

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 August 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, AS  
Trim Ref : 08/8185*

15 August, 2008



## ***Rainfall and inflows***

Light rain has continued to fall across the southern half of the Basin (see Map). The highest falls (up to 50 mm) were recorded in the highlands of north-east Victoria and southern NSW, and also at the Lower Lakes and Coorong in South Australia. The northern half of the Basin remained dry.

The rain has helped maintain stream flows in the upper catchments of the Murray, and system inflows up to 13<sup>th</sup> August have been 115 GL. This is already higher than the minimum August inflow of 95 GL (in 2006), but is currently tracking slightly below August 2007 (monthly total of 360 GL) and well below the August long term average (of 1 730 GL).

## ***River operations***

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 15 GL to 746 GL (or 19 % capacity), and Hume Reservoir increased 38 GL to 716 GL (24 % capacity). Both storages remain at very low levels for this time of year. Tributary inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers continue to supply downstream requirements, allowing the release from Hume Dam to be held at 400 ML/day, which is slightly below the normal winter minimum.

The level in Lake Mulwala is steady at about 124.5 m AHD (or 0.4 m below Full Supply Level). Over the last few weeks, up to 1 000 ML/day has been diverted into Mulwala Canal to replenish Stock and Domestic supplies and partially refill Stevens Weir. This operation is now approaching completion and the diversion is being gradually reduced. In response, the release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased over the last few days from 3 500 to 4 000 ML/day to help maintain a steady water level in Lake Mulwala.

Stevens Weir on the Edward River has now been partially refilled and this will enable a small volume of Stock and Domestic water to be supplied along the Wakool Canal. The release from Stevens Weir is currently 260 ML/day and is expected to gradually increase during the next few weeks in response to the higher flows passing into the Edward River via the Edward and Gulpa offtakes.

Over the last couple of weeks the release from Yarrawonga Weir has increased from 2 200 ML/day to 4 000 ML/day, and these higher flows are now arriving at Torrumbarry Weir. The Torrumbarry release is currently 3 200 ML/day and should continue to gradually increase during the coming week. The release at Euston Weir is 2 600 ML/day and should also start to gradually increase over the next couple of weeks.

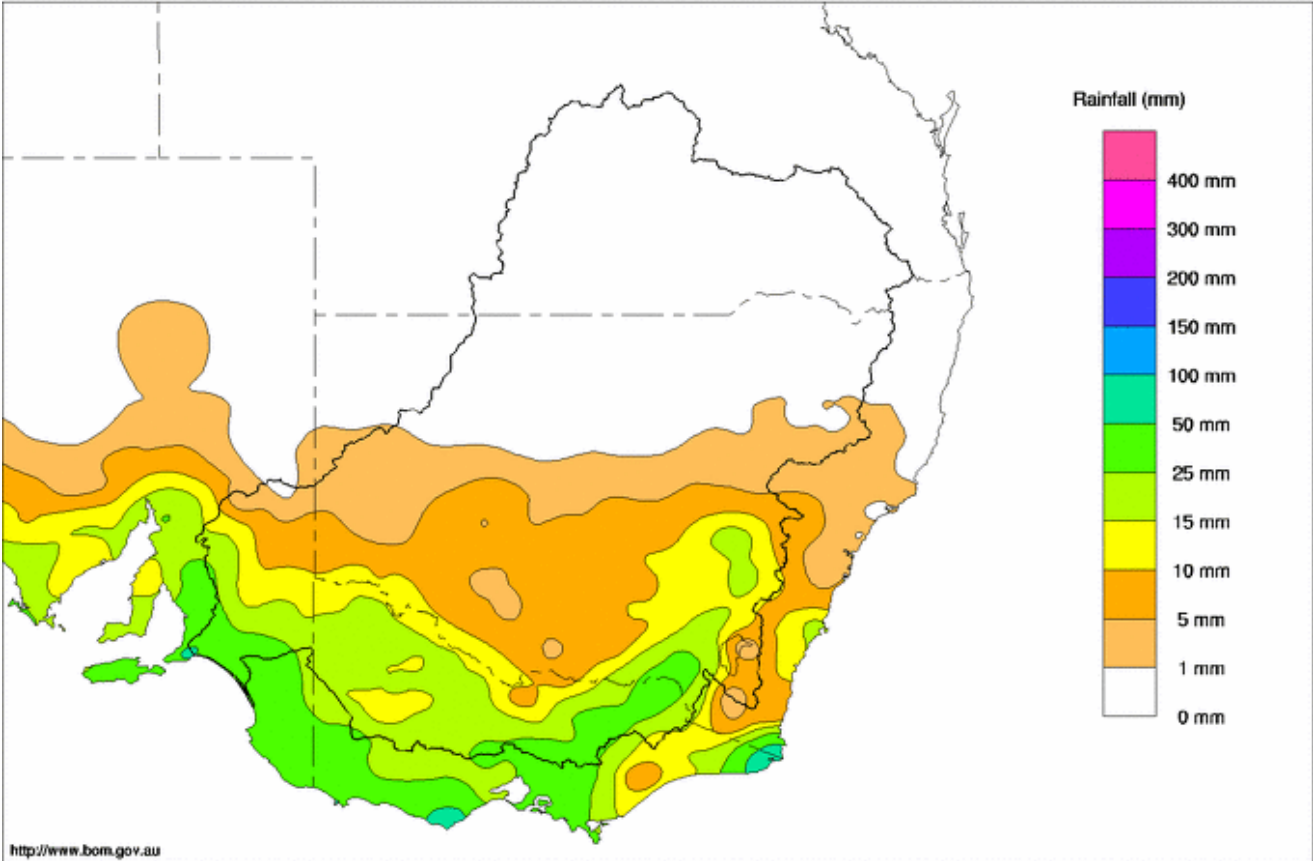
The diversion into Lake Victoria of higher salinity water from the Mildura Weir pool drawdown has now been successfully completed. As such, the flow into Lake Victoria has been reduced and the flow past Lock 9 has recommenced. Lock 8 has been refilled to Full Supply Level and the flow along Mullaroo Creek has been increased from 150 to 450 ML/day.

