

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 February 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, ms*  
*Trim Ref : 08/1646*

8 February, 2008



## Rainfall and Inflows

The northeast of Victoria received between 10 – 50 mm of rain over the past week, with Falls Creek in the upper northeast receiving the highest falls of 69 mm. The rain resulted in some slight increases in stream flows with flow at Wangaratta in the Ovens catchment rising from 600 to 750 ML/day and Hinnomunjie in the Dartmouth catchment rising from 400 to 800 ML/day. These higher flows have since receded.

There were further heavy falls in northern NSW and southern Queensland with Southwood in west Darling Downs receiving 299 mm. This rain has helped extend the flows already passing into NSW from Queensland.

## January 2008 Summary

The Bureau of Meteorology advise that “January 2008 was Australia’s warmest January on record, with a mean temperature 1.23°C above the reference (1961–90) normal”. The southern part of the Basin recorded an average temperature 1 – 3 °C *above* the long term average for January. In contrast, the northern part of the Basin recorded an average temp 1 – 4 °C *below* the long term average.

Rainfall in the Basin was generally above average in January, particularly in the north where heavy rainfall covered most of Queensland (see attached rainfall decile map). Parts of the Warrego and Central Highlands regions in Queensland experienced major flooding. Wet conditions were also experienced over most of western inland New South Wales and northern Victoria.

The heavy rains in Queensland and northern NSW led to inflows into Menindee Lakes. Inflows to the River Murray system for January, including the inflows into Menindee Lakes, totalled 510 GL, which is significantly above the long-term average for January of 360 GL. Inflows to the Murray system excluding Menindee inflows totalled only 130 GL – compared to the long-term average of 235 GL.

Total MDBC storage (including Menindee Lakes) at end January was 2 001 GL or 21% capacity, compared to 1 430 GL this time last year and the long-term average of 6 030 GL.

## River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Dam remains at 500 ML/day and Dartmouth storage has held steady at 678 GL (17.4% capacity). Hume release has been reduced this week from 7 500 to 6 200 ML/day and Lake Mulwala pool level has been steadily lowered to 124.35 m AHD. Barring any significant rainfall Lake Mulwala will continue to be lowered towards 124.2 m AHD, the lower end of the target operating range, next week. The level of Stevens Weir pool has been increased by NSW from 3.61 to 4.49 m over the past week.

Inflow to Menindee Lakes has receded from a peak of 25 000 ML/day in mid January to around 10 000 ML/day. Weir 32 release has been reduced by NSW from a peak of 4 000 ML/day to 2 300 ML/day and will be further gradually reduced to 250 ML/day. Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently expected to reach about 450 GL, well below the 640 GL level required for the MDBC to have control of the lakes. Most of the 100 GL released from Menindee is expected to pass Burtundy and enter the River Murray.

The releases from Menindee Lakes have raised flows in the Murray below Wentworth Weir and have contributed to increasing storage in Lake Victoria from 321 to 326 GL. In response to the higher level in Lake Victoria, RMW's call on the Inter Valley Trade accounts in the Murrumbidgee and Goulburn rivers have ceased.

