

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 March 2008



Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, ms
Trim Ref : 08/2868

20 March, 2008

Rainfall and inflows

Virtually no rain fell across the Murray-Darling Basin this week and temperatures in the southern half were more than 6°C above average (*see attached rainfall and temperature maps*). Temperatures along the Murray in Sunraysia and South Australia reached into the low 40's with Renmark in South Australia averaging a maximum of 39°C over the past week.

With the unseasonal hot and dry conditions tributary inflows in the upper Murray have continued to recede and are now close to the record low levels observed this time a year ago (*see attached graph*). Significant falls of rain will be required over coming months to wet the catchments and generate improved inflows.

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir continues at close to minimum rates to target a flow of 600 ML/day at Tallandoon. Low inflows and high temperatures have resulted in the storage volume falling by 2 GL to 679 GL. Release from Hume Reservoir has been increased, boosting flow at Albury/Wodonga from 6 500 to 8 500 ML/day, to maintain Lake Mulwala in the current target range of 124.2 to 124.5 m AHD. Hume storage volume fell by 23 GL to 348 GL (11% of capacity).

The high temperatures of the last two weeks have resulted in increased river losses and diversions along the length of the Murray. A number of operational measures, including the temporary lowering of weirpools and delivery of water from the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade account, have been implemented to maintain river flows and meet water demands. Additional water being released by NSW from Menindee Lakes will also assist when it arrives in the Murray next week.

Release from Lake Mulwala was increased from 5 000 to 6 500 ML/day to meet the higher requirements downstream. The Lake fell by 7 cm over the past week to 124.30 m AHD (60 cm below Full Supply Level) and is expected to remain at about this level as the higher flows from Hume arrive (*see media release attached*).

Torrumbarry and Euston Weir pools are being gradually lowered to boost downstream flows, with Euston lowered to around 47.40 m AHD (20 cm below FSL). These weirs continue to be drawn down but are expected to have levelled out by the Easter weekend as the higher flows arrive from upstream.

Flow at Redbank Weir on the Murrumbidgee River has been increased with Balranald flow rising from 200 to 400 ML/day. Flow at Balranald is expected to return to 200 ML/day next week. Flow at Weir 32, downstream of Menindee Lakes, has been increased from 400 to around 1 800 ML/day with higher flows expected to reach Burtundy early next week.

Flows in the Murray in Sunraysia have dropped markedly over the past week. Flow at Lock 9 reduced from 1 200 to 500 ML/day and at Lock 8 it reduced from 1 400 to 500 ML/day. Operations over the Easter period will aim to maintain weirpool levels between Mildura and Lock 7 as close as possible to current levels. However, depending on river loss and water demand conditions it is possible weirpools may need to be lowered by small amounts until higher flows arrive from up river next week.

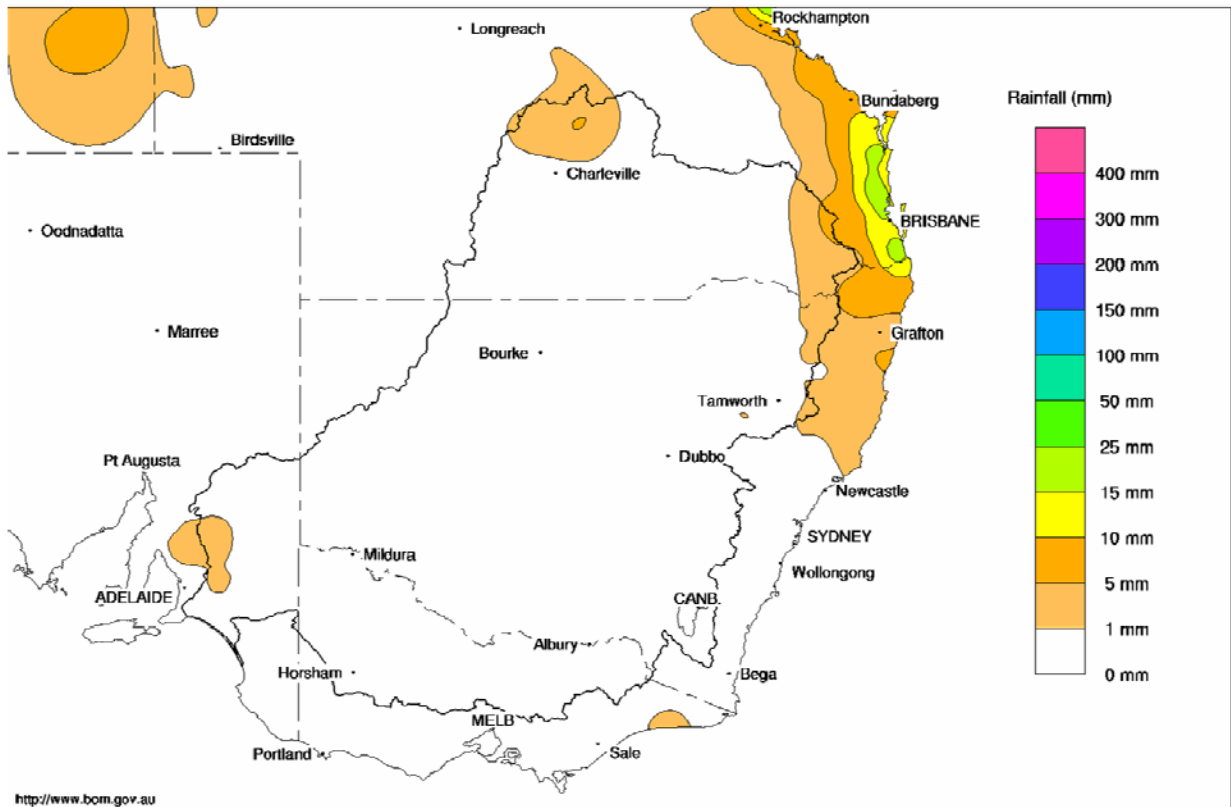
Flow to South Australia has been increased from 3 500 to 3 800 ML/day in order to maintain weir pools below Lock 7 close to Full Supply Level. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about -0.45 m AHD (or 45 cm below mean sea level) and continues to gradually fall.

