REPORT FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING

Wednesday, 2 January 2008

Our Ref : M2008/00001/PRS, AS **4 January, 2008**
Trim Ref : *08/49*

Rainfall and inflows

There was significant rainfall across the Basin on the weekend prior to Christmas (*see Map*). In central NSW there were rainfall totals in excess of 100 mm, which caused minor flooding along parts of the Castlereagh and Bogan Rivers (*for further information go to: www.bom.gov.au*). In addition, there have been significant increases in flow in the Namoi, Culgoa and Barwon River catchments. These have combined to increase the flow in the Darling River at Bourke from 1 500 to 20 000 ML/day over the past two weeks. Further rises in river level are expected at Bourke over the coming week. The NSW Department of Water and Energy has made an initial estimate that about 300 GL of this water will eventually flow into the Menindee Lakes. In response they will commence releasing water into the lower reaches of the Darling River (downstream of the Menindee Lakes) on the 7th January 2008 (*see NSW media release*).

The rain in the southern part of the Basin was sufficient to produce the highest daily inflow to the River Murray System since July 2007. Some stream flow rates were greater than their peak flow in July. For example, there was a brief pulse of up to 5 000 ML/day in the Campaspe River at Rochester which was the highest flow since November 2000. Other significant responses included the Ovens River at Wangaratta temporarily rising from 800 to 7 000 ML/day.

Total inflow to the River Murray System reached a peak of about 17 000 ML/day (see attached plot) and has since gradually receded to about 6 000 ML/day, which is about double that immediately prior to the rain. Although there was only a small and short-term increase in overall storage volume (about 30 GL), the continuing inflow from tributaries, the rain on the river and the lower than planned evaporative losses have combined to increase the overall water availability by about 150 GL since mid December. This improvement is reflected in the recent allocation increase to Victorian Murray water users (*announced on 2 January*) and the decision by NSW to provide additional water to the Wakool River System west of Deniliquin (*see NSW media release*).

River Operations

Prior to and following the rain event the release from Hume Reservoir was reduced and, where possible, the higher inflows from the Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe and Murrumbidgee Rivers, currently passing through Swan Hill and Boundary Bend, are being temporarily stored in weir pools. This operation aims to conserve water in Hume Dam where evaporative losses are low as well as minimise the water level in Lake Victoria where evaporative losses are very high.

Lake Mulwala water level is 5 cm higher than prior to Christmas but still 50 cm below the full supply level (FSL). Torrumbarry Weir pool level has been increased by 14 cm to the full supply level and NSW has increased the water level in Stevens' Weir pool by 45 cm. Further downstream at Euston, a temporary regulator across Taila Creek has disconnected Dry Lake and Lake Benanee from the weir pool. This has allowed Euston Weir pool to be partially refilled by 40 cm and is now 20 cm below the full supply level. The planned evaporation savings from the Euston Lakes continue to be achieved through this approach, whilst maintaining operational flexibility at Euston Weir.

However, the additional water stored in these weir pools may only be temporary as it may need to be released over the coming weeks to help meet the demand for water in Sunraysia or South Australia, in preference to increasing the release of water from Hume Reservoir.

The flow to South Australia has been recently increased from 3 800 to 4 100 ML/day to compensate for the higher evaporative losses along the Lower Murray associated with the very hot weather over the past week. The hot conditions caused most of the weir pool levels in South Australia to temporarily fall to between 2 and 5 cm below their full supply levels.

The level of the Lower Lakes has been steady over the past two weeks at about -0.07 m AHD. However with the recent hot and dry weather, which is forecast to continue over the next week, the lake levels are expected to continue to gradually fall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Nathan Rees MP
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Water Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

30th December 07

INCREASED WATER ALLOCATIONS AND RELEASES IN REGIONAL NSW

State Plan Priority E1: A secure and sustainable water supply for all users

Rivers, creeks and wetlands that were once dry are being quenched with water for the first time in years thanks to heavy pre-Christmas rain.

Water Utilities Minister, Nathan Rees said good inflows have resulted in more increases in allocations and releases benefiting the environment, irrigators, graziers and town water supplies.

"The recent widespread rain has provided immediate benefits for landholders, businesses and communities still feeling the effects of the worst drought in recorded history," Mr Rees said.

"Following assessments by the Department of Water and Energy, we've been able to top up water for the environment and for consumptive use thanks to significant improvement in flows in most of the inland river systems over the past two weeks.

"Irrigators in the **Barwon-Darling River** can now access up to 10 percent of water in their accounts.