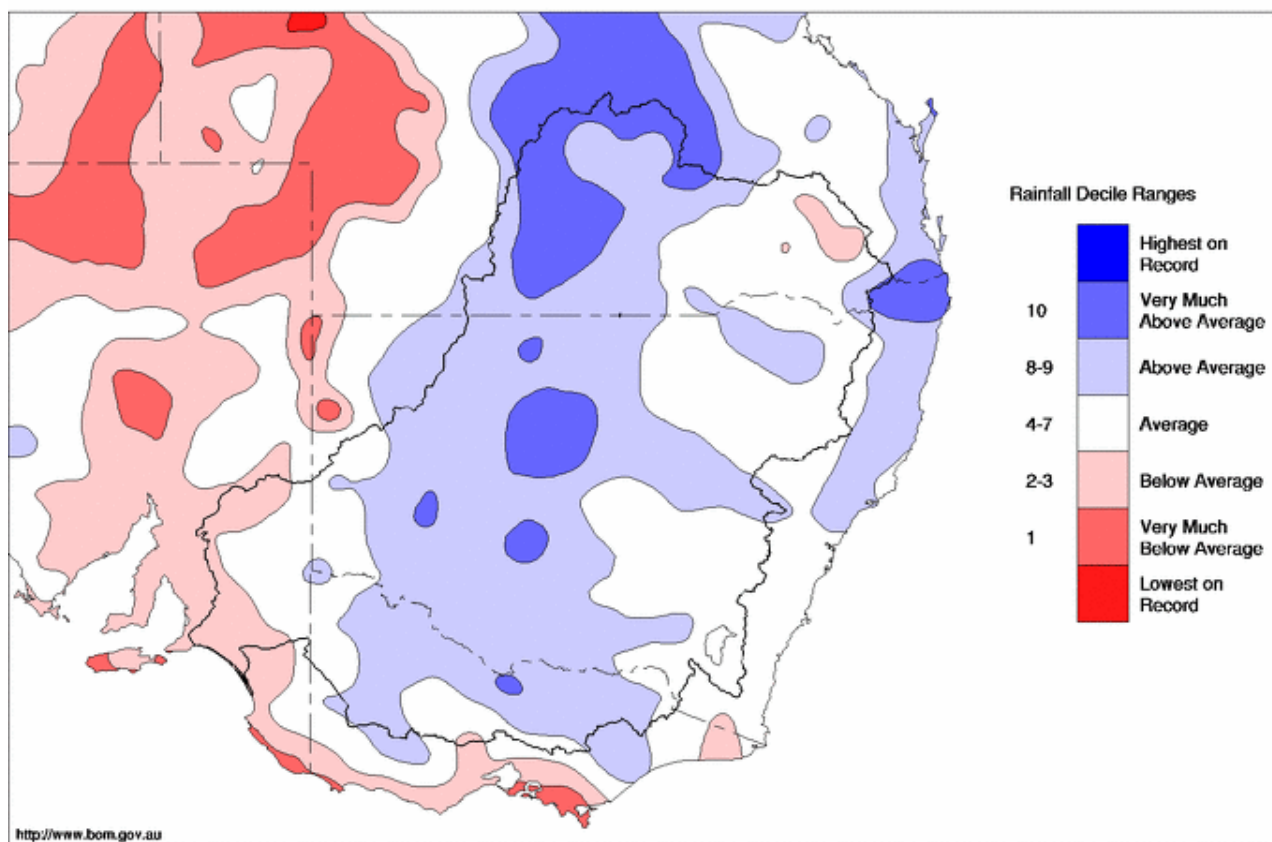
The initial high salinity flow originating from Menindee Lakes (about 1 700 EC) has passed downstream of Wentworth Weir (where salinity peaked at 800 EC) and has been diverted into Lake Victoria. By diluting this spike in Lake Victoria it is expected that salinities downstream in SA will rise by less than 40 EC. An update will be provided next week.

Releases from Hume Dam and Lake Mulwala will be reduced over the coming weeks in response to the inflows from the Darling River, the storage level in Lake Victoria, and lower river transmission losses experienced in recent weeks. This operation will conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth for future use. Murray System flows between Albury and Wentworth over the coming months are expected to be at levels lower than this time last year unless there is further heavy rain in the Murray catchment areas. Updates on forecast flows and levels will be provided in future weekly reports.

Lake Albert is currently around 15 cm lower than Lake Alexandrina and may soon become fully disconnected as the lake levels gradually decline due to evaporation.

