

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 29 October 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS  
Trim Ref : 08/11474*

31 October, 2008



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

Most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin received little or no rain during the past week (see attached map). The highest rainfalls occurred over the central tablelands of NSW and the Murray Mouth, both of which received isolated falls of up to 10 mm.

Total MDBC active storage decreased by a further 30 GL to 1940 GL (or 23 % capacity).

## ***River Operations***

The release from Hume Dam has been increased from 6 000 to 6 900 ML/day to target a flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) of around 8 000 ML/day. The release from Dartmouth Dam will be increased on Monday 3 November from the current rate of 200 ML/day to target a minimum level in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon of about 1.4 m. This additional water will be transferred to Hume Reservoir where it will be used to assist in meeting the increasing demands along the River Murray System (see flow advice attached).

The water level in Lake Mulwala is steady at about 124.7 m AHD (or 20 cm below Full Supply Level), and the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been increased from 5 000 to 6 000 ML/day. The increased release from Yarrowonga Weir is expected to bring the flow past Torrumbarry from 3 800 to 4 500 ML/day and has already resulted in the flow at the Gulpa Offtake rising from 250 to 350 ML/day. The flow at the Edward offtake is being maintained at 150 ML/day.

The release from Stevens Weir will be increased to 800 ML/day over the next few days in order to dilute an expected rise in salinity at Wakool Junction resulting from the stock and domestic replenishment flows being delivered by NSW State Water to the Wakool River system. The first flush of water that flows into the Murray from the Wakool River system will be closely monitored for any rise in salinity.

Due to continuing dry conditions and low allocations the Barmah Choke trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke downstream to other stretches of the Murray River has been relaxed until the end of February 2009 (see media release attached).

River flows in Sunraysia will rise over the next few weeks as the increased releases from Lake Mulwala arrive. Flow in the Darling River at Burtundy remains steady at around 3 500 ML/day and salinity is also steady at around 360 EC. Lake Victoria storage continues to be called upon to supply SA flow and its storage volume has consequently fallen 5 GL over to past week to 259 GL (38% capacity).

