



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2008

Trim Ref: D08/106

19 December, 2008

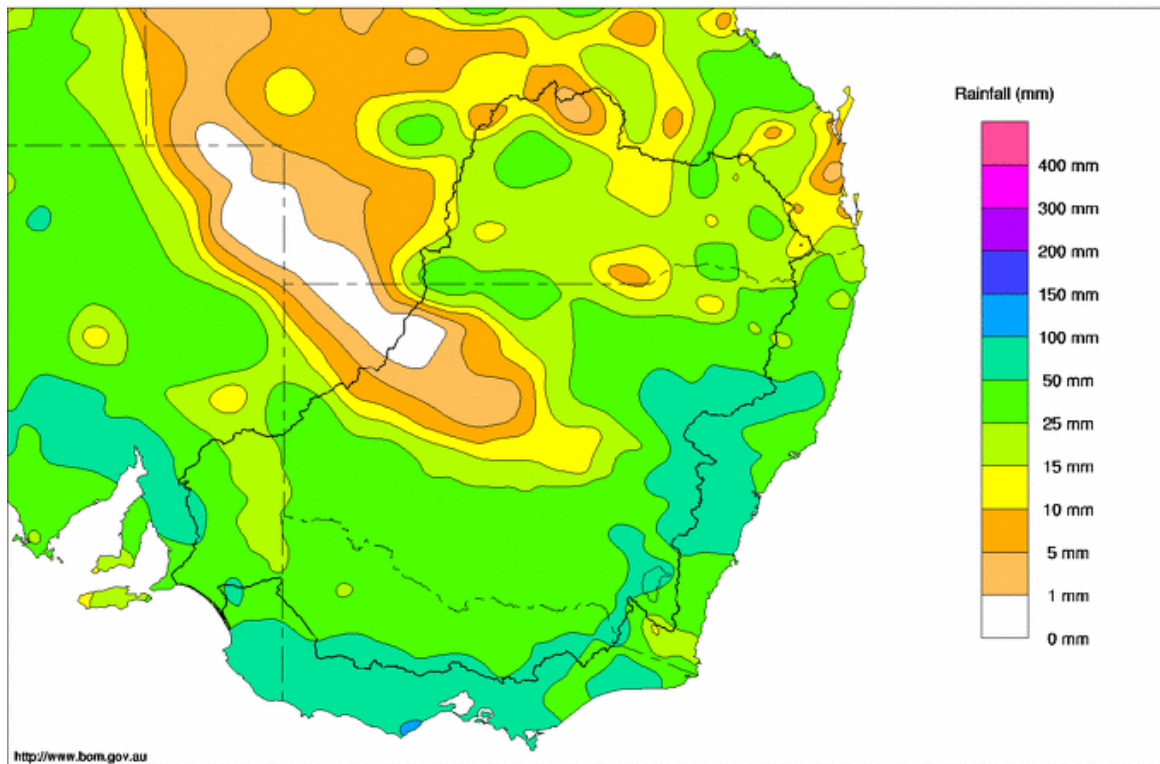
This is the first River Murray Weekly Report of the new Murray–Darling Basin Authority. On Monday 15 December 2008 the Murray-Darling Basin Commission ceased to exist and its functions were transferred to the Authority. The Authority will continue to issue weekly reports and these will now be available at www.mdba.gov.au.

Rainfall and Inflows

There have been good falls of rain across eastern Australia during the past week. The north of the Basin received falls of up to 34 mm, with Morven in the Warrego catchment of Queensland receiving 34 mm. In NSW, the eastern highlands from the Victorian border through to Tamworth recorded up to 100 mm. The upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens catchments recorded falls of up to 100 mm and South Australia also received good rainfall, with falls in the range of 25 to 50 mm at the Lower Lakes.

Streamflow responses in the Murray tributaries were again, however, small. The best responses observed were in the Mitta Mitta River (1 700 ML/day at Hinnomunjie), the upper Murray (1 300 ML/day at Biggara) and the Ovens (2 000 ML/day at Wangaratta). Murray system inflows so far this December total around 100 GL. This is above the minimum of 60 GL, recorded in December 2006, but well below the long-term December average of 420 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th December 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 15/12/2008



River Operations

Despite the recent rain, inflows to Dartmouth Reservoir remain very low and during the past week, storage increased by only 5 GL to a total of 885 GL (or 23% capacity). A third pulsed release is planned to commence next week which will transfer additional water to Hume Reservoir and also aim to benefit the riverine environment of the Mitta Mitta River.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 22 GL to 819 GL (or 27% capacity) and the flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) averaged around 7 000 ML/day.

