

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 July 2008

Our Ref : M2008/00001/jw,as  
Trim Ref : 08/6582

18 July, 2008



## ***Rainfall and inflows***

After good falls of rain in the previous week, light rain continued to fall in the southern and eastern sections of the Murray-Darling Basin, and were highest in the highlands of north-east Victoria and southern New South Wales (see Map). This rain increased streamflows in the upper catchments, particularly in the Ovens River where the flow at Wangaratta temporarily increased from 1 000 to 4 000 ML/day and is currently 3 200 ML/day. The recent rain has provided a small boost to Murray system inflows. Inflows to the Murray system (excluding Darling inflows and Snowy releases) so far this month (up to 17 July) have been 110 GL, compared to the minimum July inflow of about 130 GL in 2006. Whilst July will be wetter than 2006 these low inflows can be compared with the long term average for July of about 1 200 GL.

## ***River Operations***

Despite the rain, flow rates along the entire length of the Murray system remain very low for this time of year. In the upper catchments, the release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being maintained at 200 ML/day and the release from Hume Reservoir is 400 ML/day.

The increased flows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are being stored in Lake Mulwala raising its level from 122.2 to 122.9 m AHD over the week. The lake level is expected to continue rising during the coming week to about 123.4 m AHD (or 1.5 m below Full Supply Level). This will allow a small volume of water to be diverted into the Mulwala Canal for stock and domestic supplies, commencing on Monday 21st July. The release from Yarrawonga Weir remains steady at 1 800 ML/day.

The release from Torrumbarry Weir is steady at about 2 000 ML/day and the local gauge height at Swan Hill is about 0.6 m. The Torrumbarry weir pool level is steady at 85.85 m AHD (or 20 cm below FSL) and will remain below FSL whilst river flows in this reach remain low. The release from Euston Weir is also steady at about 2 400 ML/day and the pool level is 47.57 m AHD (or 3 cm below FSL).

The higher salinity water (up to 400 EC) that originated from the recent Mildura weir pool drawdown, is now being diverted into Lake Victoria for dilution. This diversion is likely to continue for three weeks and the salinity in Lake Victoria (which is currently about 240 EC) is expected to increase by less than 20 EC. During this operation, the flow over Lock 9 will remain close to zero. Water stored in the Lock 8 weir pool is being used to maintain flow along Mullaroo Creek. As a result, the Lock 8 weir pool level was reduced by 14 cm over the past week, and is currently 24.98 m AHD (38 cm above FSL). The pool level of Lock 8 will continue to be gradually lowered over the next few weeks.

During the past week, the flow to South Australia averaged 1 400 ML/day and the flow downstream of Lock 1 averaged 1 480 ML/day. The salinity at Morgan (upstream of Lock 1) remained fairly steady at 440 EC, and the salinity at Murray Bridge (downstream of Lock 1) is about 640 EC. In Lake Alexandrina, the salinity at Milang Jetty is about 3 400 EC and in the Goolwa Channel it is about 20 000 EC. As a comparison, the salinity of seawater is about 50 000 EC. Salinity in Lake Albert is 4 700 EC. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at about -0.40 m AHD (or 40 cm below mean sea level) and in Lake Albert is about -0.35 m AHD (35 cm below mean sea level).

