

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 May 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS
Trim Ref : 08/4648*

23 May, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

The south of the Basin experienced some rain over the past week with Victoria receiving between 15 to 50 mm. Upper northeast Victoria received the greatest rainfall with 58 mm falling over Lake William Hovell. Queensland and NSW generally received between 1 and 15 mm of rain with Garah in north-eastern NSW experiencing the highest fall of 40 mm.

The recent rain has resulted in a small increase in inflows to the Murray. Flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta has increased from 400 to 600 ML/day and flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie increased from 200 to 400 ML/day. Despite these slight increases, inflows for May are tracking close to the record low May inflow, which has been modelled at 75 GL in 1902. This year's May inflow will be below last year's May inflow (110 GL).

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has remained at the minimum release rate of 200 ML/day and storage has increased by 3 GL to 683 GL (17.5% capacity). Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 30 GL to 333 GL (11% capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) is around the current minimum of 800 ML/day.

The declining water level in Lake Mulwala has started to level off, falling only 11 cm over the past week compared with a peak reduction of 18 cm/week earlier this month. If conditions remain dry the lake level is expected to continue to gradually fall as the minimum release of 1 800 ML/day continues to exceed the inflow rate. Further advice will be provided next week.

The Stevens Weir pool level has been reduced by NSW State Water from 4.2 to 3.8 m AHD and is being held at levels significantly higher than usual for this time of year. This operation allows more water to be held in the upper Murray storages as water stored in the Stevens Weir pool will be used to supply the lower Edward River over the coming months. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir is steady at around 400 ML/day.

Torrumbarry Weir release has increased from 1 450 to 2 400 ML/day due to the cessation of diversions to National Channel. The pool level remains steady at about Full Supply Level (FSL) (86.05 m AHD). At Swan Hill the river level increased by 15 cm this week to around 0.7 m (local gauge height) as the higher releases from Torrumbarry Weir arrived. Euston Weir release has remained steady this week at around 2 300 ML/day.

