



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 JULY 2010

Trim Ref: D10/18768

Rainfall and Inflows

Most of the Murray-Darling Basin had light to moderate falls of rain this week (Map 1). West Wyalong (central west NSW) recorded 25 mm, Horsham (western Victoria) 20 mm and Wallangarra (southern Queensland) 26 mm.

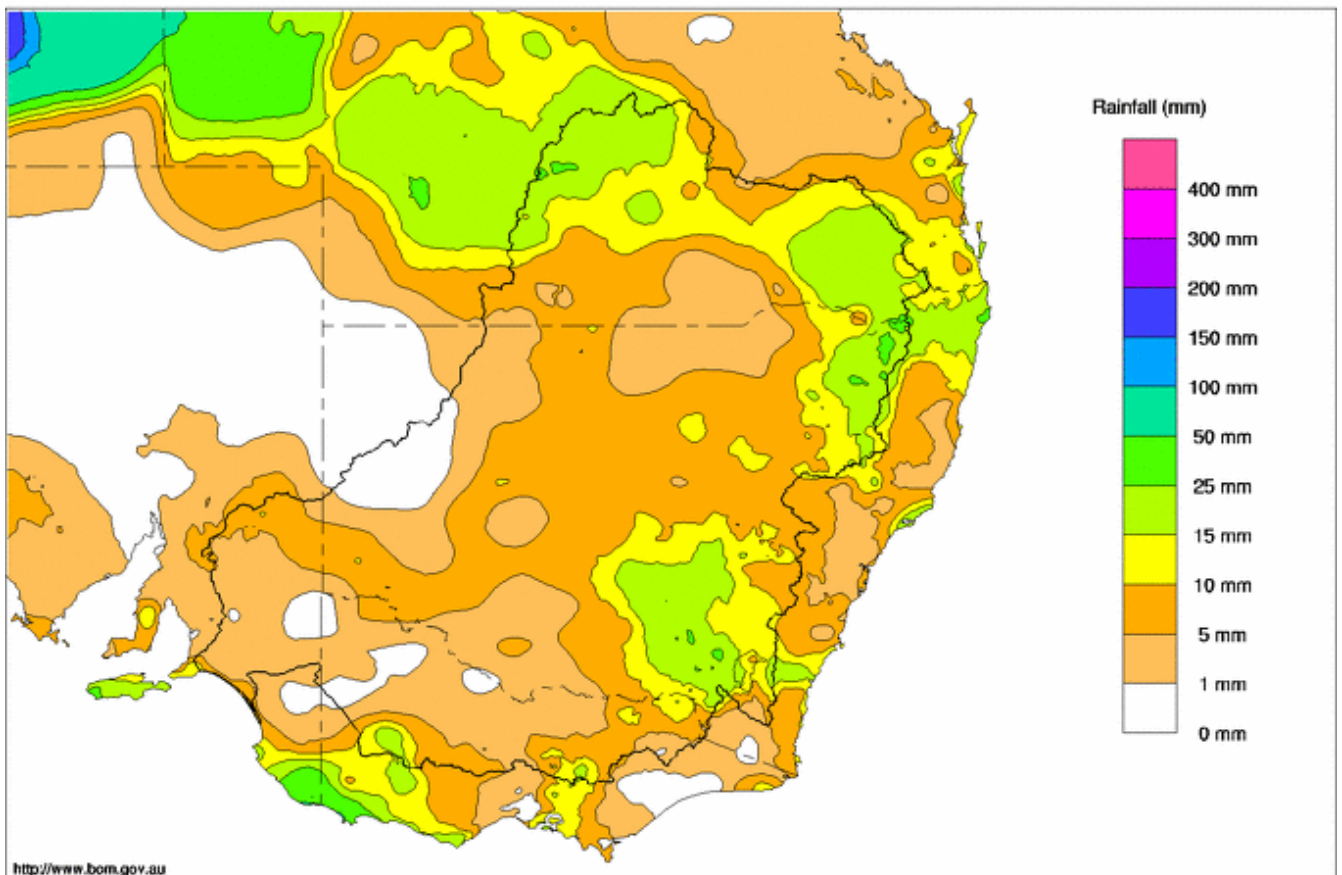
Rainfall was light in the upper Murray catchment (Dartmouth Reservoir 5 mm, Falls Creek 0.4 mm), and did little to boost streamflows. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie receded from 1,260 to 750 ML/day while the Ovens River at Rocky Point decreased from 3,400 to 1,820 ML/day. At Cheshunt on the King River, flow decreased from 1,230 to 640 ML/day.