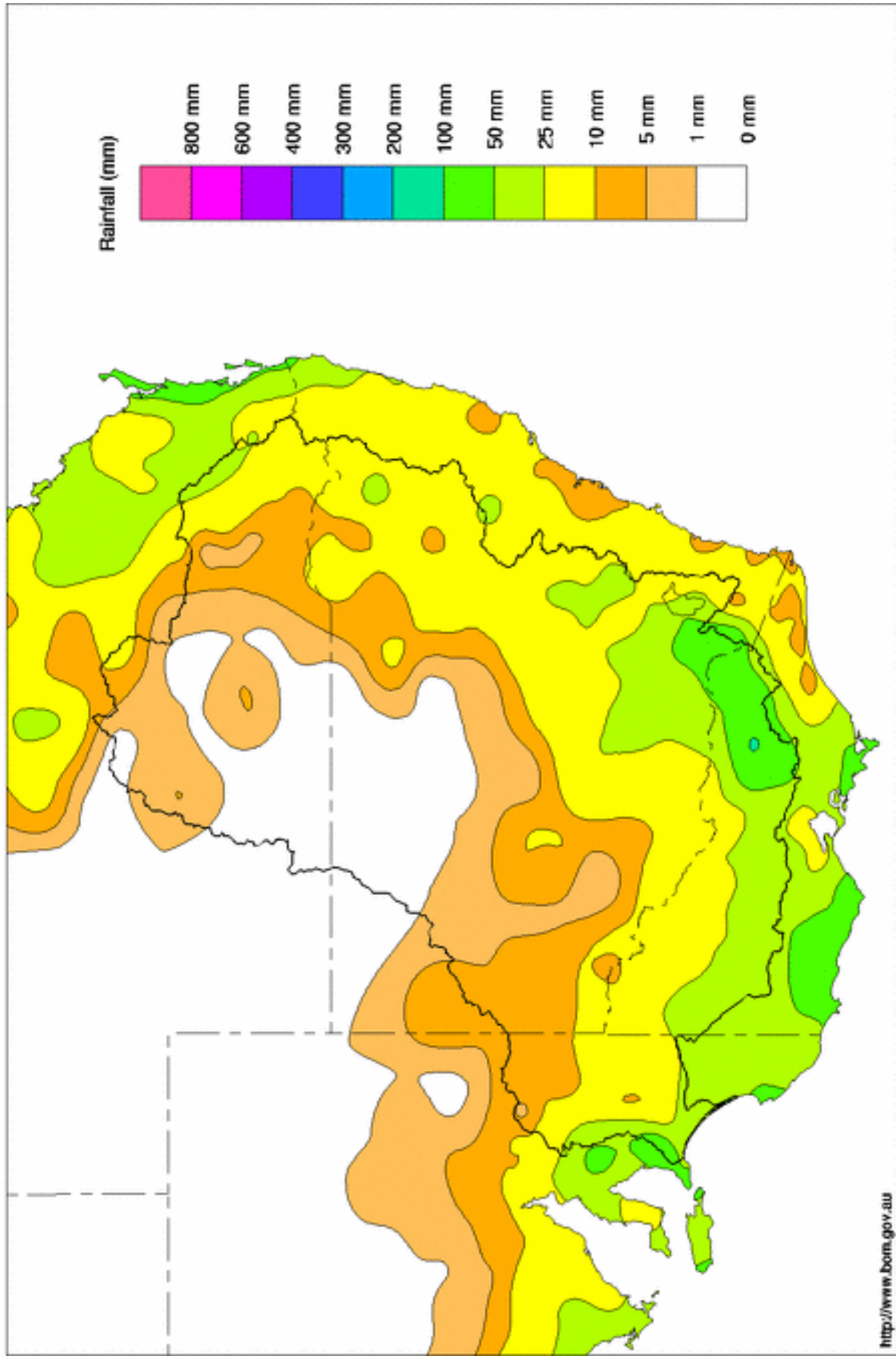
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) 1st to 16th July 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



**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	412.25	710	18%	80	630	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.95	554	18%	30	524	+34
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.62	306	45%	100	206	+5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		536	31%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 107</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 361</b>	<b>+44</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **16%**

# 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	433	42%	3	430	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	640	39%	24	616	+30
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	527	16%	100	427	+27

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Jul-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	154	+19	Snowy-Murray	+7	191
Snowy-Murray Component	196	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+9	39
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	-1.9	152
			Murray 1 Release	+10	224

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.1
Licensed Pumps	n/a	.9
Lower Darling	0.0	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	*
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.3	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	109 *	(1 400 ML/day)
Flow this week	9.7	
Flow so far this month	22	
Flow last month	57	

\* Reduced to approx. 45 GL during July drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	60	70	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	140	170	160
Burtundy (Darling)	450	340	830
Lock 9	150	140	160
Lake Victoria	240	240	200
Berri	410	400	350
Waikerie	430	430	510
Morgan	460	440	540
Mannum	490	560	650
Murray Bridge	660	610	680
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 300	3 400	3 050
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 870	3 040	2 640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 890	5 220	3 470
Goolwa Barrages	22 740	22 980	21 030



**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	-	-	-	950	R	1 980	2 990
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 320	F	3 720	4 190
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.42	218.31	650	F	750	600
Heywoods	5.5	1.07	154.70	430	S	420	400
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 270	R	1 450	1 100
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.51	126.53	1 350	F	1 400	1 020
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.31	115.35	1 820	S	1 820	1 820
Tocumwal	6.4	0.75	104.59	1 940	R	1 910	1 970
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.90	79.45	2 060	R	2 060	2 000
Swan Hill	4.5	0.59	63.51	1 990	R	1 990	2 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.39	50.51	2 180	F	2 360	2 380
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.52	42.36	2 400	F	2 550	2 650
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 240	F	2 030	2 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	1 930	R	2 000	1 780
Rufus Junction	-	2.54	19.47	1 220	S	980	890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.34	-	1 550	F	1 490	1 030
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 150	R	1 330	910
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.83	146.51	3 217	F	3 640	1 170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	416	R	380	310
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.31	80.08	100	F	100	120
Edward at Liewah	-	0.52	55.90	210	F	270	330
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	54.38	0	R	0	-
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	272	R	130	50
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	15	F	30	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	67	S	80	50
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	75	S	80	30

