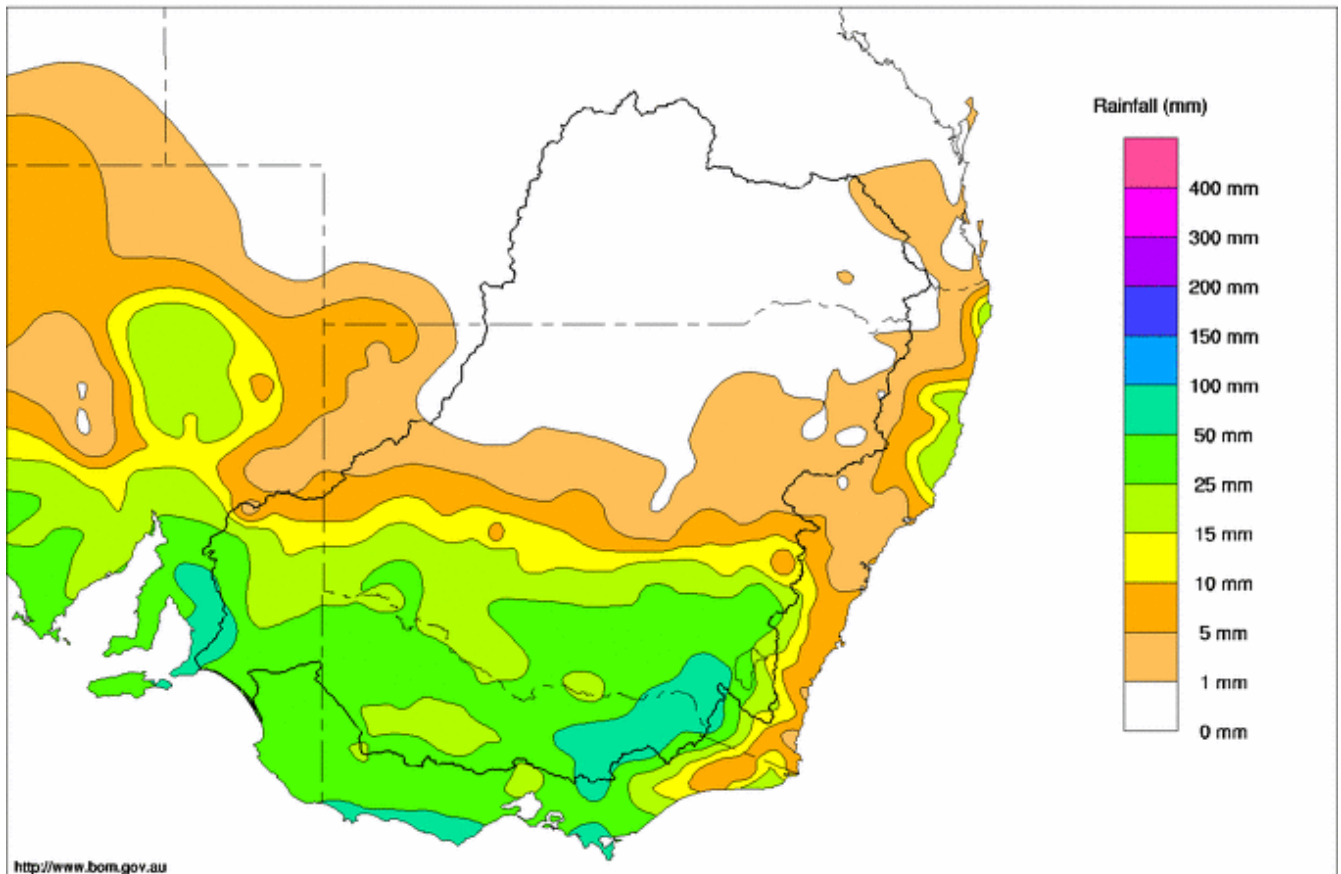
## Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, there were good falls of rain across the southern Murray-Darling Basin (see Map 1 below). Most of Victoria received between 25 to 50 mm of rain. The upper Murray received the highest falls (between 50 to 120 mm), while many districts along the Murray received 25 to 50 mm. Mt Hotham in Victoria recorded the highest rainfall with 120 mm. The Murray Mouth in South Australia received between 25 to 58 mm of rain, with 58 mm falling at Parrakie. The northern basin received almost no rain with 0 to 5 mm falling in central NSW.

