

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 December 2007

*Our Ref : M2006/01015/prs, as
Trim Ref : 07/15855*

21 December, 2007



Rainfall and Inflows

The northern half of the Basin has continued to receive good falls of rain during the past week with most areas receiving at least 15-25 mm and isolated falls of up to 100 mm (see Map). According to the Bureau of Meteorology, minor to moderate flooding has been continuing in the Paroo, Warrego and Balonne Rivers. As a result of tributary inflows, the Darling River at Bourke is maintaining a steady flow of about 1 500 ML/day, and in the last few days the water has arrived at Wilcannia with the flow rising to 970 ML/day. Some of this water is expected to reach the Menindee Lakes during the next few weeks.

For the week ending Wednesday 19th December, the southern half of the Basin only received light falls of rain, but further rain is expected before Christmas which may lead to changes in river and weir pool levels.

River Operations

During the past week, storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady at 662 GL (17 % capacity). Dartmouth release has been steady at 700 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this rate over the coming weeks (see attached Flow Advice). Release from Hume Reservoir has averaged 7 700 ML/day but will be reduced in the next few days if there are increased inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers in response to the forecast rain.

Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.36 m AHD (54 cm below Full Supply Level) and during the next few weeks is expected to remain within the range of 124.2 to 124.5 m AHD (40 to 70 cm below FSL). If there are significant inflows from the Ovens River and Kiewa Rivers the pool level might increase above this range. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been steady at 7 000 ML/day and is expected to remain at this rate over the coming week.

In late November, the New South Wales Government announced that 8 GL of water would be released into the Wakool River and Merran Creek systems to provide water for stock and domestic purposes. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission has announced that it will supplement the stock and domestic allocation with 6 GL of environmental water (see attached Media Release). This should extend the duration of inflow to these systems and provide further relief to the native fish populations.

The pool level at Torrumbarry Weir is currently at 85.91 m AHD (or 14 cm below Full Supply Level). Over the next week the Torrumbarry pool level will be increased to capture excess water as a result of local storms along the mid reaches of the River Murray. During the remainder of summer the weir pool level can be expected to vary in response to the weather and downstream irrigation demands, and is likely to fluctuate within a range of 85.65 to 86.05 m AHD (0 to 40 cm below FSL).

Over the past few months Euston Weir pool has been gradually drawn down to 46.90 m AHD (70 cm below FSL) to reduce the evaporative losses from Euston Lakes. A temporary structure on Taila Creek will disconnect the Lakes from the main river channel and allow the Euston weir pool to be partially refilled without filling the Lakes. Over the next few weeks, the weir pool level is expected to gradually increase to capture a rise in the river due to recent and forecast rain.

Lock 9 is currently at 27.32 m AHD (8 cm below FSL) and should remain within normal operational limits over the Christmas – New Year period. Lowering the weir pool by up to 50 cm below Full Supply Level is being investigated as a potential water saving operation. This drawdown would not commence until mid January and further advice would be provided in early 2008 if it occurs (see attached media release).

