

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 December 2007

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7 December, 2007



## Rainfall and inflows

During the past week good falls of rain were once again recorded across most of the Murray-Darling Basin, particularly in southern Queensland, most of New South Wales and the alpine region of Victoria (see Map 1).

### *Northern Basin*

Heavy rainfall in the Warrego and Paroo River catchments of southern Queensland has resulted in moderate and major flooding at some locations according to the Bureau of Meteorology. Most of this water will flow into the complex system of anabranches in the lower reaches of these two rivers, providing a welcome boost to the associated wetlands and aquatic ecosystems. A small volume of the water from the Warrego River is expected to pass into the Darling River downstream of Bourke.

Other rivers in the north of the Basin are also starting to respond to the wet weather and this has resulted in the flow of the Darling River at Bourke increasing from 600 to 1 600 ML/day and a further small increase in the flow is expected over the coming week.

### *Southern Basin*

Stream responses in the Murray catchment were variable due to the patchy nature of the thunderstorm activity. Unregulated inflow to Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs over the past week remained relatively steady whereas the flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta increased from 600 to 3 500 ML/day and is currently 2 200 ML/day.

### *November 2007 Summary*

After 3 months of dry weather, rainfall in November was well above average across most of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map 2). While the rainfall has been very welcome, the November inflow to the River Murray of about 170 GL was well below the long-term average of about 950 GL (or 790 GL excluding inflow to Menindee Lakes) due to the preceding dry conditions. However, the November 2007 inflows were more than double the 70 GL recorded in November 2006.

The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that a La Nina event is well established in the Pacific Ocean and is predicted to continue until at least the start of autumn 2008. The chances of exceeding the median rainfall for summer are indicated to be between 60 and 70 % in southeast Queensland and north-east of New South Wales. However, in northern Victoria and southern NSW there is only a 45% chance of exceeding the median rainfall this summer combined with a 60 to 70% chance for above-normal maximum temperatures.

Total MDBC storage (including Menindee Lakes) at end November was 1 885 GL or 20% capacity, compared to 2 435 GL this time last year and the long-term average at the end of November of 7 040 GL (see Figure on page 2).

## River Operations

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir, which reached a peak of 5 000 ML/day in late November, is gradually being reduced to about 700 ML/day by 12 December (see attached Flow Advice). This is in response to the increased likelihood of the total volume of water needed to be transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir this season being less than previously forecast under the "worst case dry" scenario. The relatively wet conditions during November and early December have

resulted in storage in Hume Reservoir being above the minimum planned level for this time of year and therefore less water is needed to be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume this season.

Dartmouth Reservoir is the preferred site for storing water that will be carried over into next season as it maximises water availability due to the lower evaporative losses and the reduced chance of spill than in either Hume Reservoir or Lake Victoria. As such, the volume of subsequent releases from Dartmouth Reservoir this summer will be minimised where possible and will depend on continual reassessment of inflows, storage volumes and the overall water requirements along the River Murray System.

Water savings continue to be made by maintaining weir pools below their Full Supply Levels wherever practical, however flow rates along the River Murray in many reaches are being increased to meet the higher demand for water as the weather warms up and the water allocations gradually increase.

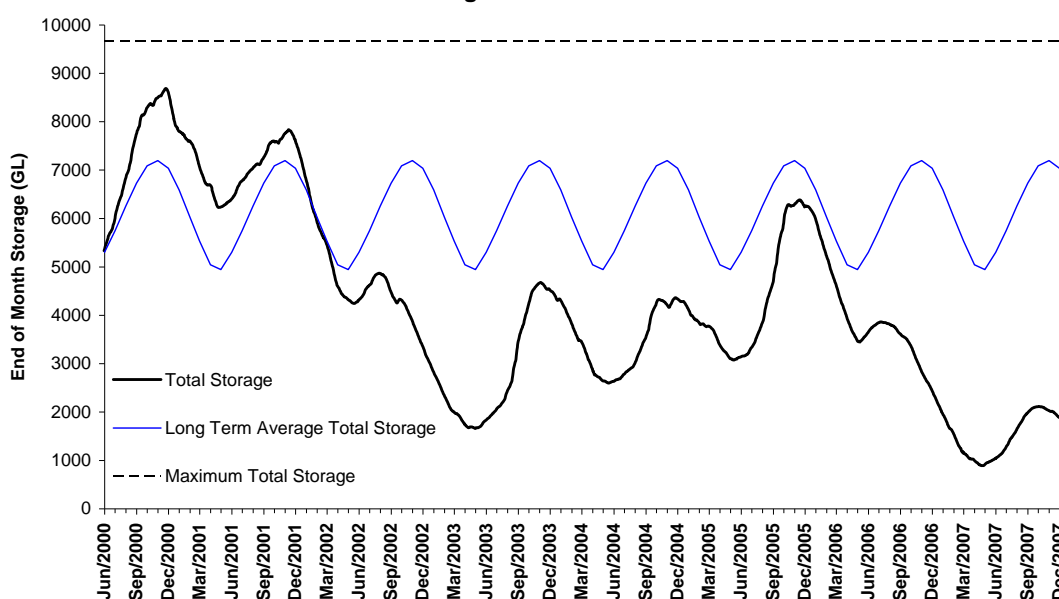
Lake Mulwala is currently at 124.25 m AHD (65 cm below Full Supply Level) and the release has been steady at 7 000 ML/day. The level of Lake Mulwala is expected to remain between 124.2 m and 124.5 m AHD over the coming weeks.