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th March 2008

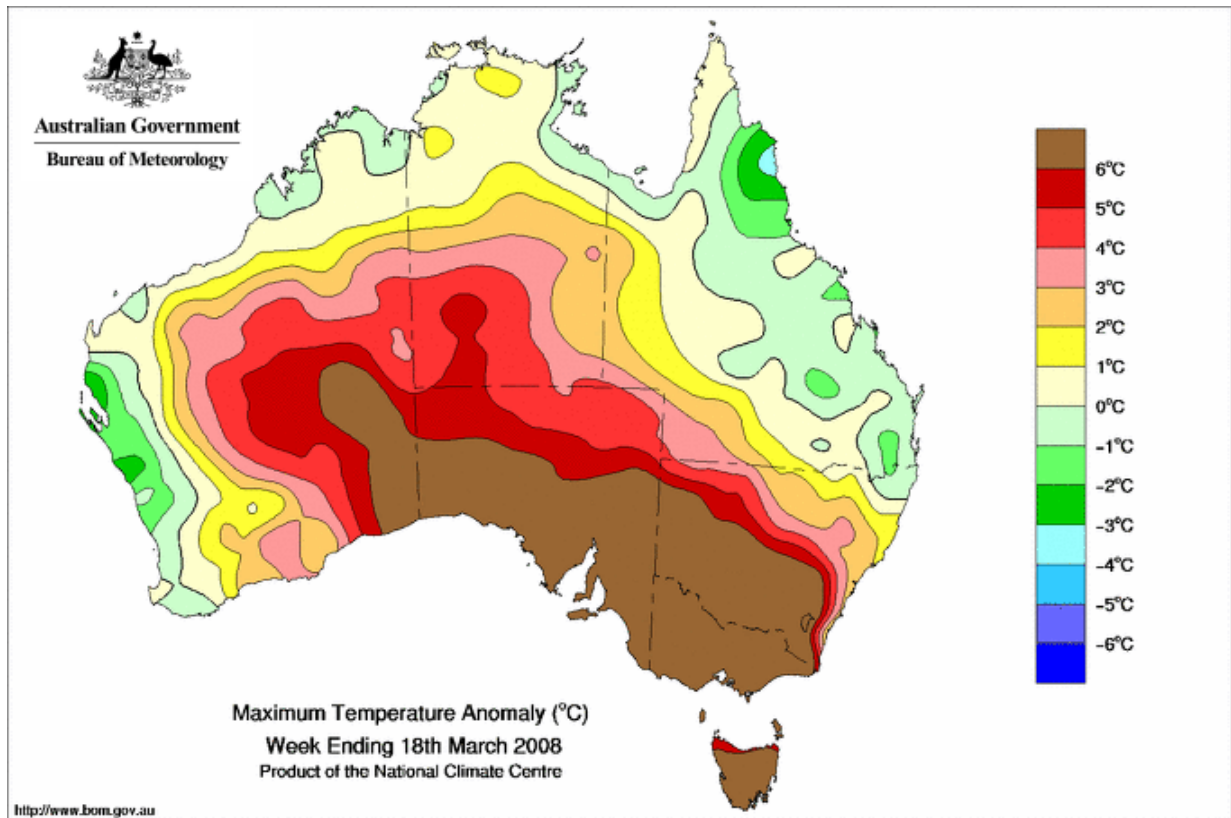
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 19/03/2008