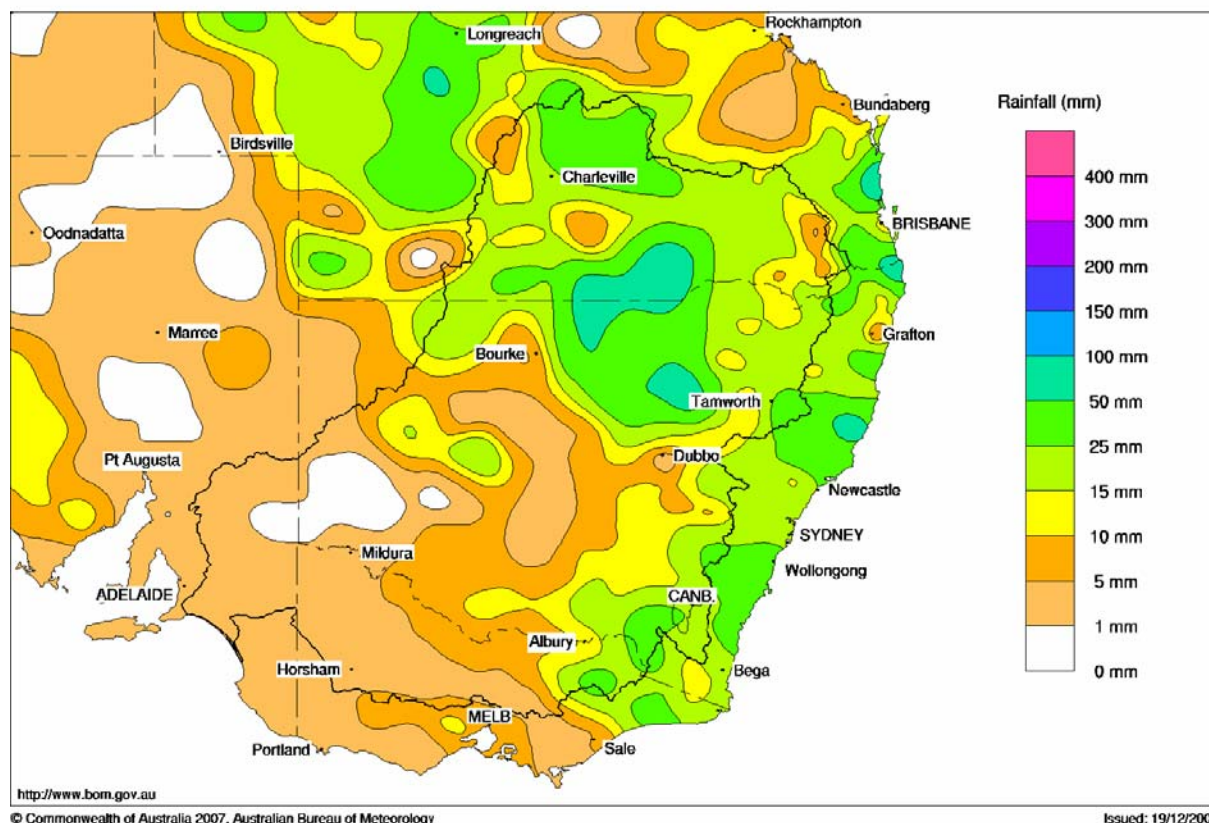
During the week the flow to South Australia increased from 3 500 to 3 800 ML/day. The upstream pool levels of Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or above, Full Supply Level. The water level in the Lower Lakes continues to gradually fall, and is currently -0.01 m AHD.

The Commission, River Murray Water and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.

Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 26 December 2007. The next report will cover the two week period ending 2 January 2008.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th December 2007
Product of the National Climate Centre



Flow Advice for Mitta Mitta River



Thursday 20 December 2007

Mitta Mitta River flow to remain steady over Christmas – New Year period

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission wishes to advise Mitta Mitta Valley landholders that the release from Dartmouth Reservoir will remain at about 700 ML/day (1.28 m gauge height) until mid January 2008.

During early December the flow at Colemans gauge was gradually reduced to a target of 700 ML/day (1.28 m gauge height) by 13th December, and since then has remained constant.

With the current inflow from Snowy Creek of 100 to 150 ML/day, this has provided a flow at Tallandoon of 800 to 900 ML/day.

If there is heavy rainfall which causes the flow in Snowy Creek to significantly rise for several days, the release from Dartmouth may be temporarily reduced to limit the flow at Tallandoon to about 1 000 ML/day.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the forecast flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River.

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be regularly reviewed and further advice will be issued in mid January if a significant change to the release program is required.

Trim Ref: 07/15959



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 18 December, 2007

MDBC supplements NSW water release for Wakool River and Merran Creek

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) today announced it would release 6GL of environmental water to supplement a NSW Government increase in flows into the Wakool River and Merran Creek system to save large numbers of native fish.

MDBC Chief Executive, Dr Wendy Craik AM said the water, being made available through the MDBC's Living Murray program, would combine with an increase in local water allocations for stock and domestic use announced by the NSW Government last month.

The Wakool River and Merran Creek systems are major anabranches to the north of the River Murray located between Deniliquin and Swan Hill, which prior to the recent NSW provision of stock and domestic water had not received inflow for several months due to the severe water shortage.

“The Living Murray allocation will build upon the stock and domestic allocation and extend the duration of inflow to these systems into early next year, greatly reducing the risk of the waterholes drying up, salinising and leaving the fish high and dry,” Dr Craik said.

“This is an excellent example of local stock and domestic users and the environment both benefiting from complementary water releases,” she said. “Either allocation on its own would not have been as effective.

“We and our partner governments see the decision to supply environmental water to this area as a priority to avoid a catastrophic environmental event. MDBC studies have shown that 93 per cent of fish in the area are natives with large populations of Murray Cod, Silver Perch and other threatened and vulnerable native fish.”

Dr Craik said the 6GL was part of 12.8 GL carried over from last water year for environmental use through The Living Murray. Supplying this water will not impact on the availability of water for consumptive users.

“The threat to fish and other aquatic animals in the area has come about because of the severe shortage of water brought about by prolonged drought conditions,” Dr Craik said.

“To minimise losses and guarantee critical urban water supplies some wetlands and anabranch systems were disconnected from the Murray River earlier this year. This put enormous pressure on fish and other aquatic animals using waterholes in the area, which was lessened by the recent NSW stock and domestic water and this environmental water will provide further relief to the fish populations.

