



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 APRIL 2010

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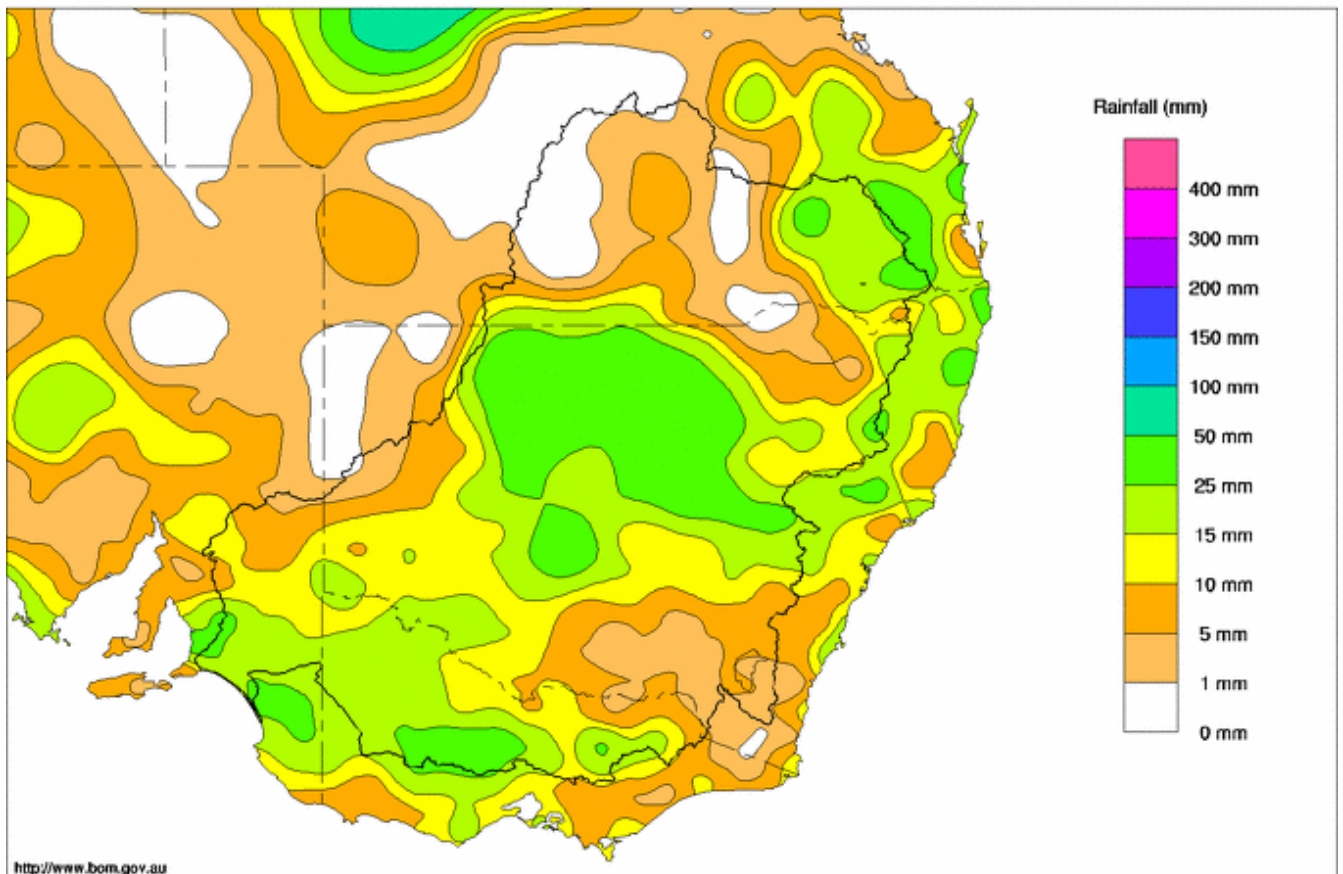
Rainfall and Inflows

Light to moderate rainfall was recorded over most of the Murray-Darling Basin during last week, following on from similar falls in the previous week. Highest rainfalls were recorded in the central-western slopes and plains of NSW (for example, 56 mm at Narromine) and in central-western Victoria (for example, 81 mm at Maryborough). However, there was very little response in the upper Murray. At Wangaratta on the Ovens River, the flow averaged 670 ML/day this week, just 20 ML/day more than last week.

