

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 November 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, AS  
Trim Ref : 08/12217*

14 November, 2008



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

During the past week, 25 to 50 mm of rain was recorded in north-eastern and central Victoria, the Snowy Mountains in southern NSW and also across the Darling Downs in southern Queensland (see Map). Up to 20 mm was recorded along the Murray between Yarrawonga and Wentworth and, for some towns, this was the best fall of rain for many months.

Despite the good rainfall, the streamflow response in the upper Murray and its tributaries was very small. This was largely due to the dry state of the catchments after below average rainfall in August to October. For instance, at Biggara in the upper Murray the flow increased from 420 ML/day to only 730 ML/day, and then dropped back to 380 ML/day 3 days later. On a more positive note, the rain did reduce transmission and evaporative losses along the river and in storages.

## ***River Operations***

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 4 GL to 873 GL (22 % capacity). Dartmouth release is currently 350 ML/day (at Colemans gauge), and is likely to increase in coming weeks to help maintain the storage level in Hume Reservoir during the summer months. Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 12 GL to 972 GL (32 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) is currently 7 700 ML/day.

As a result of last week's rain, the water level in Lake Mulwala increased slightly, but is now stabilising at about 124.7 m AHD (20 cm below Full Supply Level). The release from Yarrawonga Weir has increased from 6 000 to 6 500 ML/day.

In September, NSW allocated 30 GL to the Wakool River system as a stock and domestic replenishment flow. The Colligen-Niemur system has now been fully replenished, and the replenishment of the Merran Creek system and Wakool-Yallakool system is also close to completion. The initial flush has picked up some saline water and this has now reached the Murray, causing a rise in salinity at Wakool Junction from 110 EC on 1<sup>st</sup> November to 300 EC. The magnitude of this event is no different to other years when a rise in salinity has often been associated with the first flush from the Wakool River.

Additional tributary water which was ordered from the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account is now being delivered to the Murray. The flow at Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River has increased from 180 to 1 400 ML/day and is likely to remain at about this rate over the next couple of months. The arrival of the IVT water from the Murrumbidgee, combined with an increased flow past Swan Hill on the Murray, has resulted in the flow at Euston increasing from 3 300 to 5 200 ML/day. The flow at Euston is likely to continue increasing slightly during the coming week.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remains under NSW control) decreased by 34 GL to 297 GL (or 17 % capacity) and the release from Weir 32 remains steady at 3 300 ML/day. Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 8 GL to 257 GL (38 % capacity).

The flow to South Australia remains steady at 4 200 ML/day and Locks 1 to 6 weir pools are all close to, or slightly above, full supply level. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.35 m AHD which is 1.1 m below Full Supply Level (+0.75 m AHD) and 0.5 m lower than this time last year (when it was +0.13 m AHD).

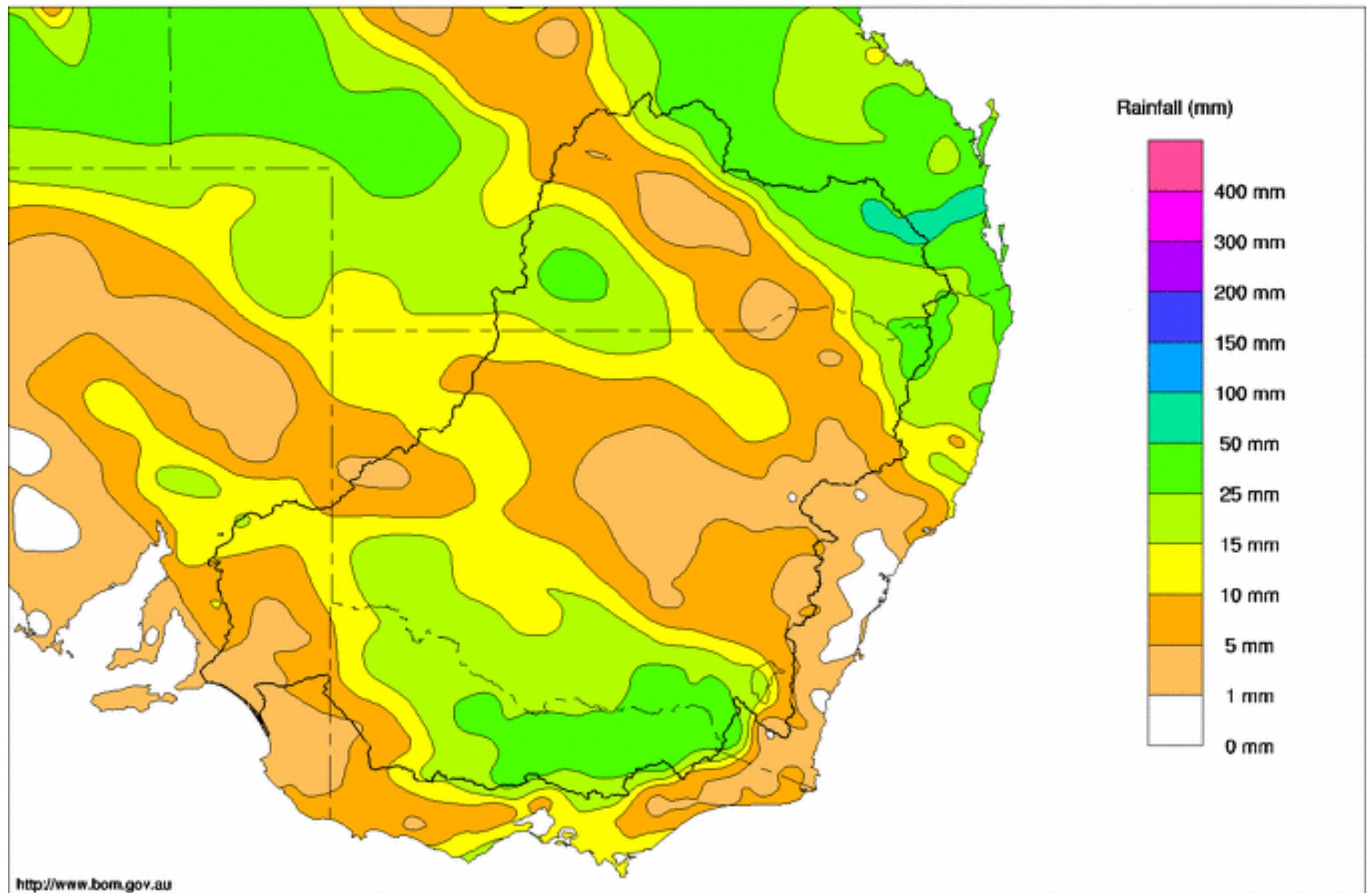
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th November 2008

