

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS  
Trim Ref : 08/10871*

17 October, 2008



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

Over the past week the best falls of rain were across the eastern part of the Basin, with central Queensland and the eastern highlands in NSW receiving between 25 to 50 mm (see map). Mitchell in central Queensland received the greatest fall of 70 mm. In contrast, the western Basin was dry apart from some light falls up to 10 mm in the Murray Mouth area. Victoria also received very little rain with 1 to 10 mm falling in the Victorian Alps. The rain had little effect on streamflows in the Murray and its tributaries, which continue to steadily recede after the peak flows recorded in early September. If the weather remains dry over the coming week, inflows will continue to recede.

## ***River Operations***

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 8 GL to a total of 858 GL (or 22 % of capacity) and release remains steady at 200 ML/day. The release from Hume Dam has been increased from 4 300 ML/day to 5 100 ML/day to supplement reducing inflows from the Kiewa River. Flow at Doctors Point near Albury remains steady at 6 000 ML/day. The increase in release from Hume Dam, coupled with low system inflows, has resulted in Hume storage decreasing by around 3 GL to 1 063 GL (or 35 % capacity). This is the first time that Hume Reservoir has experienced a decrease in storage volume since April this year. Unless there are significant improvements in system inflows Hume storage will continue to reduce as it is drawn down to supply the Murray system over the coming months.

The water level in Lake Mulwala has been increased by a further 11 cm to 124.61 m AHD (29 cm below Full Supply Level) and will approach 124.7 m AHD over the next few weeks if it stays dry. The level of 124.7 m AHD is close to the lower bound of Lake Mulwala's normal summer operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD).

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been held steady at 4 300 ML/day. The water being delivered by NSW to the Wakool River, Niemur River and Merran Creek is slowly moving downstream and has now reached the Barham-Moulamein Rd on the Niemur River, the Wakool-Barham Rd on the Wakool River and Waddy Cutting on the Merran Creek. The flows are expected to reach Stoney Crossing (at the end of the river system) within the next couple of weeks.

The release from Menindee Lakes remains steady at around 4 000 ML/day and is now arriving at the Murray, increasing the flow at Wentworth over the past week from 2 000 to 3 500 ML/day. The flow at Wentworth is expected to reach around 5 200 ML/day by late October. Salinity at Burtundy remains steady at around 360 EC. After combining with the fresher water in the Murray, the salinity downstream of Wentworth Weir is not expected to exceed 300 EC (it is currently 185 EC).

Flow to South Australia has been increased from 3 400 to 3 600 ML/day in order to maintain Lock and Weirs 1 to 6 at their Full Supply Levels, as well as to maintain a flow past Lock 1 of around 2 000 ML/day. The lock at Lock and Weir 5 at Paringa has been re-opened after three months of maintenance works (see attached media release). The lock at Lock and Weir 10 has been re-opened ahead of schedule. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has remained steady at around -0.27 m AHD and is expected to gradually fall over the coming months as evaporative losses increase.

