

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 August 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS
Trim Ref : 08/8330*

22 August, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

Very little rain fell across the Basin this week with the highest falls (5 – 10 mm) occurring over central Victoria and in South Australia. Mt Barker in South Australia received 18 mm with the Lower Lakes also receiving some welcome but limited falls (see rainfall map). Falls across the upper Murray were too small to significantly boost runoff and tributary inflows will recede without more rain.

Temperatures were below average this week with the southern half of the Basin experiencing maximum and minimum temperatures up to 3°C colder than average and the northern half of the Basin experiencing temperatures up to 5°C colder than average (see temperature maps).

Low temperatures and the relatively wet state of the upper Murray catchments has helped slow the decline in inflows. August system inflows up to 20 August have been around 190 GL, tracking well below the August long term average.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs increased by 5 GL to 750 GL (19 % capacity) and 40 GL to 765 GL (25% capacity) respectively. The release from Hume was maintained steady at around 460 ML/day and the flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) averaged around 1 200 ML/day, due mainly to releases from the Mt Beauty power station on the Kiewa River.

Yarrowonga Weir release has been increased from 3 500 to 4 800 ML/day over the past week and the lake level has been maintained at around 124.5 m AHD. If it stays dry and tributary inflows recede, release from Yarrowonga Weir will be gradually reduced to the minimum flow necessary to meet downstream demands. The Lake Level will remain at 124.5 m AHD in order to maximise water availability across the Murray system by providing 'airspace' for capturing and re-regulating any future peak flows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers.

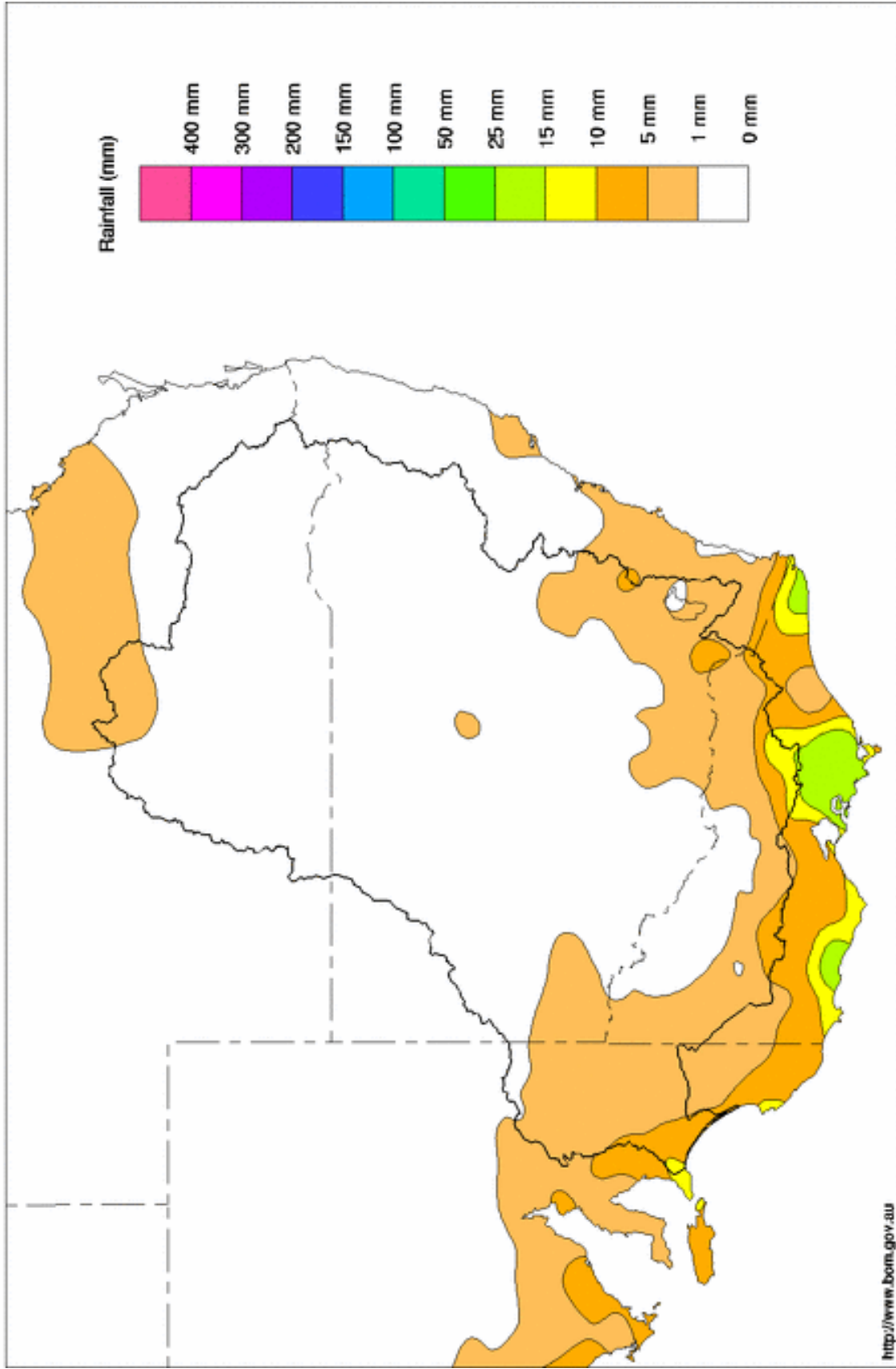
Stevens Weir on the Edward River has now been partially refilled and is steady at around 3.3 m. A small volume of Stock and Domestic water is now being supplied along the Wakool Canal. Release from Stevens Weir has been increased from 260 to 600 ML/day in response to the higher flows passing into the Edward River via the Edward and Gulpa offtakes as well as some flow being transferred via Mulwala Canal.