The flow to South Australia is currently 2 200 ML/day and Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly above, full supply level. The salinity at Morgan, upstream of Lock 1 is 480 EC. This is lower than this time last year (630 EC) and very similar to the 10 year average (460 EC). The release from Lock 1, which is currently about 1 600 ML/day, is helping control salinity downstream to

Wellington, and also provide a target flow into the Lower Lakes of about 900 ML/day. This flow, along with local rainfall and reduced evaporative losses during the winter months, has allowed the water level in Lake Alexandrina to gradually rise from its record low level of -0.5 m AHD in April 2008 to -0.3 m AHD. However, this is still more than a metre below the Full Supply Level of 0.75 m AHD. The salinity in Lake Alexandrina remains high, varying from about 3 800 EC at Milang to 21 000 EC near the Goolwa Barrages.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th August 2008  
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au> © Commonwealth of Australia 2008, Australian Bureau of Meteorology Issued: 13/08/2008

**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 Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	413.78	746	19%	80	666	+15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.79	716	24%	30	686	+38
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.63	307	45%	100	207	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		521	30%	(- -) #	0	-4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 291</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 560</b>	<b>+41</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **18%**

# 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	456	44%	3	453	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	734	45%	24	710	+21
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	642	19%	100	542	+23

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Aug-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	172	-5	Snowy-Murray	+20	258
Snowy-Murray Component	143	-20	Tooma-Tumut	+4	65
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	16.4	192
			Murray 1 Release	+26	307

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.3	17.1
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.3
Licensed Pumps	0.3	2.2
Lower Darling	0.0	.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	124 *	
Flow this week	16.3	(2 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	27	
Flow last month	40	

\* Reduced to approx. 68 GL during August drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	80	90	90
Euston	80	80	80
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	340
Lock 9	290	310	310
Lake Victoria	240	230	230
Berri	440	460	450
Waikerie	460	450	460
Morgan	480	480	480
Mannum	500	500	520
Murray Bridge	610	620	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 500	3 580	3 650
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 340	3 090	2 920
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 730	4 840	4 930
Goolwa Barrages	21 150	21 590	21 370



**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	-	-	-	5 160	F	3 830	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.98	208.50	7 110	R	5 150	4 190
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.50	218.39	820	R	750	780
Heywoods	5.5	1.12	154.75	460	S	450	430
Doctors Point	5.5	1.62	150.09	1 780	R	1 260	1 240
Albury	4.3	0.77	148.21	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.43	126.45	1 170	R	1 170	1 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 500	S	3 500	2 750
Tocumwal	6.4	1.13	104.97	3 540	S	3 510	2 450
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.23	79.78	3 160	S	2 890	2 230
Swan Hill	4.5	0.70	63.62	2 730	R	2 380	2 010
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.50	50.62	2 480	R	2 320	2 040
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.55	42.39	2 520	R	2 370	2 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 980	F	1 790	1 860
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.85	27.61	1 640	S	1 600	1 560
Rufus Junction	-	2.69	19.62	2 090	S	2 170	1 500
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.22	-	1 640	S	1 610	1 380
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.62	154.85	1 540	R	1 020	1 080
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.95	146.63	3 599	F	3 220	3 090
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	364	S	360	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.51	80.28	260	F	150	100
Edward at Liewah	-	0.34	55.72	133	S	130	130
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.91	54.40	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	220	F	190	110
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	2	F	10	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	25	F	30	60
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	R	20	50

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 510	5 360
---	-------	-------

**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	-0.36	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.37
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.21	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	-0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-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	-3.35	0.86	70.21	532
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.96	0.05	61.35	189.85