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

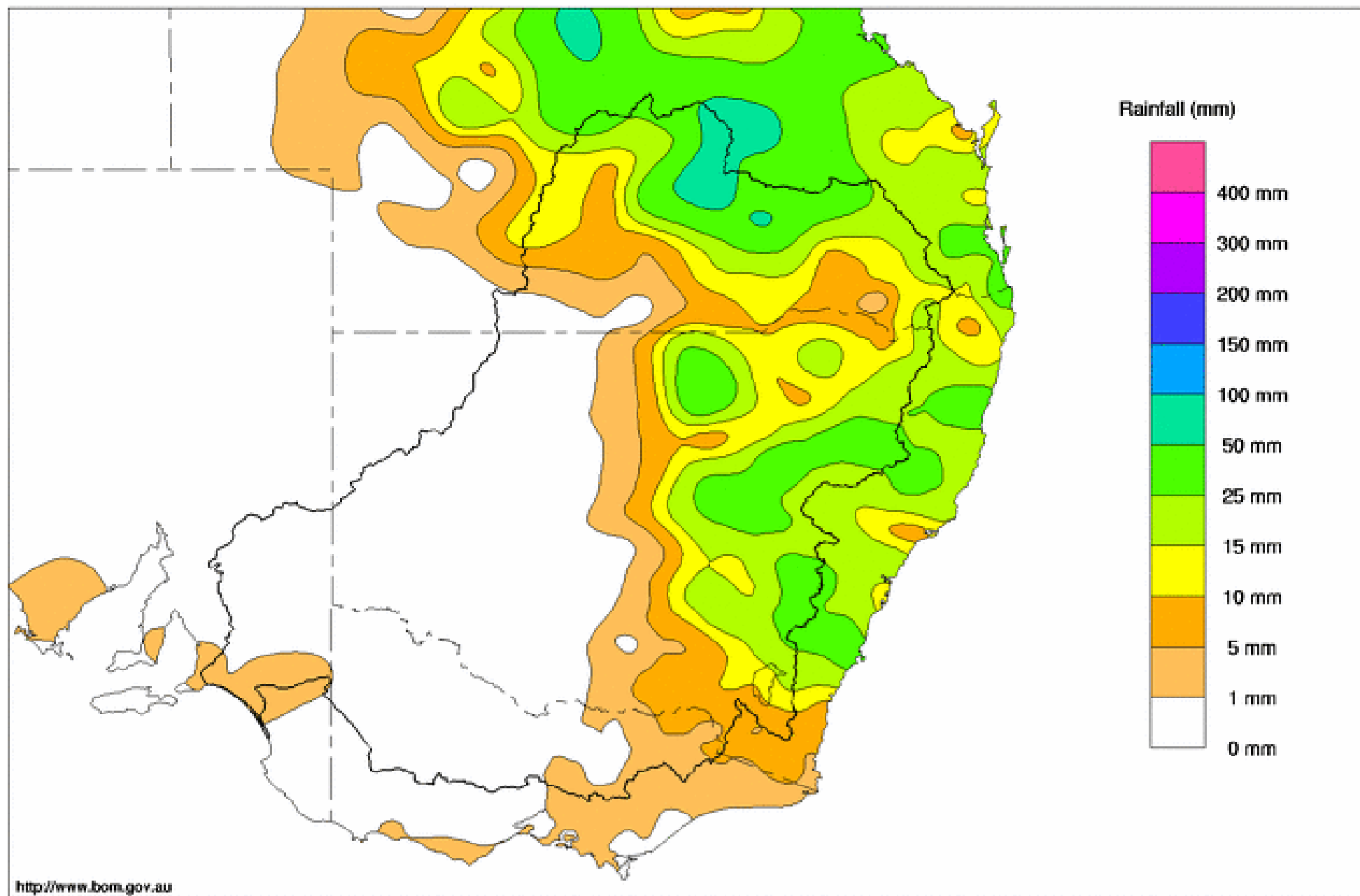
DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

*Murray-Darling Basin Commission ♦ 51 Allara Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601 1  
Switchboard 02-6279 0100; Weekly Report Enquiries 02-6279 0126, Facsimile 02-6230 6005  
Internet : [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)*

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th October 2008

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	418.30	858	22%	80	778	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.18	1 063	35%	30	1 033	-2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.20	266	39%	100	166	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		419	24%	(- -) #	0	-34
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 606</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 977</b>	<b>-39</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **23%**

# 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		502	49%	3	499	-8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		779	48%	24	755	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		781	23%	100	681	-4

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Oct-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	616	+25	Snowy-Murray	+7	323
Snowy-Murray Component	331	+10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	150
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	6.9	173
			Murray 1 Release	+13	479

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.0	38.6	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.2	25
Wakool System loss	1.0	1.9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.7	31
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	2.7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.9	14
Licensed Pumps	3.1	14.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	2
Lower Darling	0.2	1.5	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>74</b>

\* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	170 *	
Flow this week	24.3	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	51	
Flow last month	77	

\* Reduced to approx. 107 GL during October drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	80	80	80
Euston	80	70	80
Red Cliffs	140	130	130
Merbein	120	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	360	370	380
Lock 9	140	140	180
Lake Victoria	250	240	240
Berri	350	350	420
Waikerie	550	550	530
Morgan	600	600	540
Mannum	490	540	510
Murray Bridge	540	530	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 850	3 810	3 590
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 300	3 420	3 160
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 200	5 160	5 060
Goolwa Barrages	17 250	16 070	17 190