April rainfall to date has exceeded the long term monthly average across the upper Murray and the Lower Lakes in South Australia. However, the recent rain was insufficient to boost rainfalls in the mid-Murray above average for the month (see Map 2). The recent rain has resulted in a minor boost in tributary inflows in the upper Murray; however inflows remain well below average for this time of year. Sustained heavy rainfall will be needed over coming months to wet these catchments and yield significantly increased inflows.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th April 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



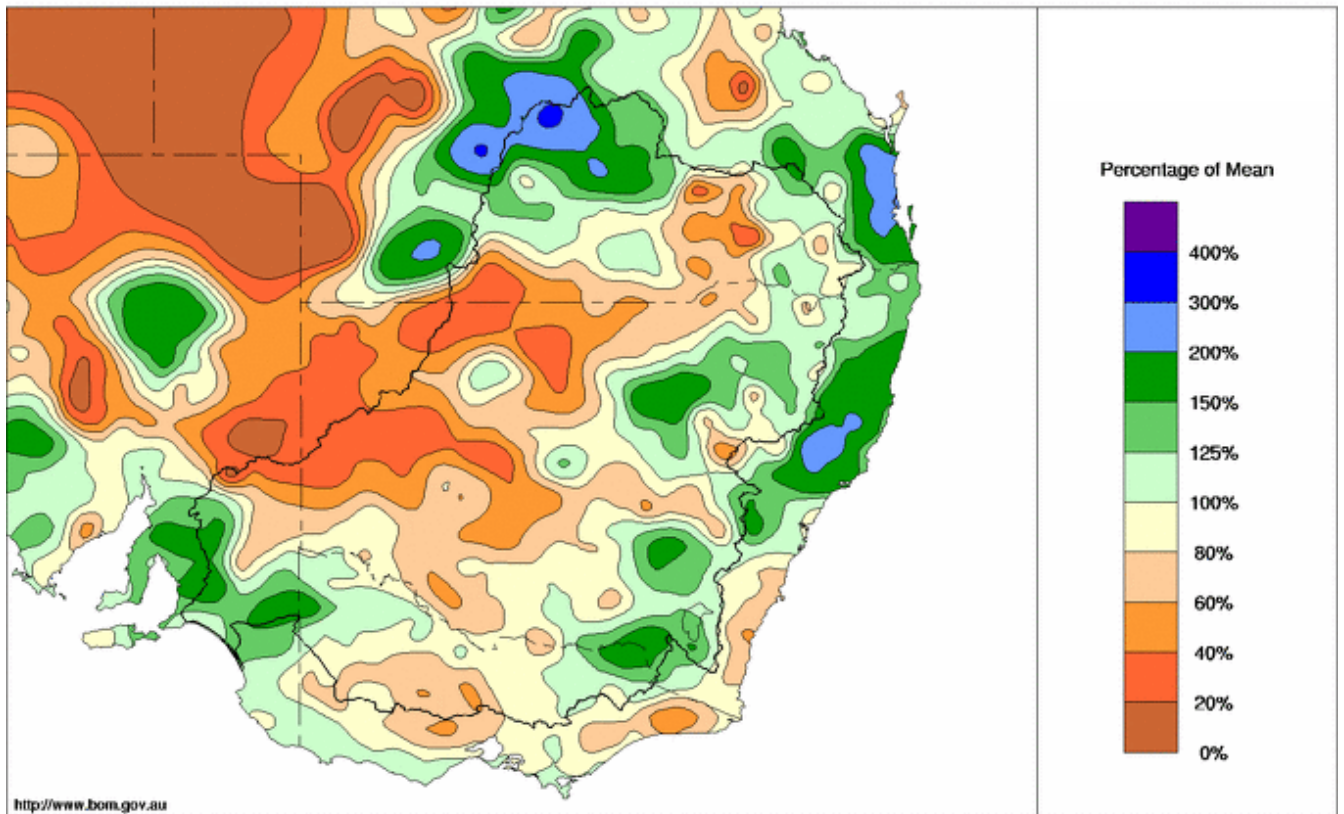
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Issued: 29/04/2009