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

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 19/03/2008

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	410.85	679	17%	80	599	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.20	348	11%	30	318	-24
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.80	324	48%	100	224	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		590	34%	(- -) #	0	+49
Total		9 352		1 941	21%	--	1 141	-2

* 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	427	42%	3	424	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	478	29%	24	454	+37
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	542	16%	100	442	-36

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Mar-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	498	-45	Snowy-Murray	+30	378
Snowy-Murray Component	388	-30	Tooma-Tumut	+1	151
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	28.8	227
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

* please note that some SnowyHydro data was not supplied.

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.5	71.3
Wakool System loss	0.0	17.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	19.3
Licensed Pumps	3.2	68.8
Lower Darling	0.3	9.2
TOTAL	7.8	186.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	5.6	72
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.2	148
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	83 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	10
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	149
TOTAL	24.5	462 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186 *	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	26.1	
Flow so far this month	66	
Flow last month	113	

* Reduced to approx. 112 GL during March drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	120	110	90
Euston	200	190	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	140	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	400	380	1 000
Lock 9	140	140	150
Lake Victoria	230	220	180
Berri	300	270	360
Waikerie	390	390	560
Morgan	450	450	610
Mannum	860	860	640
Murray Bridge	980	980	650
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 500	3 500	2 780
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 320	2 900	2 410
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 150
Goolwa Barrages	26 630	25 900	18 440



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	-	-	-	4 980	F	5 220	2 300
Jingellic	4.0	1.69	208.21	4 650	F	4 620	1 470
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	610	R	600	620
Heywoods	5.5	2.33	155.96	7 690	S	7 270	6 110
Doctors Point	5.5	2.50	150.97	8 890	R	8 220	6 670
Albury	4.3	1.50	148.94	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.96	127.98	7 790	R	6 790	6 140
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.21	116.25	6 590	R	5 950	4 990
Tocumwal	6.4	1.57	105.41	5 710	S	5 390	4 860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.28	79.83	3 170	F	2 960	2 710
Swan Hill	4.5	0.72	63.64	2 790	S	2 720	2 930
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.62	50.74	2 880	R	2 880	3 370
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.60	42.45	2 620	R	2 600	3 140
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 100	F	1 880	2 540
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.72	27.48	1 390	R	1 370	2 010
Rufus Junction	-	2.96	19.89	3 570	S	3 340	2 850
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.38	-	1 220	R	1 270	1 150
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.29	154.52	1 036	R	720	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.63	145.31	185	R	190	180
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	385	S	380	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.67	80.44	400	S	450	500
Edward at Liewah	-	1.01	56.39	488	R	470	520
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.13	54.62	46	F	80	130
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.65	56.61	363	R	230	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	118	S	170	560
Darling at Bourke	-	4.26	-	1 195	F	1 340	4 270
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	89	F	140	410

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)		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	-0.60	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.08	+0.64
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.19	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.20	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.08	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.23	+0.03	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-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	-3.07	0.46	69.81	146
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.90	0.525	61.825	660