**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	-	-	-	3 160	R	2 310	3 580
Jingellic	4.0	1.65	208.17	4 410	R	4 050	6 120
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.36	218.25	420	F	480	700
Heywoods	5.5	1.99	155.62	5 150	S	4 730	4 210
Doctors Point	5.5	2.25	150.72	6 320	R	6 120	6 120
Albury	4.3	1.22	148.66	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.56	127.58	5 430	S	5 350	5 370
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.85	115.89	4 290	S	4 280	4 450
Tocumwal	6.4	1.27	105.11	4 320	S	4 300	4 600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.56	80.11	4 350	R	3 250	3 270
Swan Hill	4.5	0.73	63.65	2 860	F	2 940	2 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.67	50.79	3 090	F	3 140	2 770
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.61	42.45	2 750	R	2 730	2 410
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 830	F	1 560	1 560
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 570	R	2 720	1 590
Rufus Junction	-	2.92	19.85	3 260	R	3 020	2 910
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.13	-	1 850	S	1 890	1 850
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.37	154.60	1 100	R	1 440	1 960
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.10	145.78	1 113	R	1 190	1 520
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.05	92.47	256	F	260	270
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.58	80.35	320	F	320	430
Edward at Liewah	-	0.91	56.29	401	F	430	360
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.78	54.27	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.32	56.28	119	R	110	120
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.12	-	-	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.04	-	156	S	170	110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.00	-	3 245	R	2 540	940

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 040	11 200
---	-------	--------

**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	-0.29	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.13	+0.62
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.05	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	-0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	-0.88

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.48	0.654	70.004	292
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.22	0.03	61.33	175.733



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

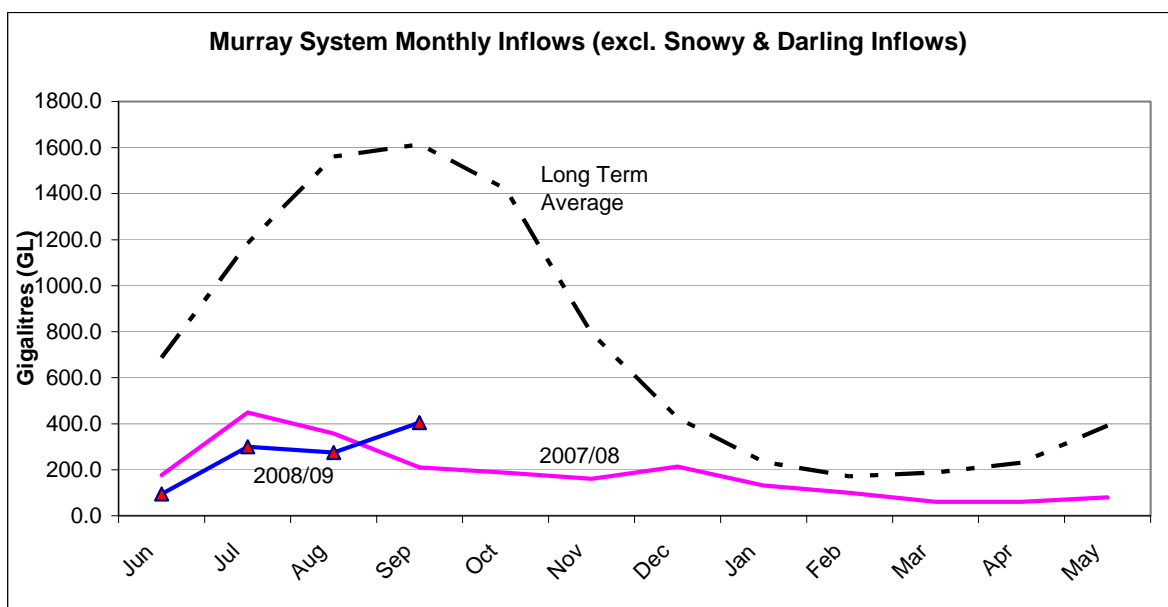
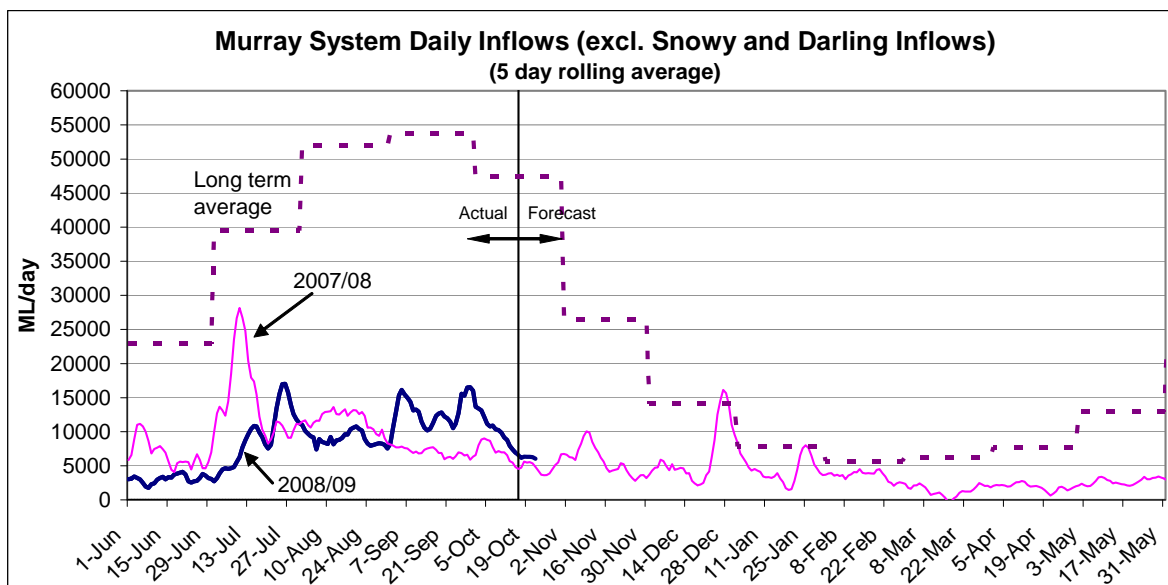
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.28

