

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 November 2007



*Our Ref : M2006/01015/PRS, MS  
Trim Ref : 07/14633*

23 November, 2007

## Rainfall and Inflows

The southern and eastern Basin received welcome rain late this week after a series of very hot days. Yarrawonga reached 41.5°C on Tuesday compared with the average maximum for November of 26.5°C and Swan Hill reached 42.9°C compared the average maximum for November of 26.8°C.

Most areas along the River Murray received between 10 and 20mm of rain (see map). There was additional rainfall in northern Victoria and southern NSW on Wednesday night and Thursday with Albury receiving over 40 mm. The rain has temporarily reduced losses along the river and has resulted in small increases in tributary flows. For example, the Ovens River at Rocky Point has increased from 650 to 1 000 ML/day and inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir increased from 500 to over 1 000 ML/day.

## River Operations

Release from Hume Reservoir was increased earlier in the week from 5 000 to 8 500 ML/day to meet increasing water demands downstream. Following the rain it has subsequently been reduced to around 6 500 ML/day. Hume storage has continued to decrease from 803 to 784 GL (25.8% capacity).

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was increased from 700 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day last week in order to transfer water to Hume Reservoir. The release rate from Dartmouth is now being gradually reduced according to the plan detailed in earlier weekly reports. The higher release from Dartmouth resulted in the storage level decreasing from 716 to 707 GL (18.1% capacity).

Flow down the Edward River offtake has been increased from 160 to 200 ML/day and flow along the Gulpa Creek has been increased from 90 to 300 ML/day. This will increase flow along the Edward River as well as provide water to parts of the Wakool River System (see attached media release by the NSW government).

Euston Weir pool has been held steady over the past month at around 47.1 m AHD, 50 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL). However, commencing 26<sup>th</sup> November the Euston Weir pool will be gradually lowered by a further 20 cm to 46.9 m AHD by late December (see media release attached).

The flow to South Australia remains steady at 3 400 ML/day and continues to be supplied primarily from Lake Victoria. Over the past few weeks the flow downstream of Lock 3 has reduced from 2 500 to 1 500 ML/day as a result of increased demand and higher evaporation rates. All upstream weir pool levels in South Australia are at, or slightly above their Full Supply Level.

A new page has been added to Weekly Report containing the latest State allocation announcements. It also shows total Murray System inflows on a daily and monthly basis so far this water year and compares these with inflows in previous years. So far inflows are tracking above the record low inflows of last year but they remain well below the long term average.

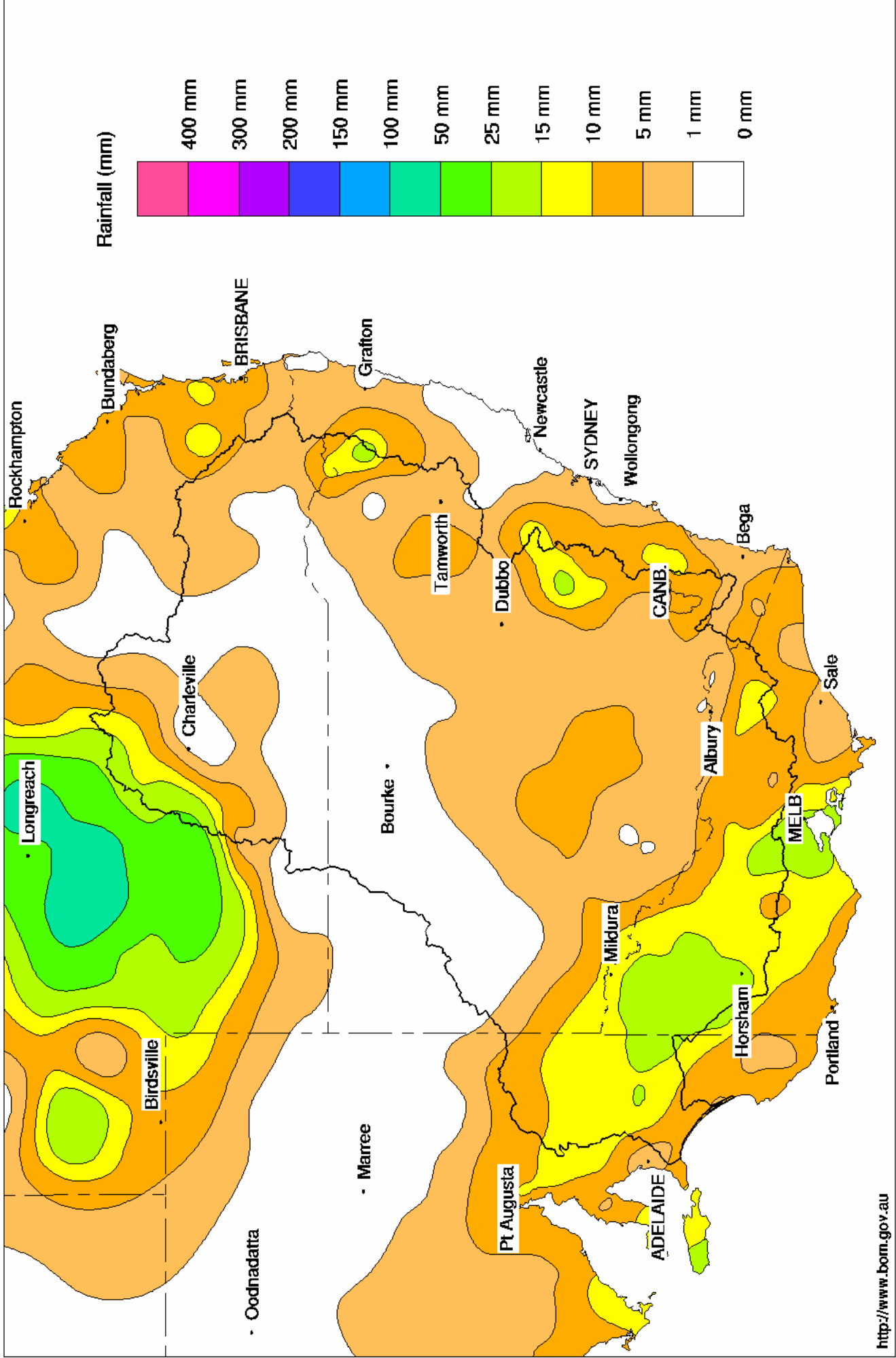
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st November 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