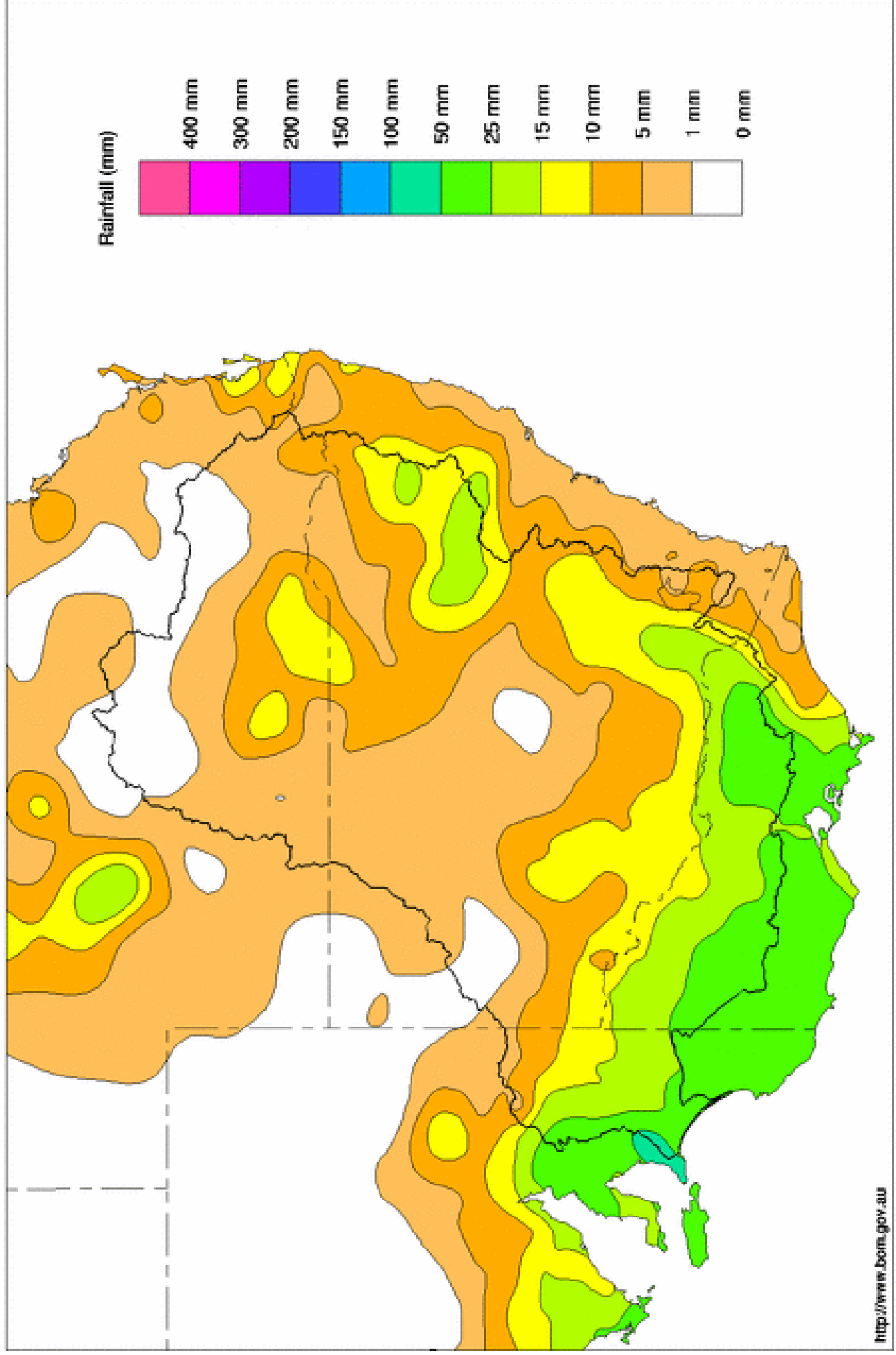
Mildura Weir is currently at 34.43 m AHD (3 cm above FSL) and the release has been decreased from 2 700 to about 2 200 ML/day. Wentworth Weir is at 30.83 m AHD (3 cm above FSL) and the release is about 2 100 ML/day. Flow in the lower Darling River at Burtundy has declined from 50 to 25 ML/day and Lake Victoria storage has remained steady at around 270 GL (or 40% capacity).

Cooler weather and lower evaporative losses has allowed the flow to South Australia to be reduced from 1 750 to 1 650 ML/day. The upper pool level at locks 1 to 6 are all at, or up to 10 cm above, FSL. The Lower Lakes remain around -0.5 m AHD (0.5 m below see level).

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st May 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 | 411.05 | 683 | 17% | 80 | 603 | +3 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 170.98 | 333 | 11% | 30 | 303 | +30 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 23.24 | 269 | 40% | 100 | 169 | +1 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 563 | 33% | (-) # | 0 | -3 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 1 849 | 20% | -- | 1 076 | +31 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 13%

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 | | 422 | 41% | 3 | 419 | +0 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 478 | 29% | 24 | 454 | +10 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | | 449 | 13% | 100 | 349 | +1 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-May-2008

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversions (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2008 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 273 | -40 | Snowy-Murray | +26 | 65 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 248 | -20 | Tooma-Tumut | +2 | 6 |
| Target Storage | 1 290 | | Nett Diversion | 23.8 | 60 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +21 | 68 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2007 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | .5 | 91.4 |
| Wakool System loss | 0.1 | 22.1 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | N/A * | N/A * |
| Licensed Pumps | 1.0 | 84.6 |
| Lower Darling | 0.2 | 10.9 |
| TOTAL | 1.8 | 209.0 |

* No data supplied from WMI

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2007 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | .6 | 138 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 1.4 | 242 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.7 | 93 * |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 2.2 | 19 |
| Licensed pumps - LMW | 2.3 | 176 |
| TOTAL | 7.1 | 668 * |

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 93 * | |
| Flow this week | 12.2 | (1 700 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 39 | |
| Flow last month | 74 | |

