



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY 2009

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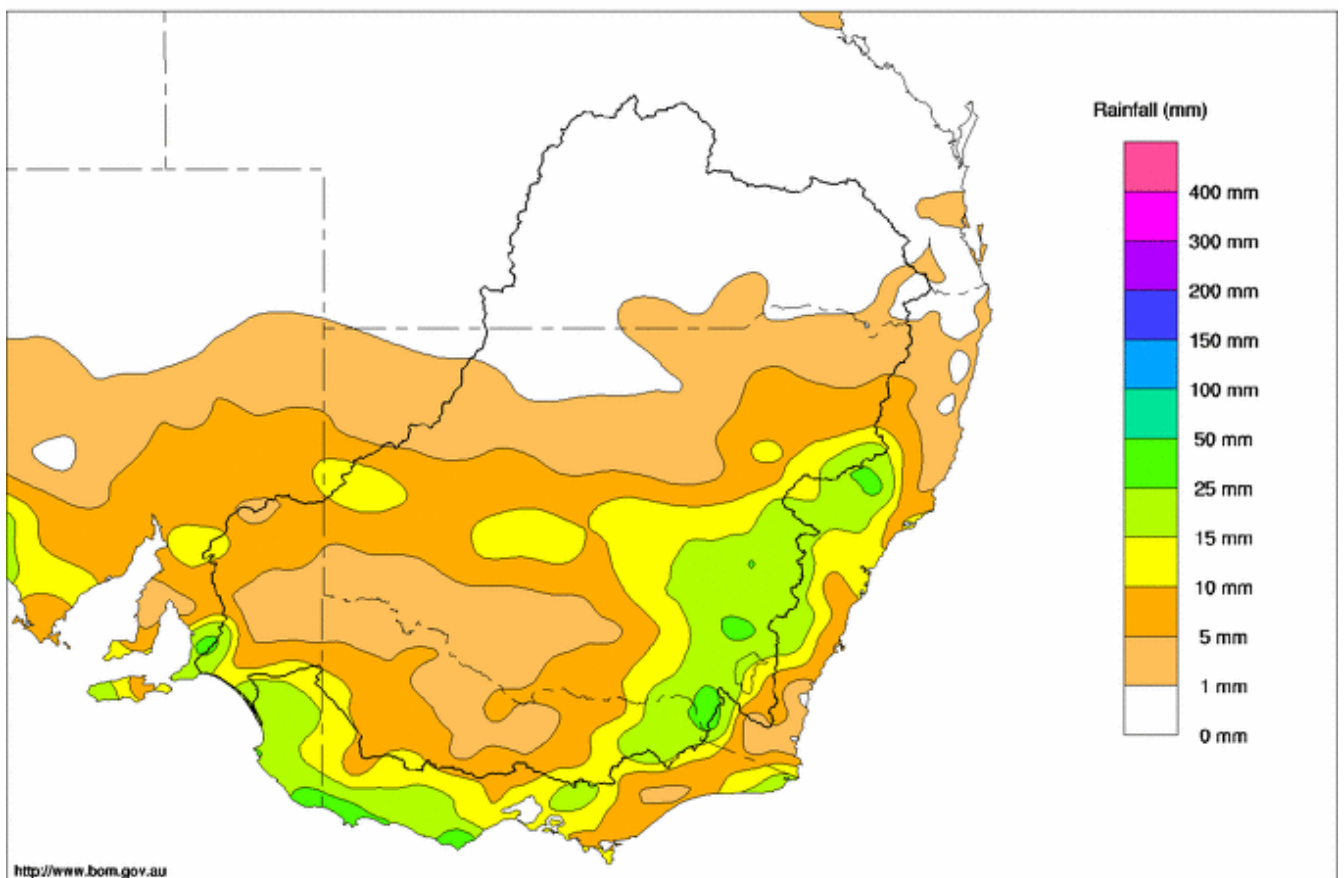
Rainfall and Inflows

Light falls of rain were recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin this week with the highest falls along the Great Divide in NSW and Victoria. The Victorian Alps received up to 30 mm of rain and the Snowy Mountains received a little more, at around 45 mm (see map 1). In South Australia the Lower Lakes at Hindmarsh Island also received some rain with around 15 mm recorded.