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	418.88	873	22%	80	793	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.35	972	32%	30	942	-12
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.11	257	38%	100	157	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		297	17%	(- -) #	0	-34
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 400</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 893</b>	<b>-33</b>

\* 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	498	49%	3	495	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	718	44%	24	694	-20
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	748	22%	100	648	-6

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Nov-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	639	+12	Snowy-Murray	+6	349
Snowy-Murray Component	340	+7	Tooma-Tumut	+3	157
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	2.5	192
			Murray 1 Release	+12	523

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.1	49.5
Wakool System loss	2.6	20.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	5.0
Licensed Pumps	4.2	26.2
Lower Darling	0.3	2.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>103.5</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.9	36
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.5	49
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	24
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	3
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>114</b>

\* 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	180 *	
Flow this week	29.5	(4 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	50	
Flow last month	111	

\* Reduced to approx. 126 GL during November drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	70	80	80
Red Cliffs	130	140	130
Merbein	140	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	360	360	370
Lock 9	300	300	200
Lake Victoria	290	260	240
Berri	300	310	400
Waikerie	-	-	530
Morgan	540	570	560
Mannum	610	590	530
Murray Bridge	580	570	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 620	4 210	3 730
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 860	3 680	3 250
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	57 780	13 250	5 660
Goolwa Barrages	16 850	17 070	17 030



**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	-	-	-	2 130	R	3 510	1 250
Jingellic	4.0	1.50	208.02	3 140	F	3 840	2 310
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.42	218.31	520	F	580	390
Heywoods	5.5	2.15	155.78	6 330	R	6 010	7 330
Doctors Point	5.5	2.34	150.81	7 230	R	6 790	8 120
Albury	4.3	1.31	148.75	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.59	127.61	5 590	F	6 690	7 420
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.19	116.23	6 530	R	6 250	5 950
Tocumwal	6.4	1.66	105.50	6 450	R	6 150	5 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.78	80.33	5 180	R	5 110	4 460
Swan Hill	4.5	1.07	63.99	4 940	S	4 640	3 710
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.22	51.34	5 000	R	4 540	3 430
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.05	42.89	5 020	R	4 330	2 790
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	F	2 150	1 710
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.04	27.80	6 300	R	5 390	3 750
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	19.88	3 520	F	3 540	3 530
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.22	-	2 060	S	2 060	1 870
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.03	154.26	586	F	630	600
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.97	145.65	788	F	860	550
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	386	S	340	300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.99	80.76	720	S	810	680
Edward at Liewah	-	1.06	56.44	485	R	420	370
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.17	54.66	78	F	80	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.89	57.85	1 418	R	810	130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	7	S	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	25	F	40	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.11	-	3 440	F	3 370	3 320

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 430	2 840
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.65
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.11	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.35
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.40	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.97

<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	-4.28	1.727	71.077	2121
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.752	63.052	2263.3301



