

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 September 2008

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12 September, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread falls of rain (25 to 50 mm) were recorded across the northern Basin, with a few areas receiving up to 70 mm (see Map). In contrast, the southern Basin was relatively dry with falls of up to 10 mm. During the past week, inflows to the Murray system have receded from the peaks recorded in early September. For instance, the flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta has now dropped from a peak of 6 300 on 2nd September to 3 000 ML/day, and the upper Murray at Biggara has dropped from 7 500 to 1 400 ML/day. Flows in the upper Murray and tributaries are expected to continue receding until there is further moderate rain.

The rainfall recorded across the southern Basin two weeks ago, has boosted system inflows for September, with a total of 150 GL for the first ten days of the month. This is already above the September minimum (120 GL in 2006) and is also tracking slightly ahead of September 2007 (a monthly total of 210 GL). However, it is well below the long term September average of 1 610 GL.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 10 GL to a total 780 GL (or 20 % of capacity). This is slightly higher than mid September 2007 (650 GL) but well below the long term September average of 2 860 GL. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 60 GL to a total of 900 GL (30 % capacity). Once again, this is slightly higher than mid September 2007 (810 GL) but well below the September long term average (2 300 GL). A minimum release is still being maintained at both Hume Reservoir (460 ML/day) and Dartmouth Reservoir (200 ML/day) to help maximise water storage for use later in the season.

The water level in Lake Mulwala rose by 0.15 m to 124.6 m AHD (0.3 m below Full Supply Level) as a result of the higher inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. During the next few weeks, a level of 124.5 m AHD will be targeted, but temporary fluctuations can be expected in response to varying inflows. Further downstream, the Torrumbarry Weir pool level continues to be gradually raised and is currently at 86.0 m AHD (or 0.05 m below Full Supply Level). Gradual variations in weir pool level will continue over the coming months.

In early September, NSW announced that there is sufficient water to provide a flush along the Wakool River and Niemur-Colligen systems. This flush will provide much needed stock and domestic water and benefit the environment. Further details will be released by NSW in the coming week.

Commencing on Sunday 14th September, NSW will be releasing water from Menindee Lakes, with the aim of delivering 170 GL into the Murray System over the next few months. The release from Weir 32 will be progressively increased from the current rate of 160 ML/day to 4 000 ML/day by early October (see attached NSW State Water media release).