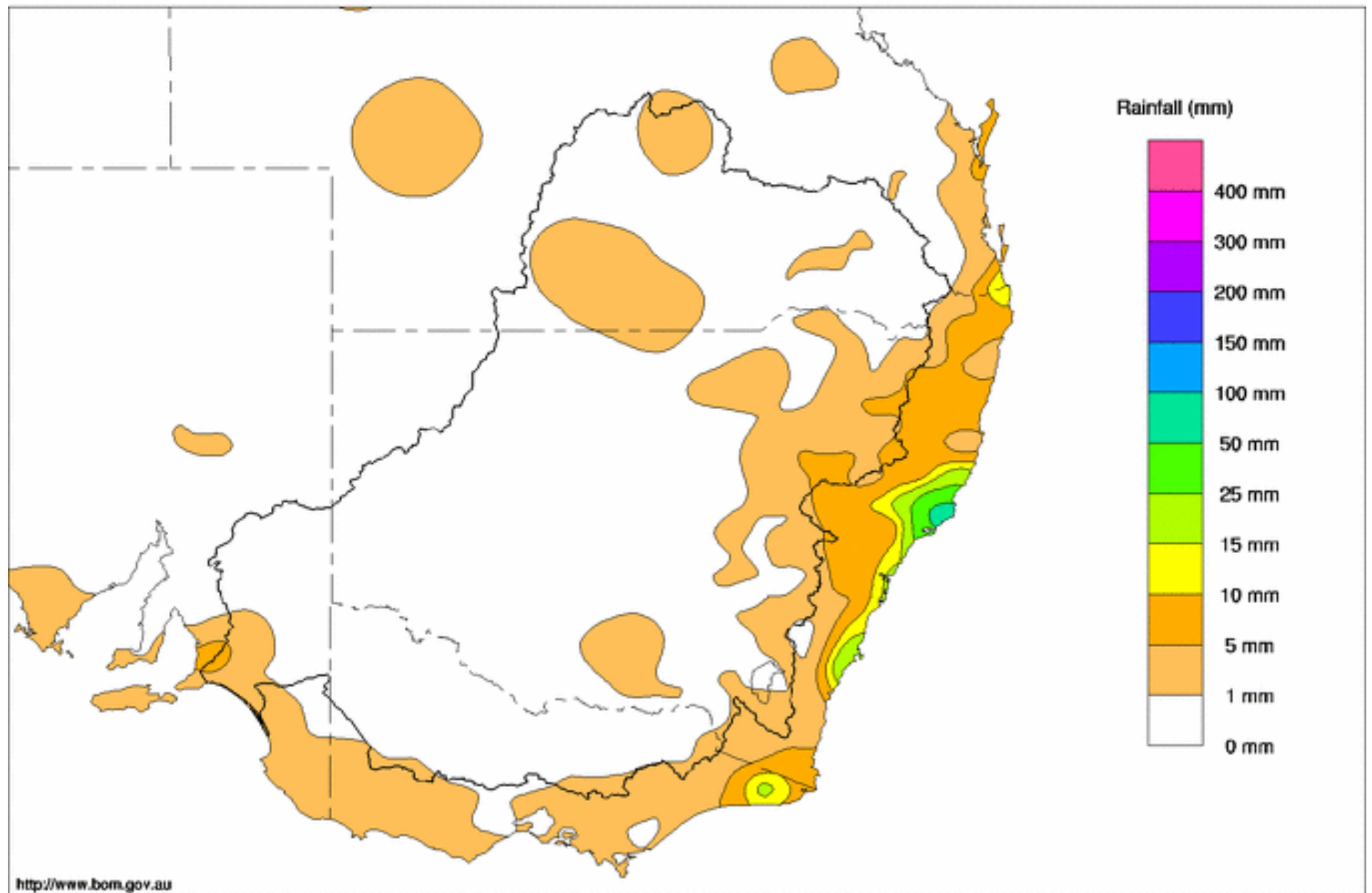
The flow to South Australia has been maintained at 3 800 ML/day and will be increased to 4 200 on 1<sup>st</sup> November in response to higher demand and transmission losses. Locks 1 to 6 are slightly below FSL with the exception of Lock 1 which is currently 3 cm above FSL. The higher SA flows are expected to help bring Locks 2 to 6 back up to their respective FSLs. The water level in Lake Alexandrina has been steadily falling since mid-September and is currently around -0.31 m AHD. Lake Albert has been steadily falling since early September and is currently around -0.33 m AHD.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th 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	418.64	867	22%	80	787	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.80	1 021	34%	30	991	-29
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.13	259	38%	100	159	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		357	21%	(- -) #	0	-30
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 504</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 937</b>	<b>-61</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	495	48%	3	492	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	728	45%	24	704	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	763	23%	100	663	-9

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Oct-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	635	+4	Snowy-Murray	+10	338
Snowy-Murray Component	333	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+0	150
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	9.6	187
			Murray 1 Release	+12	504

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.0	44.6
Wakool System loss	5.5	14.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	4.1
Licensed Pumps	2.8	18.9
Lower Darling	0.3	2.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>83.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.4	33
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.1	40
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	20
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>97</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 *	(3 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	26.3	
Flow so far this month	103	
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	60	60	80
Euston	80	80	80
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	140	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	360	360	380
Lock 9	320	270	190
Lake Victoria	250	240	240
Berri	330	340	410
Waikerie	-	-	530
Morgan	610	610	550
Mannum	570	560	520
Murray Bridge	570	550	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 070	4 200	3 670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 410	3 400	3 200
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 140	5 310	5 090
Goolwa Barrages	16 230	16 280	17 060



**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	-	-	-	2 250	F	1 330	2 590
Jingellic	4.0	1.35	207.87	2 200	R	2 170	3 890
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.32	218.21	370	S	370	390
Heywoods	5.5	2.31	155.94	7 610	R	6 460	5 560
Doctors Point	5.5	2.47	150.94	8 530	R	7 230	6 420
Albury	4.3	1.42	148.86	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.74	127.76	6 390	R	6 140	5 500
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.11	116.15	5 930	S	5 420	4 530
Tocumwal	6.4	1.52	105.36	5 680	R	5 180	4 460
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.41	79.96	3 800	F	3 500	3 060
Swan Hill	4.5	0.77	63.69	3 130	R	2 950	2 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.64	50.76	2 960	R	2 840	2 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.51	42.35	2 360	R	2 260	2 510
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 260	F	1 110	1 730
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 540	R	3 590	4 100
Rufus Junction	-	2.91	19.84	3 180	R	3 230	3 150
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.13	-	1 850	F	1 510	1 690
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.99	154.22	547	R	610	810
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	566	S	600	830
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.05	92.47	272	R	240	250
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	550	F	480	480
Edward at Liewah	-	0.79	56.17	335	R	310	370
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.84	54.33	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.28	56.24	95	F	100	100
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.04	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	127	S	140	100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.13	-	3 480	F	3 500	3 490

