

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 May 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, AS  
Trim Ref : 08/4443*

16 May, 2008



## ***Rainfall and inflows***

The dry weather has continued for another week with little or no rain recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). As a result of the dry autumn weather to date, daily inflows to the Murray system continue to track towards historic lows. Rain is forecast for most of the Basin during the coming week.

Total system storage (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 1 820 GL (or 19 %), which is higher than this time last year (983 GL) but well below the long term average for May of 5 300 GL. Total active storage under MDBC control (which currently excludes the water stored in Menindee Lakes) is only 1 040 GL (or 12% of capacity).

## ***River Operations***

The release from Hume Dam has been averaging about 600 ML/day, which combined with the inflow from the Kiewa River is providing about 800 ML/day at Doctors Point (near Albury), which is 400 ML below the normal minimum flow at this site.

Further downstream, the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced to the minimum of 1 800 ML/day. The level of Lake Mulwala is currently 123.8 m AHD (or 1.1 m below Full Supply Level) and, if inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers remain low, will continue to be gradually lowered during the coming week. The water from Lake Mulwala is being used to supply the last few weeks of diversions to Yarrawonga Main Channel and National Channel (near Torrumbarry). By the beginning of next week all diversions to the major irrigation channels will have finished.

At Torrumbarry Weir the release has been reduced from 1 800 to 1 400 ML/day which is the lowest it's been since May 2003. At Swan Hill the river level is steady at 0.55 m (local gauge height) which is slightly below the normal minimum of 0.6 m.

Further downstream, small inflows from the Edward River and Murrumbidgee River should supplement the flow in the Murray and allow the release from Euston Weir to remain steady at about 2 000 ML/day during the coming week. Flow in the lower Darling River at Burtundy is steady at 50 ML/day and Lake Victoria storage is currently 270 GL (or 40% capacity).

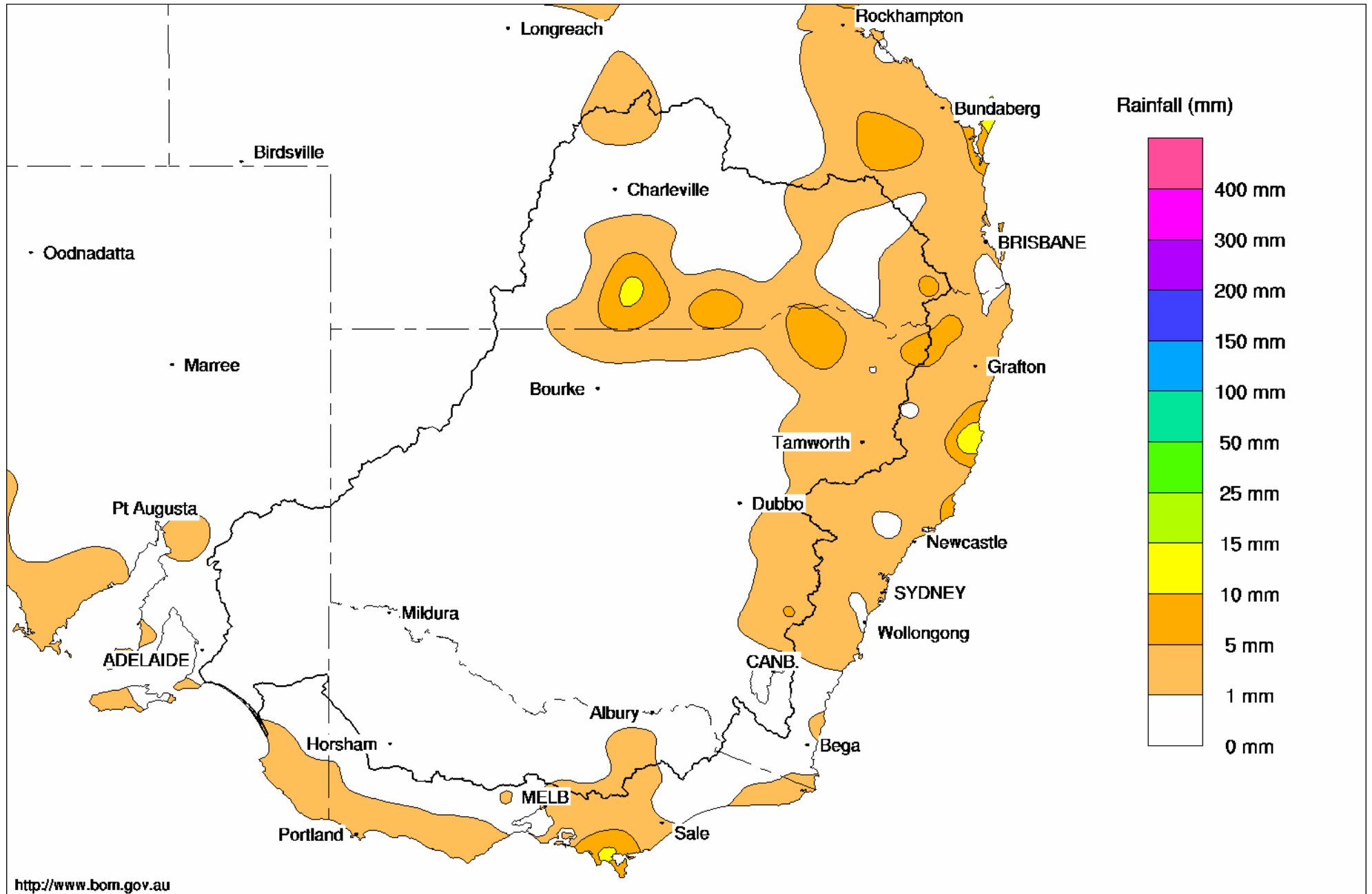
The cooler weather and lower evaporative losses has allowed the flow to South Australia to be reduced from 1 900 to 1 750 ML/day. Along the lower Murray, Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or above, full supply level.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.5 m AHD (or 50 cm below mean sea level) and the salinity at Meningie is steady at about 3 600 EC. Pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina to Lake Albert commenced in early May and is proceeding as planned. This will help maintain the water level in Lake Albert and prevent further exposure of sulfidic sediments.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th May 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

