

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 June 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS  
Trim Ref : 08/5376*

20 June, 2008



## **Rainfall and Inflows**

Rain was recorded along the Great Dividing Range from Victoria to northern NSW this week. The upper Murray catchments received the heaviest falls with Mt Buffalo in the upper northeast of Victoria receiving 38 mm. Little or no rain fell across the west of the Basin (see map 1).

Murray inflows for June are tracking well below average and currently total around 60 GL. Without further significant and sustained rainfall inflows for June could be even lower than the record minimum (110 GL) observed in 2006.

## **River Operations**

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has remained at the minimum rate of 200 ML/day and storage increased by 5 GL to 691 GL (18% capacity). Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by around 20 GL to 447 GL (15% capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (near Albury/Wodonga) rose to around 1 300 ML/day – barely more than the normal minimum – during the week due to the rain across the Kiewa River catchment. The flow at Doctors Point is now back around the current target minimum of 800 ML/day.

Yarrowonga Weir release has been decreased from 4 000 to 3 000 ML/day over the past week with the lake level lowered by a further 60 cm to 122.2 m AHD. Release will be gradually lowered to 1 800 ML/day next week thereby bringing to an end the higher releases made to mitigate salinity impacts of works at Mildura Weir. Lake Mulwala will be maintained at about 122 m AHD until early July before being gradually raised in preparation for the new irrigation season.

Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River has been lowered by NSW State Water from 2.3 to 1.4 m local gauge height over the past week. It is expected that the weir gates will be fully removed by this time next week permitting the free passage of fish. Torrumbarry Weir is at Full Supply Level but may be temporarily partially lowered in coming weeks in order to supplement flows downstream of Mildura. Details will be provided in due course should the need to draw upon Torrumbarry Weir become necessary.

Euston Weir pool is currently being lowered by 3 cm/day as a short term measure to boost river flows at Mildura. At this stage it is expected that the level will remain within 0.3 m of FSL and further advice on pool operations will be provided next week.

Flow to South Australia was reduced from 1 650 to 1 450 ML/day but was temporarily boosted on Tuesday to enable the passage of M.V. Maratata (a maintenance vessel operated by SA Water) downstream from Lock 7 to undertake important maintenance works at Lock 5. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at about -0.45 m AHD (or 45cm below mean sea level).

## **Mildura Weir pool drawdown**

Lowering of the Mildura Weir pool commenced on 11 June (34.4 m AHD) and is now drawn down fully (30.1 m AHD). River levels are expected to stay at about this level over the coming week to permit trestle refurbishment and replacement. River salinity downstream of Mildura Weir has increased from around 120 to 300 EC and is expected to rise further next week (see media release attached). If necessary, additional water may be released from both Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs in the coming weeks to help mitigate the rise in river salinity. Further information on this will be provided as necessary over the coming weeks.