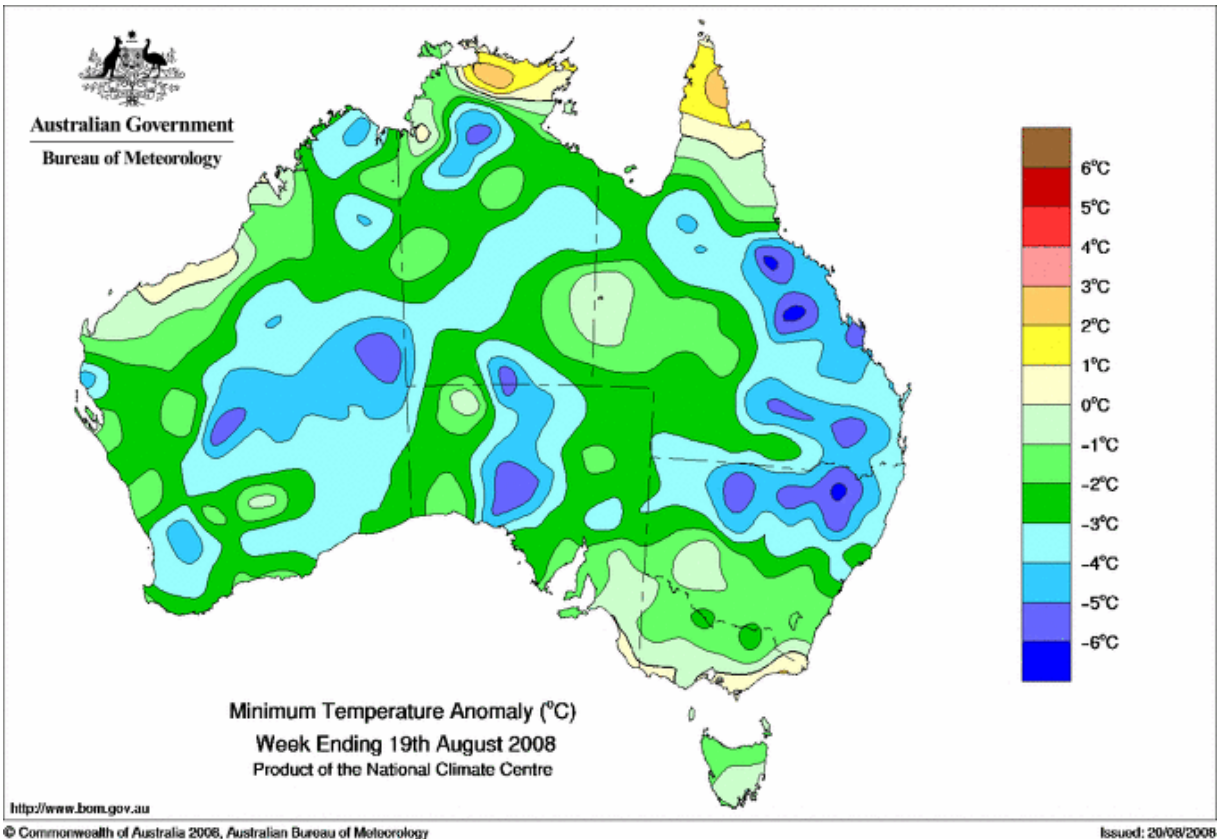
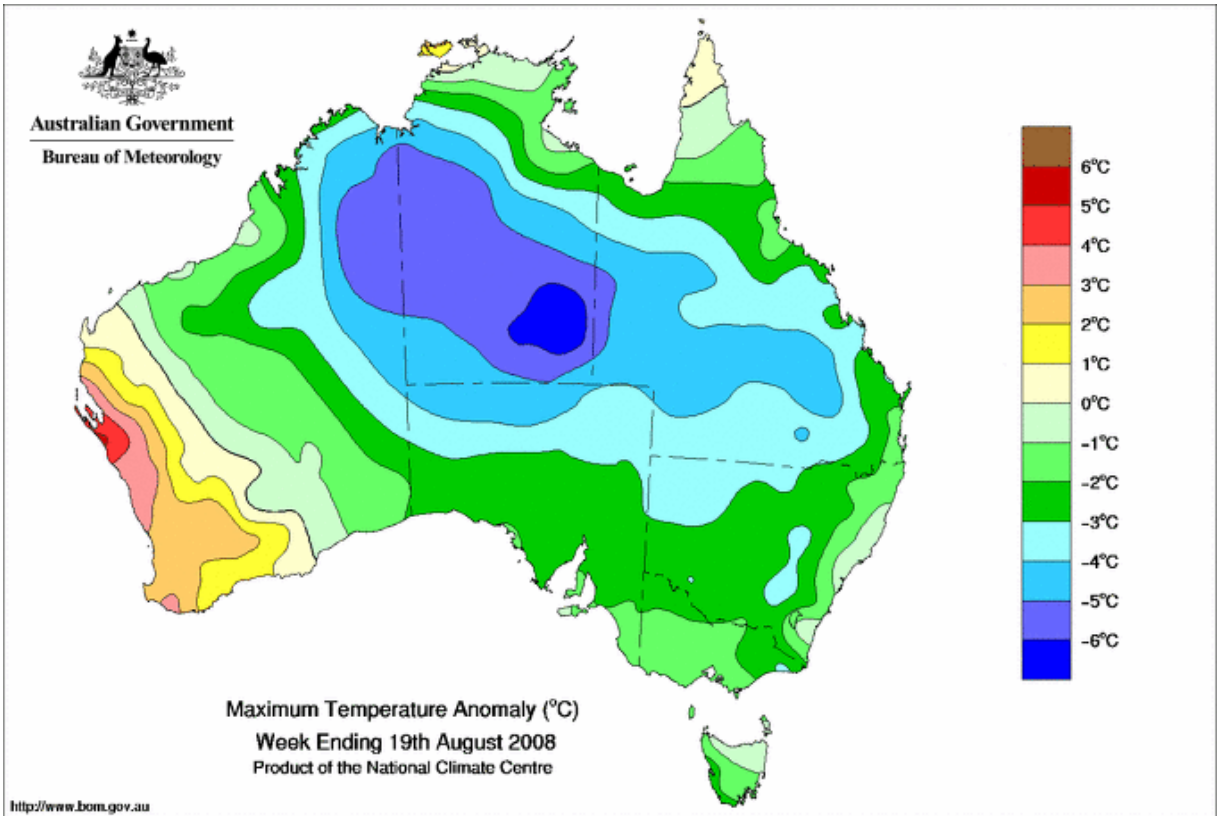
Torrumbarry Weir pool remains steady at 85.85 m AHD (20 cm below FSL) while Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all close to their Full Supply Levels. The flow through the mid-Murray and Sunraysia district is rising as the higher flows from Yarrowonga Weir arrive. At Euston for instance, the flow has increased from 2 500 to 3 400 ML/day.