Murray System inflows (excluding Menindee Lakes) averaged about 12.1 GL/day for the last 7 days, down from 14.8 GL/day last week. The long-term average for July is 37.7 GL/day.

The Darling River upstream of Wilcannia is currently flowing at about 2,200 ML/day, while further upstream at Bourke, the flow is 85 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 7th July 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Map 1. Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 7 July 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

During the week, MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 57 GL to 3,341 GL (39% capacity). Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 9 GL during the week and is currently storing 1,290 GL of water (33% capacity). There was an increase of 51 GL in Hume Reservoir to 864 GL (28% capacity). Releases from these two reservoirs remain at winter minimums.

Inflows to Yarrawonga Weir declined during the week from 8,710 to 5,900 ML/day, and releases followed the same trend. The pool level at Yarrawonga Weir is currently at about 124.71 m AHD (0.19 m below FSL) and is likely to remain steady over the coming week.

The pool levels at Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs have remained steady at close to Full Supply Level. The higher flows from last week's rain peaked at 8,290 ML/day on 5 July at Torrumbarry and are expected to reach Euston Weir in about one week.

The Mildura Weir pool will be fully drawn down in the week commencing Monday 19 July to allow for upgrade works. It is expected that the weir pool will be raised back to Full Supply Level by mid-August. The Mildura Lock will be closed while the pool level is low. More details are provided in the media release issued on 29 June, available on the Authority's web site (http://www.mdba.gov.au/media_centre/media_releases).

The storage volume in Menindee Lakes increased during the week by 7 GL to 1,529 GL (88% capacity). The release from Menindee Lakes is currently at the normal winter minimum of 200 ML/day.

Lake Victoria's storage has decreased by 10 GL in the last week to 348 GL (51% capacity), and the storage volume is expected to continue decreasing for the next few weeks (Figure 1). The target flow to South Australia for July is 4,730 ML/day and the flow past Lock 1 in the last week has averaged 2,990 ML/day.



Figure 1. The eastern shore of Lake Victoria. Photo courtesy A. Scott (MDBA).



The lock at Weir 6 is currently closed for inspection, repair and maintenance (see attached media release). River users will not be able to pass through Lock 6 for about 12 weeks, but will be able to use the River Murray either upstream or downstream of the lock.

Salinity levels in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth Weir are generally less than 120 EC. At Morgan, in South Australia, the salinity is currently about 340 EC. Salinities at this site have been less than 400 EC since mid-January, and are the lowest since early 2006 (Figure 2). However, in Lake Alexandrina, the salinity has been greater than 4,000 EC since October 2008.