DAVID DREVERMAN

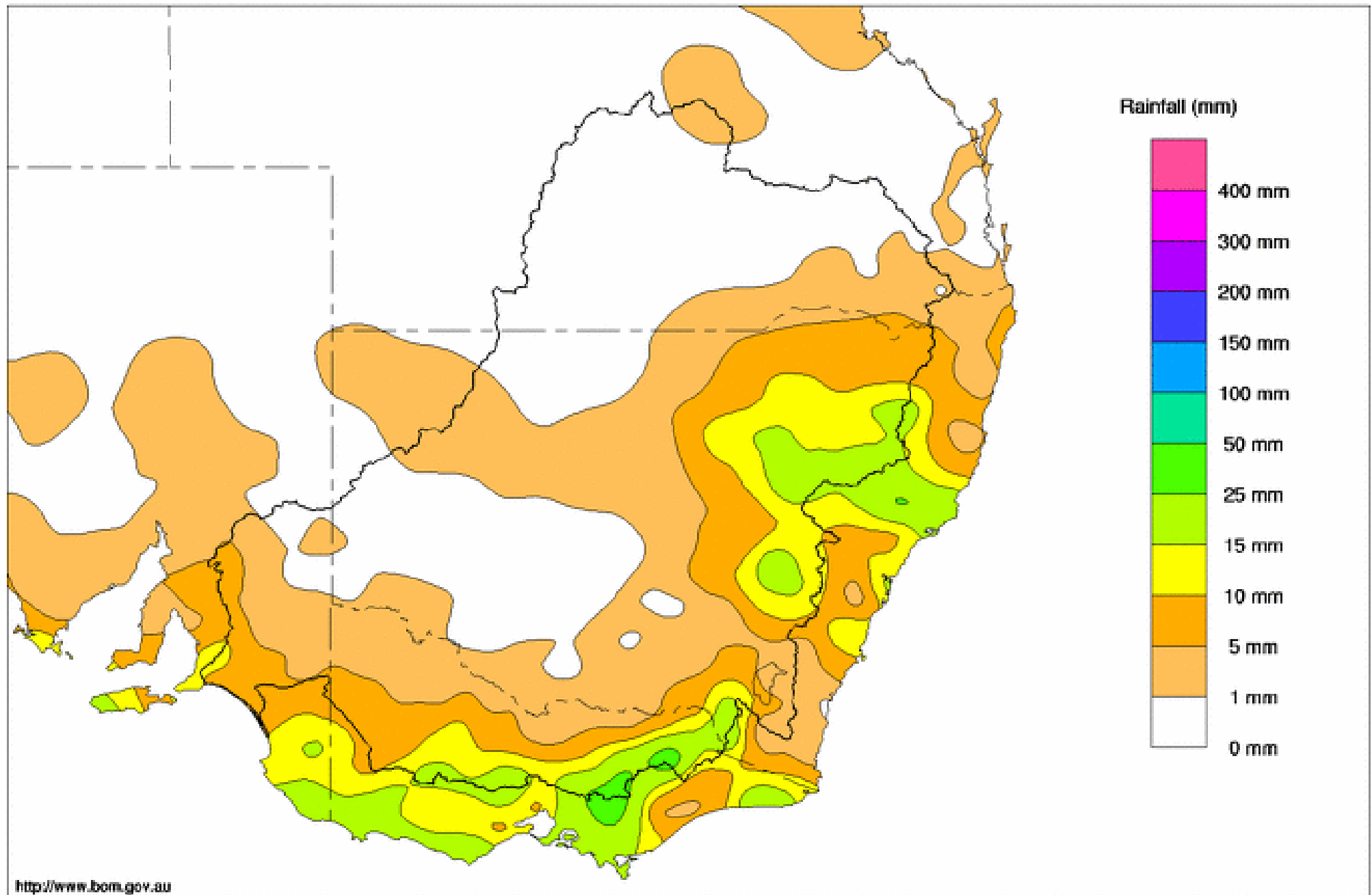
General Manager

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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th June 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	411.39	691	18%	80	611	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.59	447	15%	30	417	+21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.25	270	40%	100	170	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		548	32%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 956</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>+20</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **14%**

# 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	424	41%	3	421	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	577	35%	24	553	+23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	463	14%	100	363	+8

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Jun-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	151	-17	Snowy-Murray	+12	146
Snowy-Murray Component	222	-8	Tooma-Tumut	+1	13
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	11.3	134
			Murray 1 Release	+18	162

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	89.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	24.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	22.2
Licensed Pumps	0.6	87.4
Lower Darling	0.1	11.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>234.5</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	138
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	241
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	94 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	23
Licensed pumps - LMW	1.3	182
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>678 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	90 *	
Flow this week	20.2	(2 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	38	
Flow last month	56	

\* Reduced to approx. 45 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	100	100	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	170	140	150
Burtundy (Darling)	340	330	870
Lock 9	160	200	160
Lake Victoria	220	240	200
Berri	380	370	350
Waikerie	380	380	520
Morgan	440	420	550
Mannum	560	580	650
Murray Bridge	610	690	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 240	3 730	3 010
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 900	2 970	2 600
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 000	5 470	3 220
Goolwa Barrages	21 390	22 270	20 840



**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	-	-	-	1 750	F	2 270	3 380
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 320	F	2 850	4 200
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.32	218.21	470	F	540	440
Heywoods	5.5	1.14	154.77	350	F	400	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.38	149.85	870	R	970	820
Albury	4.3	0.58	148.02	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.39	126.41	1 090	R	930	870
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 500	S	3 850	3 840
Tocumwal	6.4	1.20	105.04	3 690	F	3 900	3 720
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.46	80.01	3 980	F	4 100	3 450
Swan Hill	4.5	0.91	63.83	4 060	R	3 920	2 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.98	51.10	4 080	R	3 810	2 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.90	42.74	4 170	R	3 460	2 680
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 790	F	3 990	2 830
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	5 110	R	5 350	2 480
Rufus Junction	-	3.73	20.66	8 120	R	1 910	990
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.41	-	1 470	S	1 340	1 130
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.11	154.34	711	R	730	410
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.95	145.63	739	F	770	420
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	339	S	350	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.55	80.32	280	F	280	300
Edward at Liewah	-	0.66	56.04	290	S	290	360
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.90	54.39	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.34	56.30	132	S	140	160
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	23	S	50	-
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	19	F	30	50
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	67	R	60	50

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 020	2 240
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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	-2.73	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.33	+1.40
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.20	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+3.09	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-2.36	+0.19	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.10	+0.27
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.13	+0.34	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+0.27
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.18	+0.16
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.66	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	-1.16

<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	-3.80	0.36	69.71	89.6
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.21	-0.08	61.22	N/A



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

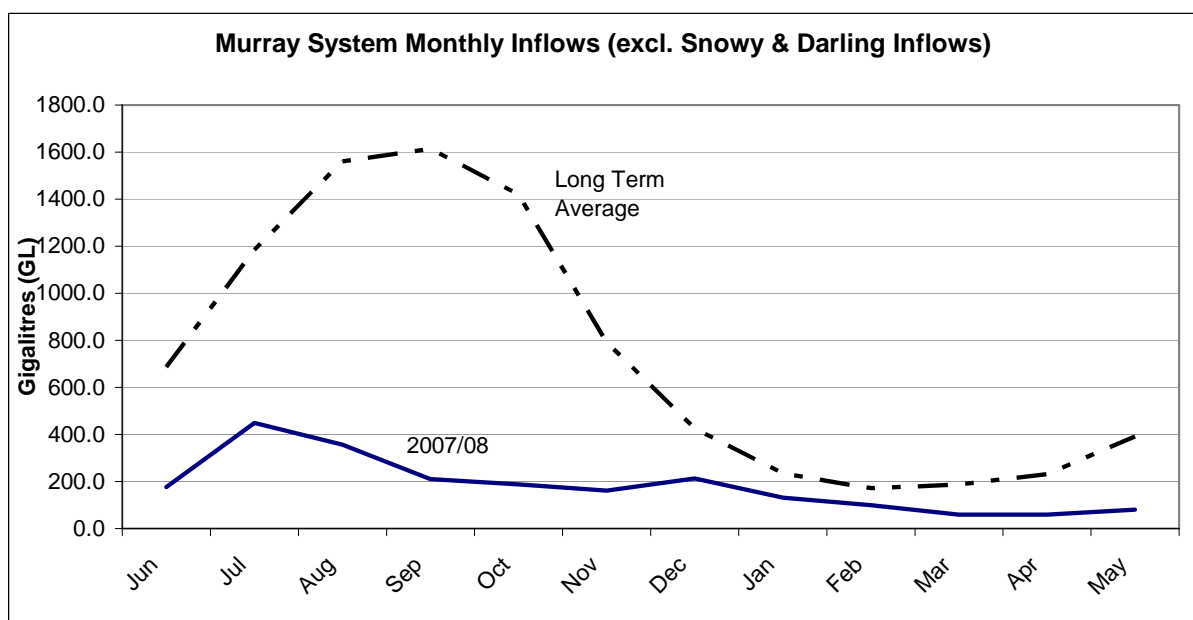
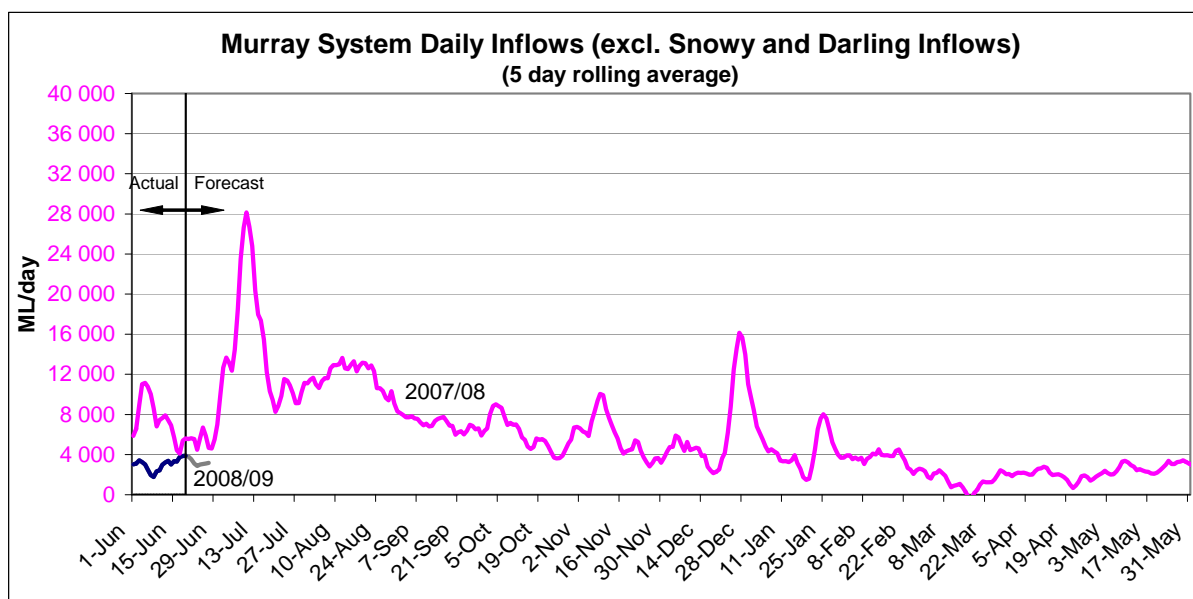
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.45