"There will also be good flows passing the length of the Barwon-Darling to the Menindee Lakes. Releases into the Lower Darling River downstream of the Menindee Lakes will commence on the 7th January 2008.

"This will also allow an allocation of 100% of entitlement for high security users in the Lower Darling River for 2007-08.

"In the **Murray Valley**, the Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River will be refilled and increased flows in the coming fortnight will raise river levels upstream of the weir.

"Releases for stock and domestic supply have commenced into some of the rivers and creeks west of Deniliquin which have not had flows in recent months.

"In the **Murrumbidgee Valley**, up to 8 gigalitres will be diverted into selected wetlands in the lower reaches of the river to maintain local populations of threatened species. This water comes from tributary inflows downstream of Burrinjuck and Blowering dams."

Minister Rees said water availability for irrigators in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys will be reviewed over the coming fortnight and he expects positive announcements on the 15th of January.

"The Department will continue to assess water availability across all the State's river systems and advise of any changes to flows," he said.

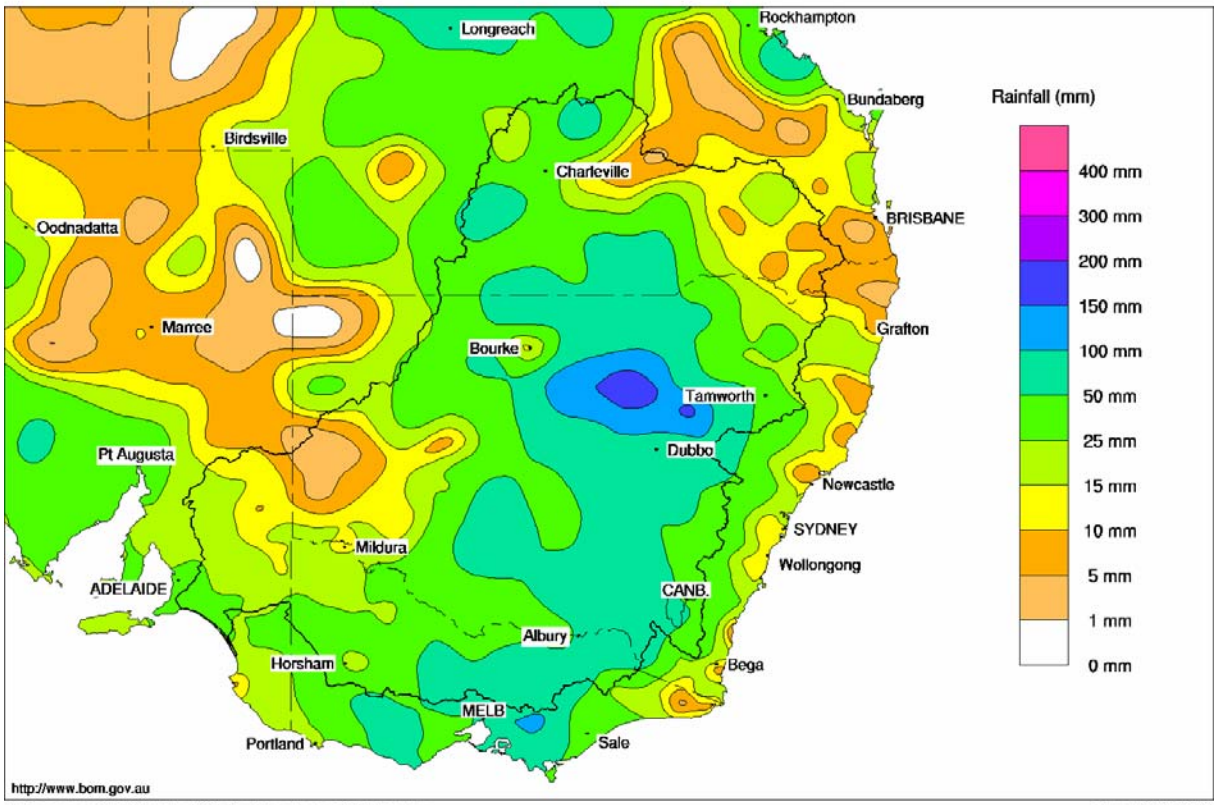
"Its also important to note that while this rain has brought some very welcome news, without good follow up rain these improvements will be short-lived so it is vital everyone remains conservative with their water use."