Further downstream, the Torrumbarry Weir pool level has been steady at 85.9 m AHD (15 cm below FSL) and the release has been increased from 5 700 to 6 300 ML/day. Euston Weir pool is currently at 47.0 m AHD (60 cm below FSL) and is being gradually lowered to a target of 46.9 m AHD (70 cm below FSL) by 21 December. Release from Euston Weir is 4 600 ML/day and expected to increase to more than 5 000 ML/day over the coming week.

In the lower Darling River, high levels of blue green algae have been detected downstream of Menindee at Weir 32, and the New South Wales Government has issued a Red Alert. For further information go to [http://www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel/mr\\_toc\\_currnr.html](http://www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel/mr_toc_currnr.html).

In South Australia, flow rates and weir pool levels have remained relatively steady and river salinities upstream of Lock 1 are steady or gradually declining. However, salinity levels downstream of Lock 1 continue to gradually increase, with the salinity at Mannum now 690 EC and the salinity in Lake Alexandrina at Milang Jetty increasing to over 3 000 EC. The level of the Lower Lakes continues to fall and is currently 0.03 m AHD.

**MDBC Total Storage : June 2000 to December 2007**



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# Flow Advice for Mitta Mitta River

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Monday 3 December 2007

## Mitta Mitta River flow to be reduced

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission wishes to advise Mitta Mitta Valley landholders that the release from Dartmouth Reservoir is currently being reduced.

Due to the relatively wet conditions during November and early December, the storage volume in Hume Reservoir is presently above the minimum target level for this time of year under the “worst case dry” scenario. This, in addition to the increasing chance of water being carried over into the 2008-09 irrigation season, means that the total volume of water needed to be released from Dartmouth Reservoir this season is likely to be less than previously forecast.

Over the past week the flow at Colemans Gauge has been gradually reduced from 4 300 to 2 600 ML/day and will be further reduced to about 700 ML/day (1.28 m gauge height) by 12 December.

With the current inflow from Snowy Creek of 140 ML/day, this is expected to provide a flow at Tallandoon of about 900 ML/day (1.53 m gauge height).

If the inflow from Snowy Creek remains low, then the flow at Colemans Gauge is expected to be maintained at about 700 ML/day until late December.

The pattern and volume of subsequent releases will depend on continual reassessment of inflows, storage volumes and the overall water requirements along the River Murray System. It will also take into account the outcomes of ecological assessments being undertaken by Charles Sturt University on flow variability in the Mitta Mitta River.

