RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

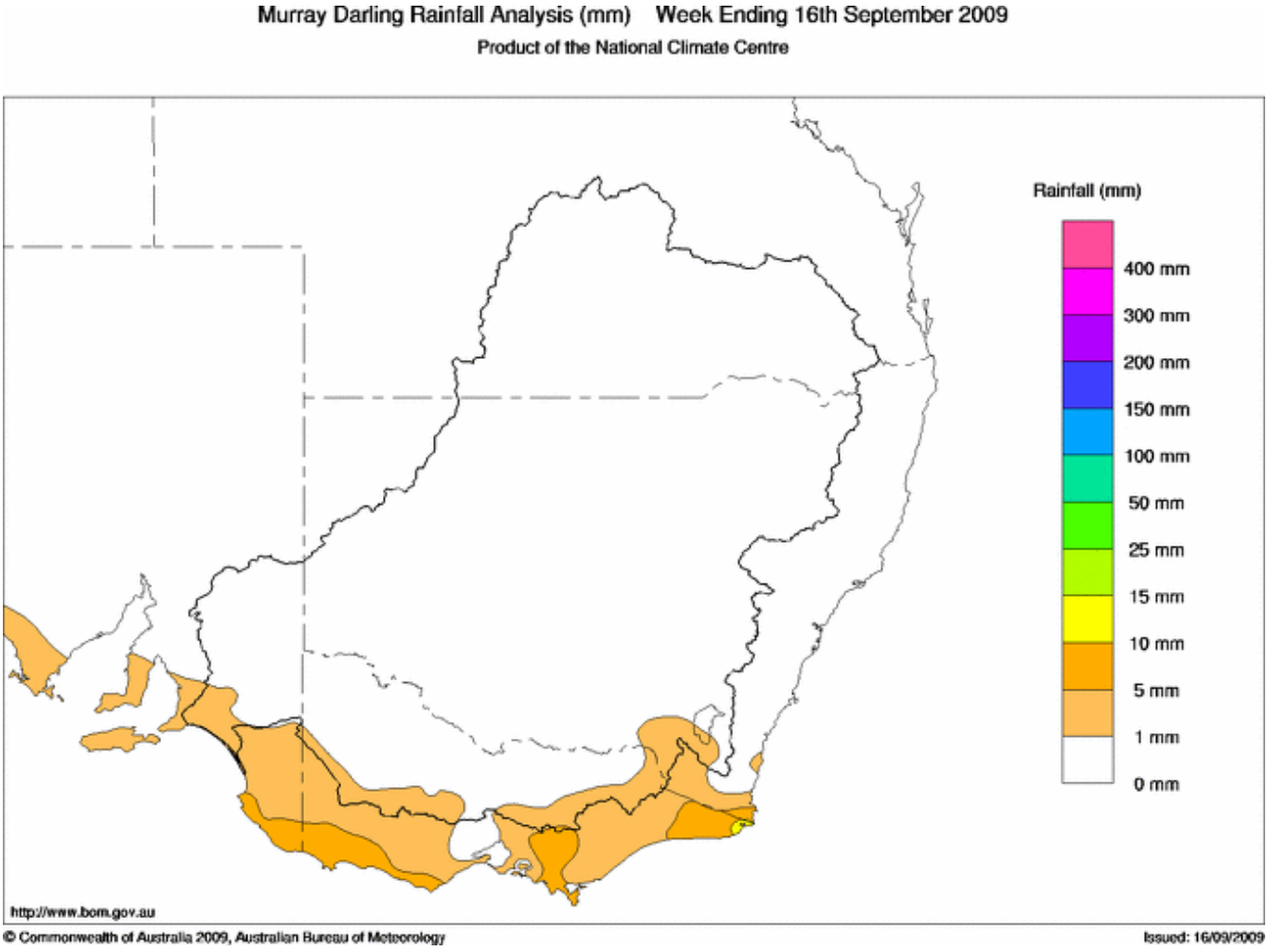
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

Trim Ref: D09/17126

Rainfall and Inflows

Dry conditions were experienced across the Murray-Darling Basin during the past week, with most areas receiving no rain, and less than 5mm recorded in the alpine regions of north-east Victoria and southern NSW. As a result, streamflows in the upper Murray and its tributaries have continued to steadily recede. For instance, the flow at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River has decreased from 1,700 to 1,350 ML/day and the flow at Rocky Point on the Ovens River has decreased from 3,800 to 2,300 ML/day.

Murray System inflows for the first 16 days of September were about 340 GL, and have now receded to about 15 GL/day.