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

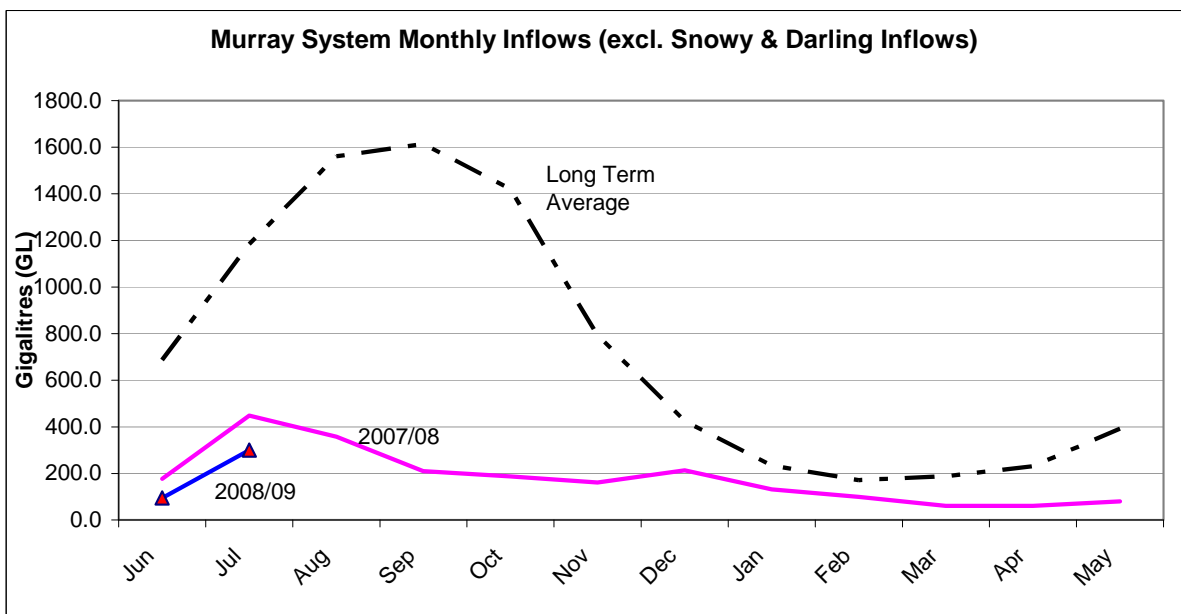
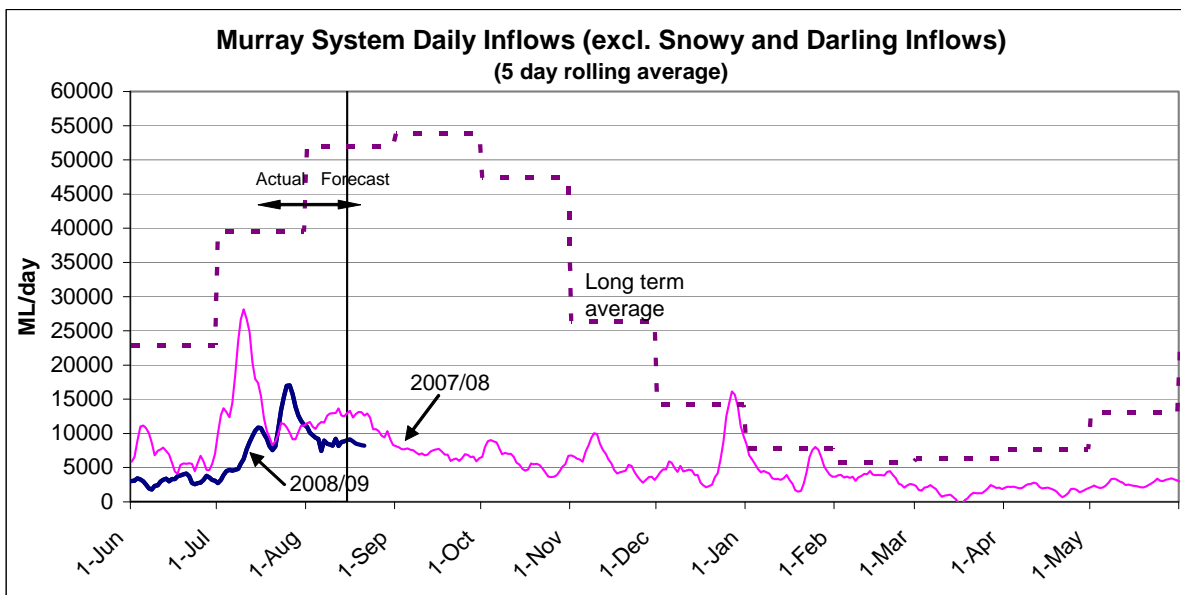
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.31

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.23	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.32	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 15th August 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	25%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	40%
General security	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	0%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	0%
------------------	----

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	0%
------------------	----

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	6%
-----------------------	----



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://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>