“Protecting these native fish will not only help them survive the drought, but will help promote population numbers to recover after the drought.”

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 20 December, 2007

Murray River Lock 9 weir pool operations unchanged into January

The level of the Lock 9 weir pool, on the Murray River downstream of Wentworth, will remain within normal operational limits over Christmas and into the New Year.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive, Dr Wendy Craik AM, said today that lowering the weir pool by up to 50 cm below full supply level (FSL) is being investigated as a potential water saving operation.

"Lowering the pool would disconnect some associated wetlands and creeks, and could potentially save over 5 GL of evaporative losses this season," Dr Craik said.

However the drawdown will not proceed until mid-January at the earliest, pending further assessment of potential environmental impacts.

The level of the Lock 9 Weir pool is currently at 27.30 m AHD, which is 10cm below FSL.

If there is a further drawdown, it would involve a gradual lowering to about 50 cm below FSL over about 9 weeks.

Specific advice will be provided in early 2008 if a drawdown of the Lock 9 weir pool is to proceed.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332

Trim Ref: 07/15960

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 Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	410.11	662	17%	80	582	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.70	708	23%	30	678	-45
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.28	373	55%	100	273	-9
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		28	2%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		1 771	19%	--	1 533	-56

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 18%

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

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		397	39%	3	394	-6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		486	30%	24	462	-25
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		796	23%	100	696	-14

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Dec-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	506	+12	Snowy-Murray	+2	280
Snowy-Murray Component	427	+8	Tooma-Tumut	+4	118
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-2.5	162
			Murray 1 Release	+5	461

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.5	37.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	7.8
Licensed Pumps	4.1	32.2
Lower Darling	0.5	4.8
TOTAL	7.9	86.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.2	37
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.8	55
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.0	38 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	61
TOTAL	15.4	197 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

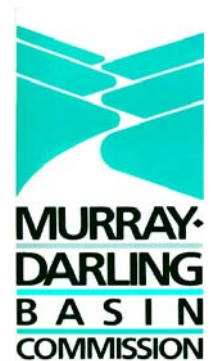
Entitlement this month	217 *	
Flow this week	25.9	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	68	
Flow last month	103	

* Reduced to approx. 109 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	60	70	100
Euston	70	70	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	110	120	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 480	1 470	1 240
Lock 9	170	180	150
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	280	280	410
Waikerie	-	450	640
Morgan	580	590	700
Mannum	750	730	510
Murray Bridge	600	600	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 930	2 920	2 460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	2 220
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 020	3 000	2 670
Goolwa Barrages	18 100	18 840	14 960



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	990	F	1 050	2 290
Jingellic	4.0	1.46	207.98	2 910	R	1 380	2 850
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.52	218.41	870	F	890	1 730
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	155.83	6 920	S	7 730	6 680
Doctors Point	5.5	2.38	150.85	7 640	F	8 270	7 640
Albury	4.3	1.36	148.80	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.88	127.90	7 290	F	8 310	6 080
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.31	116.35	7 000	S	7 000	6 920
Tocumwal	6.4	1.81	105.65	7 250	R	7 160	7 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.05	80.60	5 930	R	5 850	6 120
Swan Hill	4.5	1.20	64.12	5 830	S	5 920	6 130
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.41	51.53	5 710	F	5 790	5 730
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.13	42.97	5 360	S	5 200	4 930
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 500	F	4 360	3 800
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	3 390	R	3 020	2 750
Rufus Junction	-	2.94	19.87	3 130	F	3 040	2 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.10	-	1 360	F	1 110	1 190
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	405	F	510	900
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.07	145.75	1 035	F	930	1 500
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	385	R	330	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	550	S	490	340
Edward at Liewah	-	0.64	56.02	280	F	310	280
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.76	55.25	28	R	10	-
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	172	F	170	150
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.62	-	1 163	R	410	90
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 570	R	1 690	1 710
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.43	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 760	1 940
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.55	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.64
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.14	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.68	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.38
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.12	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.08	-0.34	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.33	+0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.85

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.10	0.746	70.096	445
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.27	0.142	61.442	261



