

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 2 July 2008

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4 July, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, north-eastern Victoria received good falls of rain, particularly in the Ovens Valley where some locations received over 50 mm (see Map 1). The Victorian Alps and Snowy Mountains received their first good falls of snow this winter (up to 30 cm). Other areas in the south of the Basin received light falls of rain, while the north remained dry.

At Rocky Point on the Ovens River, the streamflow responded to the rainfall by increasing from 500 to 1 500 ML/day. Streamflow response was quite small due to the very dry state of the catchments brought about by below average rainfall across the southern half of the Basin in autumn and June (see Map 2). However, if there is follow-up rain in the next couple of weeks, a larger response could be expected.

River Operations

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 21 GL to 489 GL (16 % capacity) and in Dartmouth Reservoir by 7 GL to 697 GL (18 %). The storage in both reservoirs remains well below average for this time of year. The release from Dartmouth Dam is steady at the normal winter minimum of 200 ML/day. The release from Hume Reservoir is 400 ML/day which is below the normal winter minimum of 600 ML/day, in an effort to save as much water as possible in the upper storages.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is steady at about 122.0 m AHD (or 2.9 m below Full Supply Level). In the next few weeks, Lake Mulwala will be partially refilled to ensure that stock and domestic water can be diverted into Mulwala Canal in late July for landholders in the Murray Irrigation Area. The release from Yarrawonga Weir remains steady at the normal winter minimum of 1 800 ML/day.

Further downstream, the maintenance works at Mildura Weir have been successfully completed and the weir pool is now close to Full Supply Level. The salinity at Mildura is currently 320 EC and now that the weir pool is refilled, it is expected to drop back towards pre-drawdown concentrations (about 150 EC) over the next few weeks. The front of the higher salinity water originating from the Mildura drawdown is currently between Wentworth Weir and Lock 9, and will be diverted into Lake Victoria.

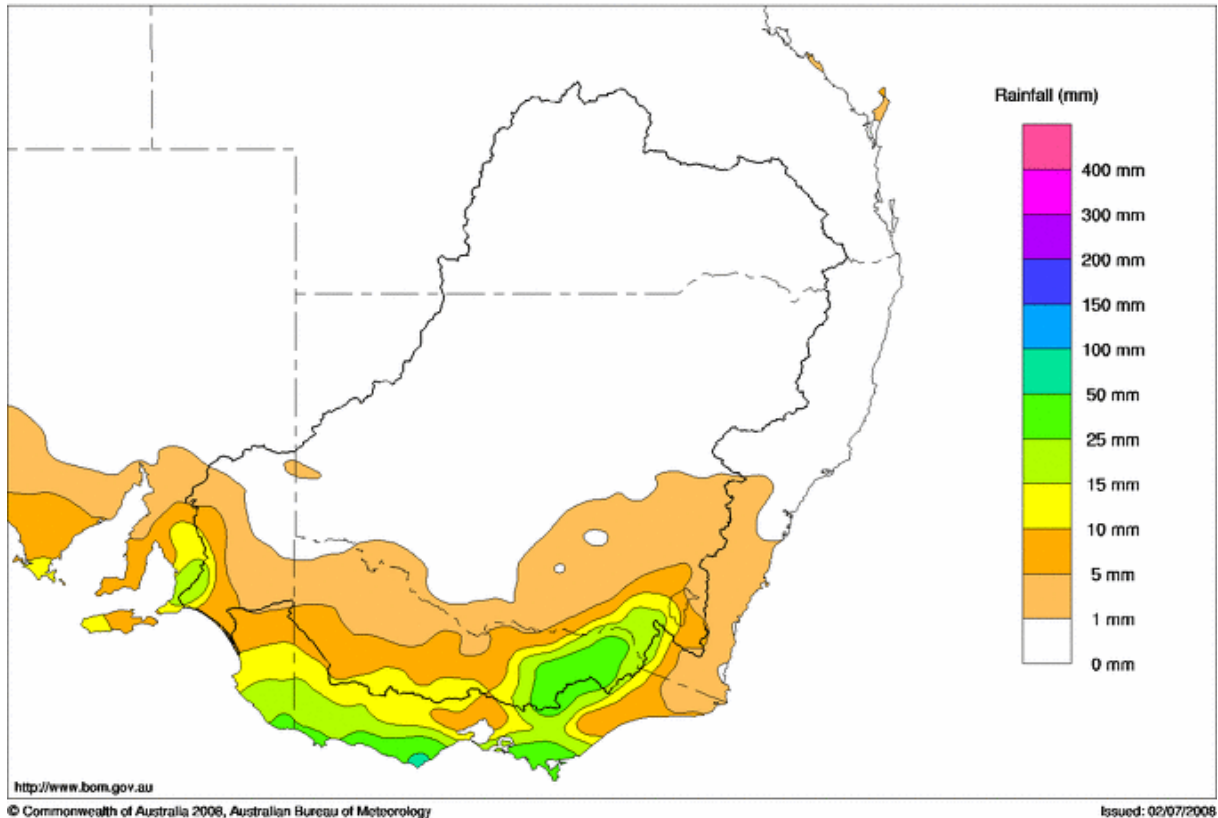
In South Australia, Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or above, Full Supply Level. The water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are both about -0.4 m AHD, or 40 cm below mean sea level. The emergency pumping from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert, which commenced in early May, is proving to be effective in managing the acidification risk in the short term (see attached Media Release). The pumping will continue until at least September this year, and is providing time for longer term management options to be assessed.

