

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 2 April 2008

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4 April, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

Very little rain fell across the Basin over the week with only 1- 10 mm over the Upper Murray and northern NSW. The largest falls occurred in eastern Queensland (Cambooya received 39 mm). The absence of significant rain has resulted in inflows steadily receding. Flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie receded from 345 to 235 ML/day and the Ovens River at Peechelba reduced from 460 to 380 ML/day.

March 2008 Summary

Rain in the Basin over March was close to the long term average with some areas around the lower Murray and the Northern Basin significantly below average (see decile map). The majority of the Basin received between 10 – 50 mm for the month. Wallangra in the northwest slopes of NSW had the greatest fall of 78 mm.

Temperatures averaged in the upper 30's for early March and started to cool towards the mid 20's in later weeks. Daily maximum and minimum temperatures along most of the Murray were above the long term average with western Victoria and south eastern South Australia experiencing maximum temperatures of up to 4°C above average (see anomaly map). Many sites in Victoria experienced record high temperatures for March. Kerang exceeded its previous March maximum by 0.2°C, reaching 41°C and Lake Eildon's record increased by 1.3°C, reaching 39.1°C.

High temperatures and little rain has resulted in March inflows (excluding Darling inflows) of around 60 GL, significantly lower than the long term average of 188 GL, but higher than last year's inflows for March of around 50 GL. Widespread, sustained heavy rain is needed over the coming months to significantly improve the outlook for next season.

River Operations

Hume storage fell from 315 to 295 GL (9.7% capacity) and flow in the Murray at Doctors Point was held steady at around 6 000 ML/day. Lake Mulwala pool level has fluctuated between 124.35 and 124.4 m AHD over the past week and release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced from 5 000 to 4 500 ML/day.

Generally speaking, Murray River flows are currently being wound back due to continuing drought conditions, the onset of cooler weather and the gradual reduction in water demand along the river. This operation will maximise water availability by storing as much water as possible in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs and by reducing evaporation and river transmission losses along the river system.

The lower demand for water has enabled Torrumbarry Weir pool to be increased from 85.8 to 86.04 m AHD (1 cm below Full Supply Level) and Euston Weir pool to be increased from 47.34 to 47.56 m AHD (4 cm below FSL) since late March. However, both Torrumbarry and Euston weirs may need to be partially drawn down again over the coming weeks in order to maintain minimum flows in the river below these weirs.

Lock 10 at Wentworth on the Murray River will be closed to boat navigation between 26 May and 26 September for major refurbishment works (see media release attached).

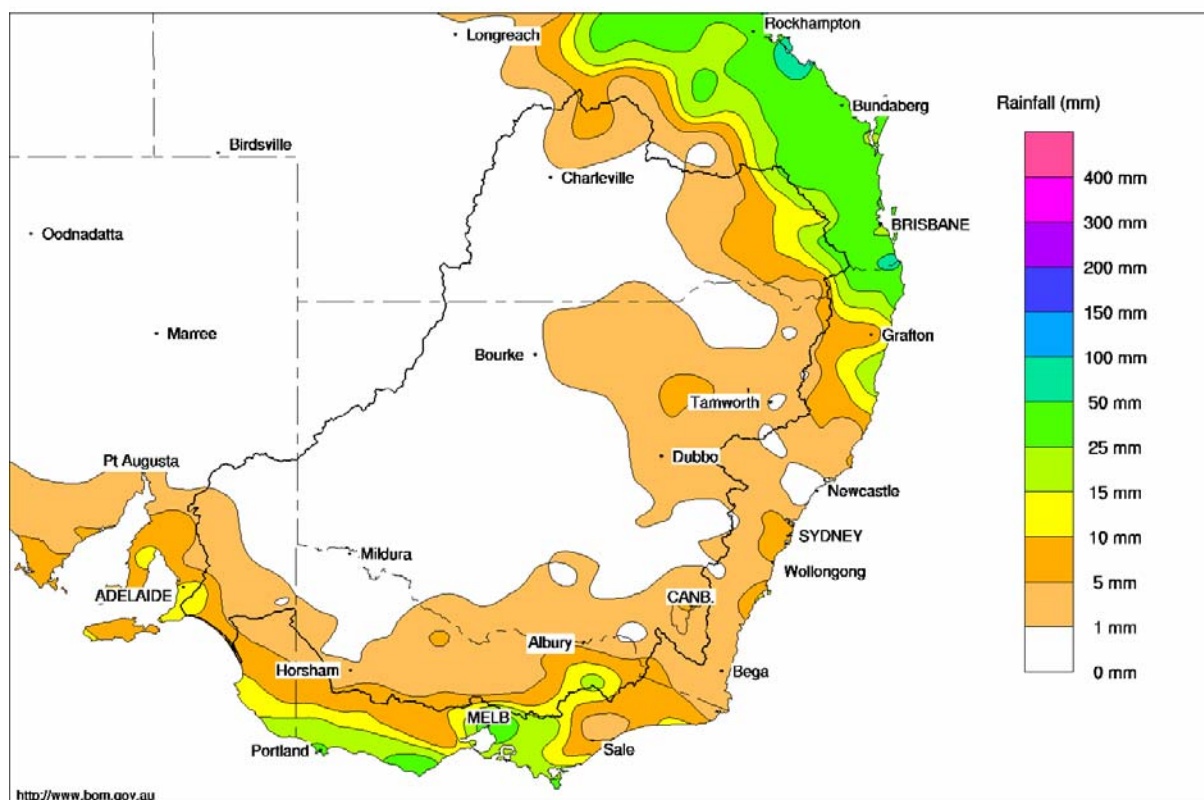
Menindee Lakes storage peaked at around 603 GL late last week but has since reduced slightly to around 591 GL (35 % capacity). Flow in the lower Darling River at Weir 32 varied between 800 and 1 500 ML/day and is expected to be reduced to around 300 ML/day early next week. Flow at Wentworth Weir has risen from 1 300 to 2 800 ML/day and is expected to remain above 2 000 ML/day until inflows from the lower Darling River reduce in about two weeks time.

