

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 April 2008



*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, as
Trim Ref : 08/3716*

18 April, 2008

Rainfall and Inflows

The dry weather has continued for another week with little or no rain recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). In particular, South Australia has received very little rain for the last 3 months. Murray Bridge, for instance, has only received 18 mm of rain since 1st January 2008, compared to a long term average of about 70 mm.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady at about 680 GL (17.4 % capacity) and the downstream flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Colemans gauge has been steady at 300 ML/day. Commencing on Monday 21st April, the flow at Colemans will be gradually reduced to the minimum flow of 200 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow at Tallandoon is currently about 500 ML/day and is expected to fall to about 400 ML/day if the weather remains dry.

During the past week, storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 38 GL to 231 GL (7.6% capacity). Downstream of Hume Reservoir, the flow in the Murray River at Doctors Point (near Albury) has been reduced from 8 500 ML/day to 7 000 ML/day, and is expected to continue gradually decreasing as the irrigation season draws to a close in mid-May.

The release from Yarrowonga Weir was temporarily increased from 4 200 to 5 000 ML/day to help meet downstream irrigation demand at National Channel in Victoria. As irrigation demand decreases, the release from Yarrowonga Weir is likely to be gradually reduced over the next few weeks.

On 21st April, Murray Irrigation Limited will be closing Mulwala and Wakool irrigation canals for the remainder of the season. Commencing on 23rd April, Mulwala Canal will be partially drained via the Edward Escape. This will provide sufficient water to maintain the flow along the Edward River, and allow flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes to be reduced to their respective minimums of 100 ML/day and 80 ML/day.

During the past week, the flows downstream of Torrumbarry Weir and through the Sunraysia district have been maintained at very low levels. This helps to minimise losses and conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs for 2008/09. The release from Torrumbarry Weir is currently 1 900 ML/day and is expected to increase slightly during the coming week. The Torrumbarry Weir pool level is currently 85.95 m AHD (or 10 cm below full supply level). During the week, the release from Euston Weir reduced to 1 500 ML/day, which is the lowest it's been since 1963. The release is now gradually increasing as higher flows arrive from Torrumbarry Weir. Despite the low flows, the weir pool levels at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth have all remained close to full supply level and are expected to remain steady for the coming week.

In early March a small flush of saline water from the Wakool River entered the Murray and moved very slowly downstream. A small peak in salinity (229 EC) reached Euston Weir on the 4th April and Mildura Weir (238 EC) on 10th April. The peak is expected to reach Wentworth Weir in the coming week. The magnitude of this event has been no different to other years when a rise in salinity has been associated with the first flush from the Wakool River.

The flow at Burtundy on the lower Darling River has reduced from 1 000 ML/day to 500 ML/day and is expected to reduce further to about 200 ML/day during the coming week. The release from Lake

Victoria continues to supplement the flow to South Australia, and the storage volume reduced by 7 GL to 284 GL (42% capacity). The flow to South Australia has been further reduced from 2 600 ML/day to 2 300 ML/day. As the weather becomes cooler, losses reduce and the irrigation season draws to a close, further reductions in the flow to South Australia can be expected over the next couple of months.

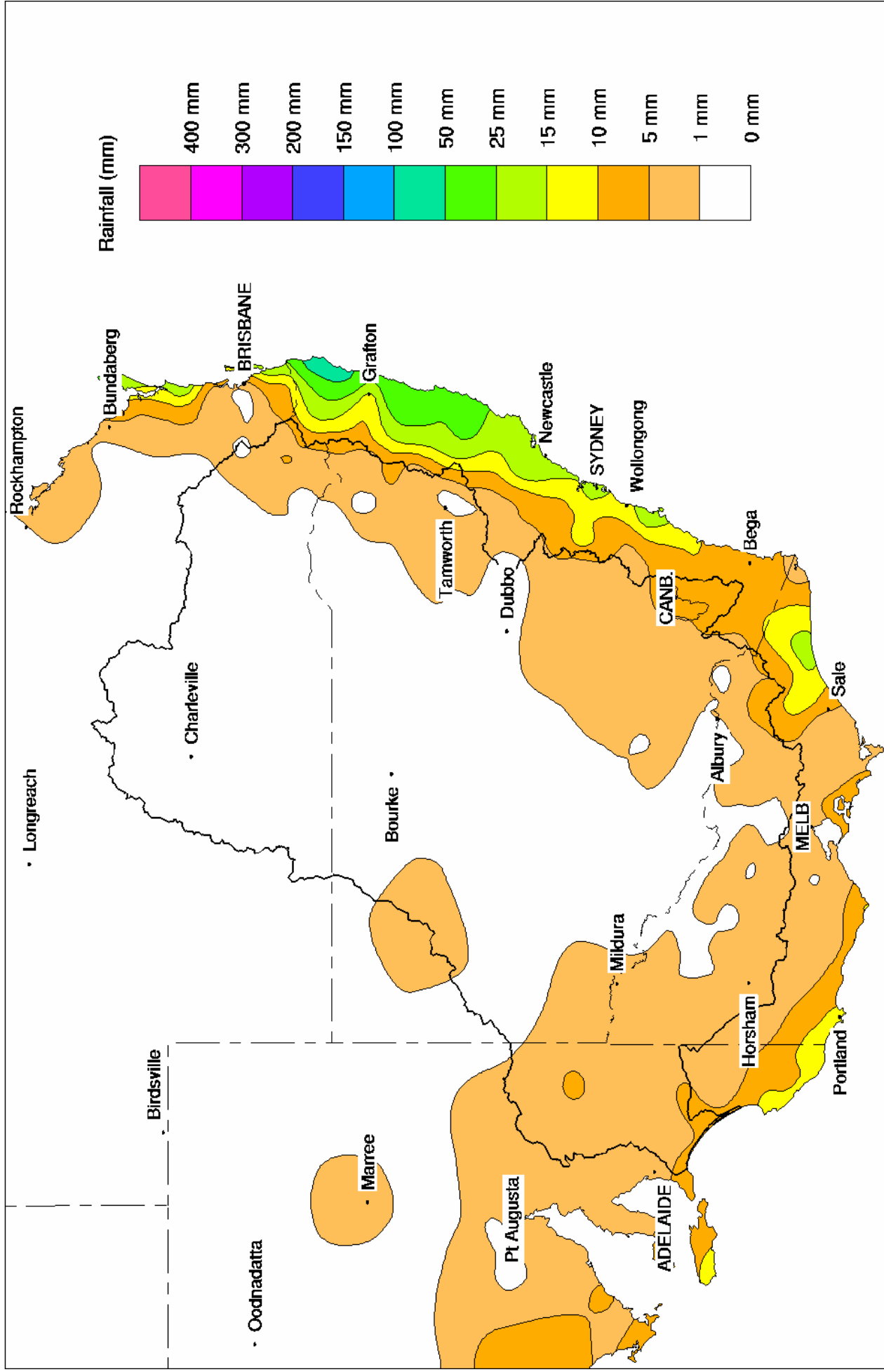
During the past few weeks, river salinities from Lock 6 downstream to Lock 1 have remained fairly steady. At Morgan, for instance, the salinity is 410 EC, compared with 430 EC in early March. The salinity at Milang on Lake Alexandrina remains very high at 3 500 EC. Much higher salinities have been recorded at sites closer to the barrages. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.5 m AHD (or 50cm below mean sea level).

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th April 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	410.81	678	17%	80	598	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.17	231	8%	30	201	-38
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.39	284	42%	100	184	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		583	34%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		1 775	19%	--	982	-49

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **12%**

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	425	41%	3	422	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	400	25%	24	376	-22
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	472	14%	100	372	-16

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Apr-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	434	-35	Snowy-Murray	+19	435
Snowy-Murray Component	349	-19	Tooma-Tumut	+1	157
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	18.1	278
			Murray 1 Release	+19	667

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.1	99.1
Wakool System loss	0.0	19.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	21.0
Licensed Pumps	2.1	77.6
Lower Darling	0.2	10.0
TOTAL	8.7	227.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.2	117
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.3	208
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	89 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	12
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	163
TOTAL	26.4	588 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	
Flow this week	16.8	(2 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	43	
Flow last month	109	

* Reduced to approx. 90 GL during April 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	140	150	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	240	240	140
Burtundy (Darling)	280	270	920
Lock 9	170	170	150
Lake Victoria	240	240	190
Berri	310	320	350
Waikerie	-	-	540
Morgan	410	420	590
Mannum	730	730	660
Murray Bridge	910	890	670
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 520	3 570	2 860
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 900	2 750	2 500
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 150
Goolwa Barrages	23 720	24 420	19 300



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	-	-	-	5 260	R	2 690	2 550
Jingellic	4.0	1.66	208.18	4 490	R	2 250	2 910
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.32	218.21	470	F	480	530
Heywoods	5.5	2.22	155.85	6 730	S	7 240	6 690
Doctors Point	5.5	2.33	150.80	7 030	F	7 590	7 100
Albury	4.3	1.33	148.77	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.74	127.76	6 390	R	7 060	5 880
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.97	116.01	5 050	S	4 590	4 360
Tocumwal	6.4	1.40	105.24	4 710	R	4 310	4 340
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.91	79.46	1 910	F	2 120	1 830
Swan Hill	4.5	0.62	63.54	2 170	S	2 020	2 000
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.41	50.53	2 210	R	2 090	2 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.40	42.24	1 690	R	1 600	2 510
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 420	F	2 010	2 480
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	1 650	F	2 180	2 470
Rufus Junction	-	2.62	19.55	1 790	S	1 810	2 310
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.42	-	1 410	S	1 440	1 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	153.98	300	S	280	320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.73	145.41	313	F	330	430
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	376	F	400	460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.81	80.58	540	S	480	430
Edward at Liewah	-	0.90	56.28	426	R	420	520
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.95	54.44	1	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	205	F	220	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	33	F	40	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	105	F	140	300
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.87	-	502	F	790	910

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	550	1 700
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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	-0.53	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.04	+0.33
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.10	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.00	-0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.25
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.19	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-1.17

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.97	0.482	69.832	158
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.38	0.125	61.425	244



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

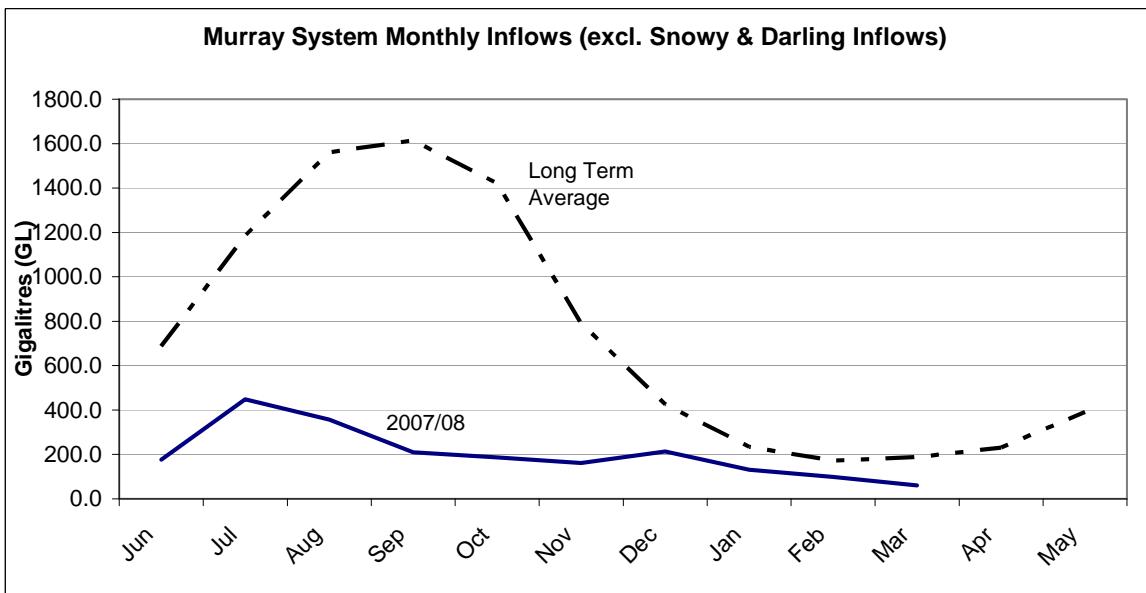
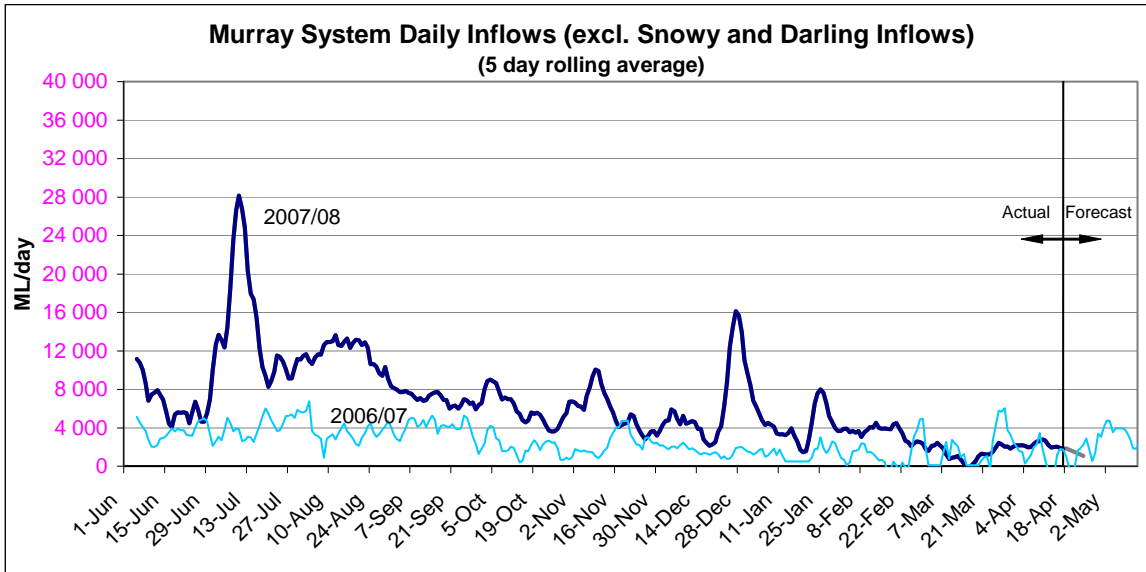
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.50

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.43	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.42	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 16th April 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%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	57%
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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>