## Media Release

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20 November 2007

### **WATER TO FLOW INTO WAKOOL RIVER AND MERRAN CREEK**

*State Plan Priority E1: A secure and sustainable water supply for all users*

The Department of Water and Energy today announced that water would be released into the Wakool River and Merran Creek systems.

“A limited release of 8,000 megalitres will be made into the Wakool River and Merran Creek systems immediately,” said the Department’s Deputy Director General, Mr David Harriss.

“The purpose of this release is to provide water for essential stock and domestic purposes and to benefit the environment. It cannot be used for irrigation.

“The flows will give landholders along the Wakool River and Merran Creek systems access to fresh water for stock and domestic use for the first time in months. It will also help improve water quality, and provide water into pools that provide drought refuge for native fish and other aquatic species.

“I must stress that the amount of water available is limited and that not all creeks in these systems will receive flows.

“Initially water will be released into the Yallakool Creek from the Yallakool Escape and Yallakool Creek offtake regulator at a rate of 80 and 20 megalitres per day (ML/d) respectively. Water will also be released into the Wakool River from the Mulwala Canal at a rate of 20 ML/d, while Merran Creek will be supplied at a rate of 20 ML/d,” Mr Harriss said.

“While currently only 8,000 megalitres is available for release, the NSW Government is negotiating with the Murray Darling Basin Commission to make some additional water available from environmental water accounts that will supplement the flow. ”

Mr Harriss said that water availability in the Murray Valley remained very low and that the Department would continue to work with councils, industry groups and environmental groups to make the best use of available water over the coming months.

“In the continuing drought we need to balance the water needs of the community with that of the environment,” Mr Harriss said.

“Our priority is to now set aside enough water for critical human needs in 2008/09.”

The latest information on water availability in the Murray Valley is available in the Department’s critical water planning communiqué. Go to [www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au).

**Ends**

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**Media contact:** Bunty Driver 03 58983910



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: 21 November, 2007

## **Further temporary lowering of Euston Weir pool saves water**

The level of the Euston Weir pool is to be further lowered and its two lakes temporarily disconnected to cut evaporative losses and save water.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said today that a temporary structure would be built over the next six weeks to disconnect Dry Lake and Lake Benanee.

The measures are being implemented in collaboration with the NSW Department of Water and Energy (DWE).

“By the end of October we had lowered the Euston Weir pool to 50cm below full supply level as the first stage in a series of system-wide water savings measures,” Dr Craik said. “At the time, we warned that the level might need to be lowered more unless inflows improved substantially, which has not happened.”

Dr Craik said the temporary structures will allow the Euston Weir pool to eventually be partially refilled without refilling the Lakes, saving an estimated 25GL of evaporative losses this season.

“However, the weir pool will not be completely refilled, leaving airspace to re-regulate mid-Murray flow.