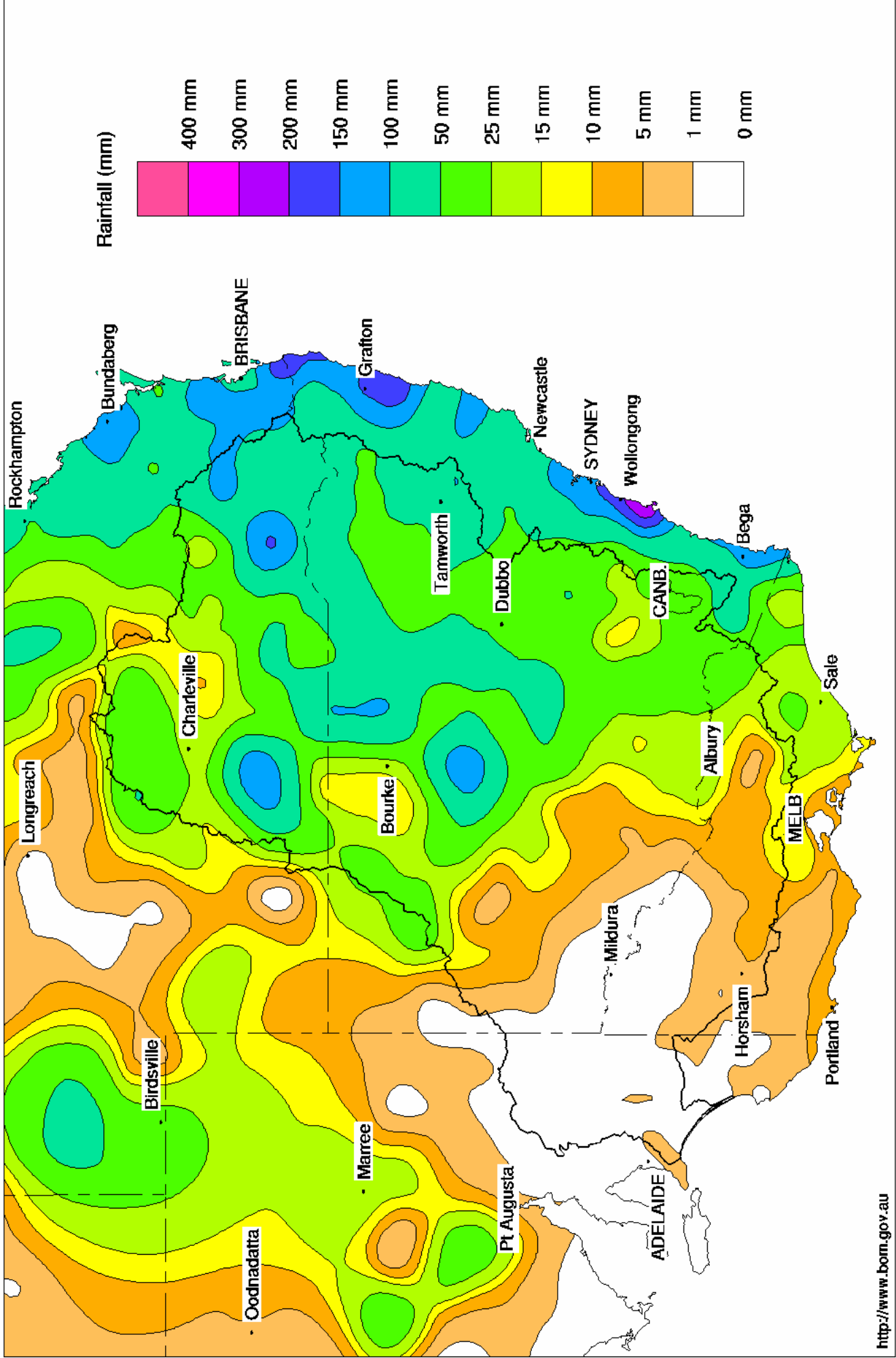
DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles      January 2008  
Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th February 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	410.82	678	17%	80	598	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.41	510	17%	30	480	-27
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.84	328	48%	100	228	+7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		340	20%	(- -) #	0	+47
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 856</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 306</b>	<b>+28</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 15%