Media contact for Minister Rees: Steve Adams 0411 253345
Contact for the Department of Water and Energy: Derek Everson 0412 107745

Information on available water determinations (AWD) is available at www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au click on the AWD register link under 'What's New' on the homepage.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th December 2007

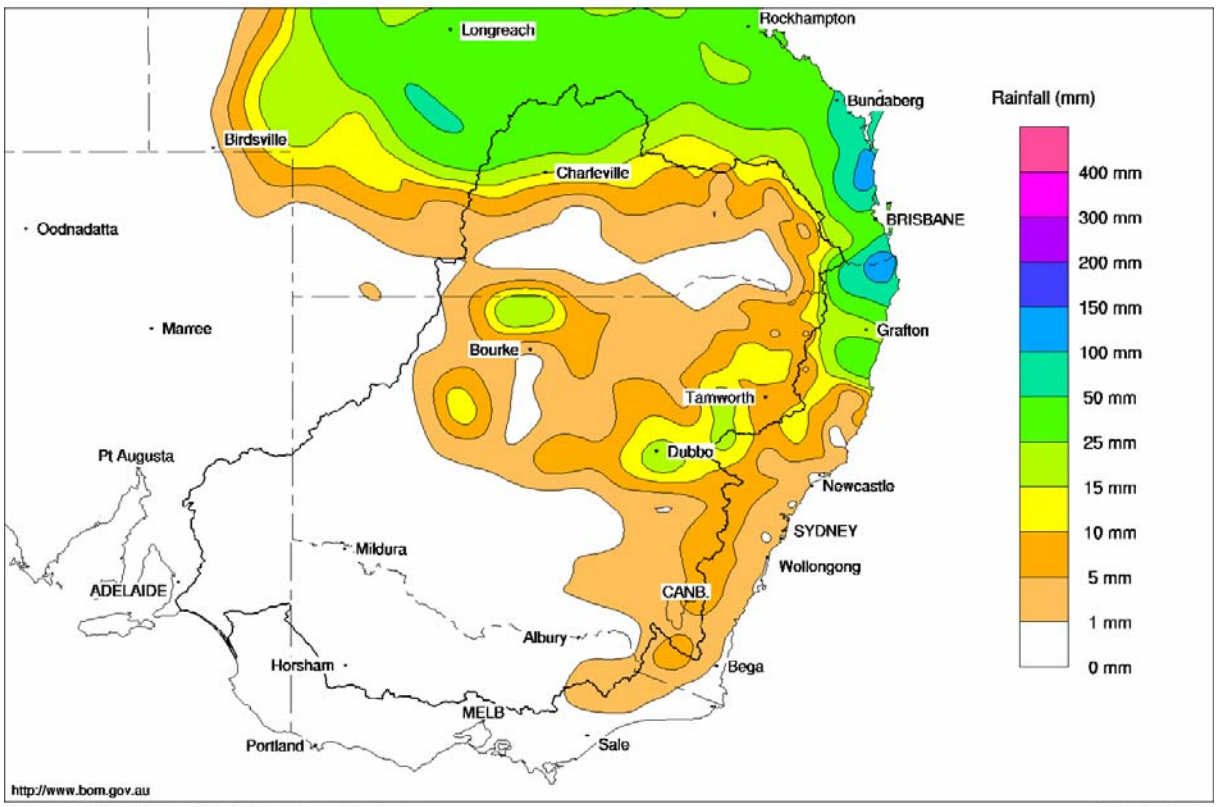
Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 26/12/2007

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd January 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 02/01/2008

Week ending Wednesday 26 Dec 2007

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	410.51	671	17%	80	591	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.81	718	24%	30	688	+11
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.24	369	54%	100	269	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		29	2%	(- -) #	0	+1
Total		**9 352**		**1 787**	**19%**	**- -**	**1 548**	**+16**

* 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		427	42%	3	424	+30
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		483	30%	24	459	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		808	24%	100	708	+12

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Dec-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	538	+32	Snowy-Murray	+0	280
Snowy-Murray Component	458	+31	Tooma-Tumut	+10	129
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-10.5	151
			Murray 1 Release	+5	465

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.4	38.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	8.5
Licensed Pumps	4.3	37.0
Lower Darling	0.4	5.2
TOTAL	**6.7**	**93.9**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.4	37
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.0	58
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	40 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	67
TOTAL	**11.8**	208 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217 *	
Flow this week	27.6	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	95	
Flow last month	103	

* Reduced to approx. 109 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	60	60	100
Euston	80	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	110	110	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 530	1 530	1 260
Lock 9	140	160	150
Lake Victoria	160	190	170
Berri	280	280	400
Waikerie	-	-	640
Morgan	540	550	690
Mannum	760	750	530
Murray Bridge	620	610	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 960	2 970	2 480
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-		2 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 330	3 260	2 700
Goolwa Barrages	17 610	19 930	15 200