Map 1



Rainfall Percentages - Month To Date 1st to 29th April 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 29/04/2009

Map 2

## Algal Blooms

The River Murray remains under a red alert for blue-green algae from Hume Reservoir to Barmah, as does the Edward River at Deniliquin and Moulamein and the Wakool River at Kyalite. Further downstream, the River Murray near Euston also continues to be on red alert. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee free call Hotline on 1800 999 457, and also from the NSW Department of Water and Energy's website [www.dwe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au) or Goulburn Murray Water's website at [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au).

## Lake Mulwala Drawdown

The first phase of the lowering of Lake Mulwala has commenced. However, the recent rain has meant that the lake level will fall more gradually than earlier anticipated. The second phase of the lowering will commence mid May when diversions to the Yarrawonga Main Channel are scheduled to cease. The rate of drawdown during this second phase will be accelerated by increasing the release from Yarrawonga Weir. The lake level will be lowered to about 119.5 m AHD (or 5.4 m below FSL) by early June and will remain lowered until mid July (subject to inflow conditions), before being raised in preparation of the irrigation season in late July. Updates will be provided in coming weeks.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage remains steady at about 830 GL (or 10% of active capacity) and an additional 233 GL in Menindee Lakes remains under NSW control.

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir remained steady at around 814 GL (or 21% capacity) and the release is being gradually reduced from 500 ML/day to the normal minimum release of 200 ML/day. This decrease is due to decreasing river losses and declining demands further downstream.

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased for the first time since October 2008, rising by 13 GL to 82 GL (or 2.7 % capacity). The recent rain has enabled the release from Hume Dam to be reduced to the minimum flow of 600 ML/day at Heywoods. This flow, coupled with flows from the Kiewa River, has resulted in a flow at Doctors Point of 1 600 ML/day. The flow at Doctors Point is forecast to reduce next week as the flows from the Kiewa River recede.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.74 m AHD (or 16 cm below Full Supply Level) and will be gradually reduced over the next few weeks. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 3 500 to 2 800 ML/day. Torrumbarry Weir pool is currently 11 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL) and will be gradually returned to FSL (86.05 m AHD) over the following five days, further reducing the flows downstream.

The flow to South Australia has been reduced from 3 500 to 3 000 ML/day and will be further reduced to 1 900 ML/day gradually over the next few days. The decrease in flow to South Australia is due to decreasing river losses and demands downstream of Lock 6. The weirs at Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly above, FSL.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 29 Apr 2009

### 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	416.56	814	21%	80	734	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	165.16	82	3%	30	52	+13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	21.87	144	21%	100	44	-9
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		233	13%	(- -) #	0	-6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 273</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>-1</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **10%**

# 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	399	39%	3	396	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	490	30%	24	466	+8
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	406	12%	100	306	+2

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Apr-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	480	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+19	658
Snowy-Murray Component	160	-	Tooma-Tumut	+6	230
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	13.0	428
			Murray 1 Release	+22	870

### 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)	5.4	169.7	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.0	132
Wakool System loss	1.6	45.9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.7	253
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	24.4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	100
Licensed Pumps	2.3	112.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	16
Lower Darling	0.1	10.5	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.8	146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>362.5</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>646</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.