# 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	423	41%	3	420	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	427	26%	24	403	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	719	21%	100	619	-23

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Feb-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	596	+10	Snowy-Murray	+8	293
Snowy-Murray Component	470	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+1	141
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	6.6	152
			Murray 1 Release	+10	510

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.9	53.1
Wakool System loss	1.6	18.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	14.7
Licensed Pumps	1.9	54.9
Lower Darling	0.4	7.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>149.0</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.6	50
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.0	94
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.4	65 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	7
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>324 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	194 *	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	33.7	
Flow so far this month	29	
Flow last month	141	

\* Reduced to approx. ??? GL during February drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	80	70	90
Euston	80	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	120	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	210	250	1 160
Lock 9	140	120	140
Lake Victoria	180	170	180
Berri	280	300	380
Waikerie	390	380	580
Morgan	440	450	640
Mannum	850	840	590
Murray Bridge	810	800	590
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 180	3 210	2 640
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 080	3 010	2 250
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 310	4 120	2 940
Goolwa Barrages	32 800	27 300	17 010



**River Levels and Flows**

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 610	S	1 790	1 810
Jingellic	4.0	1.43	207.95	2 700	R	1 840	1 820
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.48	218.37	780	S	790	700
Heywoods	5.5	2.08	155.71	6 080	S	6 360	5 620
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	6 220	R	6 600	6 080
Albury	4.3	1.27	148.71	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.60	127.62	5 650	F	6 020	5 270
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.17	116.21	5 960	F	6 000	6 520
Tocumwal	6.4	1.67	105.51	6 320	F	6 320	6 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.76	80.31	4 920	R	5 300	7 930
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 280	F	6 530	7 350
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.59	51.71	6 480	F	7 240	6 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.55	43.39	7 840	F	7 850	7 090
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 230	F	6 720	6 270
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.24	28.00	8 030	S	7 930	6 420
Rufus Junction	-	3.08	20.01	4 250	F	3 870	3 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.04	-	1 180	R	1 170	1 470
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.87	154.10	464	R	570	450
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	566	R	650	940
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.47	92.89	845	R	860	2 480
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.89	80.67	630	F	960	810
Edward at Liewah	-	1.39	56.77	764	S	770	670
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.95	55.44	2	R	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.71	57.67	1 244	F	1 310	1 230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.62	-	1 163	F	830	880
Darling at Bourke	-	4.48	-	2 966	S	2 960	5 650
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.43	-	4 060	F	4 380	4 280

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 600	2 270
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**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	-0.54	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+0.76
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.17	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.60	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.20	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.22	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.79

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.08	1.382	70.732	1426
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.01	1.175	62.475	1450