Flow to SA has been reduced from 3 800 to 3 000 ML/day and flow past Lock 1 has remained steady at around 1 300 ML/day. The upper pool levels at Locks 1 to 6 are all at or above FSL and storage in Lake Victoria has reduced from 302 to 297 GL (44% capacity).

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd April 2008

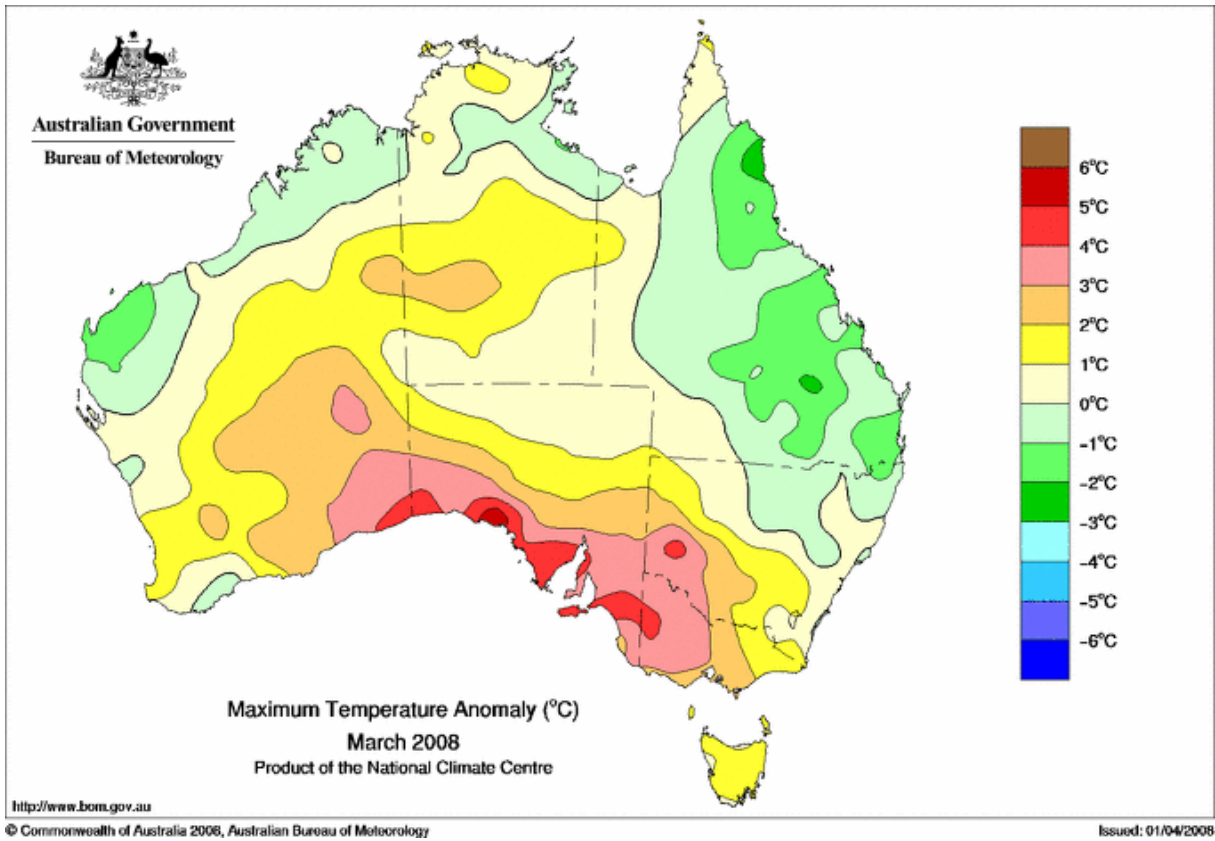
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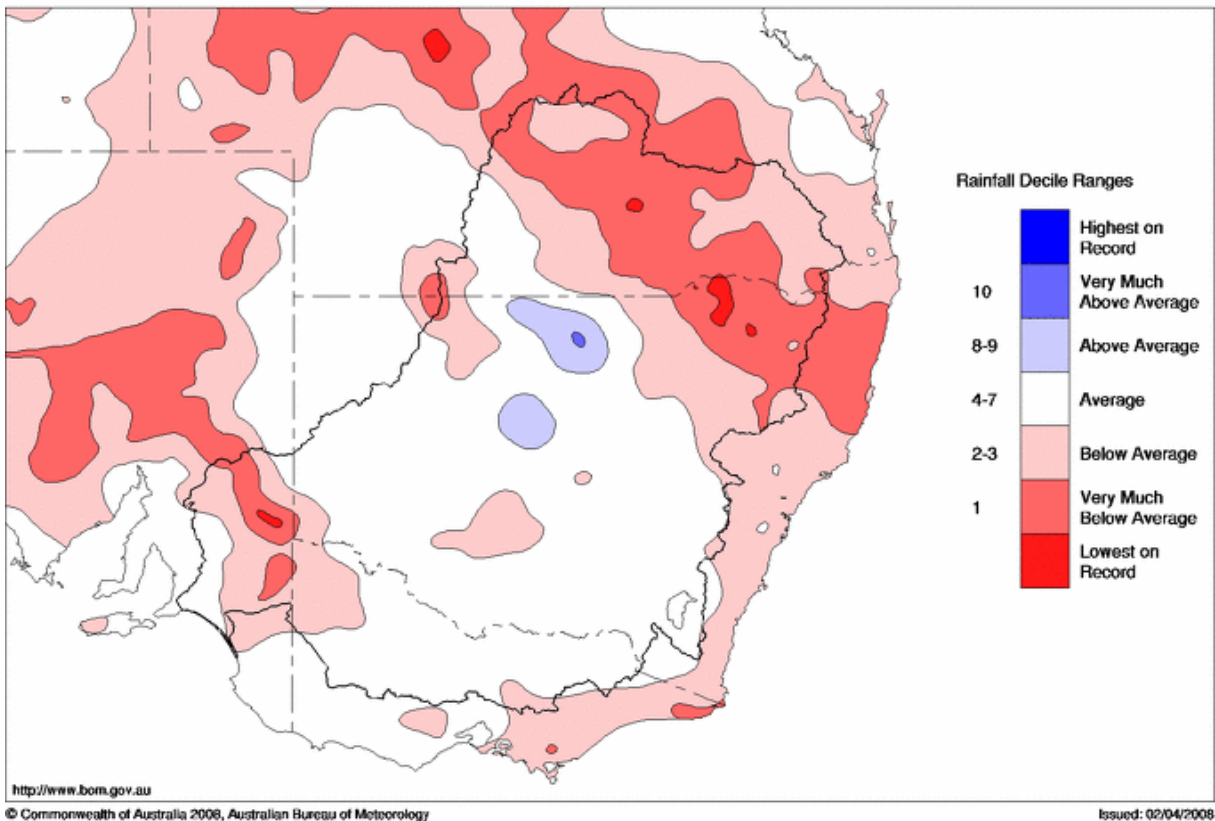
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 02/04/2008



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2008
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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	410.74	676	17%	80	596	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.36	295	10%	30	265	-20
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.53	297	44%	100	197	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		591	34%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		9 352		1 860	20%	--	1 058	-38

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **12%**

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	426	42%	3	423	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	442	27%	24	418	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	503	15%	100	403	-7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Apr-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	484	-7	Snowy-Murray	+11	403
Snowy-Murray Component	374	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	153
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	10.5	250
			Murray 1 Release	+15	632