All three States have recently announced their opening season allocations and arrangements for access to water carried-over from last year. As expected, with water still quite scarce, opening allocations are zero or very small. Details can be found on the relevant State water authority websites which are listed on page 5.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

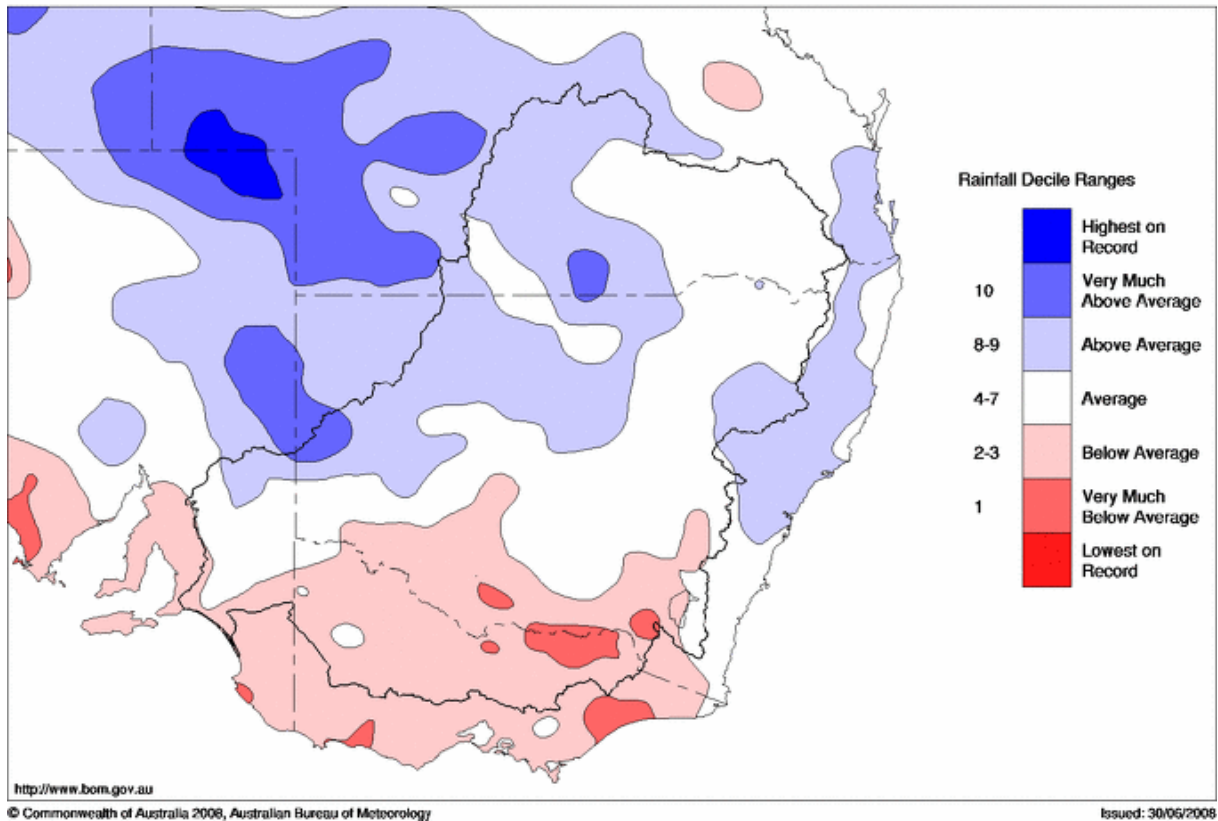
Map 1

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd July 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 2