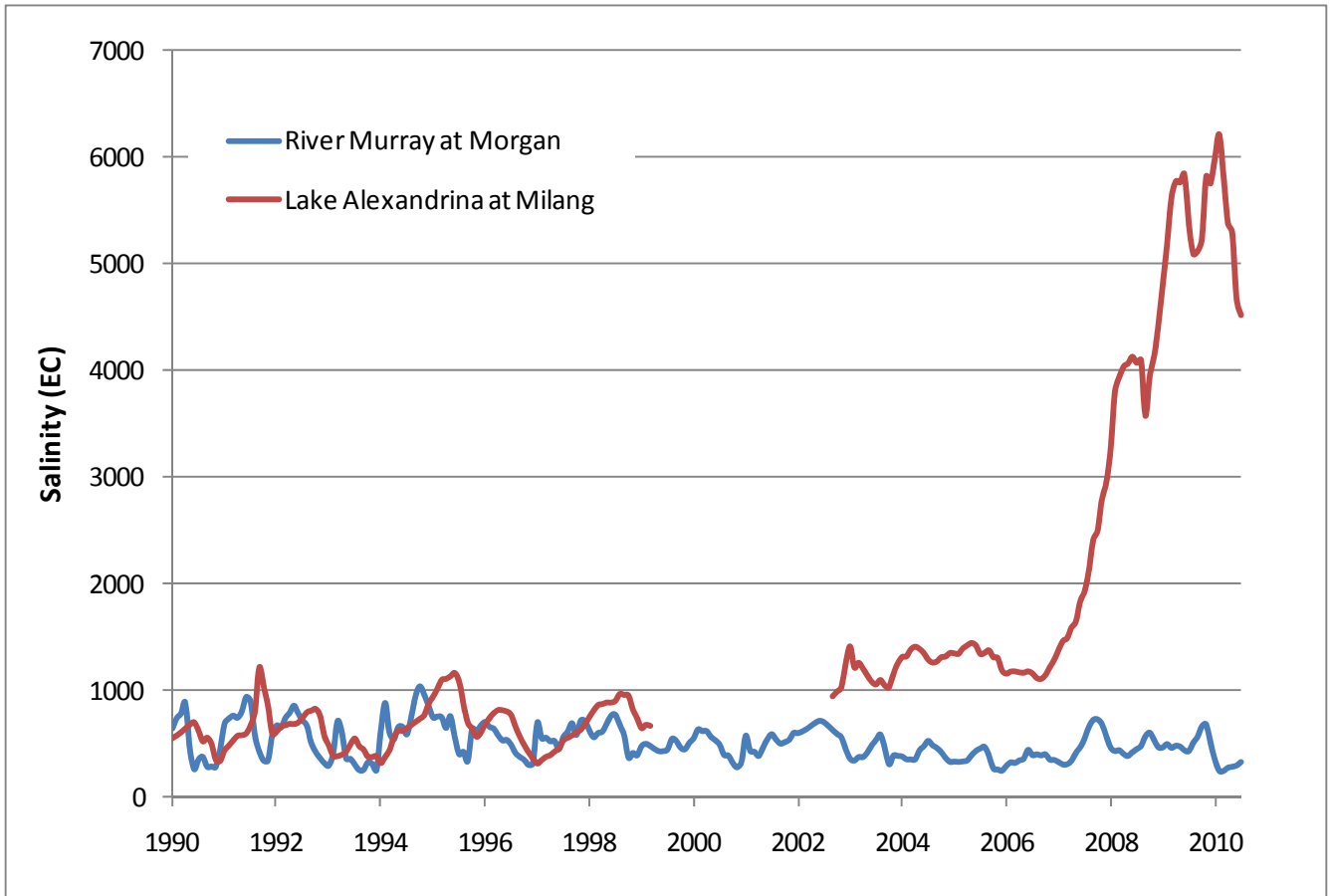


Figure 2. Monthly average salinity of the River Murray at Morgan and Lake Alexandrina at Milang since 1990.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 07 Jul 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	432.89	1 290	33%	80	1 210	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.32	864	28%	30	834	+51
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.05	348	51%	100	248	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 529	88%	(480 #)	1 049	+7
Total		9 352		4 031	43%	--	3 341	+57

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **39%**

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		429	42%	3	426	+8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		803	49%	24	779	+59
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		939	28%	100	839	+23

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-Jul-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	522	-31	Snowy-Murray	+29	240
Snowy-Murray Component	391	-18	Tooma-Tumut	+8	45
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	21.2	195
			Murray 1 Release	+35	272

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	0.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.3	0.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.5	3.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	0.0
Licensed Pumps	0.6	1.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	0.0
Lower Darling	0.3	0.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	0.8	1.0
TOTAL	0.6	1.0	TOTAL	4.3	4.0

* 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	108.5	
Flow this week	31.6	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	31.6	
Flow last month	127.4	