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.0	84.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	18.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	20.4
Licensed Pumps	1.9	73.5
Lower Darling	0.2	9.7
TOTAL	11.7	206.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.7	83
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	16.2	181
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	86 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	11
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	157
TOTAL	25.7	517 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	(3 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	22.7	
Flow so far this month	6	
Flow last month	109	

* 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 2007
Swan Hill	80	80	90
Euston	230	180	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	170	160	140
Burtundy (Darling)	230	290	960
Lock 9	140	140	150
Lake Victoria	240	240	190
Berri	310	300	350
Waikerie	380	380	550
Morgan	450	450	600
Mannum	780	790	650
Murray Bridge	940	890	660
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 480	3 440	2 820
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 210	3 260	2 470
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 150
Goolwa Barrages	27 710	27 680	18 960



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	-	-	-	2 220	F	2 320	1 720
Jingellic	4.0	1.35	207.87	2 210	R	2 920	2 010
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.34	218.23	500	S	510	670
Heywoods	5.5	2.10	155.73	5 580	S	5 600	7 420
Doctors Point	5.5	2.22	150.69	5 930	S	5 990	8 120
Albury	4.3	1.24	148.68	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.55	127.57	5 330	F	5 630	7 660
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.88	115.92	4 410	S	4 440	6 080
Tocumwal	6.4	1.32	105.16	4 310	S	4 530	6 050
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.89	79.44	1 850	F	2 560	3 190
Swan Hill	4.5	0.73	63.65	2 930	F	3 030	3 020
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.67	50.79	3 010	F	3 110	3 100
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.61	42.45	2 670	R	2 620	2 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 500	2 210
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.79	27.55	2 780	S	2 690	1 410
Rufus Junction	-	2.73	19.66	2 400	R	2 610	3 310
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.52	-	1 410	R	1 340	1 380
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	153.98	314	R	260	490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.81	145.49	457	S	480	220
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	460	S	450	370
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.68	80.45	410	F	410	430
Edward at Liewah	-	1.24	56.62	649	R	510	440
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.00	54.50	7	S	10	30
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.43	56.39	190	S	200	410
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	85	S	60	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	-	450	F	860	1 040
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.96	-	949	S	1 110	530

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	990	610
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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	-0.54	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+0.42
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.15	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	-0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.04	+0.29	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-1.27

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.80	0.477	69.827	152
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.73	0.145	61.445	261