“While the two lakes periodically dried out and refilled naturally with the changing seasons, we will have a full environmental monitoring program in place throughout the period of changed operation,” Dr Craik said. “We hope to be able to re-fill the lakes by mid-winter or spring 2008 depending on river flows.”

Dr Craik said that the MDBC and DWE briefed the Euston Lakes community, including the Euston Lakes Users Group at a meeting in October on the need for these water saving measures and would continue to consult on progress and developments.

Euston Weir pool is currently 50 cm below full supply level. From Monday 26 November, the level will be gradually lowered by a further 20 cm to 46.90m AHD (70cm below full supply level) by 21 December.

The need for further lowering of the weir pool will be reviewed in early January 2008 or earlier if the temporary cut-off structure is completed. River diverters, boat skippers and other river users are advised to take the lower weir pool levels into account in their activities.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332**

**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	412.11	707	18%	80	627	-9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.51	784	26%	30	754	-22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.68	414	61%	100	314	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		36	2%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 942</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 696</b>	<b>-58</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **20%**

# 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		380	37%	3	377	-6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		511	31%	24	487	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		826	24%	100	726	-3

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Nov-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	491	+8	Snowy-Murray	+1	256
Snowy-Murray Component	408	+4	Tooma-Tumut	+0	113
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	1.2	143
			Murray 1 Release	+13	424

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.3	28.3
Wakool System loss	0.0	3.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	4.9
Licensed Pumps	2.1	21.3
Lower Darling	0.3	3.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>61.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.6	29
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.2	45
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.2	24 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	5
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.1	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>131 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

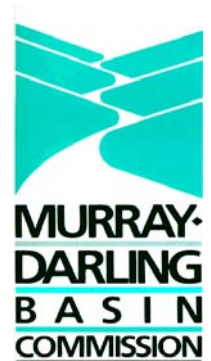
Entitlement this month	180 *	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.3	
Flow so far this month	72	
Flow last month	80	

\* Reduced to approx. 100 GL during November drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	80	70	100
Euston	90	100	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	170	180	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 450	1 400	1 190
Lock 9	210	200	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	170
Berri	300	300	440
Waikerie	-	570	650
Morgan	670	680	710
Mannum	610	590	480
Murray Bridge	540	530	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 720	2 780	2 340
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 760	2 880	2 360
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 690	2 700	2 570
Goolwa Barrages	15 770	15 290	14 280



**River Levels and Flows**

	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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	370	F	1 890	760
Jingellic	4.0	1.41	207.93	2 560	F	2 390	1 510
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.56	219.45	5 480	R	2 600	840
Heywoods	5.5	2.35	155.98	8 280	R	6 350	4 160
Doctors Point	5.5	2.60	151.07	10 100	R	7 490	5 360
Albury	4.3	1.54	148.98	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.78	127.80	6 680	R	6 050	4 550
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.25	116.29	6 570	R	6 380	6 010
Tocumwal	6.4	1.73	105.57	6 710	R	6 430	6 170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.85	80.40	5 230	R	5 350	5 150
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 280	F	5 250	4 780
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.25	51.37	5 100	R	4 830	4 490
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.90	42.74	4 170	R	3 950	3 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 010	F	2 620	2 710
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	27.53	2 140	R	1 920	2 270
Rufus Junction	-	2.89	19.82	2 830	F	2 830	2 650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.29	-	1 110	R	1 340	2 600
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.33	154.56	1 100	R	910	1 160
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.04	145.72	960	R	980	1 750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	292	R	310	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.44	80.21	200	F	190	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.47	55.85	199	S	200	200
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.92	55.41	0	F	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.39	56.35	149	S	150	170
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	S	170	370
Darling at Bourke	-	3.92	-	-	F	10	70
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.38	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 360	3 970
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.69	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.02	+0.58
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.13	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.50	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.30
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.13	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	-0.34	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.32	+0.00	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.46

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.31	0.489	69.839	196
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.63	0.123	61.423	244