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles June 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	411.68	697	18%	80	617	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.14	489	16%	30	459	+21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.58	302	45%	100	202	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		540	31%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 029	22%	--	1 279	+19

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 15%

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	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	609	37%	24	585	+20
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	480	14%	100	380	+10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Jul-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	132	-11	Snowy-Murray	+11	172
Snowy-Murray Component	205	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+4	21
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	7.0	151
			Murray 1 Release	+16	197

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	.0
Licensed Pumps	0.6	.2
Lower Darling	0.1	.0
TOTAL	0.9	.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	*
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.3	
TOTAL	3.3	1 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	109 *	(1 400 ML/day)
Flow this week	9.5	
Flow so far this month	3	
Flow last month	57	

* Reduced to approx. 45 GL during July drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	80	70	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	350	360	160
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	850
Lock 9	140	150	160
Lake Victoria	240	240	200
Berri	420	390	350
Waikerie	420	430	510
Morgan	440	440	550
Mannum	510	570	650
Murray Bridge	680	630	680
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 480	3 470	3 030
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 830	3 010	2 620
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 700	5 450	3 360
Goolwa Barrages	23 980	24 280	20 950



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	-	-	-	2 500	F	2 490	2 860
Jingellic	4.0	1.54	208.06	3 520	R	2 740	3 000
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.52	218.41	870	R	510	450
Heywoods	5.5	1.08	154.71	310	S	360	390
Doctors Point	5.5	1.37	149.84	870	R	1 000	860
Albury	4.3	0.56	148.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.37	126.39	1 030	R	1 000	950
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.31	115.35	1 780	F	1 800	2 260
Tocumwal	6.4	0.76	104.60	1 970	S	1 980	2 780
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.89	79.44	2 000	F	2 200	3 600
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 110	F	2 840	3 940
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.58	50.70	2 720	F	3 450	4 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.71	42.55	3 200	F	3 980	4 410
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 300	F	2 040	3 820
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.91	27.67	870	S	1 170	3 700
Rufus Junction	-	2.50	19.43	1 010	F	1 000	970
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.38	-	960	F	1 160	1 360
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.15	154.38	771	R	820	630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.85	145.53	529	R	540	670
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.08	92.50	326	S	320	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.40	80.17	160	F	270	350
Edward at Liewah	-	0.69	56.07	287	R	270	300
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.88	54.37	0	R	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.18	56.14	52	S	50	100
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	33	S	30	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	19	R	10	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	25	S	30	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 560	2 140
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-2.86	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.10	+0.17
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.02	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.09	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.12	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.40	-0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.15	+0.21
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.06	+0.27	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.49	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.51	-0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	-1.13

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.82	0.36	69.71	89.6
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.22	-0.14	61.16	79.843



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

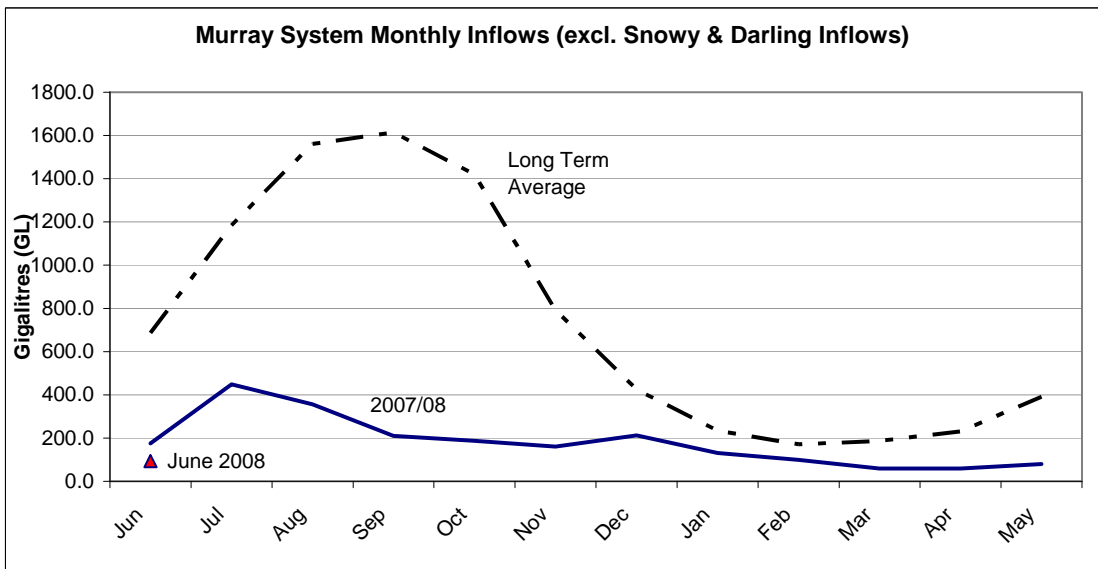
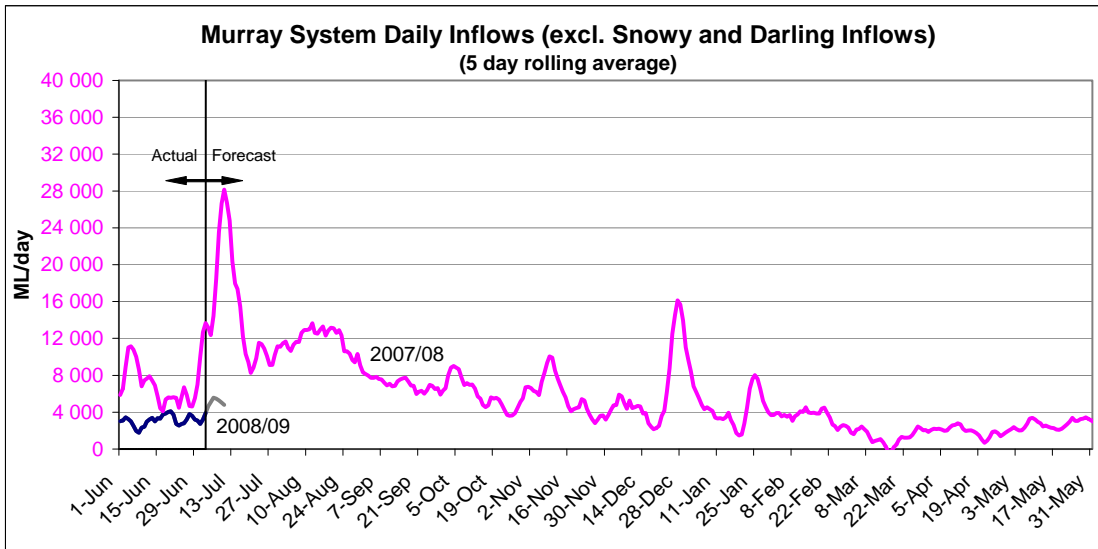
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.42

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.50	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.50	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 July 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	0%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	0%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	2%
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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

Wednesday, 2 July 2008

Emergency pumping at lower lakes is proving effective

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission today confirmed that the emergency measures being taken to avoid acidification in South Australia's Lower Lakes at the bottom of the Murray system are proving effective.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said scientific and technical advice was already showing that short term emergency pumping from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert is effectively managing acidification risks.

A program of emergency pumping from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert was directed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council earlier this year. It began on 2 May and will continue at least until September this year.

“Clearly the duration of such emergency measures will depend on rainfall and inflow conditions, but the measures are giving us time to assess longer term management options in the light of climate change and water availability assessments,” Dr Craik said.

“It also gives us time to assess impact of inflows in the coming winter/ spring period.

“Our latest scientific and technical advice is that, if needed, this pumping can be extended until Christmas, and even possibly until the spring next year.”

Dr Craik also confirmed that detailed evaluation and assessment of longer term management options was underway.

“All Basin Governments are aware that there is a very serious situation in the Lower Lakes that is a product of years of river regulation and the extreme drought conditions over the decade and they have endorsed the rigorous process already under way to thoroughly assess long term options,” Dr Craik said..

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