Flow to South Australia has been reduced from 2 200 to 2000 ML/day, which is well below the normal entitlement flow for August of 4000 ML/day. Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly above, full supply level. Salinity in locks 1 - 6 has been gradually increasing since late May. For instance, salinity at Lock 5 has increased from 250 to 360 EC and salinity at Lock 1 has risen from 400 to 490 EC. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around -0.3 m AHD, compared with -0.35 m AHD in early August and the water level in Lake Albert is currently around -0.2 m AHD, compared with -0.25 m AHD in early August.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th August 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	413.98	751	19%	80	671	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.30	764	25%	30	734	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.63	307	45%	100	207	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		517	30%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 339	25%	--	1 612	+48

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **19%**

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	460	45%	3	457	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	779	48%	24	755	+44
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	675	20%	100	575	+33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Aug-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	171	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+20	278
Snowy-Murray Component	129	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	69
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	16.4	209
			Murray 1 Release	+21	327

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.5	20.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.3
Licensed Pumps	0.6	2.8
Lower Darling	0.1	.3
TOTAL	4.2	24.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.2	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.1	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	2 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.1	2
TOTAL	0.7	4 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124 *	(2 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	14.9	
Flow so far this month	42	
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	110	100
Euston	90	80	80
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	350	350	340
Lock 9	160	190	270
Lake Victoria	240	230	230
Berri	440	450	450
Waikerie	460	460	460
Morgan	500	500	480
Mannum	500	510	520
Murray Bridge	590	610	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 470	3 410	3 570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 380	3 260	3 040
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 070	5 160	5 010
Goolwa Barrages	20 580	20 780	21 160



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	-	-	-	3 430	S	3 760	3 830
Jingellic	4.0	1.77	208.29	5 300	R	6 130	5 150
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	710	S	740	750
Heywoods	5.5	1.12	154.75	460	S	460	450
Doctors Point	5.5	1.57	150.04	1 510	R	1 270	1 260
Albury	4.3	0.72	148.16	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.40	126.42	1 110	F	1 310	1 170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.93	115.97	4 790	S	4 450	3 500
Tocumwal	6.4	1.37	105.21	4 880	R	4 230	3 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.36	79.91	3 600	R	3 280	2 890
Swan Hill	4.5	0.78	63.70	3 190	S	3 100	2 380
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.72	50.84	3 210	R	2 980	2 320
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.75	42.59	3 450	R	2 860	2 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 300	F	2 010	1 790
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.79	27.55	1 930	S	1 830	1 600
Rufus Junction	-	2.59	19.52	1 530	F	1 730	2 170
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.20	-	1 800	S	1 890	1 610
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.45	154.68	1 250	R	1 040	1 020
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.91	146.59	3 475	F	3 690	3 220
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	376	F	370	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.87	80.64	610	S	520	150
Edward at Liewah	-	0.34	55.72	133	S	130	130
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.90	54.39	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.37	56.33	146	F	170	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.14	-	-	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	25	S	30	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	12	S	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 480	4 510
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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	-0.35	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.12	+0.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.20
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.15	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	-0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.95

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.74	0.877	70.227	547
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.86	0.03	61.33	175.912