River Operations

During the past week, MDBA active storage increased by 74 GL, to 1,918 GL (or 23 % capacity). Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 15 GL to 998 GL (26 % capacity) and the release is being maintained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 60 GL to 852 GL (or 28 % capacity) and the release is currently at the normal minimum of 600 ML/day. However, if the inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers continue to recede, the release from Hume Dam is likely to be increased during the coming week, to help meet downstream demands and also to transfer water to Lake Victoria. The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) is currently 2,600 ML/day but is likely to increase to about 8,000 ML/day over the next couple of weeks when the Hume release is increased.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 5,000 ML/day and is also expected to increase over the next couple of weeks as the higher flows start to arrive from Doctors Point.

The NSW Government has announced that approximately 30 GL of NSW water will be released into the Wakool River System to provide much needed stock and domestic water to landholders and help maintain the riverine environment (see attachment 1).

The inflow from the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald, has increased from 160 to 420 ML/day, and is expected to increase to 800 ML/day during the coming week. This is due to the delivery of water traded from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley. It is expected that over the coming months inflows will continue at a rate of about 800 ML/day.

The northern half of the Basin has had very little rain for more than eight weeks and, as a result, the flow at Wilcannia on the Darling River has reduced to 35 ML/day. During the past week, the storage in Menindee Lakes (which is currently under NSW control) decreased by 3 GL to 230 GL (13 % capacity).

Storage in Lake Victoria is steady at 278 GL, and the flow to South Australia is being increased from 2,200 to 2,700 ML/day. The flow past Lock 1 is currently 980 ML/day and during the coming week this will be increased to a target of 1,200 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at about -0.76 m AHD. As a result of pumping from Lake Alexandrina, the water level in the Goolwa Channel has risen more than 0.5 m since the new Goolwa Channel regulator near Clayton was completed in mid-August, and is currently about -0.20 m AHD (see attachment 2). The water level in Lake Albert remains steady at about -0.18 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 16 Sep 2009

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	423.43	998	26%	80	918	+15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.20	852	28%	30	822	+60
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.33	278	41%	100	178	-1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		230	13%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		**9 352**		**2 358**	**25%**	**- -**	**1 918**	**+71**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **23%**

\# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		402	39%	3	399	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		641	39%	24	617	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		789	24%	100	689	+27

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Sep-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	848	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	257
Snowy-Murray Component	399	-	Tooma-Tumut	+9	138
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-9.4	119
			Murray 1 Release	+9	365

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.4	36.8
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	- .4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	1.6
Licensed Pumps	2.2	11.6
Lower Darling	0.2	.6
TOTAL	**5.2**	**50.2**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.5	11
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.1	17
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.7	6
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.8	17
TOTAL	**20.3**	51

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

** All Data is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	
Flow this week	16.7	(2 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	33	
Flow last month	56	

* Reduced to approx. 70 GL during September drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	70	80	90
Red Cliffs	120	140	140
Merbein	140	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	530	510	420
Lock 9	160	160	160
Lake Victoria	220	220	220
Berri	460	460	450
Waikerie	530	530	470
Morgan	560	560	530
Mannum	600	600	600
Murray Bridge	680	680	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 150	5 090	5 090
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	4 940	4 640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	9 480	9 550	9 210
Goolwa Barrages	14 700	15 810	19 230

Week ending Wednesday 16 Sep 2009

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	970	F	2 780	3 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	208.19	4 570	F	7 150	8 850
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.51	218.40	690	S	760	1 090
Heywoods	5.5	1.19	154.82	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.75	150.22	2 580	F	3 140	2 830
Albury	4.3	0.88	148.32	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.00	127.02	3 240	F	2 880	3 050
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.96	116.00	4 980	S	5 720	8 300
Tocumwal	6.4	1.50	105.34	5 570	F	6 220	7 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.20	79.75	3 050	F	4 260	5 390
Swan Hill	4.5	0.92	63.84	4 120	F	4 820	3 780
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.16	51.28	4 930	F	4 910	3 420
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.08	42.92	4 750	R	4 120	2 890
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	3 500	F	3 050	2 510
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	2 780	R	2 410	1 770
Rufus Junction	-	2.61	19.54	1 910	R	1 690	1 180
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.73	-	980	F	940	970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.02	155.25	2 360	F	2 970	2 550
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.77	146.45	3 020	F	3 720	6 700
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.02	92.44	240	S	270	300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.36	81.13	1 140	F	1 450	940
Edward at Liewah	-	0.94	56.32	410	R	200	160
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.92	54.41	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.73	56.69	420	R	220	160
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	0	F	0	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	50	S	60	110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	100	F	140	140

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 500	16 280

Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.07
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	-0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-1.48

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.09	0.947	70.297	666
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.92	0.815	62.115	994