This rain was not enough to significantly boost streamflows in the upper Murray but has helped to keep the streams fairly steady. Rocky Point on the Ovens River rose a little from 2,170 ML/day to 2,310 ML/day and Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta river has increased from 700 ML/day to 820 ML/day. This rain has continued to keep the catchments wet after good falls of rain in late June and streamflows should respond to future rainfall events, however only light falls are forecast by the Bureau over the coming week.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th July 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage (useable water) is currently 1,453 GL (or 17% capacity), this is an increase of around 250 GL since 1 July. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 9 GL this week to 880 GL (23% capacity) which is well below the long term July average of 3,100 GL. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 33 GL to 499 GL (16% capacity). Both Dartmouth and Hume releases remain at their normal minimums of 200 and 600 ML/day respectively. The flow at Doctors Point during the week peaked at 2,100 ML/day in response to inflows from the Kiewa River and has since receded to 1,800 ML/day.

Lake Mulwala is continuing to refill and over the past week the water level has risen from 122.8 to 123.3 m AHD or 1.6 m below full supply level. This equates to an increase in volume of 14 GL over the week and a similar increase is expected next week depending on inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa rivers. The filling of NSW irrigation channels has begun with diversion to Mulwala canal of up to 1,000 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga Weir continues at its normal minimum of 1,800 ML/day.

The level of Torrumbarry Weir pool has been temporarily lowered and is now being held steady at 85.88 m AHD (0.17 m below full supply level). The small pulse of water moving through the mid-Murray has now passed Euston Weir where the release peaked at 5,800 ML/day before receding to 2,650 ML/day. Release from Wentworth Weir peaked at 4,600 ML/day and is now at 4,100 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 17 GL to 284 GL (42% capacity), which continues to be lower than this time last year (317 GL) and considerably lower than the long term July average of 630 GL. The target flow to South Australia continues to remain steady at 1,800 ML/day.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) remained steady at 247 GL (14% capacity) as releases from Weir 32 increased to 120 ML/day over the week to supply more flow through the Lower Darling. Upstream of the lakes, the flow at Wilcannia is 380 ML/day and is continuing to gradually recede.

Lake Alexandrina's water level is steady at -0.81 m AHD (or 1.56 m below full supply level) in response to continued local rainfall, inflows from local streams and also inflows from the Murray (flow past Lock 1 is currently averaging 980 ML/day). Lock 6 remains at around 8cm below full supply level whilst Locks 5 - 1 are all above full supply level.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 29 Jul 2009

Water in Storage

| MDBA Storages | Full Supply Level (m AHD) | Full Supply Volume (GL) | Current Storage Level (m AHD) | Current Storage | | Dead Storage (GL) | MDBA Active Storage (GL) | Change in Total Storage for the week (GL) |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | | (GL) | % | | | |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00 | 3 906 | 419.13 | 880 | 23% | 80 | 800 | +9 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 173.27 | 499 | 16% | 30 | 469 | +33 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 23.38 | 284 | 42% | 100 | 184 | +17 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 246 | 14% | (- -) # | 0 | -0 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 1 909 | 20% | -- | 1 453 | +59 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = 17%

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

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | | 398 | 39% | 3 | 395 | +3 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 644 | 40% | 24 | 620 | +18 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 334 | | 557 | 17% | 100 | 457 | +18 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Jul-2009

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2009 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 458 | n/a | Snowy-Murray | +16 | 214 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 257 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +6 | 64 |
| Target Storage | 1 170 | | Nett Diversion | 10.0 | 150 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +20 | 275 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2009 | Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2009 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 6.5 | 6.5 | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | 0.0 | 0 |
| Wakool Sys Allowance | 0.0 | -.3 | Torrumbary System + Nyah (net) | 0.0 | 0 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.1 | .2 | Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.0 | 0 |
| Licensed Pumps | 0.5 | 3.2 | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.0 | 0 |
| Lower Darling | 0.0 | .1 | Licensed pumps - LMW | 0.8 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 7.1 | 9.7 | TOTAL | 0.8 | 3 |

* 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 | 109 * | (1 800 ML/day) |
| Flow this week | 12.6 | |
| Flow so far this month | 52 | |
| Flow last month | 52 | |