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 260	4 310
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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	-2.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.15	+0.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.12	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+0.24
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.38	-0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.14	-1.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.84	0.371	69.721	95
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.23	0.088	61.388	218.304



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

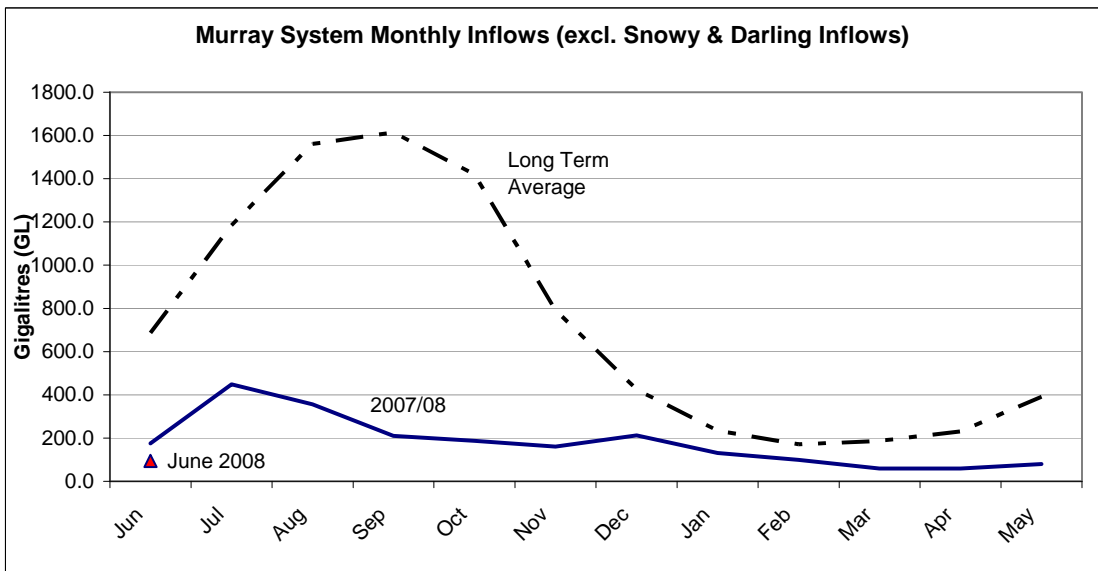
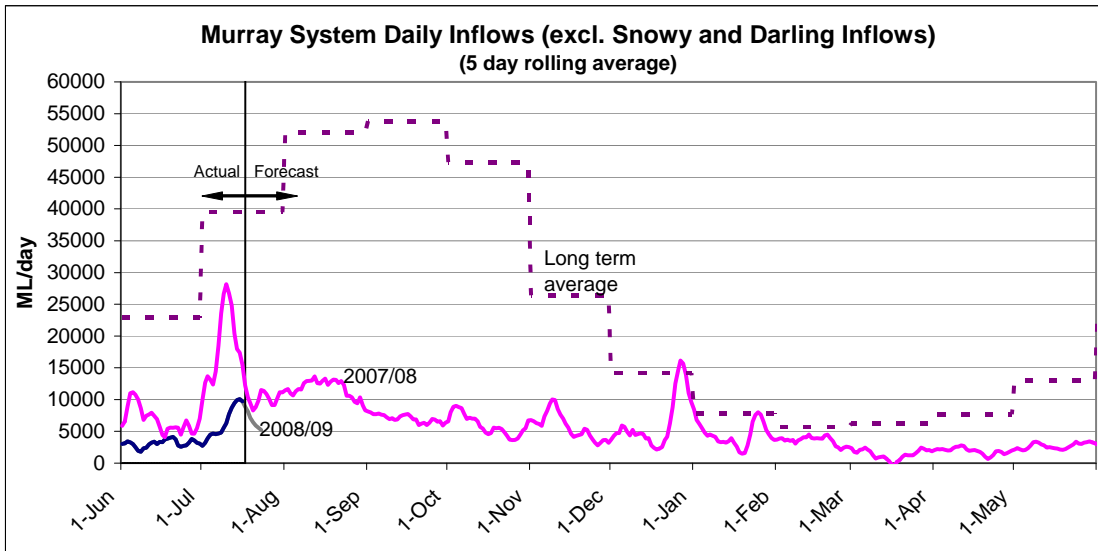
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.40

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.33	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.40	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 16th July 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	0%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	0%
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	2%
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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://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
- SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>