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.76

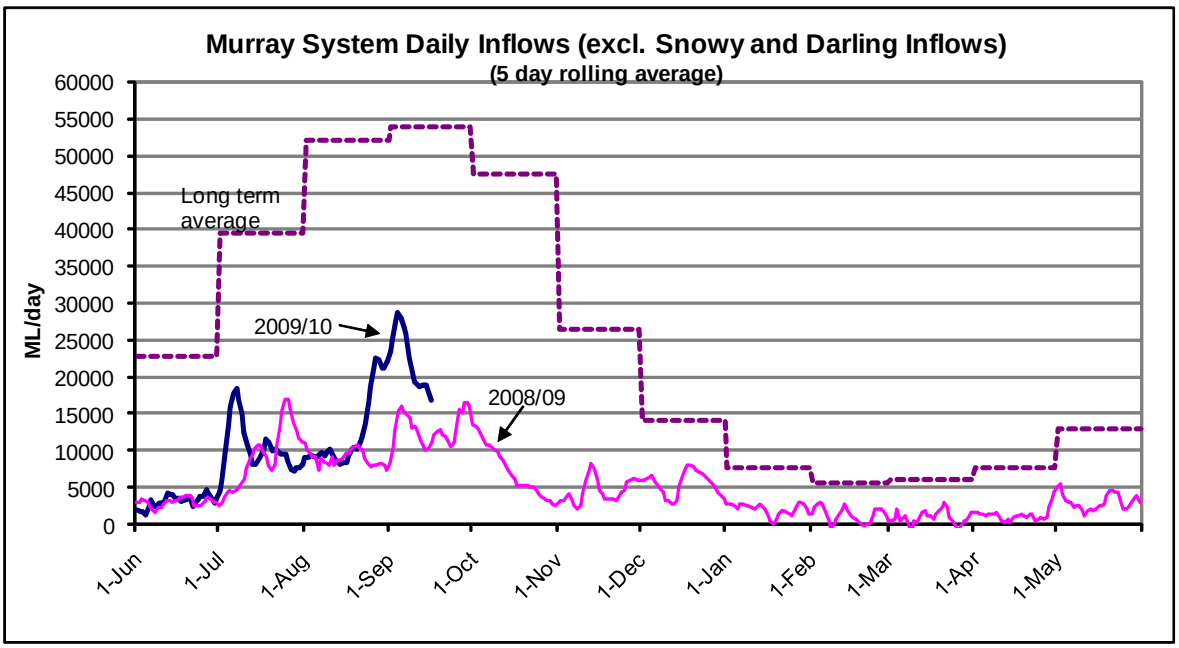
Barrages

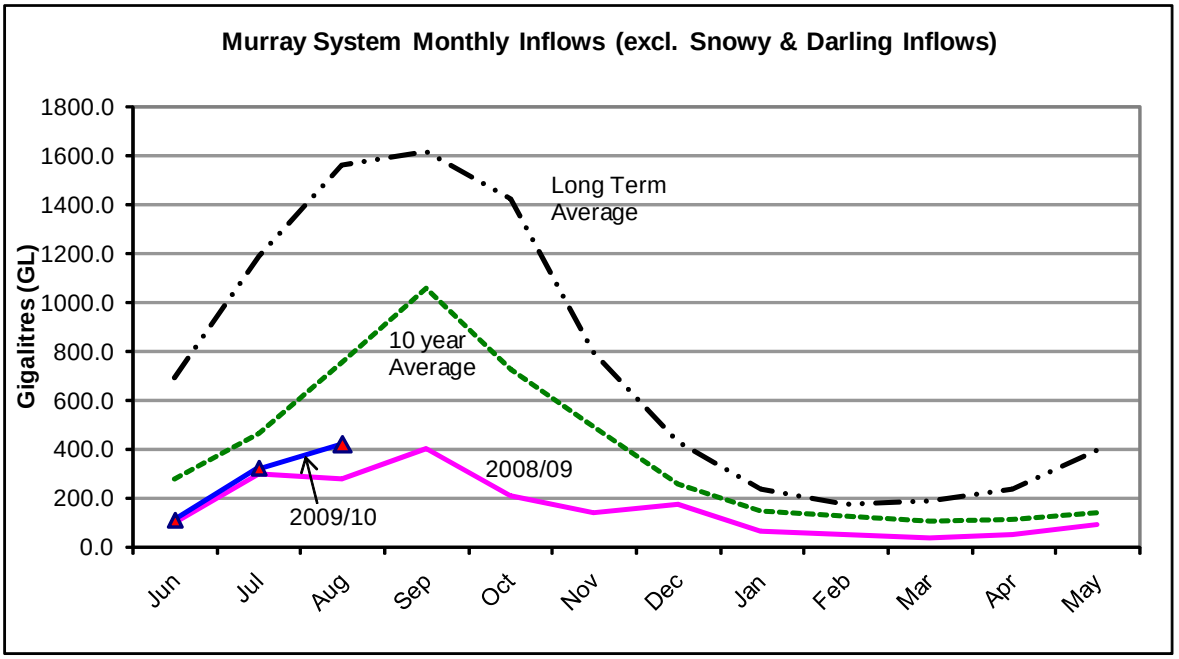
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.15	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.72	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

Week ending Wednesday 16th September 2009





State Allocations (as at 16th September 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	50%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	60%
General security	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	25%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	13%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	7%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	16%

NSW : 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

NSW GOVERNMENT | Office of Water

News release

11 September 2009

Operations for the Wakool River System – 2009 / 2010

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss said today that releases would commence into the drought affected Wakool River system early next week.

Approximately 30 gigalitres of NSW water will be released into the river system to provide much needed stock and domestic water to landholders and help to maintain the riverine environment. The releases will be made so that, if additional water becomes available, flows can be maintained continuously throughout the summer season.

"We have consulted extensively with local landowners and with ecologists and scientists to determine the most appropriate rates of flow given the extremely low water resource availability.

Mr Harriss said that in the past 2 years there had not been enough water available to keep a continuous flow in many of the Murray River's tributaries, including the Wakool system. We have only had sufficient water available to pulse flows intermittently and this has been far from ideal.

"The commencement of flows follows recent rainfall. Because there is some water left in pools throughout the system this will mean that water delivered now will provide a greater benefit for water supply and the environment than if delivered later in the summer.

Mr Harriss said that the flows will be delivered at relatively low rates to minimise the disturbance of river bed sediments and vegetation that may adversely affect water quality.

"The operating strategy has been developed in consultation with Wakool System Advisory Group who will work with the NSW Office of Water and State Water Corporation to monitor the water quality in the systems as flows pass through.

"Due to the ongoing drought and reduced water availability, only enough water will be released into the Wakool River system to meet the stock and domestic needs. There is insufficient water to provide for irrigation and it is an offence to pump this water for irrigation and other non-stock and domestic purposes."

Mr Harriss reminded all water users in the Wakool system that a 324 Order exists that restricts access and use of this water and that to ensure that the system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the NSW Office of Water's Compliance Unit on 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

Ends

Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 403234

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Department of
Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

Government of South Australia

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY
11 SEPTEMBER
2009

GOOLWA CHANNEL PROJECT UPDATE

The Goolwa Channel Water Level Management Project achieved a milestone this week with the completion of the Currency Creek regulator.

The 750m long regulator, which was closed on Tuesday, will ensure that acid generation in Currency Creek is minimised before flows enter the Goolwa Channel.

A second milestone was achieved today when the first of three large capacity pumps commenced full operation on the main Goolwa Channel regulator, near Clayton.

All three pumps on the regulator will be operating by early next week, replacing two temporary pumps which have been pumping water since mid-August.

The temporary pumps were operating while the three larger pumps were installed.

In total, 27.5 GL water will be pumped from Lake Alexandrina into Goolwa Channel to help manage acid sulfate soils by keeping them wet.

This water, together with inflows from Currency Creek and Finniss River, will raise water levels in the new Goolwa Channel pool to a maximum of 0.7m AHD. Over summer, water levels are expected to drop no lower than 0m AHD.

The pumps will run continuously for 8-12 weeks. This pumping schedule is required to ensure that all water can be pumped into the Goolwa Channel pool prior to upstream disconnection of Lake Alexandrina.

Pump noise will be monitored to ensure it meets EPA noise guidelines at all times.

Meanwhile, construction of the Finniss River regulator is yet to commence. Water quality in that tributary is being closely monitored to inform when construction should begin.

Water level in the Goolwa Channel has risen 0.5m since the main Goolwa Channel regulator closed in mid-August. It is currently about minus 0.26m AHD, and is rising daily.

Recent local rainfall has also helped raise water levels in the Goolwa Channel, Finniss River and Currency Creek.

The Goolwa Channel Water Level Management Project will protect the Goolwa Channel, Finniss River and Currency Creek from acidification caused by falling water levels in Lake Alexandrina.

If nothing was done, these waterways would continue to be severely affected through drying out, rising salinity and acidification. Several important species of plants and animals would be severely impacted, limiting their chances of re-establishing in the area when conditions improve.

For further information about the project visit
http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/gcll.html#GoolwaChannelWaterLevelManagementProject