

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 June 2008



Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, ms
Trim Ref : 08/5602

27 June, 2008

Rainfall and Inflows

Light rain of between 10 to 15 mm was recorded along the Eastern Highlands from Victoria to northern NSW this week, extending as far inland as Hillston in central NSW. The heaviest falls occurred over south-eastern NSW with Narrandera receiving 54 mm of rain. Little or no rain fell across the west of the Basin (see map 1).

Murray inflows for June are tracking well below average and currently total around 80 GL. With dry conditions forecast for the remainder of June, inflows are quite likely to be lower than the record minimum (110 GL) observed in 2006.

River Operations

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by around 20 GL to 468 GL (15% capacity) and the flow at Doctors Point (near Albury/Wodonga) remained at around the current target minimum of 800 ML/day. Yarrowonga Weir release has been decreased to 1 800 ML/day over the past week resulting in the lake level falling only a further 10 cm to 122.04 m AHD. The Lake level will be held at around this level for a couple of weeks before being gradually raised in preparation for the new irrigation season.

Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River has been lowered by NSW State Water from 1.4 to 0.8 m local gauge height over the past week. The weir gates are now fully open. The Edward and Gulpa Offtakes will be fully opened over the next few days, permitting the free passage of fish along the full length of the Edward River. Stevens weir pool will be refilled in time for the new irrigation season.

Torrumbarry Weir is at Full Supply Level (FSL) and Euston is being held steady at around 47.5 m AHD (around 10 cm below FSL). Due to a lower than expected salinity spike at Mildura it is now unlikely that either weir will be lowered to supplement flows downstream of Mildura.

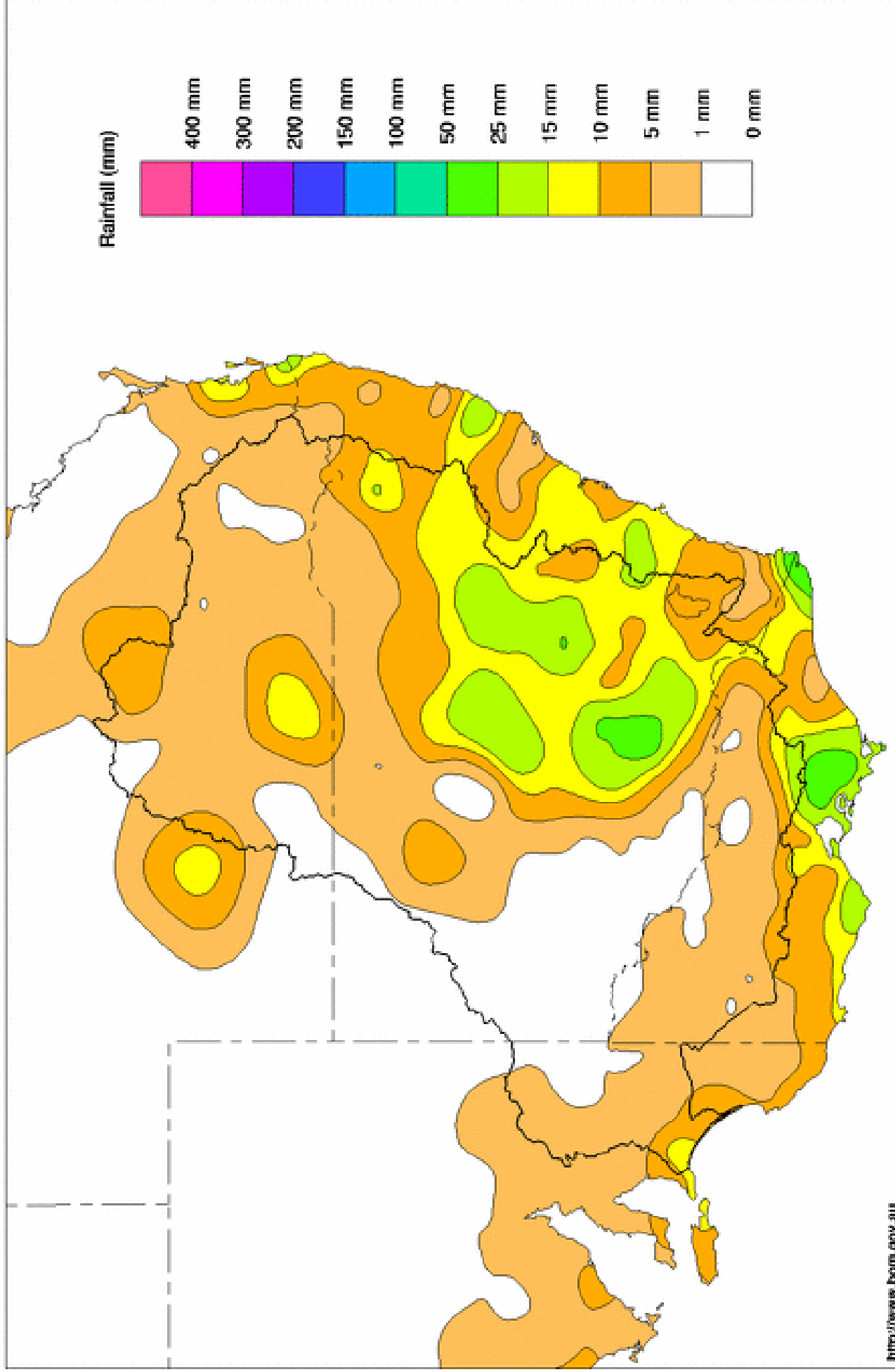
Mildura Weir commenced being refilled this week after being fully drawn down for the purposes of trestle refurbishment and replacement. The maintenance work is now complete and the weir pool is expected to be back up at FSL (34.40 m AHD) within a week (see media release attached). The resultant rise in salinity has been better than expected with the salinity at Mildura peaking at 420 EC, significantly lower than the peak of 680 EC that occurred when the weir was drawn down in May 2003. The salinity at Mildura is currently 340 EC and is expected to continue to gradually fall back towards pre-drawdown levels.