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

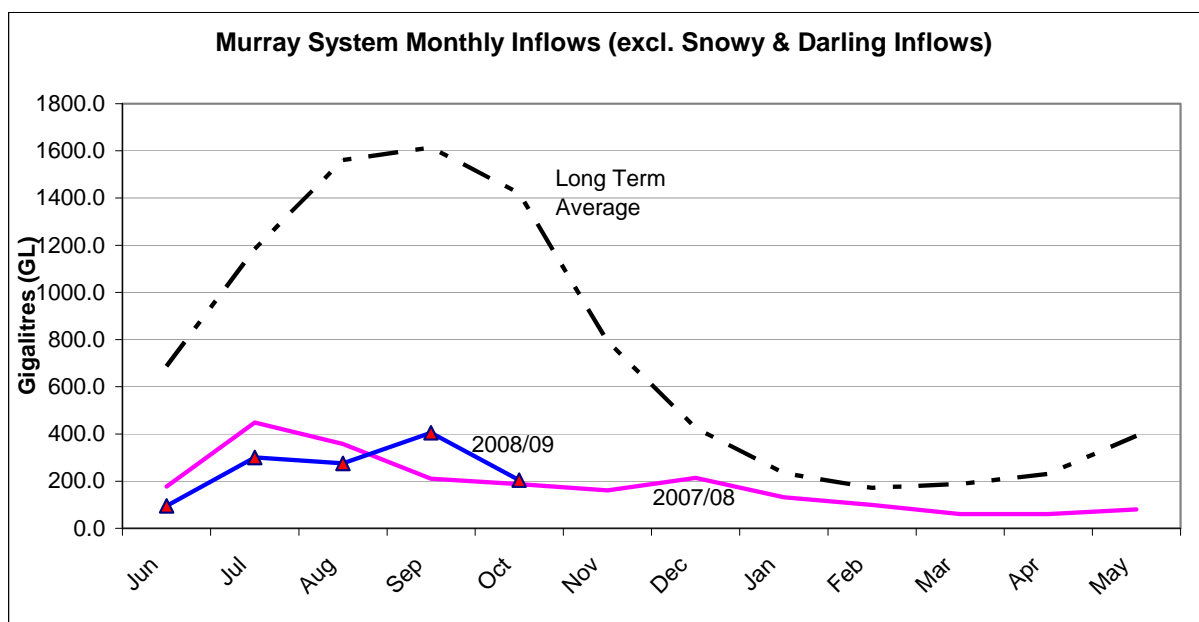
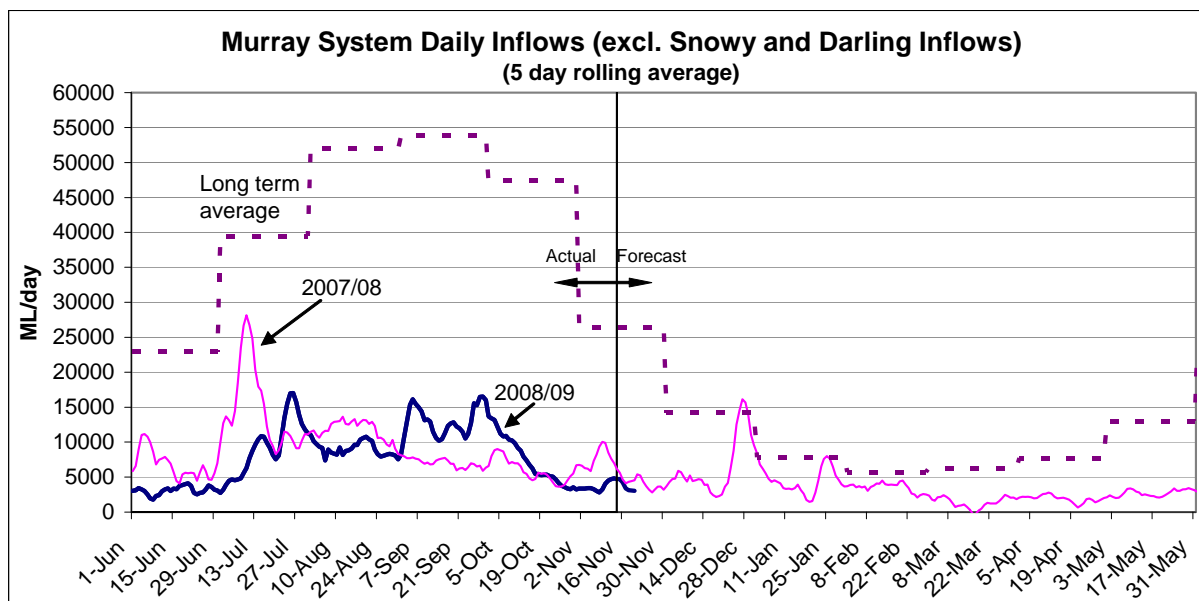
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.35

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.31	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.34	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 12 November 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	95%
General security	2%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	9%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	30%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	19%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	14%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	15%
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- NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr\\_toc\\_currnr.html](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>