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.23	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.30	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 8th October 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	95%
General security	2%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	17%
------------------	-----

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	9%

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	12%
------------------	-----

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	20%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation (on 1st Nov)	15%
------------------------------------	-----



- NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr\\_toc\\_currnr.html](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html)
- VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
- SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>

15 October, 2008

### Paringa's Lock 5 to re-open

Murray River users will be able to pass through Lock 5 at Paringa in South Australia again when it re-opens today (Wednesday, 15 October) after three months of vital maintenance works.

SA Water has undertaken the work on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC).

MDBC Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the lock was closed in July as part of a six-year maintenance program on all of the locks along the river.

Lock 10 at Wentworth which closed in May this year for similar refurbishment will re-open to boat navigation the week beginning 27 October.

“We chose this time of year for both locks as it is the quietest period for tourist craft, the main users of the river,” Dr Craik said.”

Works carried out on Lock 5 included:

- constructing temporary dams on the upstream and downstream ends of the lock chamber;
- emptying the lock chamber of water;
- inspecting and repainting the lock chamber gates;
- replacing the 12 large valves which control the flow of water into and out of the lock chamber; and
- inspection of the chamber floor and undertaking any repairs on components which would normally be submerged.

Dr Craik said this was the first time the lock chambers at Lock 5 had been emptied since 1965 when the wooden gates were replaced with steel.

“The empty locks allowed SA Water to do a comprehensive inspection of the underwater components,” Dr Craik said.

“The works have not had any impact on the water levels in the adjacent weir pools.”

SA Water will advise local councils, visitor centres, boating associations, boat hire companies and registered owners of houseboats in the area likely to be affected by the reopening.

“With these major works done, the lock will be in top operating condition for decades to come,” Dr Craik said.

The next lock scheduled for maintenance is Lock 1 at Blanchetown and it is anticipated work will begin at the end of January 2009. The public will be notified prior to the closure of the lock.

**Media contact: MDBC, Sam Leone, Phone: 0407 006 332**

Trim ref: 08/10869