When the higher salinity flow reaches Lock 9, it will be diverted into Lake Victoria where it will mix with a large volume of less saline water. This operation will ensure that SA is provided with the freshest possible water under the circumstances. Whilst the higher salinity water is diverted into Lake Victoria, Lock 9 release will be zero and Mullaroo Creek will be supplied entirely by drawing upon Lock 8. In preparation, Lock 8 will be raised up to 60 cm above FSL (24.6 m AHD) and, if necessary, will be drawn down by up to 40 cm below FSL. Further information on this will be provided as necessary over the coming weeks.

The salinity at Milang on Lake Alexandrina has remained steady at around 3 700 EC since mid May and the water level in Lake Alexandrina remains steady at about 45cm below mean sea level.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th June 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	411.45	692	18%	80	612	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.87	468	15%	30	438	+21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.62	306	45%	100	206	+36
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		544	31%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 011	21%	--	1 256	+55

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **15%**

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	426	41%	3	423	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	589	36%	24	565	+12
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	469	14%	100	369	+6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Jun-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	143	-8	Snowy-Murray	+14	161
Snowy-Murray Component	214	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+4	17
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	10.6	144
			Murray 1 Release	+19	181

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	89.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	24.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	22.4
Licensed Pumps	0.5	88.0
Lower Darling	0.1	11.3
TOTAL	0.7	235.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	138
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	241
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	94 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	23
Licensed pumps - LMW	1.3	183
TOTAL	2.1	679 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90 *	
Flow this week	12.6	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	51	
Flow last month	56	

* Reduced to approx. 45 GL during June drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	80	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	380	350	160
Burtundy (Darling)	340	330	860
Lock 9	150	150	160
Lake Victoria	240	210	200
Berri	280	360	350
Waikerie	-	410	520
Morgan	440	440	550
Mannum	590	600	650
Murray Bridge	580	640	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 510	3 610	3 020
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 080	2 880	2 610
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 740	5 730	3 300
Goolwa Barrages	22 820	22 360	20 870