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

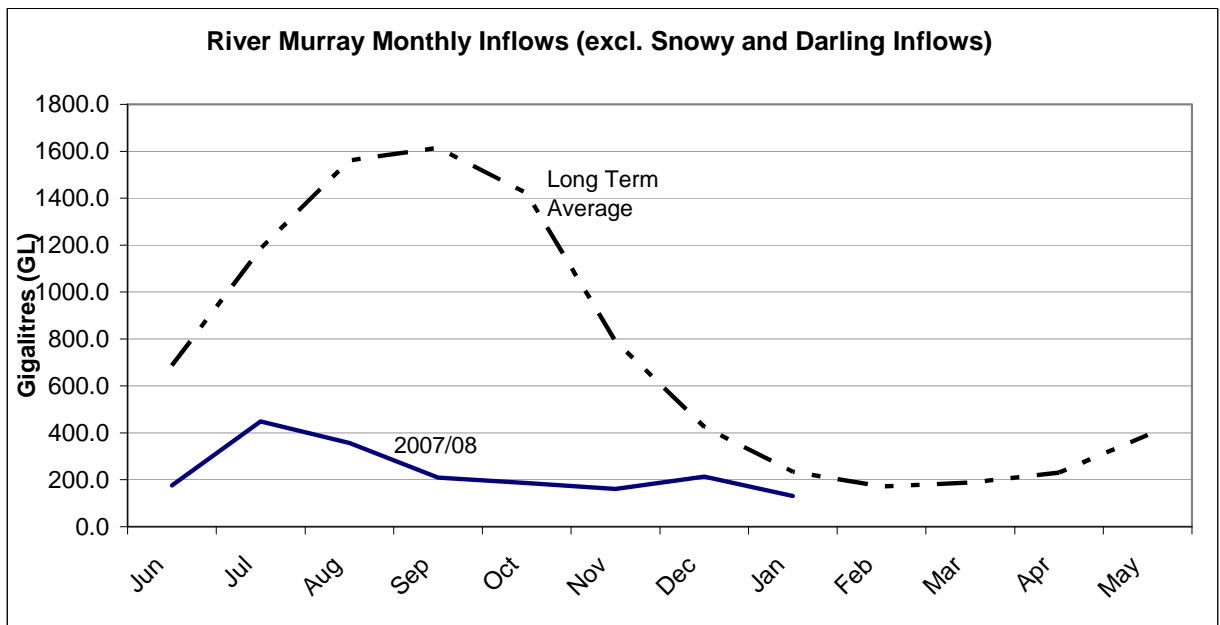
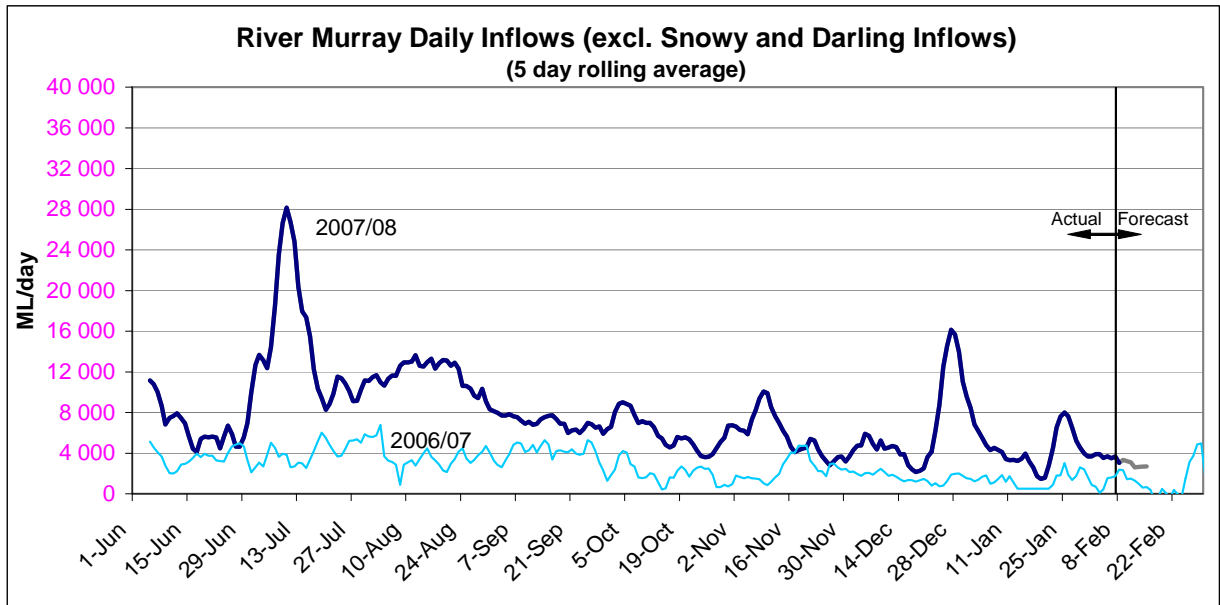
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.25

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.37	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.33	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-0.28	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 6th Feb 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

Suspended water re-credit	90%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	90%
General security	9%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	32%
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**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	36%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	51%
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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>