* Reduced to approx. 52 GL during May 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 | 80 | 80 | 120 |
| Red Cliffs | - | - | 130 |
| Merbein | 160 | 180 | 150 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 310 | 300 | 850 |
| Lock 9 | 250 | 240 | 160 |
| Lake Victoria | 240 | 240 | 190 |
| Berri | 340 | 330 | 350 |
| Waikerie | 370 | 360 | 520 |
| Morgan | 400 | 400 | 570 |
| Mannum | 620 | 620 | 660 |
| Murray Bridge | 680 | 710 | 690 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 3 490 | 3 540 | 2 950 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 3 210 | 2 990 | 2 550 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | - | - | 3 150 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 23 600 | 24 900 | 20 760 |



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 | - | - | - | 3 530 | F | 3 380 | 4 320 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.64 | 208.16 | 4 330 | R | 4 030 | 3 840 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.30 | 218.19 | 440 | F | 430 | 380 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.15 | 154.78 | 500 | F | 560 | 570 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 1.35 | 149.82 | 840 | S | 810 | 820 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 0.56 | 148.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 0.26 | 126.28 | 820 | F | 860 | 1 110 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 0.30 | 115.34 | 1 780 | R | 1 780 | 2 020 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 0.74 | 104.58 | 1 740 | S | 1 760 | 2 250 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 0.98 | 79.53 | 2 300 | S | 2 100 | 1 490 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.68 | 63.60 | 2 600 | R | 1 890 | 1 950 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 1.47 | 50.59 | 2 420 | R | 2 360 | 2 510 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 0.55 | 42.39 | 2 340 | S | 2 320 | 2 470 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 2 260 | F | 2 440 | 2 380 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.79 | 27.55 | 2 130 | S | 2 130 | 1 950 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 2.48 | 19.41 | 1 180 | F | 1 320 | 1 250 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | -0.49 | - | 940 | S | 950 | 1 030 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.92 | 154.15 | 461 | R | 310 | 320 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.87 | 145.55 | 547 | F | 480 | 390 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.18 | 92.60 | 457 | F | 440 | 370 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.67 | 80.44 | 400 | F | 400 | 340 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 1.22 | 56.60 | 634 | F | 740 | 730 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.91 | 54.40 | 0 | S | 0 | 0 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.44 | 56.40 | 198 | S | 200 | 200 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.08 | - | - | F | - | 0 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 3.97 | - | 19 | S | 20 | 30 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.68 | - | 44 | F | 50 | 60 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 2 160 | 1 040 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | -1.16 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.00 | +0.16 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.01 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | -0.02 | +0.00 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.00 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.06 | +0.04 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.03 | +0.03 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.11 | +0.23 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.03 | +0.15 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.10 | +0.16 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.00 | +0.05 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.08 | +0.08 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.08 | +0.07 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.04 | -1.24 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -3.25 | 0.51 | 69.86 | 178 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -4.10 | 0.102 | 61.402 | 228 |