* Flow to SA in July includes underlivered entitlement flow from previous months

Salinity (EC) (microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	40	40	60
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	90	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	250	250	400
Lock 9	130	140	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	260	260	290
Waikerie	-	-	350
Morgan	340	330	420
Mannum	310	310	490
Murray Bridge	290	290	650
Milang (Lake Alex)	4 460	4 520	5 460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	1 480	1 450	3 920
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	13 960	13 830	13 270
Goolwa Barrages	20 370	20 730	16 030

Week ending Wednesday 07 Jul 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	-	-	-	6 570	F	5 590	4 420
Jingellic	4.0	2.01	208.53	7 280	R	7 220	6 060
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.47	218.36	590	F	640	780
Heywoods	5.5	1.19	154.82	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.66	150.13	2 090	R	2 390	2 420
Albury	4.3	0.80	148.24	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.68	126.70	2 010	F	2 520	2 240
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.05	116.09	5 580	F	7 250	6 600
Tocumwal	6.4	1.72	105.56	6 930	S	7 610	6 050
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.50	81.05	7 600	F	7 150	4 290
Swan Hill	4.5	1.32	64.24	6 670	R	5 340	2 990
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.42	51.54	5 900	R	4 990	3 270
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.17	43.01	5 130	S	4 550	3 480
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 890	F	3 520	3 370
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	27.72	3 890	R	3 310	3 030
Rufus Junction	-	3.39	20.32	5 520	R	3 930	3 670
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.08	-	3 010	F	2 990	2 710
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.82	155.05	1 840	R	2 110	2 140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.80	146.48	3 120	F	4 000	5 410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.44	92.86	860	F	1 390	490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.91	80.68	640	F	640	440
Edward at Liewah	-	0.86	56.24	400	R	410	520
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.16	54.65	90	S	100	110
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	180	F	200	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	60	S	90	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	90	S	90	100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.81	-	290	F	290	250

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 010	7 790
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+1.08
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.12
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.09	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.18	+0.53	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.83

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.01	0.457	69.807	195
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.12	0.042	61.342	184