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	(3 400 ML/day)
Flow this week	23.5	
Flow so far this month	90	
Flow last month	124	

\* Reduced to approx. 90 GL during April drought contingency operations

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	40	50	60
Euston	80	70	90
Red Cliffs	-	100	120
Merbein	90	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	570	590	470
Lock 9	170	160	200
Lake Victoria	290	290	260
Berri	260	270	360
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	460	490	510
Mannum	640	640	620
Murray Bridge	670	680	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 730	5 800	4 190
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 710	4 820	4 200
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 140	10 800	7 400
Goolwa Barrages	29 700	30 540	23 110

Week ending Wednesday 29 Apr 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	-	-	-	5 420	F	4 200	2 520
Jingellic	4.0	1.90	208.42	6 350	F	4 470	2 280
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.52	218.41	710	F	710	640
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	154.89	630	F	2 940	5 850
Doctors Point	5.5	1.61	150.08	1 690	F	3 170	5 810
Albury	4.3	0.76	148.20	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.88	126.90	2 380	F	4 260	5 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 500	S	3 350	3 540
Tocumwal	6.4	1.16	105.00	3 700	R	3 580	3 800
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.11	79.66	2 730	F	2 610	2 300
Swan Hill	4.5	0.69	63.61	2 670	R	2 140	2 080
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.58	50.70	2 760	R	2 580	2 650
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.65	42.49	2 660	F	2 540	2 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 080	F	2 670	2 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	3 040	R	2 210	1 720
Rufus Junction	-	2.71	19.64	2 400	F	2 820	2 600
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.74	-	1 560	R	1 500	1 430
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	-	-	1 020	R	480	180
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.91	145.59	650	F	410	100
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	490	R	430	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.35	80.13	130	F	370	560
Edward at Liewah	-	1.20	56.58	580	F	580	670
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.14	54.64	60	R	10	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.42	56.38	180	F	190	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	30	F	40	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	50	F	160	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.77	-	210	F	190	170

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 400	1 060
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.11	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.43	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-1.49

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.75	0.6215	69.9715	265
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.46	0.0278	61.3278	174

### Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.94

### Barrages

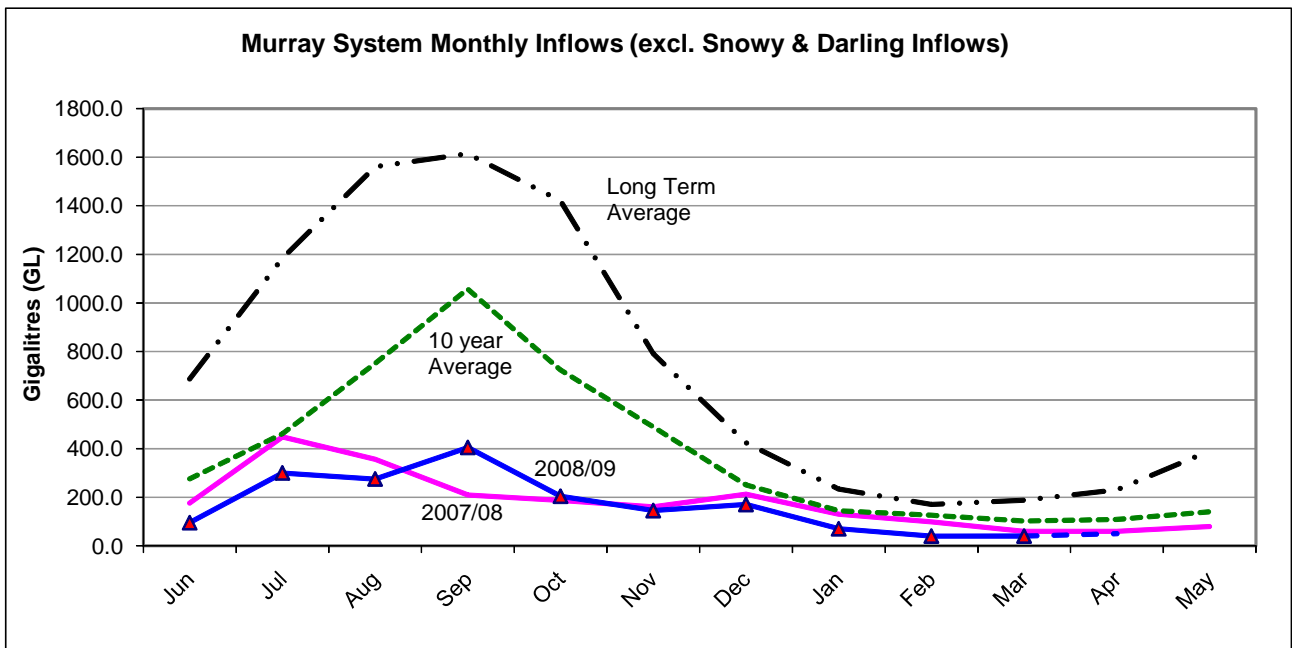
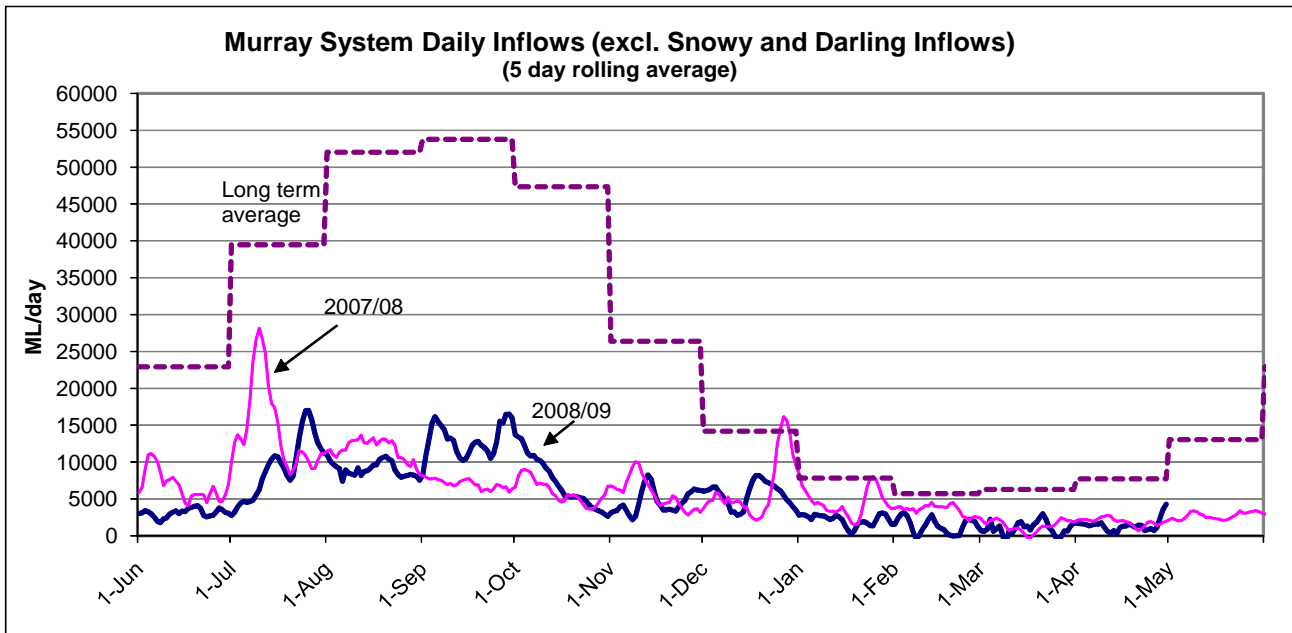
#### Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.90	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	-0.30	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 29th April 2009



**State Allocations (as at 29th April 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	33%
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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](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>