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

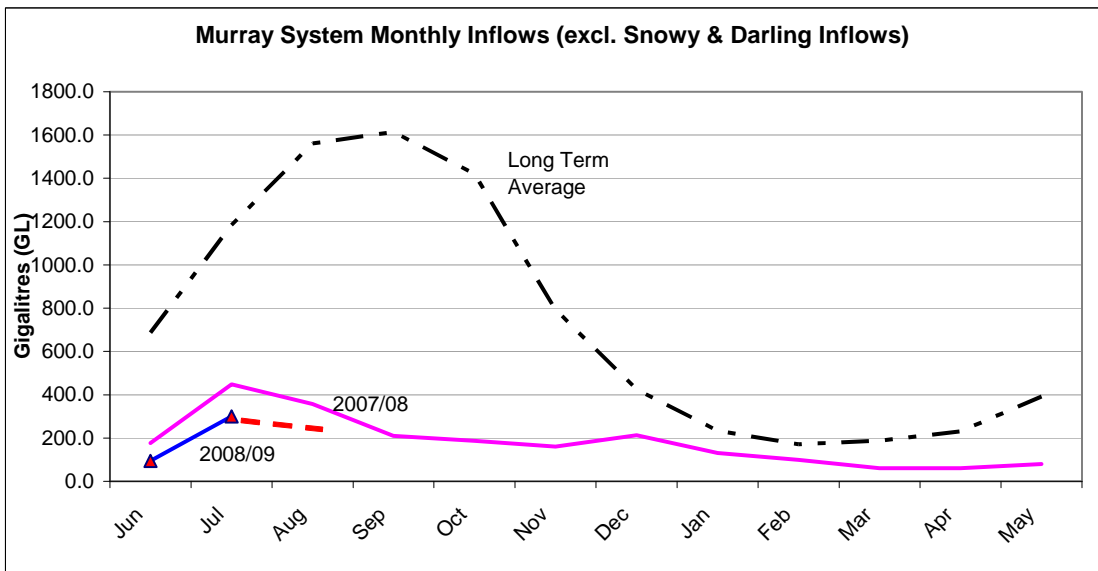
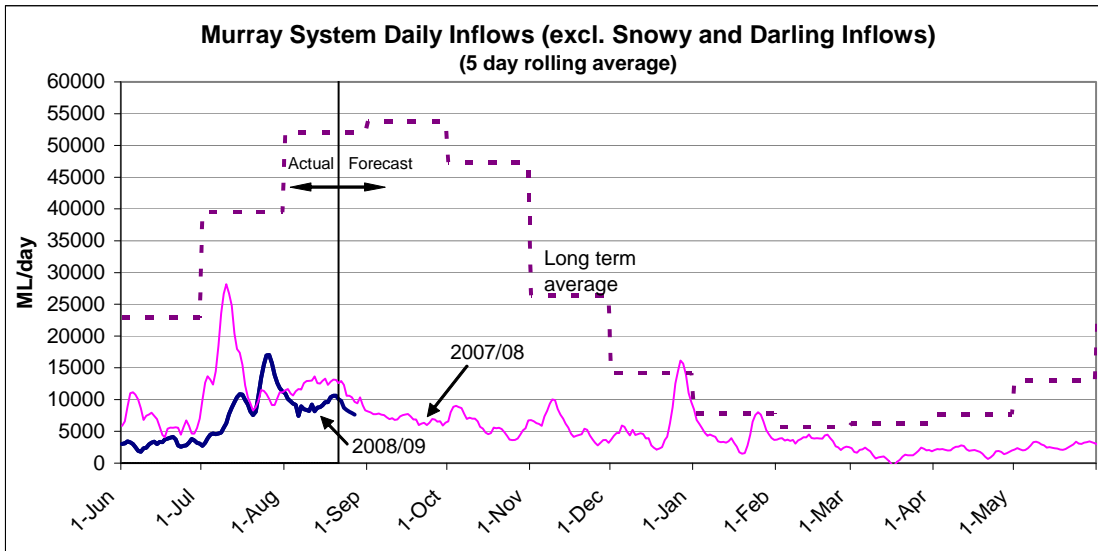
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	-0.28

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.17	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.28	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 20th 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%
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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/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwbcsa.gov.au/media.html>