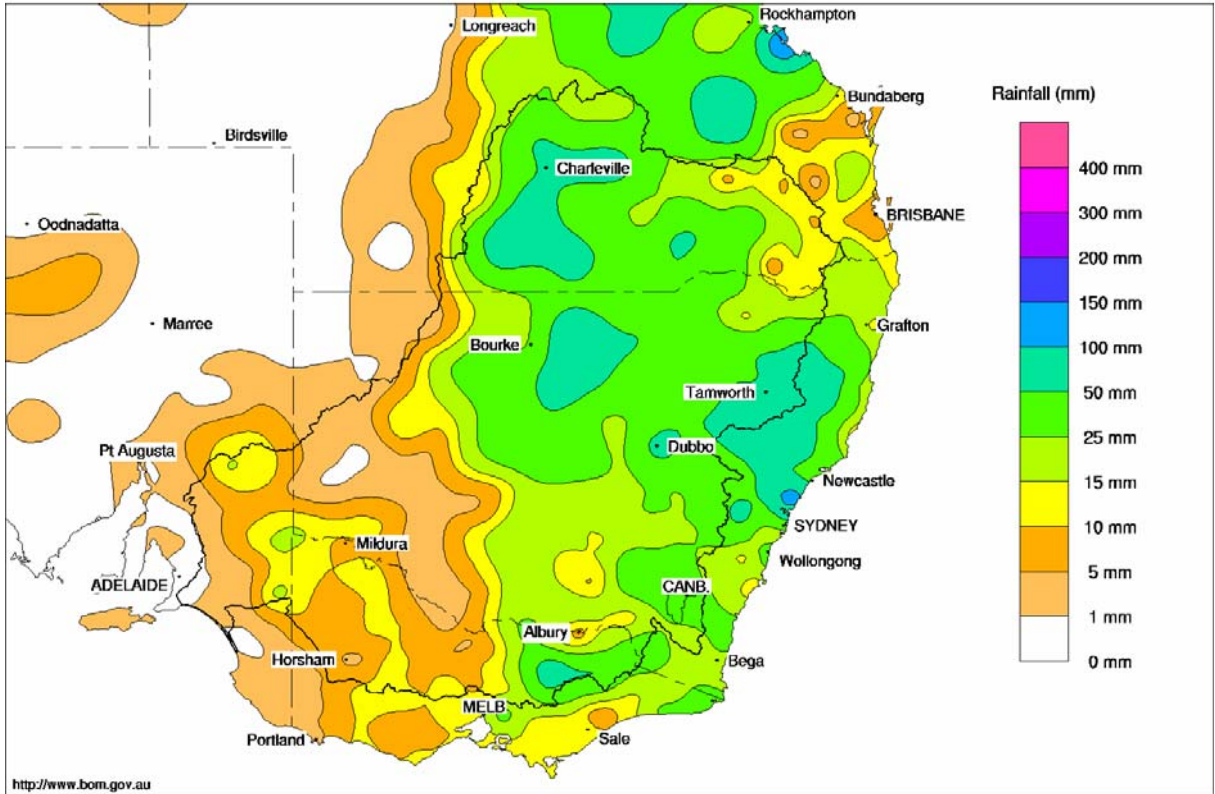
Where possible a variable release pattern will be implemented to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users. However, the rate of future releases are expected to be significantly less than the recent peak flow of 5 000 ML/day.

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

A further flow advice will be provided before Christmas.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th December 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre

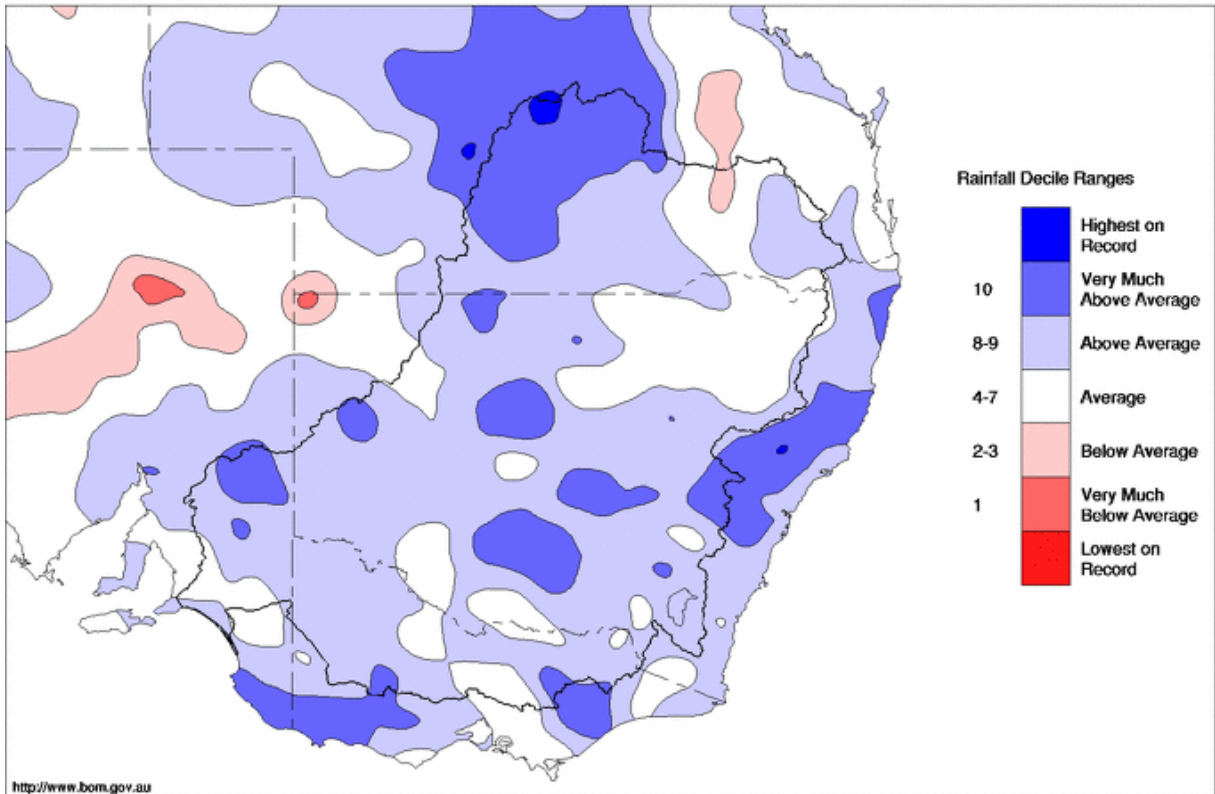


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Issued: 05/12/2007

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles November 2007

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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### 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	410.36	668	17%	80	588	-15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.34	768	25%	30	738	-7
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.49	395	58%	100	295	-9
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		33	2%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 863</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 621</b>	<b>-33</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **19%**

# 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		398	39%	3	395	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		493	30%	24	469	-8
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		820	24%	100	720	-2

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Dec-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	506	+4	Snowy-Murray	+6	264
Snowy-Murray Component	427	+9	Tooma-Tumut	+0	113
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	5.5	150
			Murray 1 Release	+9	439

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.2	32.3
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	6.1
Licensed Pumps	2.2	25.9
Lower Darling	0.5	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>72.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.2	33
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.4	50
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	29 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	5
Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>165 *</b>

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

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217 *	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.4	
Flow so far this month	17	
Flow last month	103	

\* Reduced to approx. 109 GL during December drought contingency operations

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	60	60	100
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	140	150	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 410	1 420	1 220
Lock 9	220	220	150
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	300	280	420
Waikerie	-	510	640
Morgan	630	630	710
Mannum	670	660	490
Murray Bridge	590	550	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 060	2 940	2 400
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 830	1 280	2 280
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 100	3 160	2 630
Goolwa Barrages	17 320	17 240	14 510



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	-	-	-	3 640	R	1 710	980
Jingellic	4.0	1.20	207.72	1 270	F	1 880	1 320
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.03	218.92	2 540	F	3 280	4 890
Heywoods	5.5	2.00	155.63	6 040	F	5 950	7 000
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	6 220	F	6 460	7 930
Albury	4.3	1.23	148.67	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.54	127.56	5 330	R	6 440	7 500
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.32	116.36	7 000	S	7 020	6 710
Tocumwal	6.4	1.82	105.66	7 310	F	7 310	6 850
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.16	80.71	6 310	R	6 090	5 510
Swan Hill	4.5	1.22	64.14	5 960	R	5 720	5 300
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.35	51.47	5 500	R	5 260	5 120
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.99	42.83	4 650	R	4 520	4 600
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 200	F	3 380	3 250
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.79	27.55	3 010	S	3 040	3 100
Rufus Junction	-	2.93	19.86	3 070	R	2 870	2 690
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.05	-	1 890	F	1 920	1 290
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.03	154.26	647	R	590	660
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.94	146.62	3 567	R	1 790	880
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	385	R	370	310
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.68	80.45	410	F	400	320
Edward at Liewah	-	0.51	55.89	219	R	200	200
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.85	55.34	27	F	30	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.40	56.36	149	S	160	170
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	33	F	110	90
Darling at Bourke	-	4.21	-	910	R	510	320
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.51	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 610	1 740
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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	-0.64	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+0.61
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.60	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.33
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.15	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.37	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.35	-0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.70

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.78	0.687	70.037	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-3.08	0.123	61.423	244