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

Week ending Wednesday 26 Dec 2007

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	320	S	1 240	1 050
Jingellic	4.0	1.42	207.94	2 630	F	3 820	1 380
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.49	218.38	800	F	1 050	890
Heywoods	5.5	1.49	155.12	1 710	R	3 850	7 730
Doctors Point	5.5	1.93	150.40	3 590	R	5 290	8 270
Albury	4.3	1.00	148.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.23	127.25	3 810	F	5 950	8 310
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.31	116.35	7 000	S	7 110	7 000
Tocumwal	6.4	1.83	105.67	7 370	F	7 400	7 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.67	81.22	8 220	F	7 060	5 850
Swan Hill	4.5	1.29	64.21	6 410	R	6 140	5 920
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.49	51.61	6 090	R	5 920	5 790
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.17	43.01	5 640	R	5 540	5 210
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	5 220	F	5 130	4 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	27.53	3 920	S	4 040	3 020
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	19.88	3 410	S	3 320	3 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.05	-	2 070	S	1 970	1 110
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.68	154.91	1 669	F	1 260	510
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.96	146.64	3 630	F	3 300	930
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.84	94.26	3 458	R	1 330	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.76	80.53	500	F	570	490
Edward at Liewah	-	0.77	56.15	353	R	300	310
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.16	55.65	71	S	60	-
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	227	F	240	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.63	-	1 202	F	1 870	410
Darling at Bourke	-	5.19	-	9 579	R	4 430	1 690
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.30	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 960	1 830

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.48	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.67
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.04	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.52	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.35
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.13	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.12	-0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.34	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.70

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.25	1.28	70.63	1256
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.7	62	857

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.07

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.15	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.06	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

Week ending Wednesday 02 Jan 2008

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	410.64	674	17%	80	594	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.55	694	23%	30	664	-24
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.10	354	52%	100	254	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		38	2%	(- -) #	0	+9
Total		**9 352**		**1 760**	**19%**	**- -**	**1 512**	**-27**

* 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		432	42%	3	429	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		474	29%	24	450	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		802	24%	100	702	-5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Jan-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	555	+18	Snowy-Murray	+0	280
Snowy-Murray Component	466	+8	Tooma-Tumut	+3	132
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	-2.9	148
			Murray 1 Release	+3	468

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.2	39.8
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.8
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	9.7
Licensed Pumps	2.9	39.7
Lower Darling	0.5	5.7
TOTAL	**5.7**	**99.6**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.6	40
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	60
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.0	46 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	73
TOTAL	**14.8**	225 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217 *	
Flow this week	26.4	(3 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	8	
Flow last month	114	

* Reduced to approx. 130 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	60	90
Euston	80	80	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	110	110	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 280	1 470	1 270
Lock 9	130	130	150
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	290	280	390
Waikerie	400	400	640
Morgan	490	510	680
Mannum	810	800	540
Murray Bridge	640	630	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 020	2 930	2 500
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	2 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 500	3 410	2 730
Goolwa Barrages	20 580	19 350	15 390

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

Week ending Wednesday 02 Jan 2008

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	430	F	1 070	1 240
Jingellic	4.0	1.29	207.81	1 790	R	1 980	3 820
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.51	218.40	840	R	790	1 050
Heywoods	5.5	2.21	155.84	7 190	R	5 900	3 850
Doctors Point	5.5	2.44	150.91	8 300	R	6 940	5 290
Albury	4.3	1.42	148.86	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.87	127.89	7 230	R	5 280	5 950
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.31	116.35	7 000	S	7 000	7 110
Tocumwal	6.4	1.81	105.65	7 250	R	7 200	7 400
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.18	80.73	6 410	F	7 660	7 060
Swan Hill	4.5	1.57	64.49	8 300	F	8 130	6 140
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.93	52.05	7 830	R	7 030	5 920
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.31	43.15	6 460	R	5 520	5 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	3 980	F	4 260	5 130
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.73	27.49	2 320	R	2 800	4 040
Rufus Junction	-	2.92	19.85	3 250	R	3 160	3 320
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.17	-	810	F	1 420	1 970
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.24	154.47	959	R	800	1 260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.22	145.90	1 442	F	2 120	3 300
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.44	92.86	815	F	1 590	1 330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.62	80.39	360	F	500	570
Edward at Liewah	-	1.08	56.46	542	R	480	300
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.05	55.54	19	F	40	60
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.59	57.55	1 130	R	650	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.53	-	835	R	830	1 870
Darling at Bourke	-	6.99	-	19 161	R	15 240	4 430
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.24	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 450	8 960