The Darling River continues to receive inflows from the flood originating in the Moonie and Weir Rivers. The flow peaked at Brewarrina with 26,400 ML/day on 2 April. Flood waters from the Culgoa, Bokhara and Birrie Rivers, are also contributing to flows in the Darling River upstream of Bourke. The flow at Bourke is currently 33,900 ML/day and is expected to peak within the next week. Further west, floodwaters in the Warrego River have peaked today at Fords Bridge (10,100 ML/day). In the Paroo River, the flood peak is well downstream in an area that is ungauged. Modest volumes from these two rivers are expected to reach the Darling River upstream of Wilcannia within the next few weeks.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 7th April 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 07/04/2010

Map 1



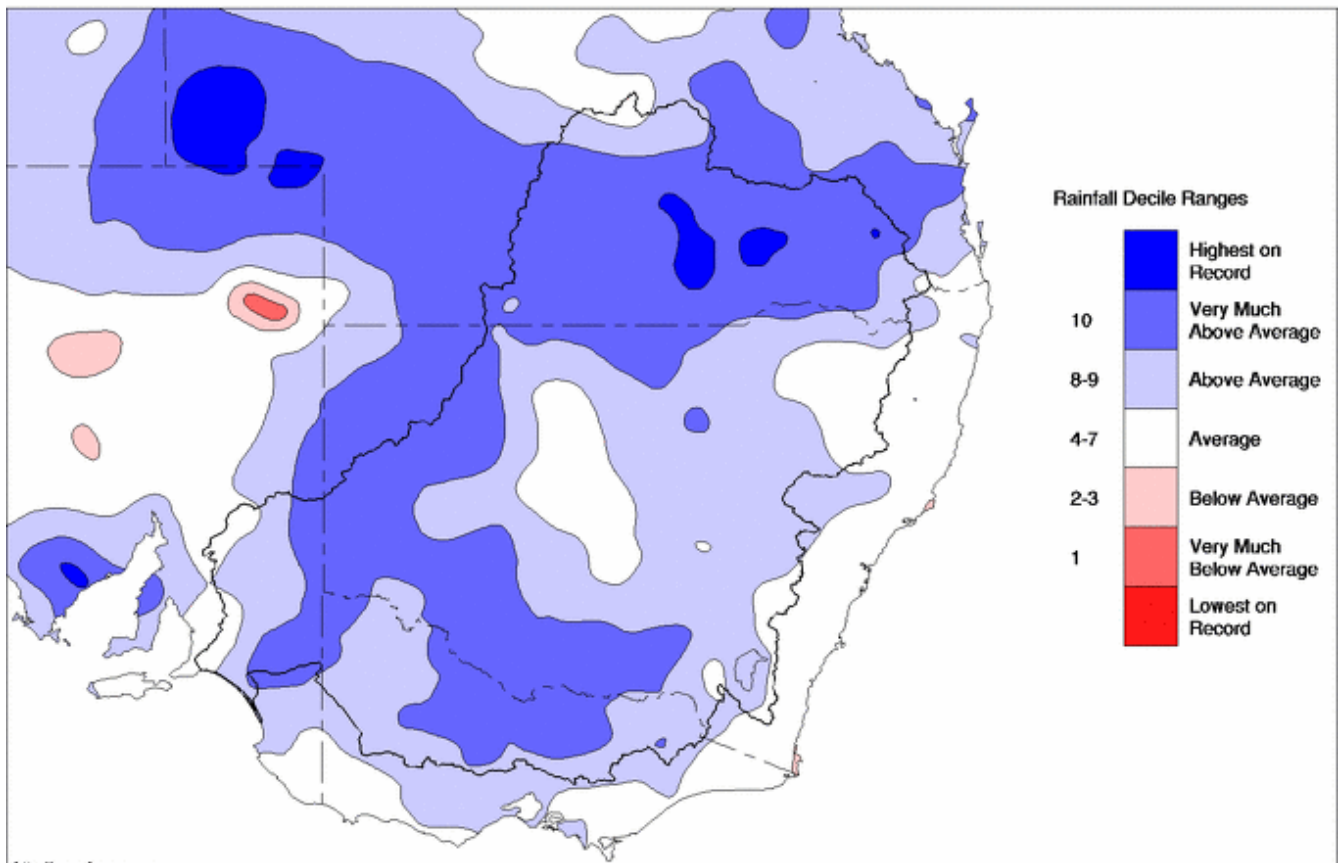
March 2010 Summary

March rainfall totals were the highest on record in small areas of the northern basin (for example, Roma 197 mm, Meandarra 263 mm and Charleville 323 mm). In most of the northern basin, the rainfall was very much above average. March rainfall was also very much above average in far-western NSW, parts of South Australia and in areas to the north and south of the Murray River (140 mm in Deniliquin, 116 mm in Bendigo).

With these high rainfalls, Murray system inflows (excluding Darling and Snowy inflows) in March were about 200 GL, which is slightly higher than the long-term average for March of 186 GL. This is the first time since September 2005 that system inflows have exceeded the long-term average for the month. The MDBA's total active (useable water) storage at the end of March was 2052 GL (or 24 % of capacity) with a further 543 GL stored in Menindee Lakes (which currently remain under NSW control). These volumes are well below the long-term average for March of 4,880 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2010

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 2



River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady at about 1,215 GL (31% of capacity), while the volume of water stored in Hume Reservoir has declined by 14 GL to 485 GL (16% capacity). Lake Victoria's storage volume peaked during the week at 548 GL and is currently 547 GL.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which currently remain under NSW control) increased from 543 GL to 607 GL as higher inflows from the Queensland floods start to arrive. The trigger volume of 640 GL, when the Menindee Lakes return to MDBA control, is likely to be reached within the next week. Lake Menindee—the largest lake—is currently filling and water has just commenced flowing into Lake Cawndilla. The flow at Weir 32, downstream of Menindee Lakes, is currently 550 ML/day but is expected to reduce to 300 ML/day during the coming week.

Releases from Hume Reservoir were reduced from 10,390 to 3,630 ML/day during the week with the expectation of rain late in the week. Releases will increase during the coming week unless further rain is received. Releases from Yarrawonga Weir have been steady at 5,500 ML/day, but are likely to be reduced to 5,000 ML/day as irrigation demands in the mid-Murray decrease.