**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	410.92	680	17%	80	600	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.49	303	10%	30	273	+23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.23	268	40%	100	168	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		566	33%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 818</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 042</b>	<b>+19</b>

\* 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	422	41%	3	419	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	468	29%	24	444	+42
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	448	13%	100	348	-3

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-May-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	313	-33	Snowy-Murray	+20	39
Snowy-Murray Component	269	-21	Tooma-Tumut	+1	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	19.6	36
			Murray 1 Release	+30	47

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .7	90.9
Wakool System loss	0.5	21.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	21.9
Licensed Pumps	1.0	83.6
Lower Darling	0.2	10.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>228.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.8	138
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.6	241
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	92 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.2	17
Licensed pumps - LMW	2.3	173
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>661 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	93 *	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	12.9	
Flow so far this month	27	
Flow last month	74	

\* Reduced to approx. 60 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	70	70	90
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	200	230	150
Burtundy (Darling)	300	300	860
Lock 9	230	210	150
Lake Victoria	240	230	190
Berri	340	320	350
Waikerie	350	360	530
Morgan	400	390	570
Mannum	650	630	660
Murray Bridge	790	770	680
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 620	3 640	2 940
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 170	2 920	2 540
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 150
Goolwa Barrages	22 570	24 160	20 660



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	5 310	F	4 320	3 420
Jingellic	4.0	1.83	208.35	5 780	R	3 840	4 210
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.26	218.15	380	S	380	390
Heywoods	5.5	1.24	154.87	670	R	570	730
Doctors Point	5.5	1.36	149.83	860	R	820	1 390
Albury	4.3	0.56	148.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.31	126.33	930	S	1 110	1 430
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.30	115.34	1 780	S	2 020	2 790
Tocumwal	6.4	0.76	104.60	1 810	F	2 250	2 970
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.72	79.27	1 450	R	1 490	1 930
Swan Hill	4.5	0.56	63.48	1 810	R	1 950	2 120
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.45	50.57	2 330	F	2 510	2 400
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.49	42.33	2 100	F	2 470	2 410
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 680	F	2 380	2 820
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	1 980	R	1 950	2 270
Rufus Junction	-	2.57	19.50	1 550	R	1 250	1 300
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.50	-	1 010	F	1 030	1 000
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	249	F	320	770
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.75	145.43	359	F	390	400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	339	S	370	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.66	80.44	400	F	340	690
Edward at Liewah	-	1.36	56.74	748	R	730	550
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.90	54.39	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	198	S	200	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.12	-	-	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	25	S	30	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	S	60	70

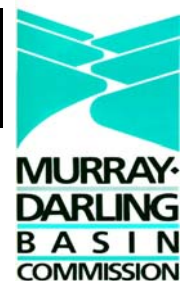
<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 040	2 090
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-1.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+0.24
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.17
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.12	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-1.25

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.39	0.502	69.852	170
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.05	0.097	61.397	220



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

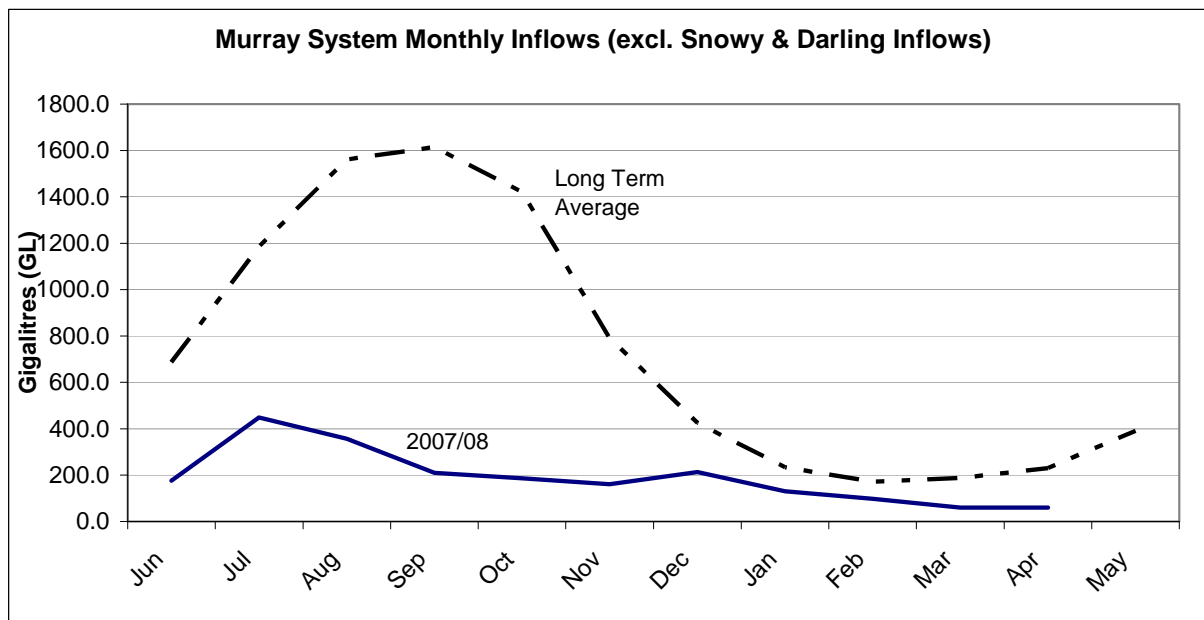
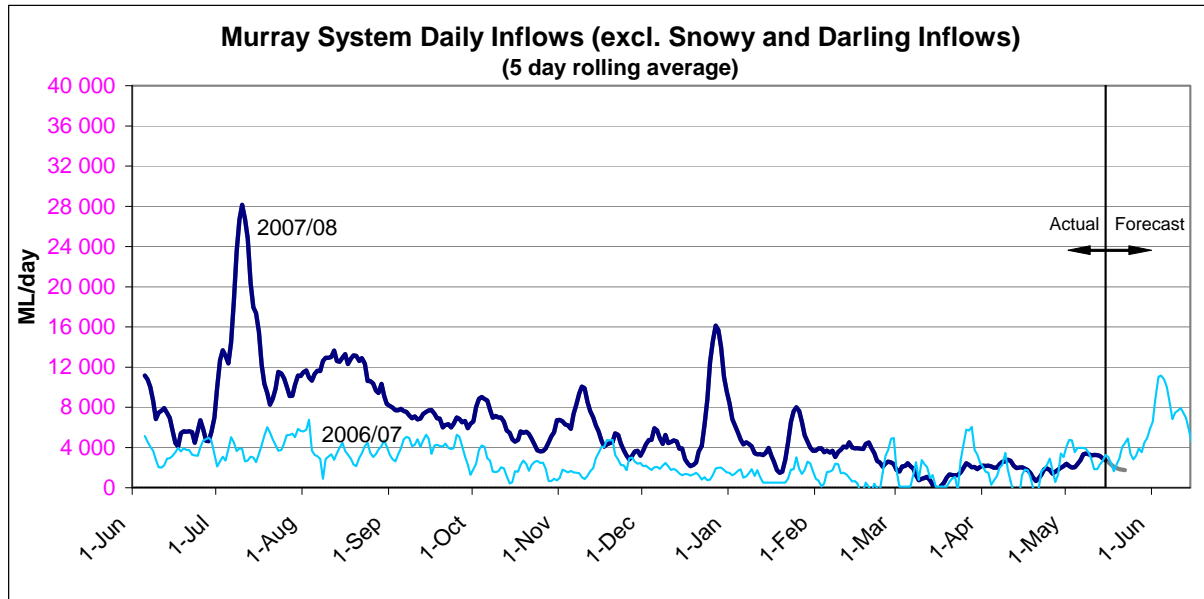
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.49

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.37	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.48	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 14th May 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](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>