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 820	4 070
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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	-0.23	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.08	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.05	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.03	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	-0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.88

<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	-4.27	0.6	69.95	250
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.18	0.027	61.327	173.672



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

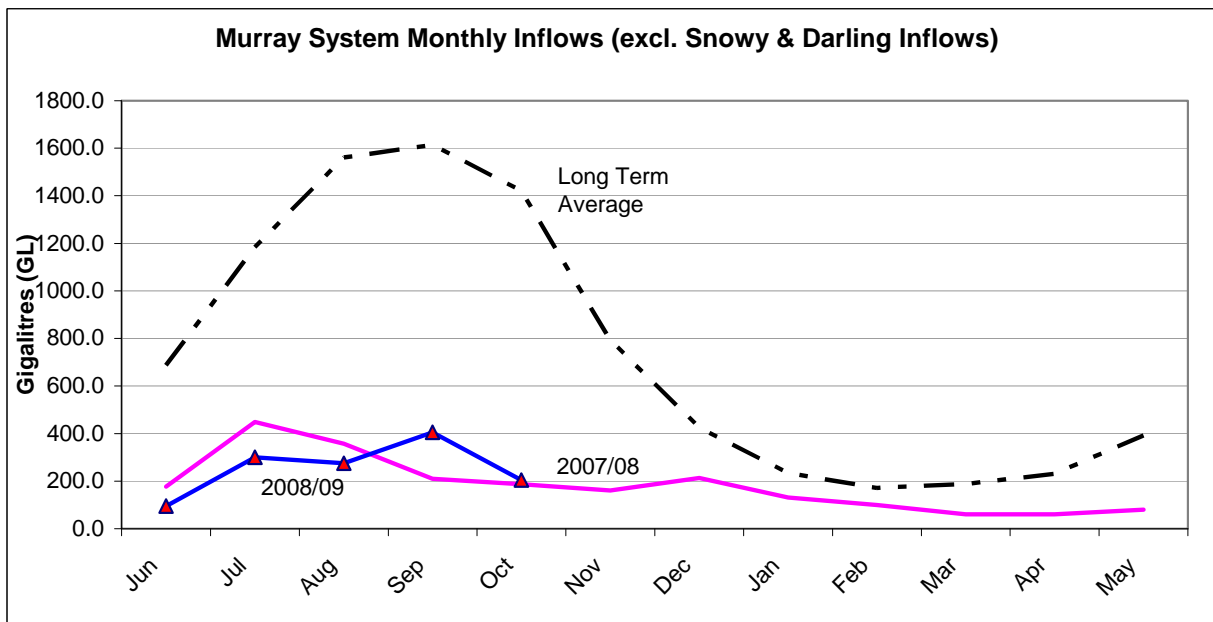
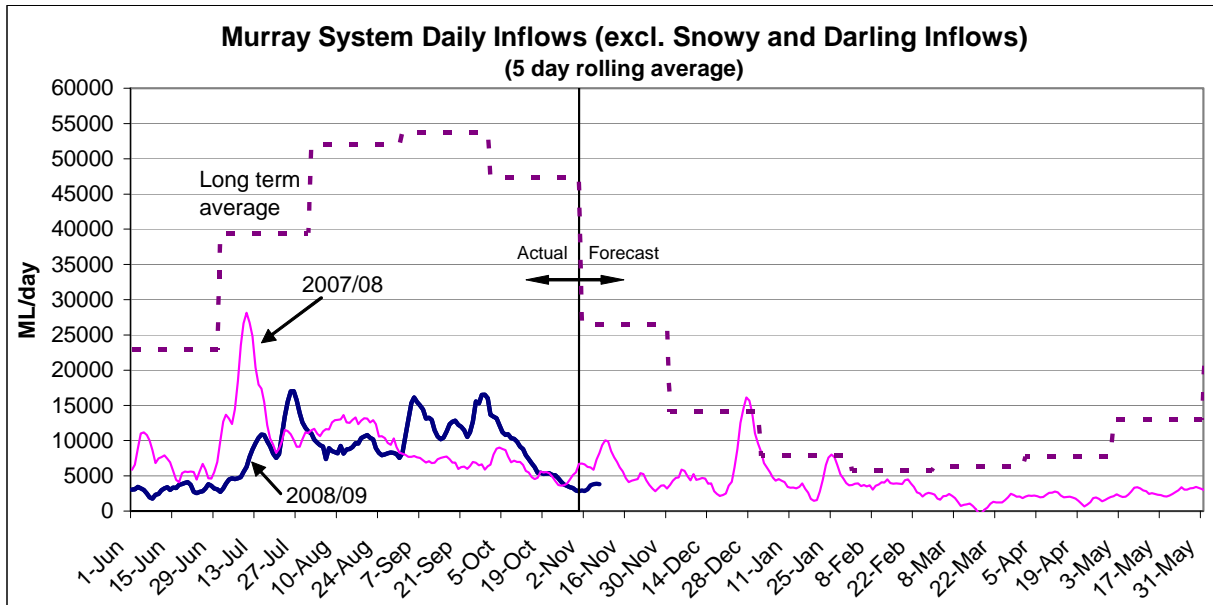
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.32

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.16	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.33	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 29th October 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	95%
General security	2%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	9%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	20%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	17%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	12%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation (on 1st Nov)	15%
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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>



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 27 October 2008

## **Relaxation of water trading rules through Barmah Choke extended to early 2009**

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission announced today that relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke downstream to other stretches of the Murray River will be relaxed until the end of February 2009.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the 2008/09 water season has been dry with low allocations.

At the end of September 2008, minimal net trades through the Barmah Choke show that there was virtually no risk of exceeding the channel capacity of the river.

“While there may be an increase in trade activity through the Barmah Choke, the outlook for the Murray system remains very serious and water use is likely to be well below the long term average, similar to the last two years,” Dr Craik said.

“It is unlikely that channel capacity constraints would be experienced between now and February next year as a result of extending the Barmah Choke relaxation rule,” she said.

Dr Craik said extending the relaxation rule would enable entitlement holders above the Choke to sell their water allocations to downstream users which will assist them in managing their irrigation businesses.

“Allocation transfers downstream through the Barmah Choke are not normally allowed because the Choke constrains the volume of water that can pass and we cannot guarantee delivery every season.”

“However, because of the extended drought conditions and the lower than normal flows in the river, we are able to guarantee any transferred allocations.”

“If weather conditions change and we have more water within the river, we may need to cease this trading arrangement. However, any allocation transfers approved up until that time would be honoured,” Dr Craik said.

Trade in entitlements from above to below the Choke will continue to be prohibited.

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

Trim ref: 08/11239



# Flow Advice for Mitta Mitta River

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008

## RELEASE FROM DARTMOUTH RESERVOIR TO BE INCREASED

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be increased next week as an initial step in the transfer of water to Hume Reservoir this season to assist in meeting the increasing demand for water along the River Murray System.

The release from Dartmouth Dam will be increased on Monday 3 November from the current minimum rate of 200 ML/day to target a level in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon of about 1.4 m as follows:

Date	Time	Gauge height at Colemans (m)	Flow at Colemans (ML/day)	Gauge height at Tallandoon (m) (~ 12 hours later)	Flow at Tallandoon (ML/day) (~ 12 hours later)
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> October	8.00 am	0.87	200	1.31 m	350
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	8.00 am	1.07	350	~ 1.4 m	500

If there is substantial rainfall, the river level at Tallandoon is likely to temporarily rise above 1.4 m in response to tributary inflows to the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir.

The pattern and volume of subsequent releases from Dartmouth Reservoir will depend on continual reassessment of the overall water requirements along the whole River Murray System, also taking into account the ecological and community needs of the Mitta Mitta Valley.

It is expected that the release from Dartmouth Dam this season will be varied when possible, rather than held constant, and that the flow rate at Tallandoon will not exceed 5 000 ML/day as a result of transfers from Dartmouth. The variable release pattern will aim to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is currently about 22% of capacity, and if the current dry conditions persist is expected to fall gradually over the coming months. The volume in storage at the end of the 2008/09 season will depend greatly on system inflows over the remainder of the water year and volumes of water carried over into 2009-10.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the increased flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

Further information on the release pattern from Dartmouth Reservoir will be made available to the Mitta Mitta River community at a meeting in early November (date and location to be advised).