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

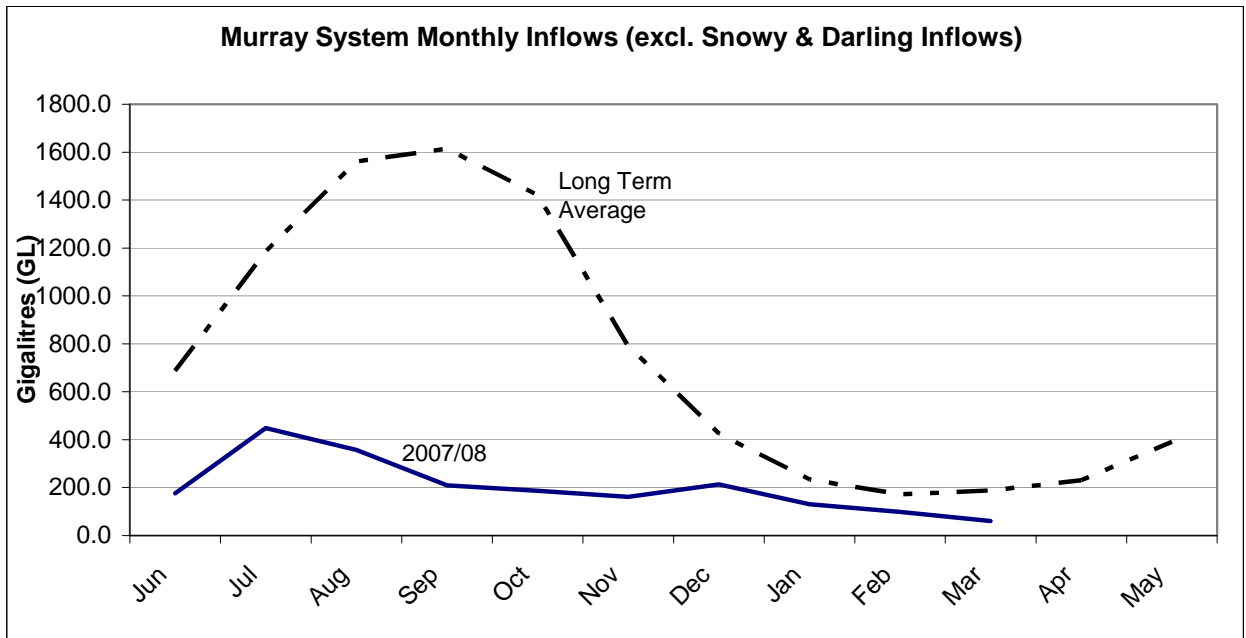
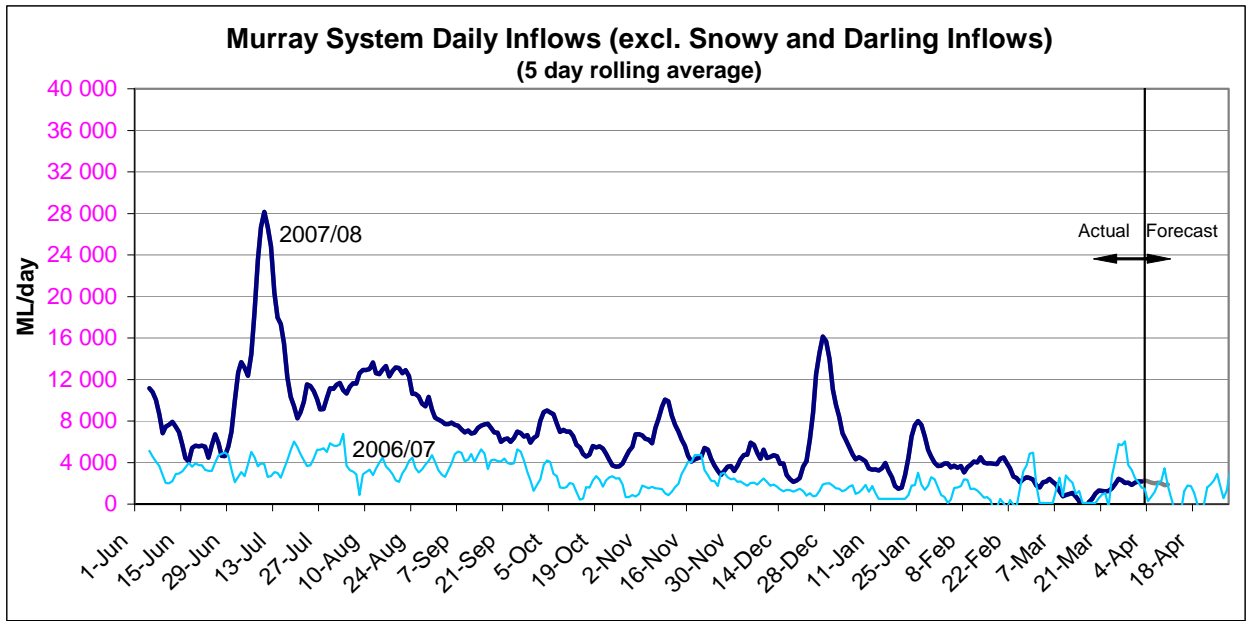
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.50

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.35	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.22	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 2nd April 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	25%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	90%
General security	13%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	43%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	57%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc

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

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



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 3 April 2008



Wentworth's Lock 10 to close for repairs, upgrade

Lock 10 at Wentworth on the Murray River will be closed to boat navigation between 26 May and 26 September for major refurbishment works.

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik said today the works were part of planned, necessary maintenance and upgrading of structures along the Murray.

“While boating navigation through Lock 10 will need to be suspended, the works are necessary to be able to continue operating the lock safely,” Dr Craik said.

“Some components of the lock have been in place since it was built in 1929 and are nearing the end of their useful life.”

Dr Craik said the works were not expected to have any impact on the water levels in the adjacent weir pools.

State Water New South Wales would carry out the work which includes emptying the lock, removing and repainting the gates, refurbishing the valves and evaluation of any further work needed.

“We and State Water have chosen this time of year as it is the quietest period for tourist craft, the main users of the river,” Dr Craik said.

“State Water will directly inform, local councils, visitor centres boating associations, boat hire companies and all known registered owners of houseboats in the area likely to be affected.

“State Water will adhere to the schedule as far as possible though some variations may be needed subject to river conditions and other circumstances that might arise.

“The aim will be to re-open the lock ahead of time, if at all possible,” Dr Craik said.

These sorts of repairs and maintenance are done only every 20 years or so.

For more information on Murray navigation and boating inquiries contact NSW Maritime's Infoline on (02) 9563 8557.

Media contact: Sam Leone, MDBC, phone: 0407 006 332

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