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

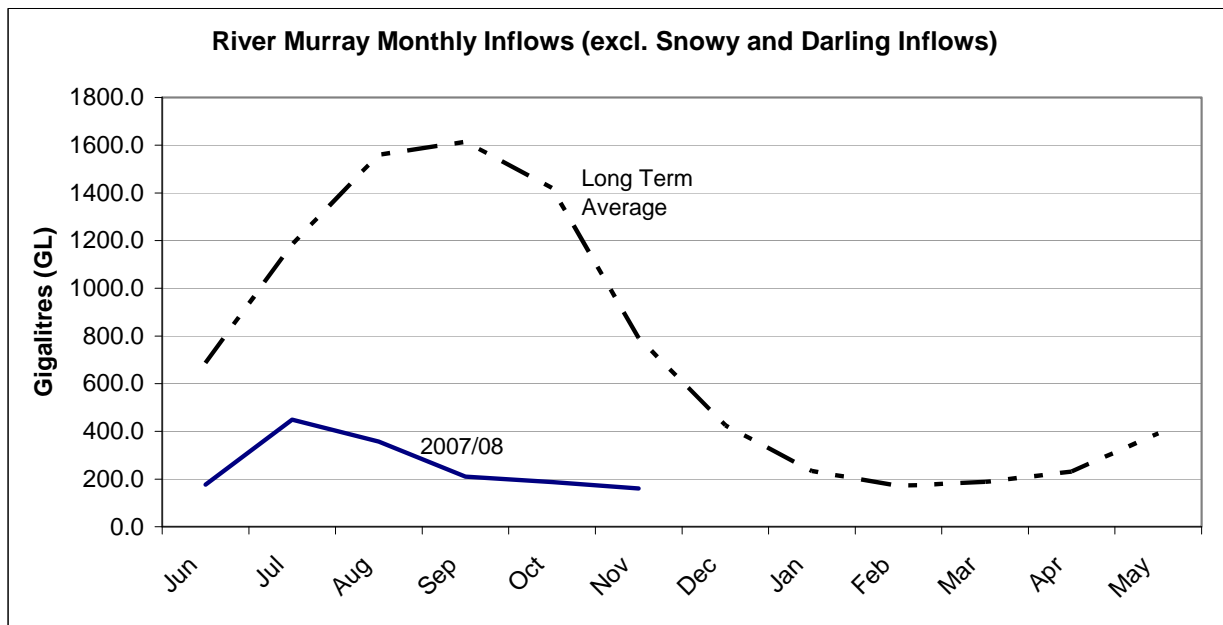
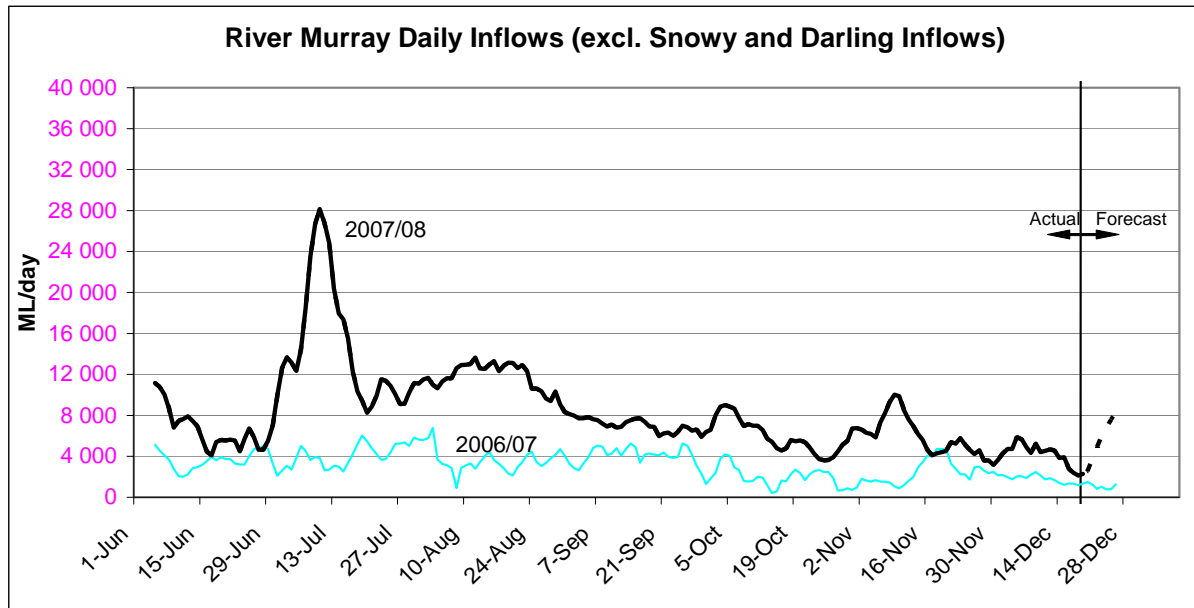
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.01

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.01	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.04	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.11	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 19 Dec 2007)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	55%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High Security	90%
General security	3%

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	28%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	39%
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NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc

VIC : <http://g-mwater.dds.n.com/news.asp>

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