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.37	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.46	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 18th 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](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, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008

## Temporary rise in Murray salinity in Sunraysia district

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission today advised water users on the Murray River from Colignan to Lock 9 to expect an increase in salinity during the next few weeks as a result of the Mildura Weir drawdown.

The drawdown, which began on 11<sup>th</sup> June, is allowing major maintenance work of the trestles at Mildura Weir.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said that during the drawdown, an increased amount of saline groundwater influx to the river is expected.

“Additional water has been released from Lake Mulwala to help minimise the increases in river salinity, and to help refill the weir pool after the maintenance work is complete.”

“Daily water quality measurements will be taken during this operation, so that any salinity impacts along the river are carefully monitored and results made available to the community.”

Regular updates of river salinity will be reported on the MDBC’s website at: [www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river\\_information\\_centre](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river_information_centre) and in the MDBC’s weekly reports(also available on the MDBC website).

During a similar drawdown in May 2003, the river salinity at Mildura increased from 160 EC to a peak of 700 EC before returning to about 180 EC after the weir pool was refilled.

The higher salinity river water will flow downstream and is expected to reach the vicinity of Lake Victoria in mid July. At that time the flow past Lock 9 will be reduced as much as possible and the more saline water will be diverted into Lake Victoria where it will mix with the fresher lake water. The salinity in the lake is expected to rise by about 50 EC.

While the flow past Lock 9 is reduced (for about three weeks duration), water in the Lock 8 weir pool will be used to maintain a flow along Mullaroo Creek. In preparation for this operation, the Lock 8 weir pool will be temporarily raised to 60cm above FSL (Full Supply Level) and then gradually drawn on as required. Lock 8 may need to be lowered to 40cm below FSL at the end of this operation.

“Water users between Colignan and Lock 9 are advised to take into account the rise in river salinity when planning their operations over the next few weeks, Dr Craik said.

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TRIM Ref: 08/5329