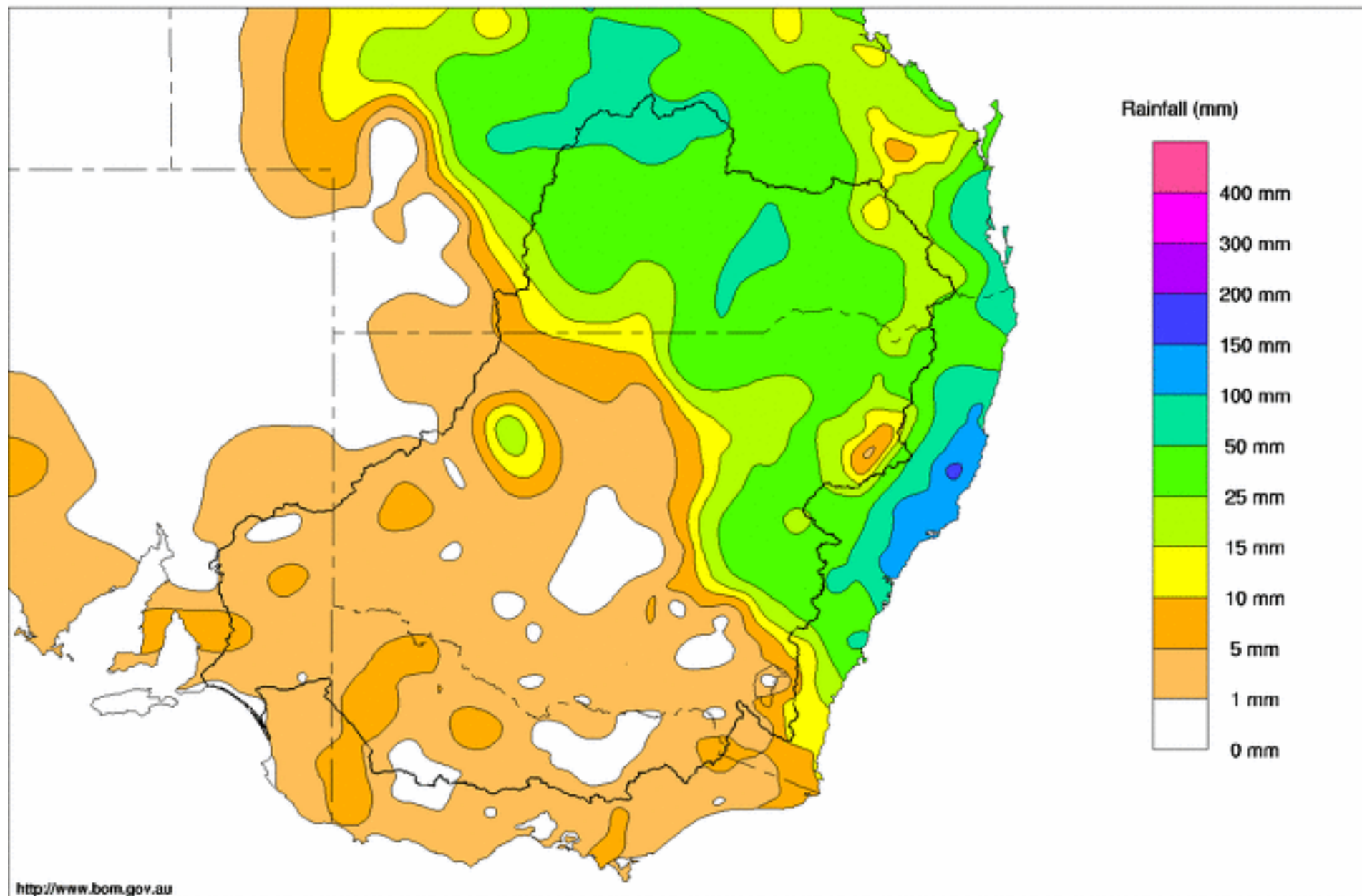
The flow to South Australia has increased from 2 000 to 2 500 ML/day in response to increasing transmission losses as the weather starts to warm up. The flow past Lock 1 is steady at about 1 800 ML/day to supply urban water pumping demands and also target a flow past Wellington of 900 ML/day. The level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at about -0.25 m AHD, but is likely to start gradually falling as the warmer weather arrives.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th September 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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	415.21	781	20%	80	701	+11
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.69	903	30%	30	873	+61
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.76	320	47%	100	220	+6
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		505	29%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 509	27%	--	1 794	+74

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **21%**

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	473	46%	3	470	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	810	50%	24	786	+6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	749	22%	100	649	+25

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Sep-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	277	+44	Snowy-Murray	+13	309
Snowy-Murray Component	133	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+11	94
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	1.9	215
			Murray 1 Release	+26	387

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.6	27.8
Wakool System loss	0.0	.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.7
Licensed Pumps	0.9	4.9
Lower Darling	0.1	.5
TOTAL	2.6	34.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.7	5
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.9	1
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	3 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.1	2
TOTAL	3.2	13 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	(2 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	15.1	
Flow so far this month	21	
Flow last month	64	

* 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 2008
Swan Hill	80	70	90
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	370	370	350
Lock 9	150	150	210
Lake Victoria	220	210	230
Berri	450	450	450
Waikerie	570	550	480
Morgan	540	540	500
Mannum	480	500	510
Murray Bridge	470	480	570
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 570	3 560	3 520
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 010	3 010	3 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 870	4 760	4 990
Goolwa Barrages	14 200	14 480	18 810