The release at Wentworth Weir is currently 4,800 ML/day and this flow is forecast to decline over the coming week to about 3,000 ML/day. The current flow to South Australia is 6,770 ML/day.

Levels in most of the weir pools in South Australia have been steady at close to full supply level. Lock 8 weir pool at Wangumma has been lowered by about 10 cm in preparation for the construction of environmental works upstream at Mulcra Island (for more information, see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/services/publications/download?publicationid=53&key=1622>).

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has risen slightly during the last week from -0.73 m AHD to -0.70 m AHD.

Algal Alerts

Red alerts have been lifted for all sections of the River Murray by the Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees (see attached media release). However, the lesser amber alert remains current for the River Murray from Hume Reservoir to Wentworth. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 07 Apr 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	430.58	1 215	31%	80	1 135	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.09	485	16%	30	455	-14
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.90	547	81%	100	447	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		607	35%	(- -) #	0	+64
Total		9 352		2 854	31%	--	2 037	+49

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **24%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	445	43%	3	442	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	594	36%	24	570	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	820	25%	100	720	-28

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-Apr-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	767	-6	Snowy-Murray	+10	714
Snowy-Murray Component	533	-11	Tooma-Tumut	+1	243
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	8.4	471
			Murray 1 Release	+13	955

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	14.4	207	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	123
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.4	59	Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	18.0	256
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	22	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.0	119
Licensed Pumps	2.2	94	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	21
Lower Darling	0.0	7	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	233
TOTAL	18.4	389	TOTAL	27.5	752

* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All Data is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.5	
Flow so far this month	48	
Flow last month	241	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	70	70	60
Euston	110	110	90
Red Cliffs	110	110	100
Merbein	120	120	100
Burtundy (Darling)	240	250	460
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	180	190	200
Berri	240	260	310
Waikerie	-	-	390
Morgan	270	270	470
Mannum	270	280	560
Murray Bridge	660	370	660
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 380	5 310	5 610
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 540	2 860	4 870
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	20 460	21 400	12 180
Goolwa Barrages	19 400	19 340	14 170