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

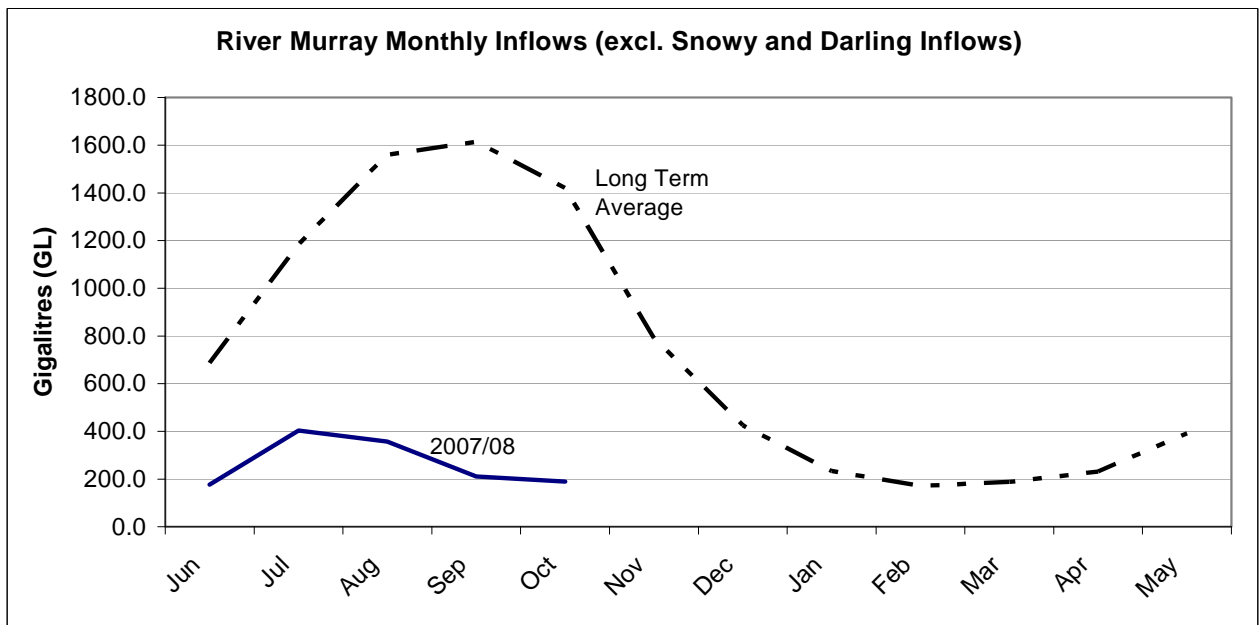
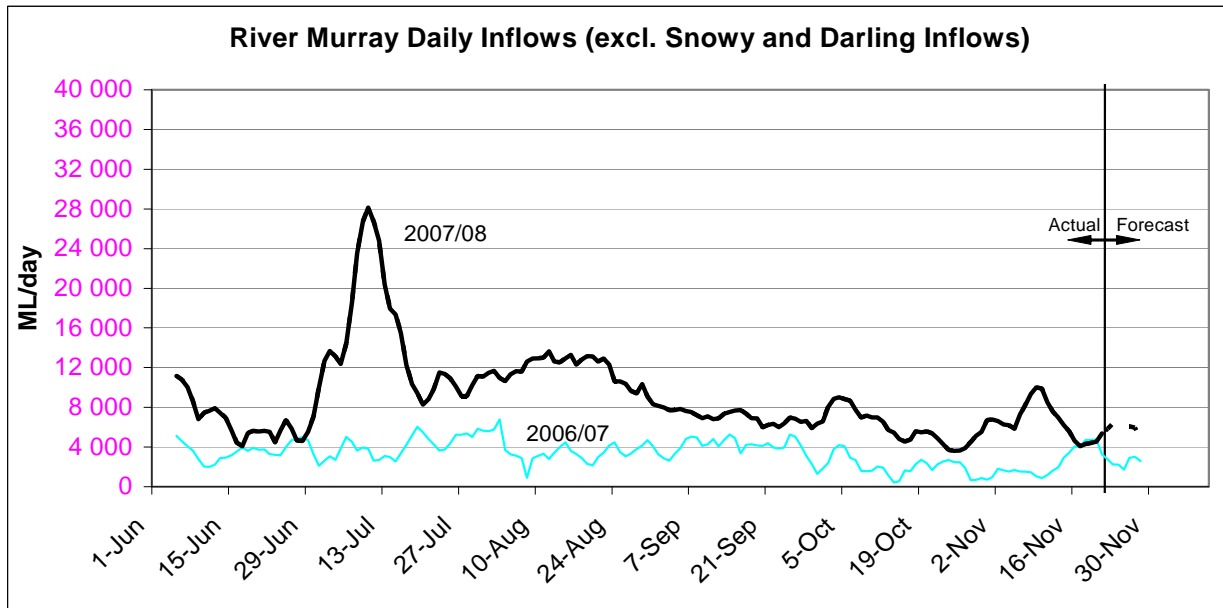
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.09

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.01	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.04	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.15	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 21 Nov 2007)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

Suspended water re-credit	45%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High Security	80%
General security	0%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	16% (and at least 22% on Dec 1st)
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**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	23%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	35%
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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>