The level of Lake Mulwala has been steady at about 124.7 m AHD (or 20 cm below Full Supply Level), and release from Yarrowonga Weir has been maintained at around 7 500 ML/day. The level of Torrumbarry Weir pool has been raised to Full Supply Level (FSL) after being temporarily lowered by 0.2 m to 85.85 m AHD in late November as part of a continuing operation to increase variability in stream levels between Echuca and Torrumbarry.

Reduced call on inter-valley trade water from the Murrumbidgee River has resulted in the tributary inflow at Balranald declining from 750 to 680 ML/day. Under dry conditions the flow at Balranald is expected to gradually recede toward the normal minimum of 200 ML/day over coming weeks.

The recent rain has reduced demands and losses and boosted Murray flows in Sunraysia with the flow downstream of Mildura Weir rising from 6 000 to 6 700 ML/day and the flow downstream of Wentworth Weir rising from 6 900 to 7 500 ML/day. Lake Victoria storage has increased by 16 GL to 339 GL and is now at 50% capacity. It is expected that under a return to dry conditions the level of Lake Victoria will rise a little further before beginning to fall gradually in the new year.

The rain in South Australia has temporarily reduced water demands and river losses and the levels of weir pools at Locks 1 to 4 have been raised slightly above FSL to capture this water. Flow to South Australia has therefore been reduced from 4 600 to 4 300 ML/day. The level of the Lake Alexandrina remains at around -0.5 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 17 Dec 2008

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 Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	419.31	885	23%	80	805	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.87	819	27%	30	789	-22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.95	339	50%	100	239	+16
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		179	10%	(- -) #	0	-18
Total		9 352		2 222	24%	--	1 833	-19

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

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	514	50%	3	511	+9
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	619	38%	24	595	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	761	22%	100	661	+6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Dec-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	764	+46	Snowy-Murray	+0	355
Snowy-Murray Component	431	+27	Tooma-Tumut	+10	189
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-10.2	165
			Murray 1 Release	+0	535

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	59.2
Wakool System loss	-0.3	22.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	8.5
Licensed Pumps	1.3	41.9
Lower Darling	0.1	4.3
TOTAL	1.4	135.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.1	46
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.8	71
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.0	39
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	25
TOTAL	16.5	185

* 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	217 *	
Flow this week	32.1	(4 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	77	
Flow last month	125	

* Reduced to approx. 140 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	50	60	70
Euston	150	150	100
Red Cliffs	210	210	130
Merbein	220	200	130
Burtundy (Darling)	390	390	380
Lock 9	250	220	210
Lake Victoria	260	240	240
Berri	320	320	380
Waikerie	390	390	500
Morgan	460	470	540
Mannum	710	720	560
Murray Bridge	640	630	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 390	4 260	3 860
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 100	4 170	3 450
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 610	6 820	5 460
Goolwa Barrages	-	-	17 460



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	-	-	-	920	R	1 150	570
Jingellic	4.0	1.32	207.84	2 030	F	2 250	1 640
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	550	F	570	1 070
Heywoods	5.5	2.18	155.81	6 030	R	5 480	7 050
Doctors Point	5.5	2.40	150.87	7 850	R	6 770	7 910
Albury	4.3	1.39	148.83	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.55	127.57	5 380	R	6 620	6 990
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 430	F	7 700	7 320
Tocumwal	6.4	1.89	105.73	7 760	R	7 500	7 260
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.15	80.70	6 410	R	6 110	5 950
Swan Hill	4.5	1.23	64.15	6 090	R	5 890	5 960
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.54	51.66	6 280	S	6 210	6 300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.54	43.38	7 840	F	7 700	7 740
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 730	F	6 460	6 090
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.11	27.87	7 450	F	7 360	7 160
Rufus Junction	-	3.01	19.94	3 800	F	3 950	3 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.35	-	1 920	R	1 840	1 640
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.53	154.76	1 370	F	1 230	660
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.26	145.94	1 549	F	1 170	730
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	524	S	430	320
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.29	81.06	1 050	F	1 150	920
Edward at Liewah	-	1.63	57.01	929	R	850	730
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.11	54.60	37	F	40	50
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.08	57.04	681	F	730	920
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.54	-	835	F	1 070	1 150
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	14	S	10	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.43	-	2 014	F	2 260	2 640

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 240	3 030
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.74
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.18	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.47	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.24
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.07	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.14	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+0.43	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-1.10

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.59	0.982	70.332	736
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.00	0.733	62.033	894.868

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.53

Barrages

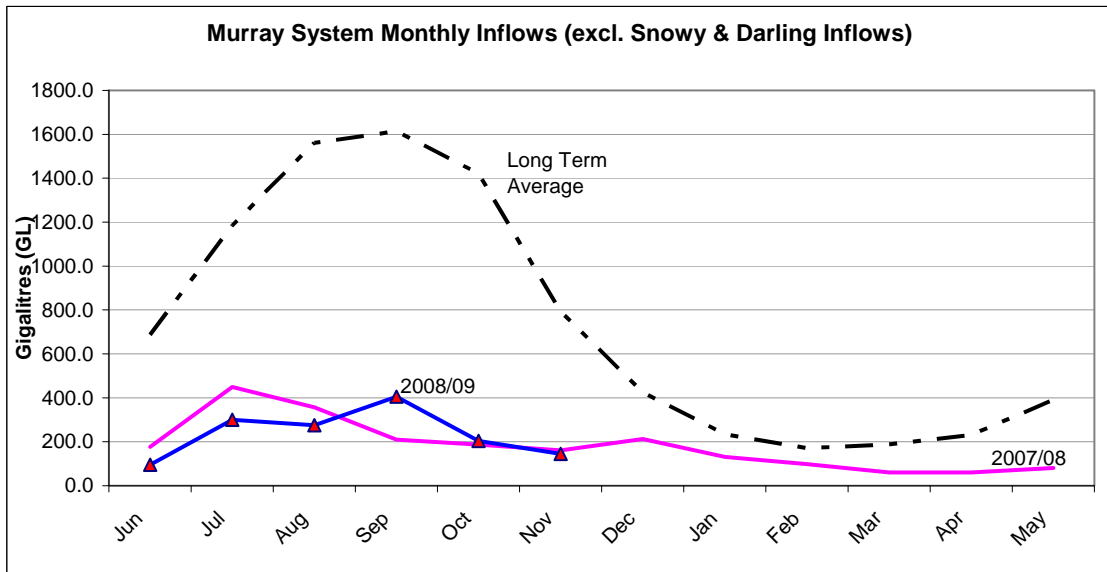
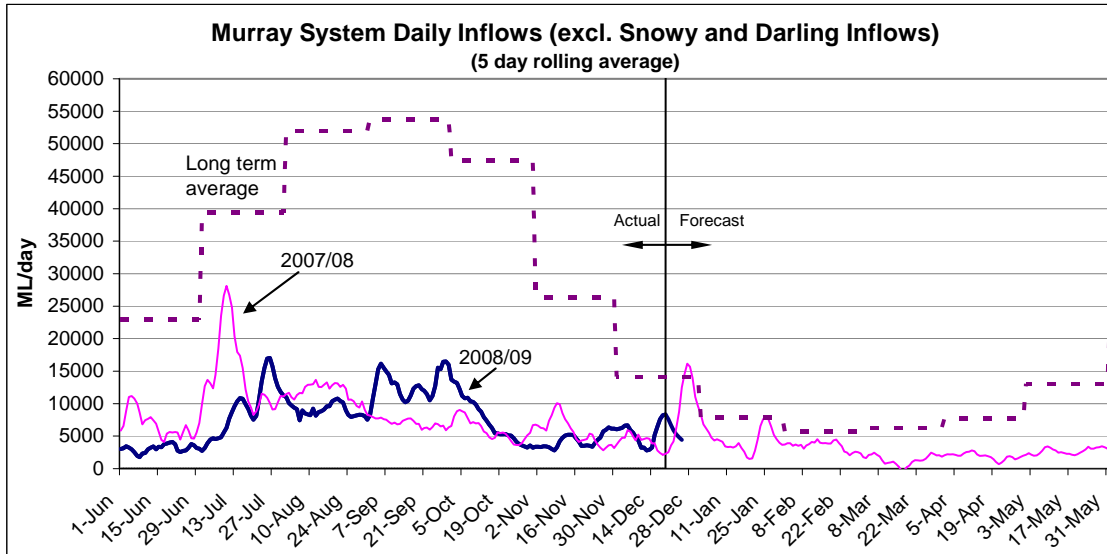
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.40	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.41	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 17th December 2008



State Allocations (as at 17th December 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	4%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	28%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	12% (& extra 2% Feb 09)

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	23%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	15%
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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>