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.50	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.61
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.21	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.05	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.21
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.09	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.08
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.09	-0.37	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.36	+0.01	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	-0.58

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.60	1.55	70.9	1781
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.05	1.37	62.67	1720

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

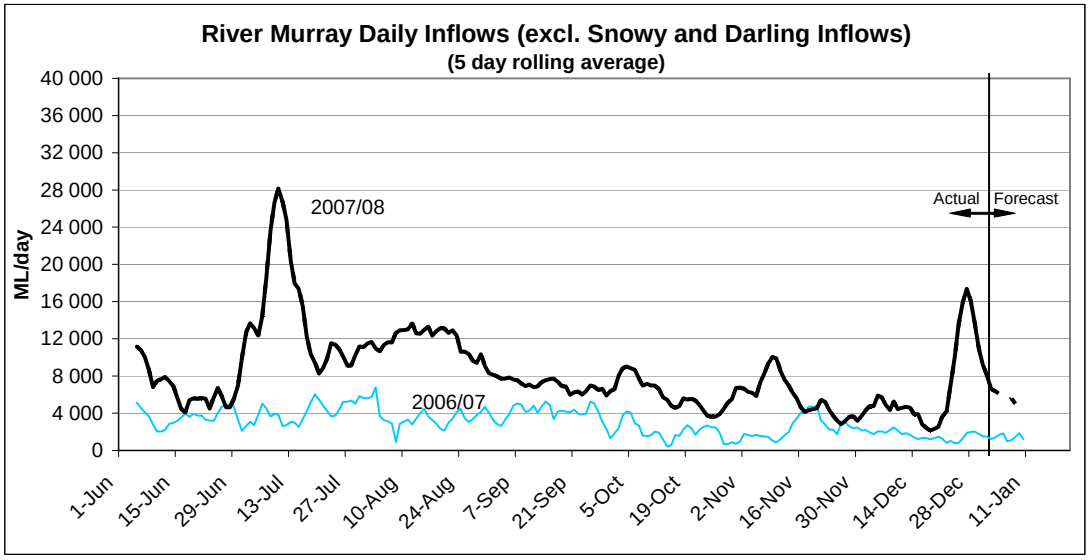
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.05

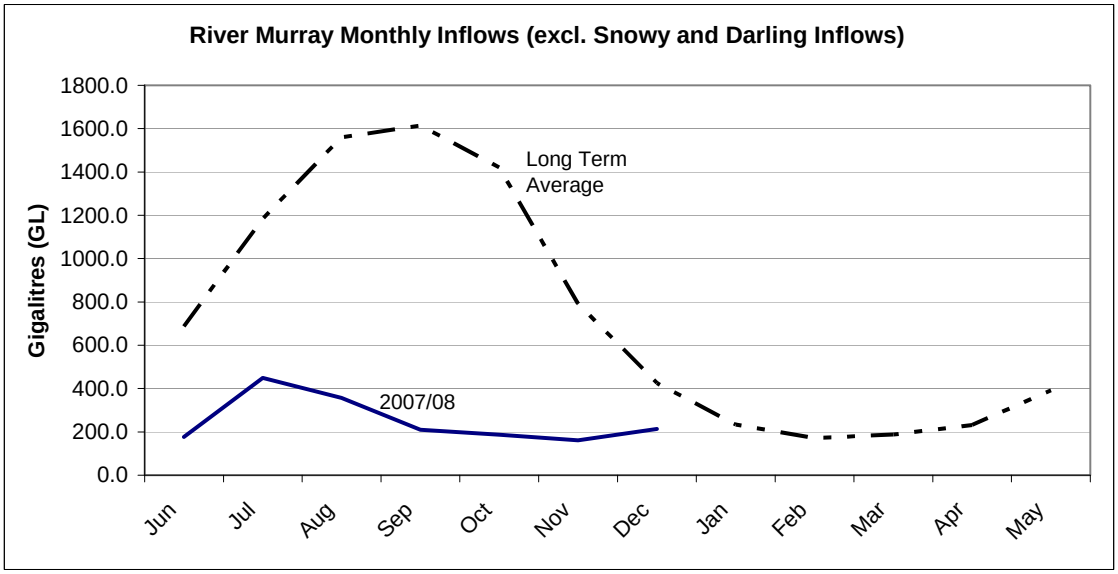
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.13	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.12	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-0.14	All closed	Closed	Closed

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





State Allocations (as at 2 Jan 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	55%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High Security	90%
General security	3%

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	33%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	45%

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc
VIC : http://g-mwater.ddsn.com/news.asp
SA : http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html