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

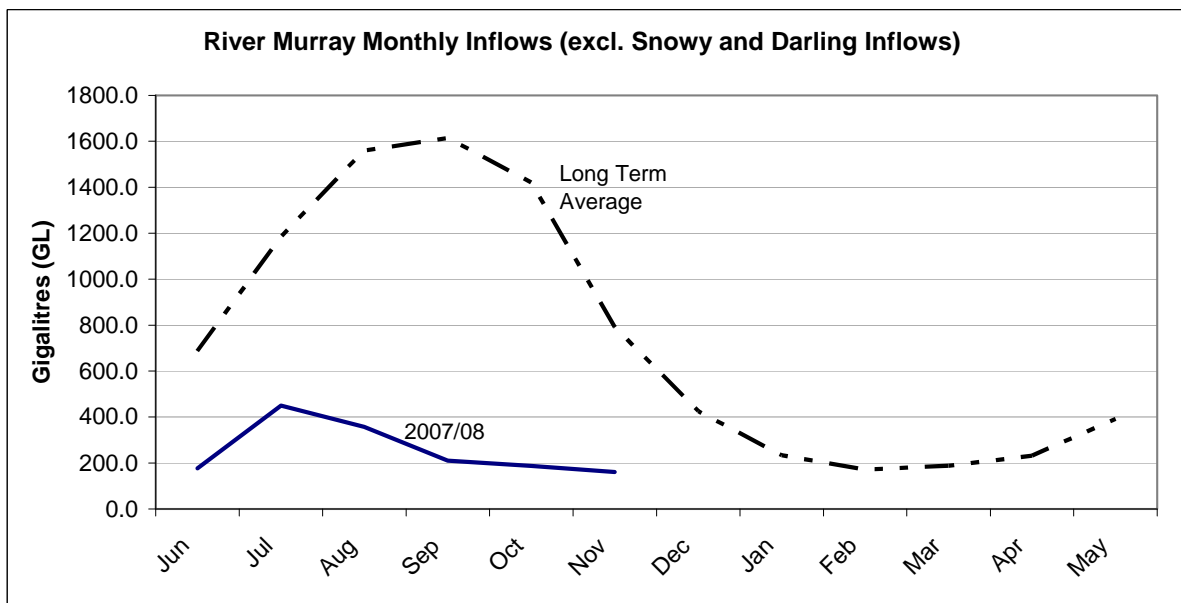
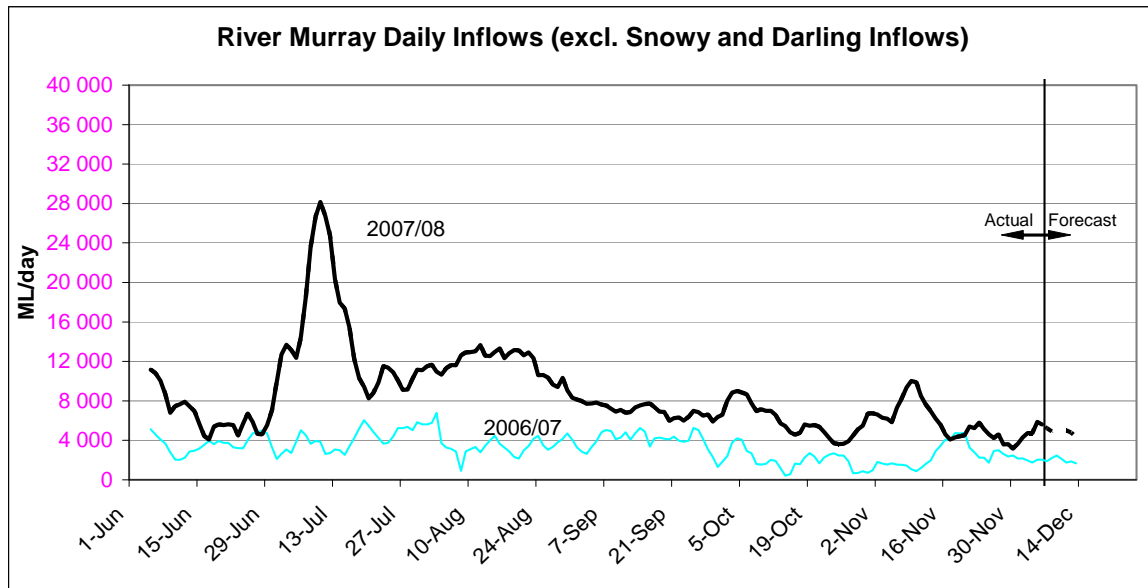
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.03

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.04	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.00	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.12	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 5 Dec 2007)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

Suspended water re-credit	50%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High Security	90%
General security	0%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	22% and 32% from 14 Dec
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**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	26%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	37%
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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://g-mwater.dds.n.com/news.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>