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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	5 400	R	4 570	3 440
Jingellic	4.0	1.83	208.35	5 780	S	6 860	5 350
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.47	218.36	750	F	810	880
Heywoods	5.5	1.12	154.75	460	S	460	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.56	150.03	1 510	S	1 600	1 460
Albury	4.3	0.72	148.16	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.53	126.55	1 380	F	1 680	1 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.88	115.92	4 470	S	4 450	3 060
Tocumwal	6.4	1.31	105.15	4 550	R	4 200	3 310
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.30	79.85	3 410	R	2 890	3 340
Swan Hill	4.5	0.66	63.58	2 470	F	2 820	3 750
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.73	50.85	3 250	F	3 670	4 000
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.76	42.60	3 500	R	3 890	3 810
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 510	F	3 570	2 980
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 510	S	3 380	2 690
Rufus Junction	-	2.68	19.61	2 030	F	1 700	1 530
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.18	-	1 750	F	1 870	1 810
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.48	154.71	1 290	S	1 400	1 230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.78	146.46	3 056	F	3 780	3 550
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	403	F	400	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.82	80.59	550	F	500	680
Edward at Liewah	-	1.25	56.63	611	F	660	460
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.88	54.37	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.36	56.32	139	S	140	140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	7	S	20	-
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	10	S	10	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	49	F	50	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 720	8 330
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.28	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.12	+0.37
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.06	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	-0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.93

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.70	0.485	69.835	158
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.43	0.03	61.33	175.733



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

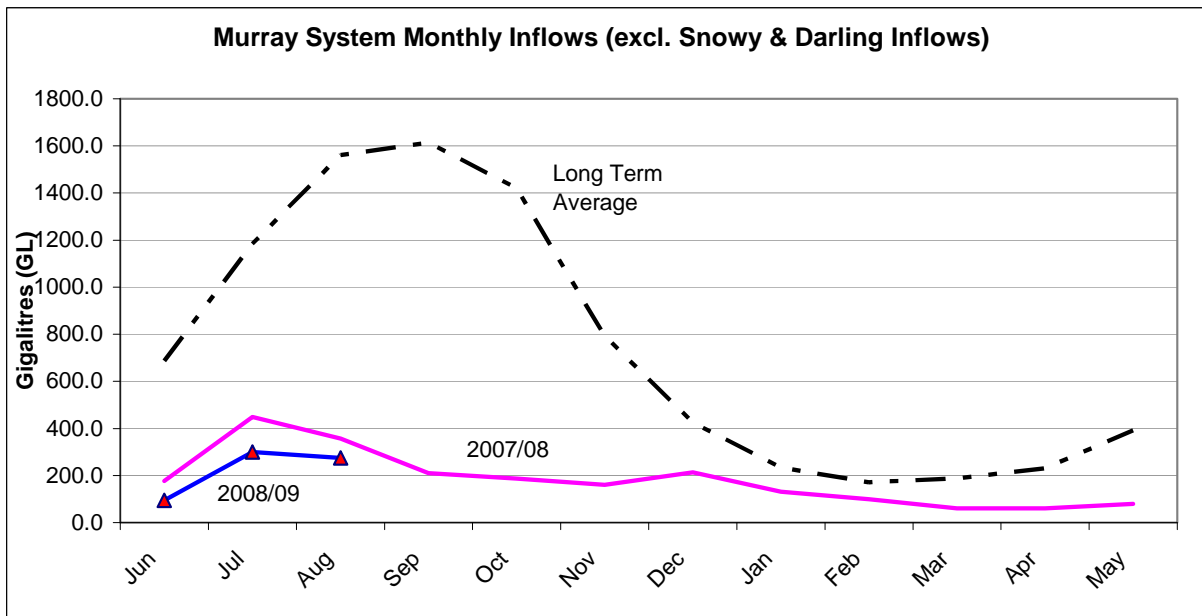
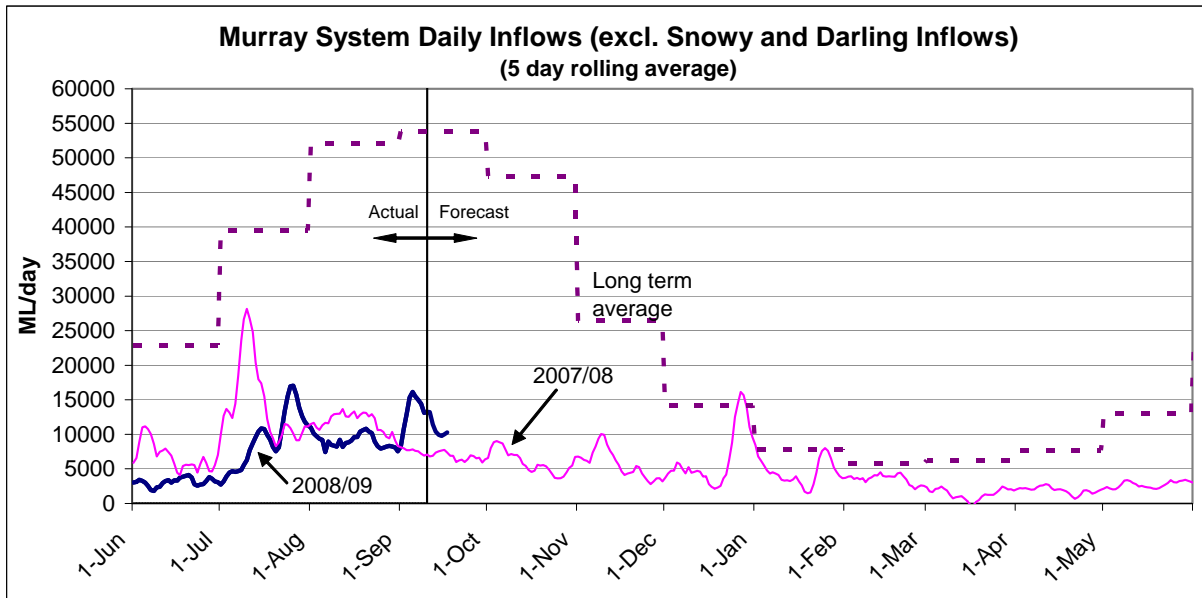
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.26