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

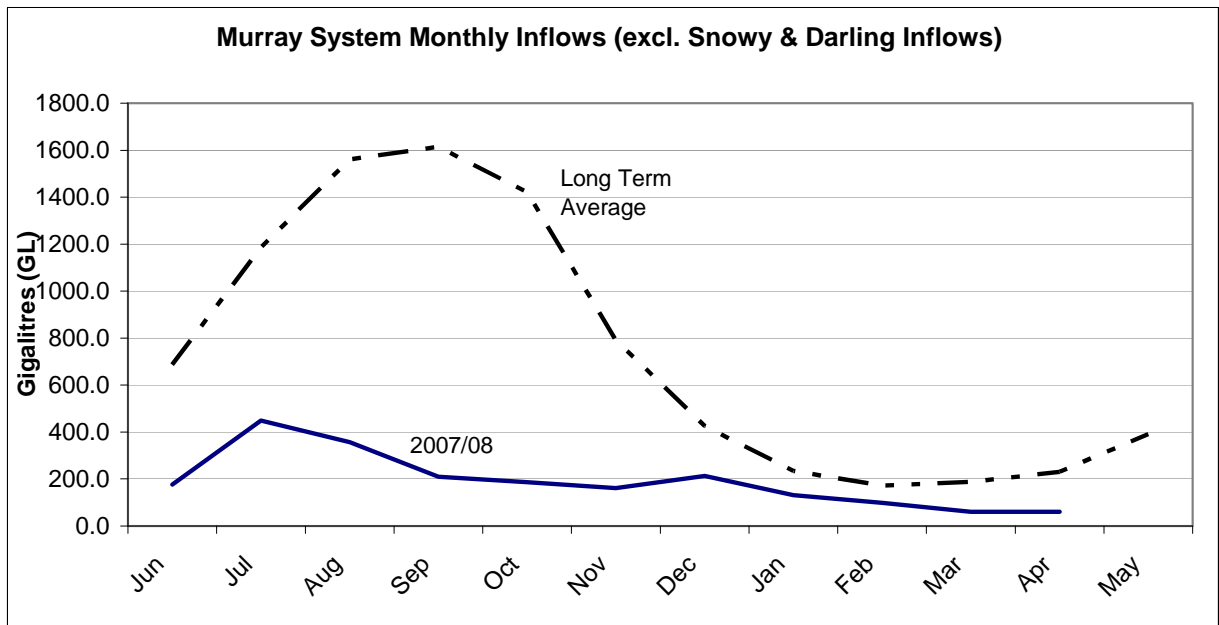
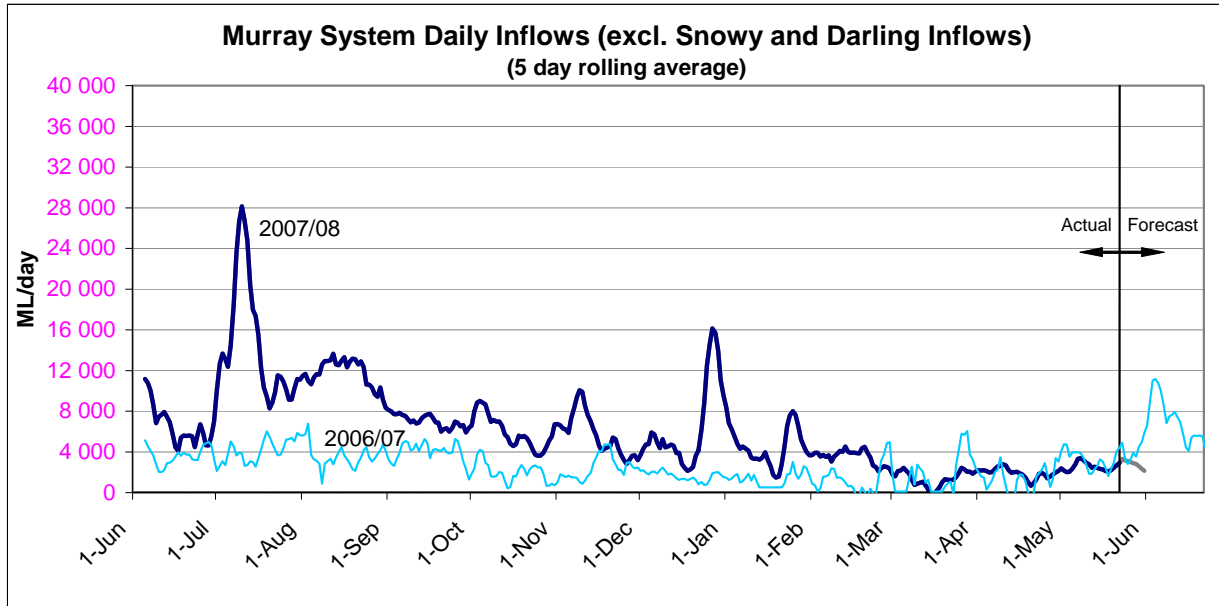
| | |
|--|---------|
| | (m AHD) |
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | -0.47 |

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | -0.38 | 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 21st May 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High security | 25% |
| General security | 0% |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High security | 90% |
| General security | 13% |

NSW - Lower Darling

| | |
|------------------|------|
| High security | 100% |
| General security | 50% |

Victoria - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 43% |
|------------------|-----|

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| high reliability | 57% |
|------------------|-----|

South Australia - Murray Valley

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| irrigation allocation | 32% |
|-----------------------|-----|



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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>