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	-	-	-	2 400	F	2 860	2 270
Jingellic	4.0	1.62	208.14	4 100	S	3 000	2 850
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.31	218.20	450	S	450	540
Heywoods	5.5	1.17	154.80	390	S	390	400
Doctors Point	5.5	1.44	149.91	1 020	R	860	970
Albury	4.3	0.61	148.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.29	126.31	890	S	950	930
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.31	115.35	1 820	S	2 260	3 850
Tocumwal	6.4	0.78	104.62	2 040	F	2 780	3 900
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 940	F	3 600	4 100
Swan Hill	4.5	0.86	63.78	3 700	F	3 940	3 920
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.97	51.09	4 080	S	4 150	3 810
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.94	42.78	4 380	F	4 410	3 460
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 150	F	3 820	3 990
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	27.78	3 950	R	3 700	5 350
Rufus Junction	-	2.48	19.41	880	R	970	1 910
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.43	-	1 440	S	1 360	1 340
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.24	154.47	910	R	630	730
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.94	145.62	715	R	670	770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	326	F	340	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.63	80.40	360	F	350	280
Edward at Liewah	-	0.66	56.04	295	F	300	290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	54.38	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.14	56.10	38	F	100	140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	7	S	10	50
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	19	S	20	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	33	F	50	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 140	2 020
---	-------	-------

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	-2.86	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.15
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-3.47	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.16	+0.30
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.16	+0.29
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.17	+0.45	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.20	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.50	-0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.15	-1.18

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.81	0.36	69.71	89.6
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.22	-0.11	61.19	-9



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

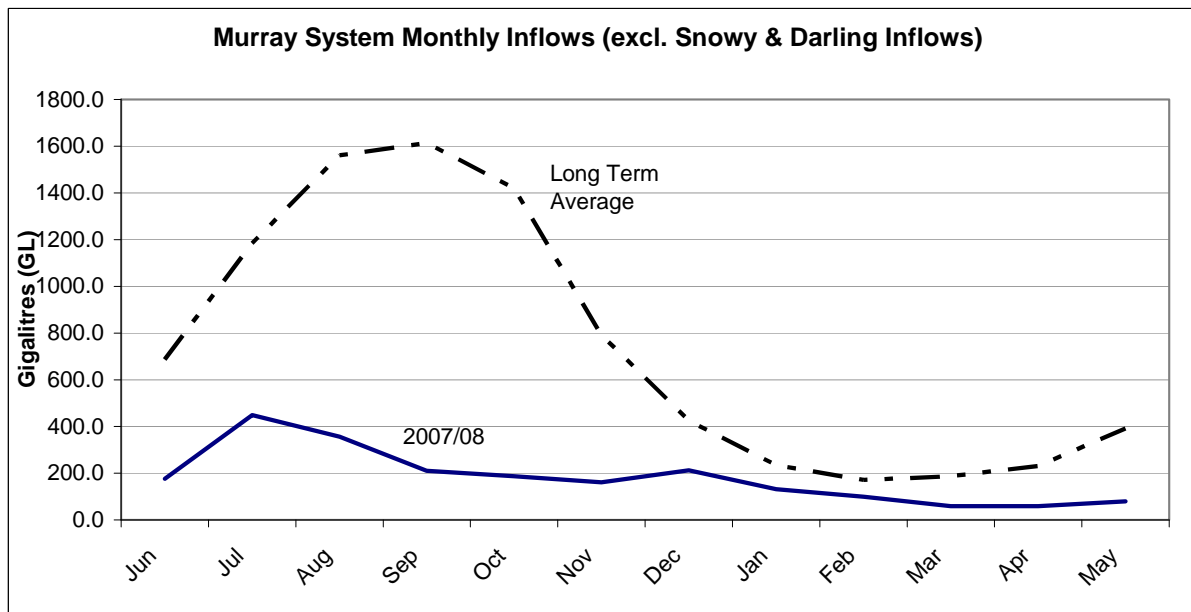
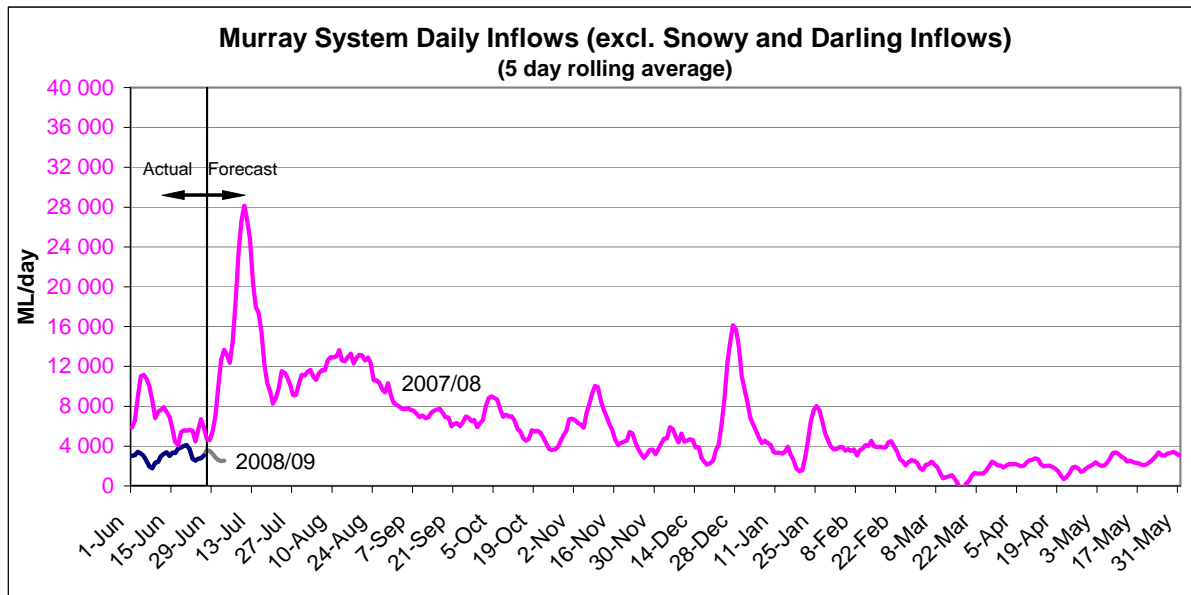
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.43