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.10	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.20	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



State Allocations (as at 10th September 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	25%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	60%
General security	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	0%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	0%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	6%
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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>

LOWER DARLING RIVER FLOWS TO INCREASE

12 September 2008

Customers in the Lower Darling Valley are advised that from Sunday 14 September, water flows from Menindee Lakes over Weir 32 will start to be progressively increased from the current rate of 160 to 4,000 ML/day by early October.

The increase in flow is being made by State Water under the direction of the Department of Water and Energy to help supply water for towns, stock and domestic users and critical water dependent industries such as permanent plantings in the Murray Valley.

All flows are currently planned to be supplied from Lake Pamamaroo with the view of delivering about 170GL of water into the Murray Valley as measured in the Darling River at Burtundy Weir.

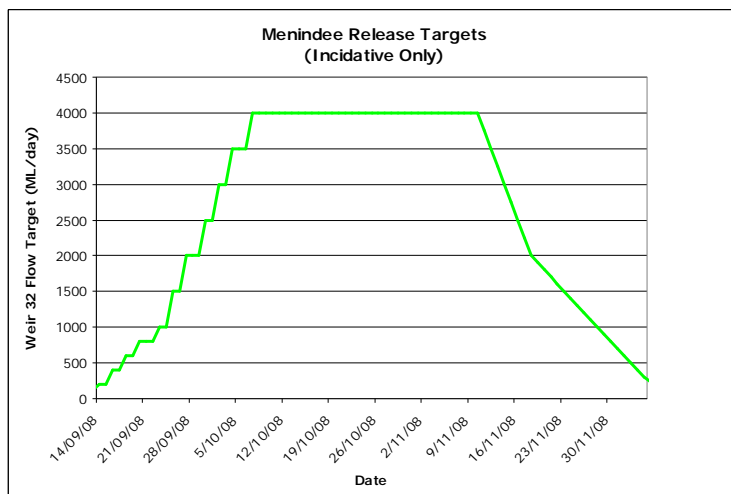
State Water will continue to monitor system requirements closely and may need to modify flows at short notice if required.

Customers are advised to consider the planned increases in flow when planning their activities and move stock and/or equipment if necessary.

As an indicative comparison, flow over Weir 32 averaged about 4,200 ML/day between 13 and 28 January 2008.

More advice on the management of water resources in the Lower Darling Valley is expected to be provided by the Department of Water and Energy on 15 September.

Customers requiring further information on river flows can contact the Duty Operations Officer on (03) 5898 3925.



Authorised by:
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