Week ending Wednesday 07 Apr 2010

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 080	F	1 190	5 020
Jingellic	4.0	1.36	207.88	2 260	R	2 810	5 660
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.48	218.37	630	R	590	570
Heywoods	5.5	1.96	155.59	3 630	F	5 990	10 030
Doctors Point	5.5	2.00	150.47	4 300	S	6 790	10 690
Albury	4.3	1.06	148.50	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.44	127.46	5 240	F	8 100	10 170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.04	116.08	5 520	S	5 520	5 590
Tocumwal	6.4	1.56	105.40	6 020	R	5 910	5 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 940	R	2 600	2 820
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 110	F	2 460	2 940
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.68	50.80	3 160	R	3 440	4 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.87	42.71	3 820	R	3 830	5 500
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 470	F	3 810	5 960
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.04	27.80	4 810	F	5 940	8 810
Rufus Junction	-	3.43	20.36	6 330	F	6 380	7 440
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.22	-	5 140	R	4 990	5 390
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	300	F	520	480
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.88	145.56	590	F	670	650
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.45	92.87	870	R	540	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.80	80.57	530	F	480	510
Edward at Liewah	-	1.02	56.40	500	S	570	940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.38	54.87	310	S	320	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	220	R	200	330
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	130	F	180	620
Darling at Bourke	-	9.43	-	33 900	R	30 810	23 050
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.65	-	2 440	F	2 800	3 350

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 800	2 120
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+1.12
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.80
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.40	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.38
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	-0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.33
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.11	+0.31	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	-0.97

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.59	0.76	70.11	397
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.06	0.08	61.38	210