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.34	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.46	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 25th June 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	to be announced on 1st July
General security	

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	to be announced on 1st July
General security	

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	to be announced on 1st July
General security	

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	- to be announced 1st July
------------------	----------------------------

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	- to be announced 1st July
------------------	----------------------------

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation-	from 1st July	2%
carry over -	from 1st July	50%



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>



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, 24th June 2008

Rising water levels expected at Mildura Weir

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) today advised water users on the Mildura Weir pool should expect to see water levels return to normal over the next few days.

Last week, the Mildura weir was temporarily removed to allow some of the trestles to be replaced or refurbished as required. As a consequence, the weir pool level was lowered by about 3.5 metres.

MDBC's Acting Chief Executive, David Dreverman, said the maintenance work had proceeded according to plan, and the trestles should be returned to the river on Wednesday 25 June.

"The water level is expected to start rising immediately after the trestles are replaced and it should take about 5 days to rise back to the full supply level of 34.40 m AHD. As the weir pool is raised, the downstream flow will be reduced, and minor fluctuations in water level might also occur between Wentworth and Mildura.

"During the drawdown, an increased amount of saline groundwater has flowed into the river and the salinity at Mildura rose from 120 EC to 420 EC on the 20th June.

"It is currently steady at about 370 EC. As the pool level starts to rise, the salinity at Mildura should start to decrease back to the previous level of about 100 to 140 EC," Mr Dreverman said.

The peak in river salinity is travelling slowly downstream and is expected to reach Wentworth Weir in about a week's time. The higher salinity water will then be diverted into Lake Victoria in mid July.

Daily water quality measurements are being taken and regular updates of river salinity are being reported on the MDBC's website at; www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river_information_centre and in the MDBC's weekly reports (also available on the MDBC website).

"Water users and boat operators on the Mildura Weir pool are urged to adjust their activities to account for the large rise in water level expected over the next few days.

"Water users between Colignan and Lock 9 are also advised to take into account the rise in river salinity when planning their operations over the next few weeks," Mr Dreverman said.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332