* Reduced to approx. 56 GL during July drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2008 |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 60 | 70 | 60 |
| Euston | 90 | 100 | 100 |
| Red Cliffs | 120 | 130 | 120 |
| Merbein | 110 | 110 | 120 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 360 | 360 | 450 |
| Lock 9 | 140 | 150 | 190 |
| Lake Victoria | 200 | 200 | 250 |
| Berri | 440 | 430 | 350 |
| Waikerie | - | - | 470 |
| Morgan | 430 | 430 | 500 |
| Mannum | 610 | 600 | 620 |
| Murray Bridge | 710 | 710 | 650 |
| Milang (Lake Alex) | 5 480 | 5 470 | 4 610 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex) | 4 470 | 4 630 | 4 260 |
| Meningie (Lake Alex) | 9 420 | 9 190 | 7 950 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 20 620 | 20 060 | 23 790 |

Week ending Wednesday 29 Jul 2009

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 | - | - | - | 3 310 | F | 3 700 | 2 790 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.68 | 208.20 | 4 650 | F | 4 950 | 5 030 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.40 | 218.29 | 480 | R | 500 | 520 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.21 | 154.84 | 600 | S | 600 | 600 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 1.60 | 150.07 | 1 810 | S | 1 790 | 1 840 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 0.74 | 148.18 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 0.60 | 126.62 | 1 740 | F | 1 690 | 2 030 |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 0.31 | 115.35 | 1 820 | S | 1 820 | 1 590 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 0.77 | 104.61 | 2 010 | S | 2 000 | 1 830 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 0.88 | 79.43 | 2 000 | F | 1 930 | 2 740 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.58 | 63.50 | 1 990 | S | 2 070 | 4 670 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 1.42 | 50.54 | 2 310 | S | 2 880 | 5 320 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 0.64 | 42.48 | 2 660 | R | 3 940 | 4 750 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 3 880 | F | 4 260 | 3 280 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.86 | 27.62 | 4 180 | F | 4 410 | 3 040 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 2.43 | 19.36 | 1 060 | F | 1 160 | 1 140 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | -0.73 | - | 980 | S | 980 | 1 050 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 1.55 | 154.78 | 1 430 | S | 1 400 | 1 630 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 8.44 | 146.12 | 2 050 | F | 2 400 | 3 790 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.00 | 92.42 | 190 | F | 250 | 310 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.36 | 80.13 | 130 | S | 150 | 270 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 0.71 | 56.09 | 300 | R | 260 | 290 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 1.02 | 54.51 | 10 | S | 10 | 20 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.48 | 56.44 | 230 | S | 230 | 180 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.33 | - | 240 | F | 290 | 360 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.14 | - | 540 | S | 450 | 500 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.60 | - | 0 | F | 0 | 10 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 5 030 | 5 890 |
|---|-------|-------|

Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

| Murray | FSL (mAHD) | u/s | d/s | | FSL (mAHD) | u/s | d/s |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-------|----------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrawonga | 124.90 | -1.61 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | -0.05 | +0.12 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | -0.15 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | -0.09 | -0.01 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.01 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.06 | +0.10 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.01 | +0.08 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.08 | +0.19 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.02 | +0.22 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.03 | +0.21 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | -0.01 | -0.04 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.14 | +0.11 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | -0.01 | +0.04 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.09 | -1.48 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -0.56 | 0.6005 | 69.9505 | 250 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -0.48 | 0.0905 | 61.3905 | 220 |

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | |
|--|---------|
| | (m AHD) |
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | -0.81 |

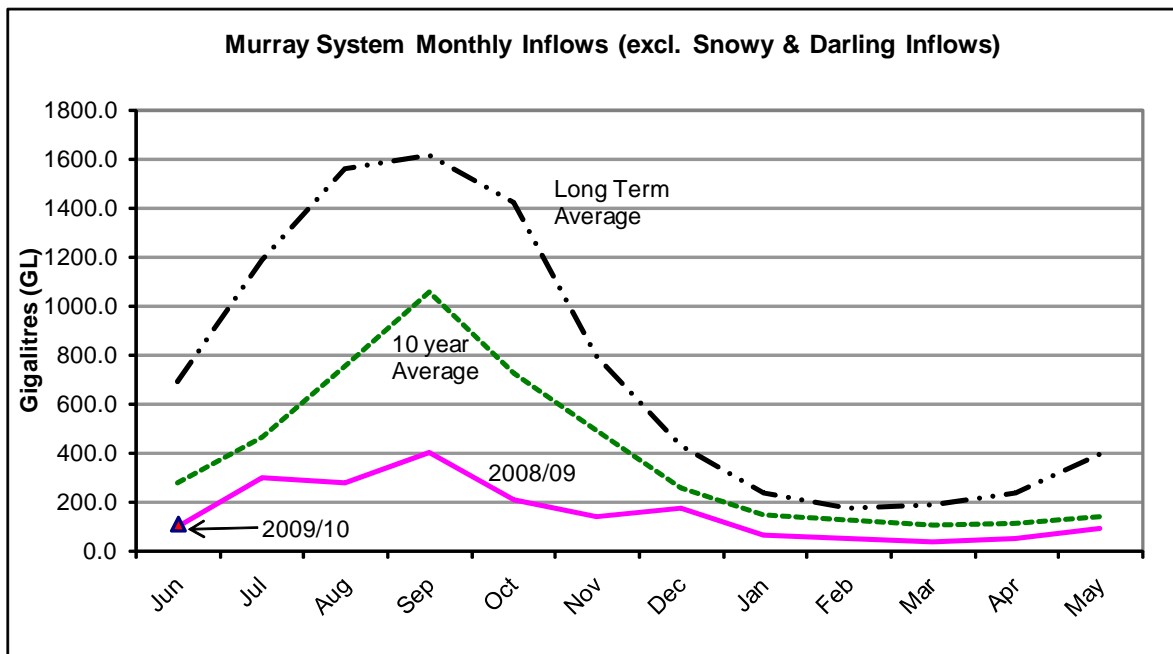
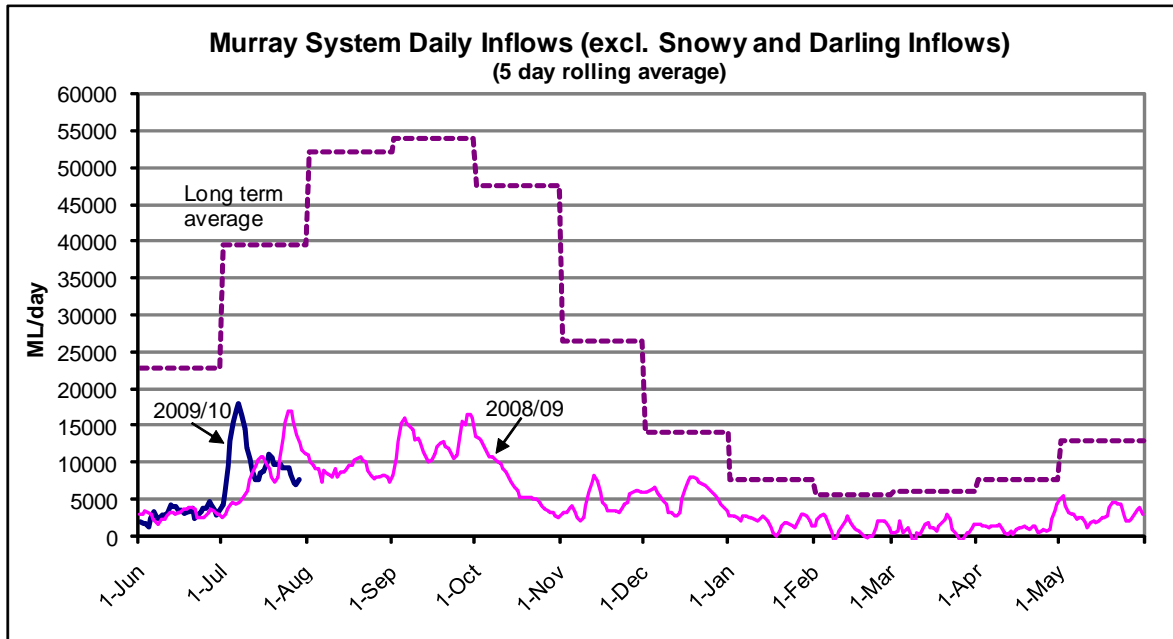
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | -0.81 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | - | 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 29th July 2009



State Allocations (as at 29th July 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|----|
| High security | 3% |
| General security | 0% |

Victoria - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|----|
| high reliability | 0% |
|------------------|----|

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

| | |
|------------------|----|
| High security | 0% |
| General security | 0% |

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

| | |
|------------------|----|
| high reliability | 0% |
|------------------|----|

NSW - Lower Darling

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High security | 100% |
| General security | 0% |

South Australia - Murray Valley

| | |
|---------------|----|
| High security | 2% |
|---------------|----|

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.dwlbcsa.gov.au/media.html>