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.70

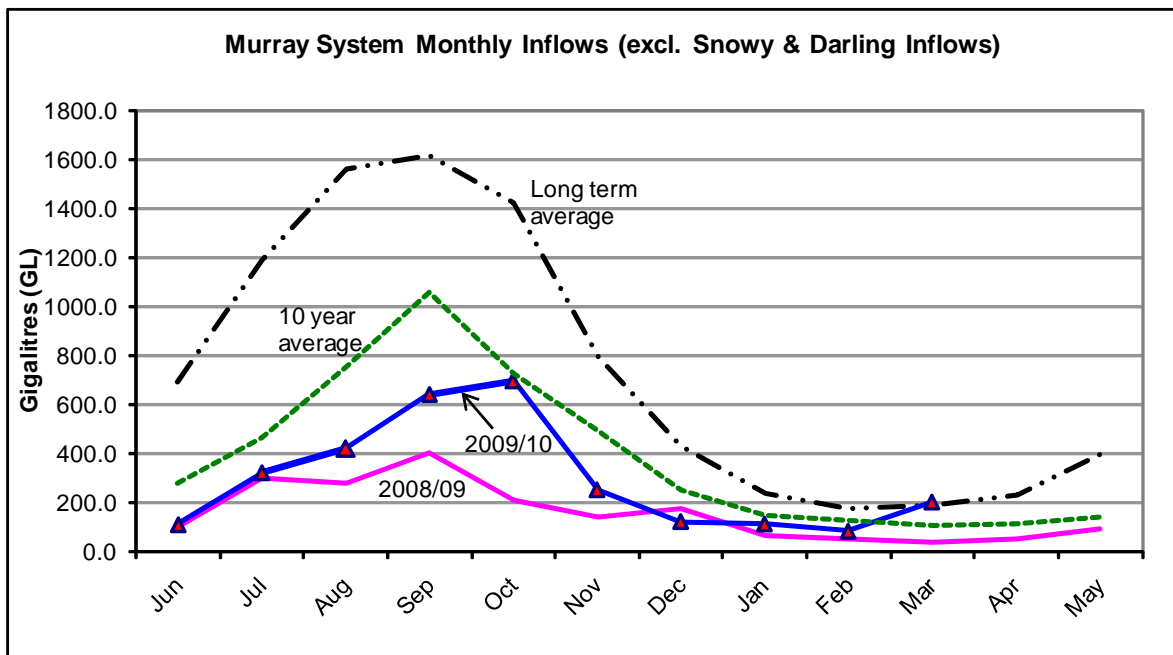
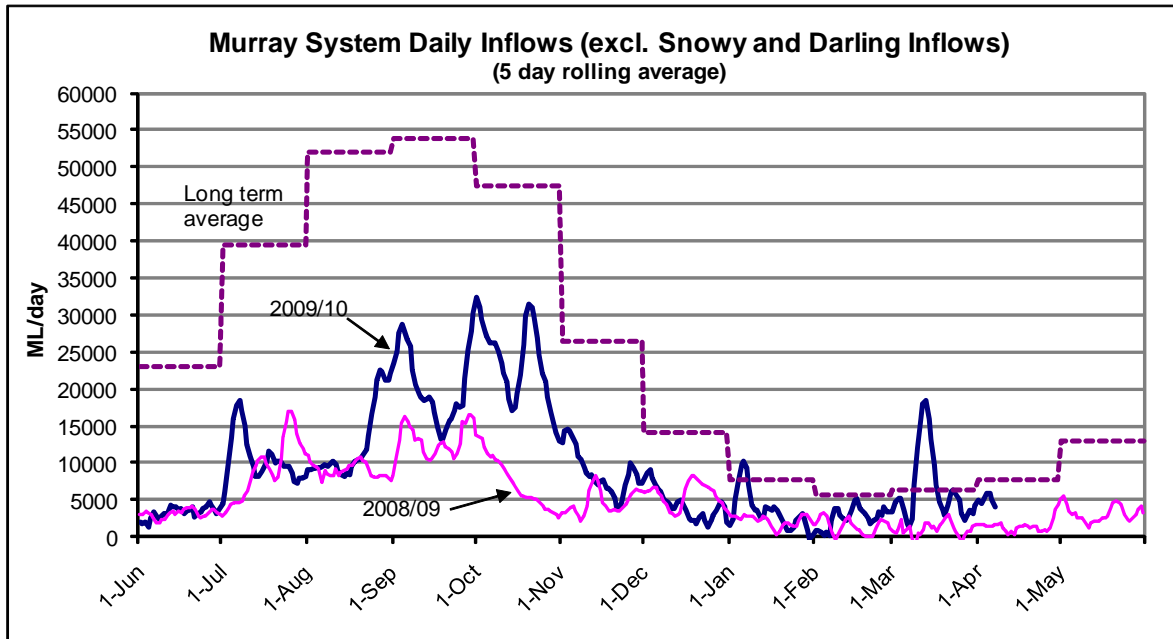
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.05	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 07 April 2010



State Allocations (as at 07 April 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	27%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	27%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	71%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	62%
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Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees

Thursday 8 April 2010

All red alerts removed for the Murray River

The Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees today announced the further downgrading of the 'red alert' for blue-green algae in the Murray River.

Sampling results received today show that algal cell numbers have declined at all sampling sites along the Murray River. This means that the 'red alert' can be lifted completely for all sections of the Murray River.

RACC spokesperson, Owen Russell, said that the lesser 'amber alert' now exists for the entire stretch of Murray River from Hume Reservoir to Wentworth.

"An amber alert means that the waters are safe for all recreational uses such as swimming, water skiing and fishing," he said.

Mr Russell said that the 'red alert' that existed for the Murray River from Mildura to Yelta had declined quickly.

"The blooms experienced in the lower sections of the river from Euston-Robinvale to Wentworth dissipated very quickly."

NSW Office of Water's Bruce Cooper, said that the 2010 bloom had started earlier in the year than the 2009 bloom, both of which lasted approximately six weeks.

"There were a number of factors that caused this bloom including low flows and warm humid weather," said Mr Cooper.

"The RACC partners generally sample for four potentially toxic species of blue-green algae that are commonly found in the inland river systems, plus several others that are much less common."

"The presence of algal blooms during the warmer months is a natural occurrence; however, the two consecutive regional blooms in the Murray have been concerning, and undoubtedly influenced by the ongoing drought in the southern basin," he said.

Mr Cooper said that algal monitoring would be scaled back now that the cooler weather was approaching, but advised that all water users could still obtain the latest information by ringing the free Algal Information Hotline on **1800 999 457** or visit www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS