

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 June 2008

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6 June, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

The north of the Basin experienced some rain over the past week with widespread falls of between 25 to 50 mm. Evergreen, in Southern Queensland, received the greatest rainfall with 105 mm. Much more rain, however, would be required to have any significant impact on Darling River flows. Little or no rain was received across the south of the Basin however widespread rain is forecast next week.

May 2008 Summary

Below average rainfall has been observed in NSW and Queensland during May with central NSW receiving very much below average rainfall (*see map 2*). Eastern Victoria also experienced below average rainfall while south-eastern South Australia and western Victoria managed average rainfalls. The Bureau of Meteorology advises that across the Murray-Darling Basin the 3-month period from March to May 2008 was the fourth driest on record.

Below average rainfall has resulted in May inflows (excluding Darling inflows) of around 80 GL, significantly lower than the long term average of 390 GL and only marginally higher than the minimum of 75 GL that occurred in 1902. With catchments now in an extreme dry state, sustained heavy rain is needed over the coming months to significantly improve the outlook for this season. Total MDBC storage including Menindee Lakes increased by 130 GL during May to around 1 905 GL (20 % capacity).

River Operations

Release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased from 1 800 to around 4 000 ML/day over the past week resulting in the level of Lake Mulwala falling from 123.7 to around 123.3 m AHD. The increase in Yarrowonga release is aimed at boosting flow past Mildura Weir in mid-June. This will help mitigate an expected rise in salinity caused by the scheduled removal of Mildura Weir. If conditions remain dry, release from Yarrowonga Weir will be maintained at about the current level for another ten days before being gradually reduced back to 1 800 ML/day. In such circumstances the lake will fall to about 122.3m AHD, which should assist weed management by exposing weeds to frost.

Release from Stevens Weir has been increased from 250 to 300 ML/day to further boost flows past Mildura in mid-June. The pool level has decreased from 3.35 to 2.95 m AHD and will continue to be gradually lowered by NSW State Water over the coming weeks. Flow at the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has been increased to 100 and 60 ML/day respectively to limit the rate of drawdown of Stevens Weir to 15 cm/day.

The release from Torrumbarry Weir is currently about 2 100 ML/day and is expected to increase to around 3 500 ML/day during the coming week as the higher flows downstream of Yarrowonga Weir arrive. Euston release decreased from around 3 000 to 2 500 ML/day over the past week and will remain at around this level, or slightly higher, until mid-June when it will rise towards 4 000 ML/day.

Lake Victoria storage increased by 2 GL during the week, and is now at 272 GL (40% capacity). The flow to South Australia remains at 1 600 ML/day and continues to be adjusted to maintain weir pool levels close to FSL. Cooler weather and lower evaporative losses have resulted in a slight, but welcome, rise in the level of Lake Alexandrina from -0.5 to around -0.45 m AHD.

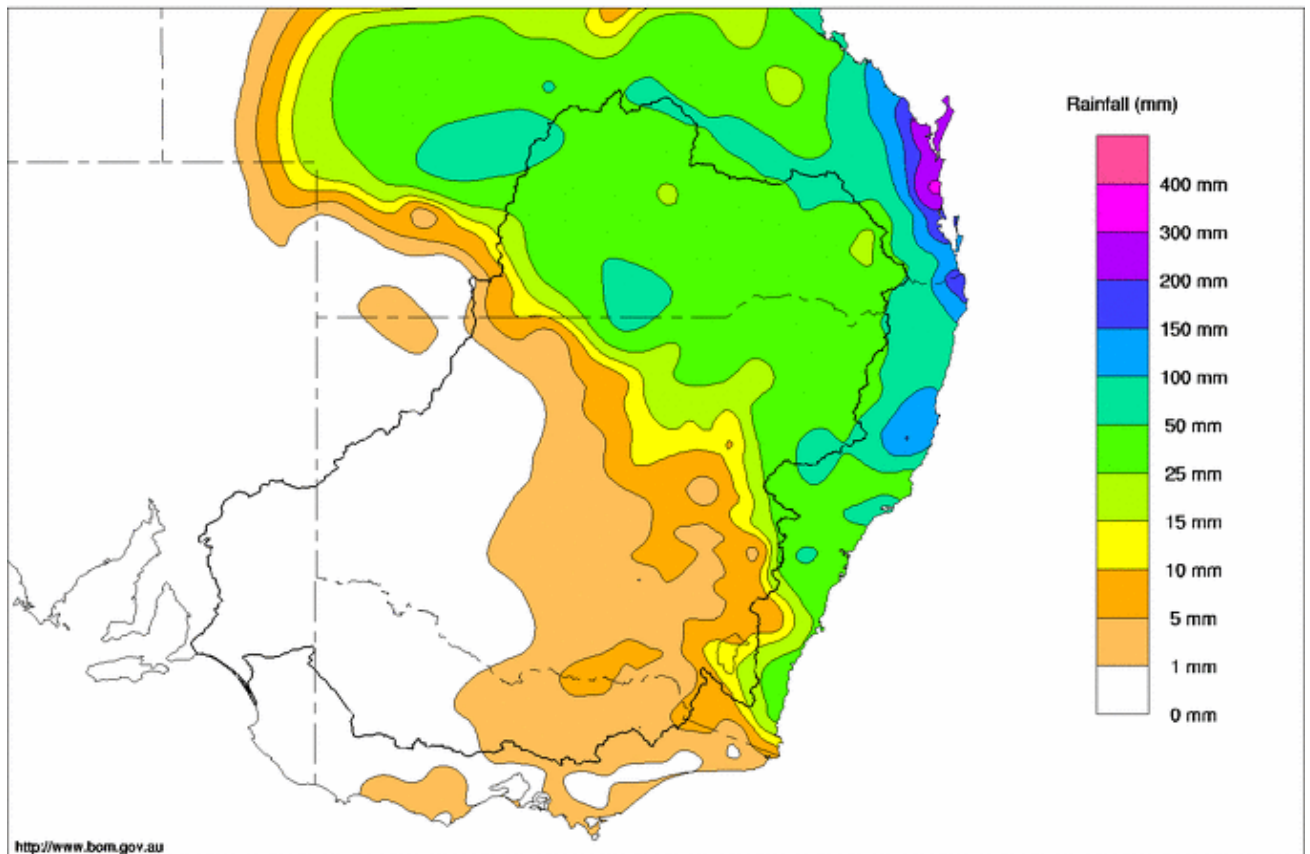
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th June 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre

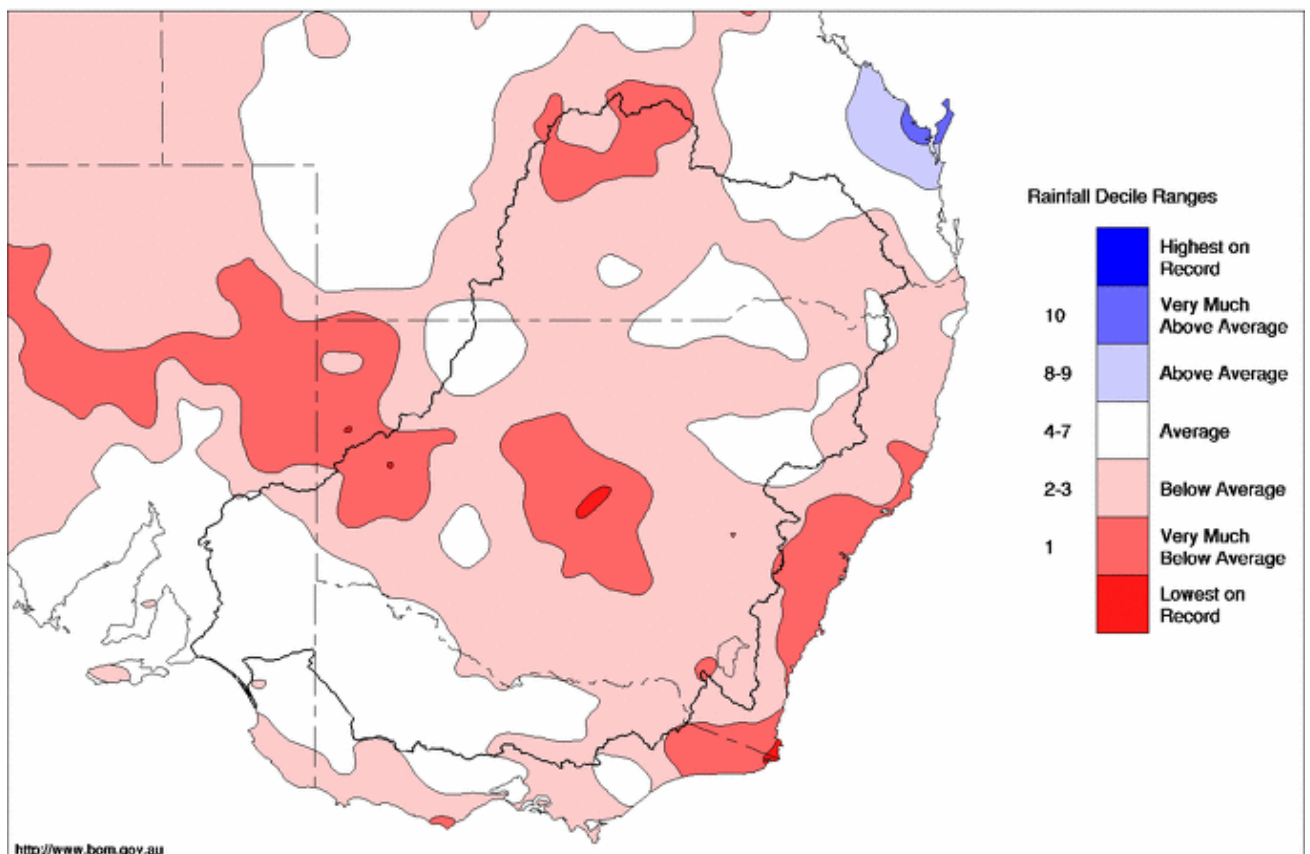


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Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles May 2008

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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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	411.23	687	18%	80	607	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.87	394	13%	30	364	+32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.27	272	40%	100	172	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		552	32%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		1 905	20%	--	1 143	+32

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **13%**

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	422	41%	3	419	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	537	33%	24	513	+33
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	452	13%	100	352	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Jun-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	194	-43	Snowy-Murray	+27	112
Snowy-Murray Component	246	+16	Tooma-Tumut	+3	10
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	24.6	102
			Murray 1 Release	+30	123

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .3	89.8
Wakool System loss	0.0	23.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	22.2
Licensed Pumps	0.8	86.2
Lower Darling	0.1	11.0
TOTAL	0.8	232.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	138
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	242
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.1	94 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.4	23
Licensed pumps - LMW	1.3	179
TOTAL	5.8	676 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90 *	
Flow this week	10.9	(1 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	6	
Flow last month	56	

* Reduced to approx. 48 GL during June drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	80	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	140	140	150
Burtundy (Darling)	310	300	890
Lock 9	270	270	160
Lake Victoria	240	240	200
Berri	360	340	350
Waikerie	390	380	520
Morgan	400	390	560
Mannum	610	610	660
Murray Bridge	670	700	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 480	3 470	2 980
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 180	3 050	2 580
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 480	5 480	3 160
Goolwa Barrages	21 130	21 020	20 800



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	-	-	-	5 660	R	4 280	4 170
Jingellic	4.0	1.73	208.25	4 980	R	4 480	4 140
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.27	218.16	390	S	380	410
Heywoods	5.5	1.18	154.81	530	R	450	430
Doctors Point	5.5	1.37	149.84	870	R	850	820
Albury	4.3	0.58	148.02	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.29	126.31	890	F	880	860
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.77	115.81	3 830	S	2 860	1 780
Tocumwal	6.4	1.22	105.06	3 820	R	2 300	1 750
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.94	79.49	2 150	R	2 050	2 140
Swan Hill	4.5	0.59	63.51	2 050	F	2 320	2 510
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.62	50.74	2 850	S	2 650	2 940
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.57	42.42	2 480	R	2 610	2 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	2 770	2 250
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	2 200	R	2 390	2 110
Rufus Junction	-	2.54	19.47	1 220	R	990	1 200
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.44	-	1 010	S	1 060	1 020
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	339	S	500	460
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.84	145.52	510	S	500	560
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	364	F	380	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.56	80.34	300	F	250	280
Edward at Liewah	-	0.94	56.32	451	F	460	480
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	54.38	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	183	F	190	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.04	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	34	S	30	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	79	R	50	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 980	1 810
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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	-1.52	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.07	+0.21
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.14	+0.56
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.13	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.10	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.24	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.27	+0.00	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-1.19

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.78	0.377	69.727	95
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.19	0.017	61.317	162



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

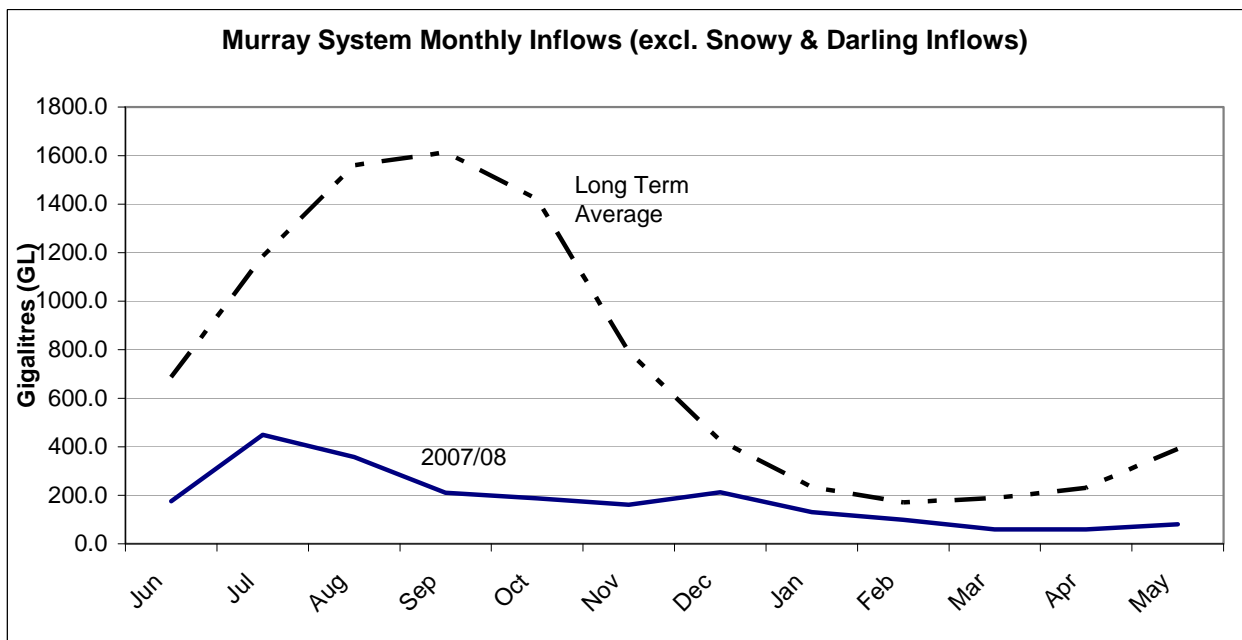
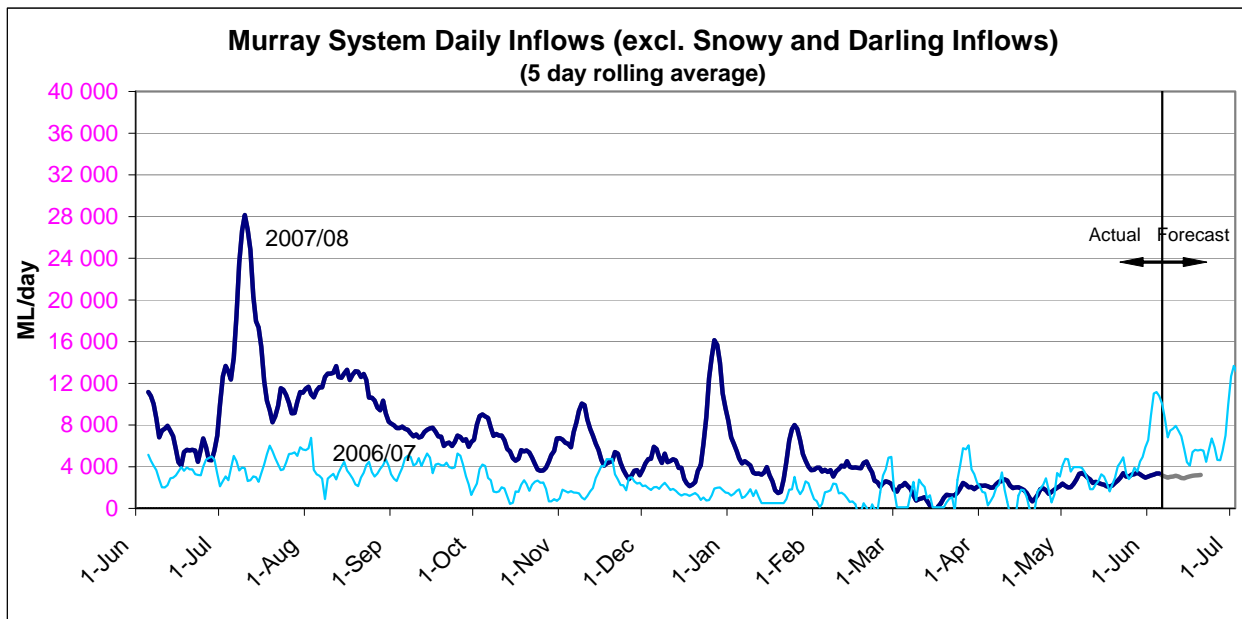
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.46

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.39	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.42	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 4th June 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>