

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 27 February 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, as
Trim Ref : 08/2327*

29 February, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

Most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin received little or no rain during the past week (see attached map). The only exceptions were the far north of the Basin and the central tablelands of NSW, both of which received falls of 15 - 25 mm.

As a result of the good falls of rain in the north of the Basin during early February, the Barwon-Darling River has received further tributary inflows, particularly from the Culgoa, Warrego and MacIntyre Rivers. This water is now travelling downstream towards Menindee Lakes, and the flow at Wilcannia has risen to 8 200 ML/day.

In the southern half of the Basin inflows to the Murray River continue to recede, which is fairly typical for the end of summer. At Biggara on the upper Murray, for instance, the flow has now receded to 200 ML/day which is the lowest since May 2007.

The latest outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology has reported that a La Niña event is in progress across the Pacific Ocean and computer models indicate it is likely to persist until the end of autumn. The Bureau's rainfall outlook for autumn indicates slightly above average rainfall for most of the Murray-Darling Basin except in north-east Victoria where it is predicted to be average or slightly below average (see www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain_ahead.shtml)

River Operations

During the past week, total storage for the Murray River system (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 16 GL to 1 906 GL (or 20 % capacity). Although Hume Reservoir fell by 32 GL, this was more than offset by an increase of 45 GL in Menindee Lakes. After receiving additional water from the lower Darling River over the last few weeks, Lake Victoria peaked at 374 GL (55 % capacity) during the week and is now starting to gradually fall again.

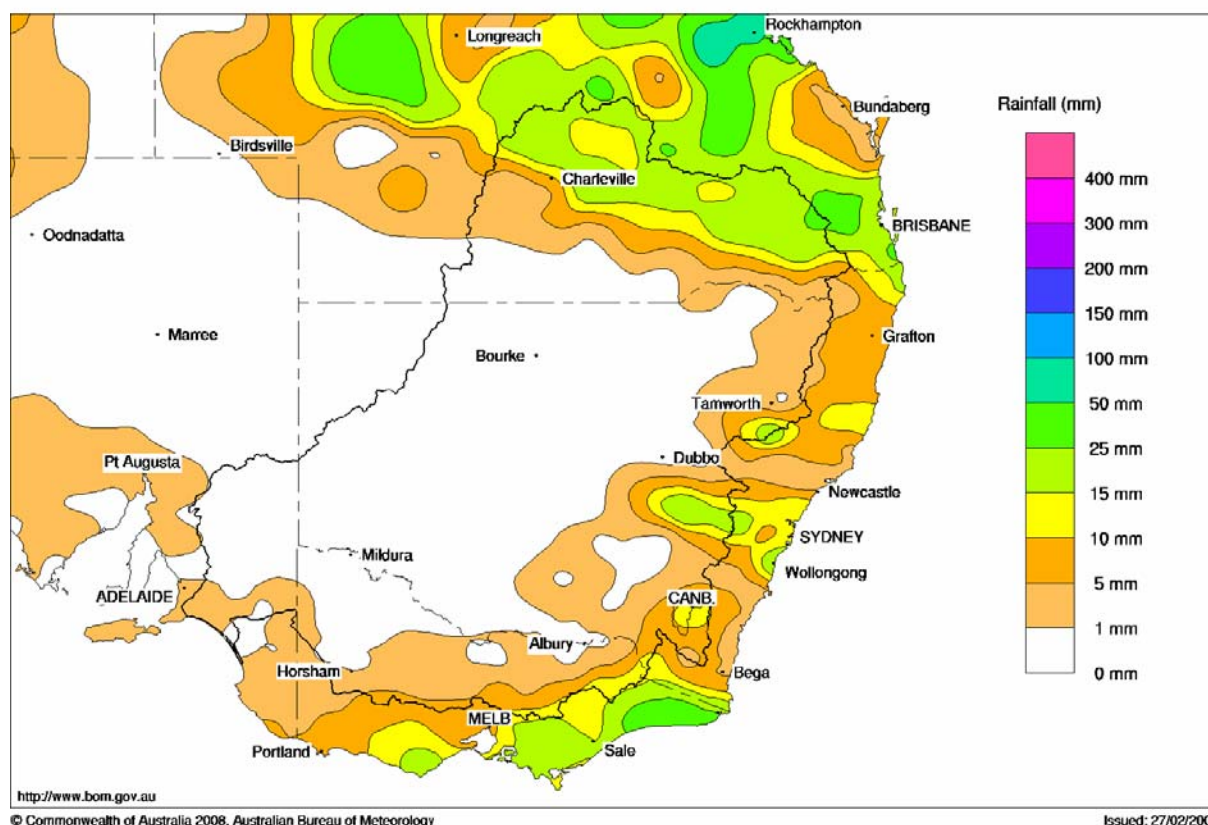
The release from Hume Reservoir is currently 7 200 ML/day and, if it remains dry, is likely to increase slightly over the next few weeks to help meet increased irrigation requirements for autumn plantings.

The recent diversions to the Wakool River system are now being reduced and should cease in the next two weeks. Since late November, a total of 24 GL of water has been supplied by New South Wales, and an additional 6 GL was provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission for environmental purposes. The water provided much needed stock and domestic supply and improved water quality and habitat for fish and other wildlife. These replenishment flows have now reached the lower reaches of the Wakool River and a small volume will flow into the Murray River. The initial flush along the Wakool River has picked up some saline water and this has caused a temporary increase in salinity in the Murray. The salinity at Wakool Junction has risen from 100 to 190 EC and current monitoring indicates that it could rise to 250 EC over the coming week. The temporary rise in salinity in the River Murray will be carefully monitored as it moves downstream. The magnitude of this event is no different to other years when a rise in salinity has often been associated with the first flows from the Wakool River in spring time.

The flow to South Australia is currently 3 500 ML/day and Locks 1 to 6 are all at Full Supply Level or slightly higher. During the past week, the salinities between Lock 1 and Lock 6 have remained fairly steady, with the exception of Lock 2 where the salinity rose slightly from 400 to 420 EC. Downstream of Lock 1, the low flow along the Murray River has resulted in salinities steadily increasing during summer. At Murray Bridge for instance, the salinity has increased from 550 to 950 EC over the last 3 months. The water levels in the Lower Lakes continue to gradually fall, with Lake Alexandrina currently at -0.32 m AHD (or 32 cm below mean sea level).

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 27th February 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	411.09	684	18%	80	604	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.48	438	14%	30	408	-32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.26	371	55%	100	271	-2
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		413	24%	(- -) #	0	+45
Total		9 352		1 906	20%	--	1 283	+12

* 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	431	42%	3	428	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	419	26%	24	395	-7
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	639	19%	100	539	-26

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-Feb-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	587	-13	Snowy-Murray	+11	316
Snowy-Murray Component	455	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+1	148
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	9.9	168
			Murray 1 Release	+14	539

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.0	62.6
Wakool System loss	1.3	35.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	16.9
Licensed Pumps	2.0	61.3
Lower Darling	0.3	8.4
TOTAL	8.3	185.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.2	58
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.6	117
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.9	74 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	9
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	131
TOTAL	22.4	388 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194 *	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.7	
Flow so far this month	106	
Flow last month	141	

* Reduced to approx. 113 GL during February drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	100	100	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	120	110	140
Burtundy (Darling)	280	270	1 070
Lock 9	140	150	150
Lake Victoria	220	220	180
Berri	260	260	370
Waikerie	430	410	560
Morgan	430	430	620
Mannum	890	890	620
Murray Bridge	960	940	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 340	3 290	2 710
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 920	2 840	2 330
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 340	5 050	3 110
Goolwa Barrages	24 680	24 790	17 810



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	-	-	-	4 740	R	2 550	1 590
Jingellic	4.0	1.29	207.81	1 790	R	2 170	1 900
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.42	218.31	650	R	640	630
Heywoods	5.5	2.24	155.87	7 260	S	6 760	5 380
Doctors Point	5.5	2.34	150.81	7 230	F	7 000	5 710
Albury	4.3	1.37	148.81	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.72	127.74	6 330	R	5 920	5 460
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	5 000	S	5 000	5 040
Tocumwal	6.4	1.46	105.30	5 130	R	5 130	5 360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.33	79.88	3 350	R	3 330	4 040
Swan Hill	4.5	0.79	63.71	3 330	R	3 500	4 420
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.84	50.96	3 630	F	4 090	4 830
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.91	42.75	4 220	F	4 840	5 490
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 560	F	4 640	5 010
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	4 070	S	4 320	5 480
Rufus Junction	-	2.87	19.80	3 090	R	3 040	2 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.24	-	1 170	F	1 280	1 480
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.72	153.95	259	F	480	540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.70	145.38	284	S	290	510
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	385	R	360	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.62	80.39	360	F	520	580
Edward at Liewah	-	1.10	56.48	548	R	540	590
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.25	54.74	138	S	120	60
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.02	56.98	638	F	880	1 140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	-	452	R	1 110	1 920
Darling at Bourke	-	5.09	-	8 787	R	8 080	7 940
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.87	-	538	F	740	2 010

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 080	2 370
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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	-0.63	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.02	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.25	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.26	+0.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.99

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.75	0.76	70.11	397
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.19	0.242	61.542	353



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

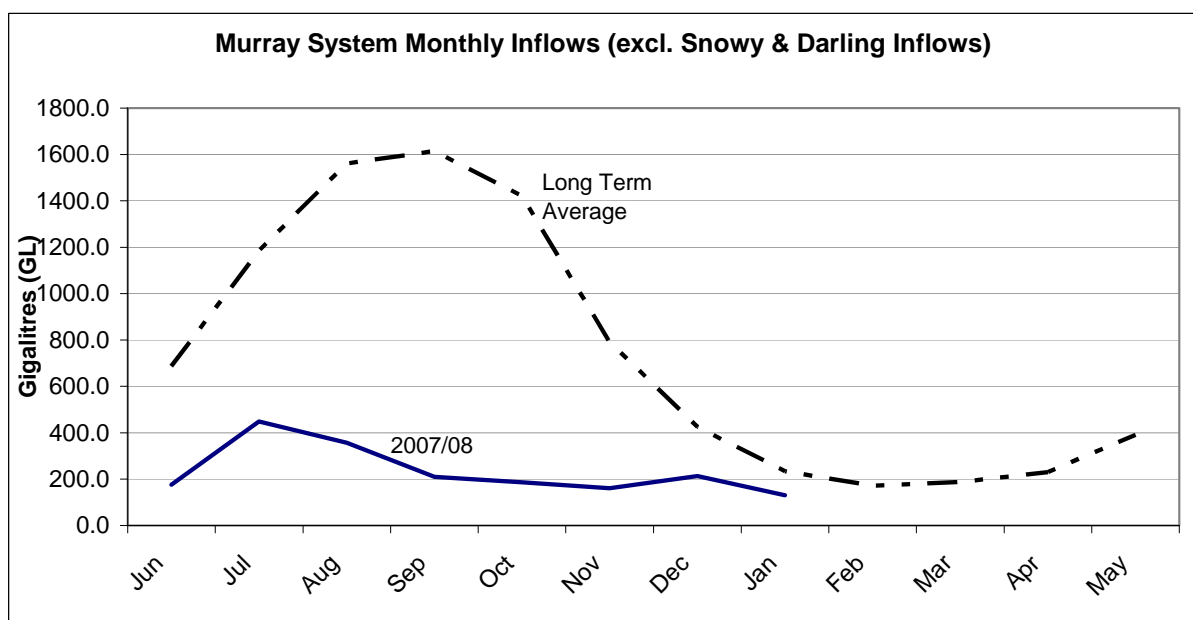
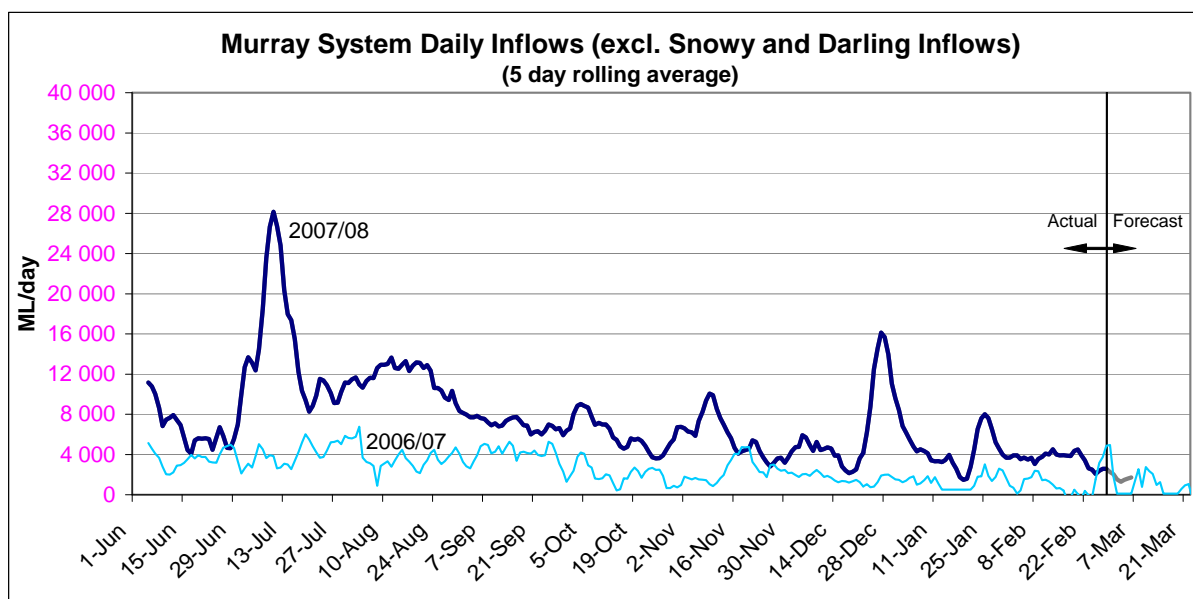
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.32

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.36	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.36	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.28	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 27th Feb 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	100%
High security	0%
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	42%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	53%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%
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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.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>