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

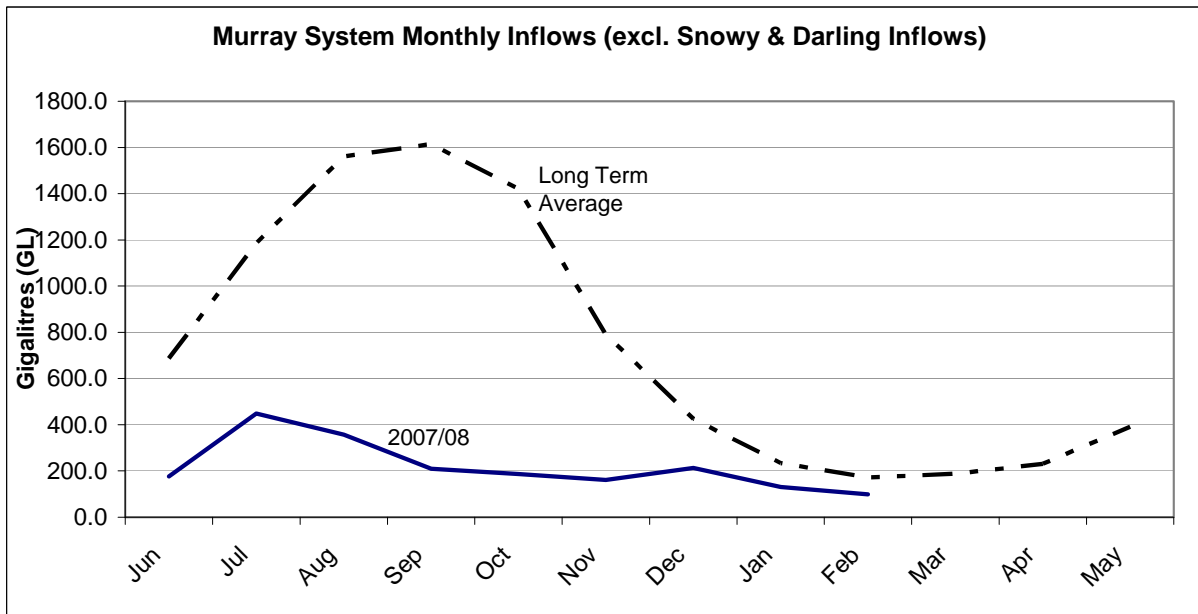
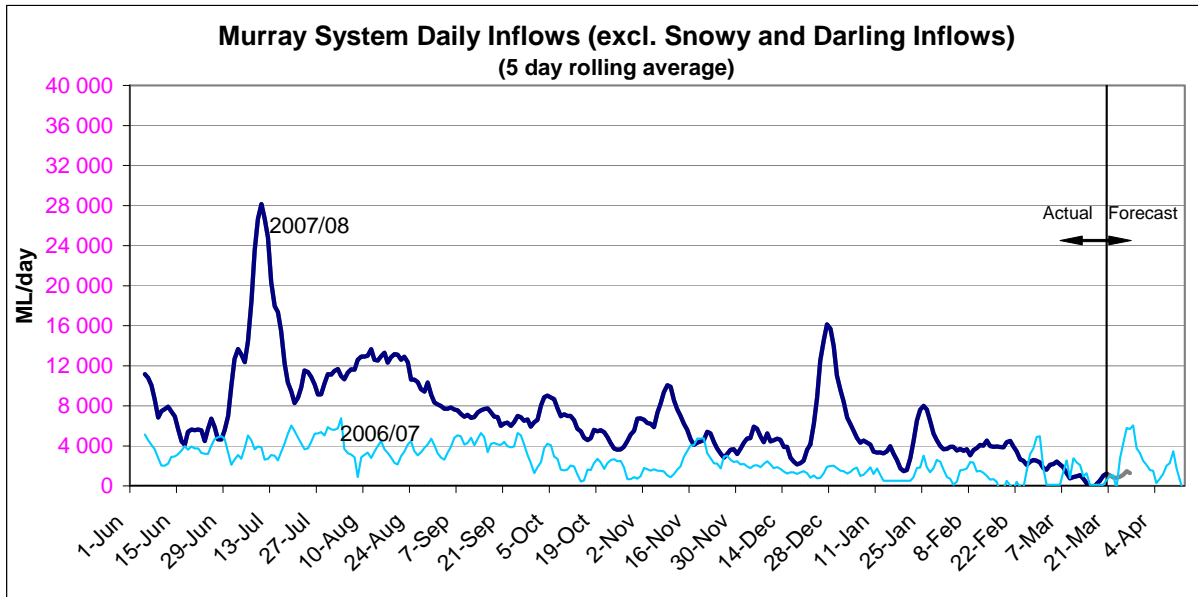
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.45

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.36	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.40	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 19th Mar 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	100%
High security	0%
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%
------------------	-----

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	55%
------------------	-----

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
-----------------------	-----



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 19 March 2008

LAKE MULWALA STEADY FOR EASTER

Murray-Darling Basin Commission Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik advised today that the level of Lake Mulwala will remain fairly steady over Easter.

“Lake Mulwala levels will remain within the current target range of 124.2 and 124.5 m AHD (70 to 40 cm below Full Supply Level of 124.9 m AHD) over Easter” Dr Craik said.

With water availability at record low levels and inflows again falling, it remains critical that operations maximise water stored in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs.

“These operations at Lake Mulwala and at other weirs downstream are important in improving the water availability for this season and next. We understand the impacts to local communities and thank them for their support in these critical times”.

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission will continually review its river operational plans, taking into account emerging conditions. Further details will be provided over coming weeks and flow forecasts can be obtained at http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river_information_centre.

**Media contact: Sam Leone, MDBC Media Liaison Manager, Phone: 0407 006 332
Ref:08/2804**