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.13

Barrages

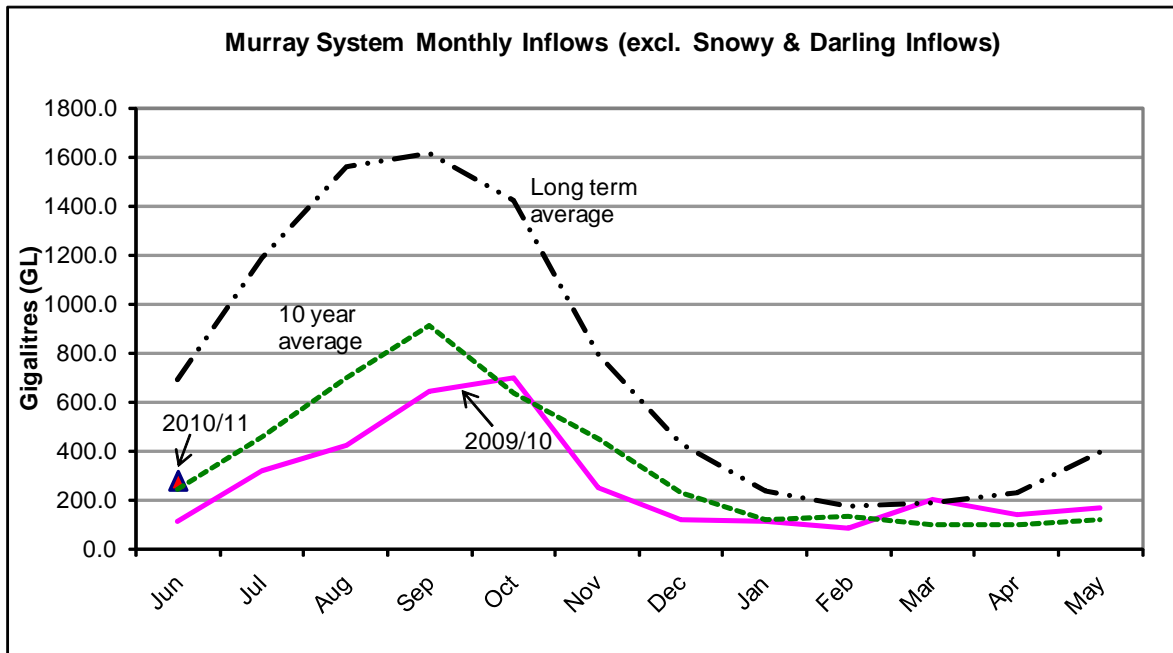
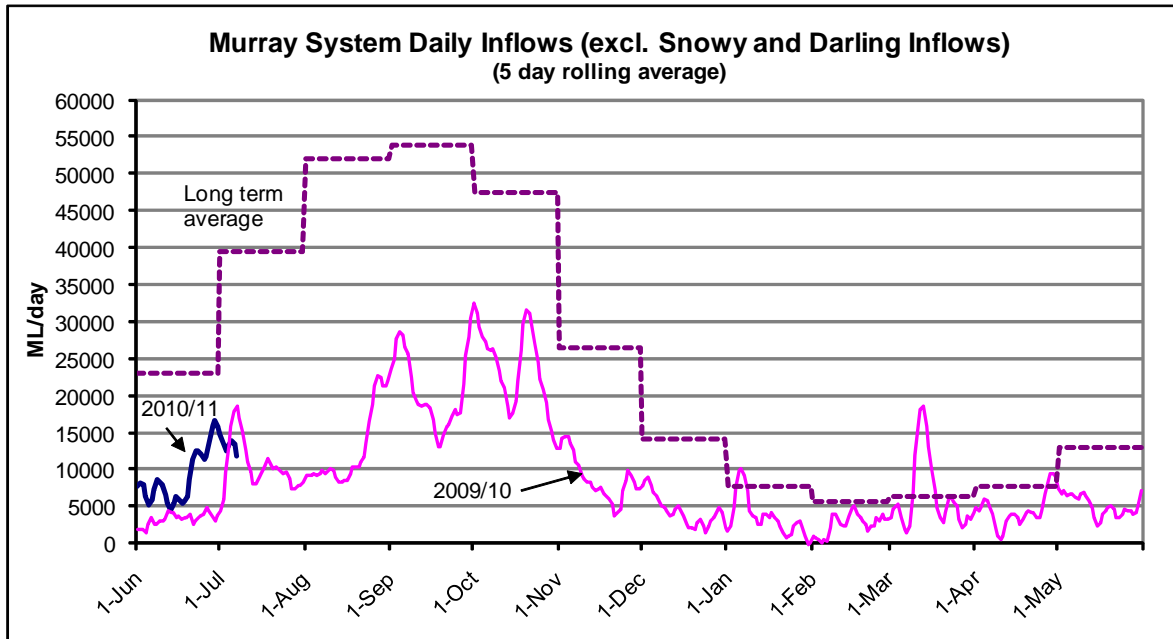
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.10	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	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



Week ending Wednesday 30 June 2010



State Allocations (as at 1 July 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	0%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	0%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	20%
General security	0%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	0%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	21%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>

MEDIA RELEASE



3 July, 2010



Lock 6 to close for repairs, upgrade

River Murray users will not be able to pass through Lock 6 at Murtho in South Australia for about 12 weeks from July 5 while essential maintenance work is undertaken by SA Water on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

The lock closure is part of a six-year maintenance program on all of the locks along the river.

This is the first time the Lock 6 chamber has been emptied since the late 1960s when the wooden gates were replaced with steel. The empty lock chamber will allow SA Water to do a comprehensive inspection and maintenance of the underwater components.

Although users will not be able to travel the full length of the river during this period, they will still be able to enjoy using the river either upstream or downstream of Lock 6.

The grounds and facilities around the lock will also be closed to the general public and will reopen following completion of the maintenance works.

Works to be carried out on Lock 6 include:

- building temporary dams on the upstream and downstream ends of the lock chamber;
- emptying the lock chamber of water;
- inspecting and repainting the lock chamber gates;
- replacing the large valves which control the flow of water into and out of the lock chamber;
- inspecting the chamber floor; and
- any repairs on components which would normally be submerged.

Consultation with River Murray tourism operators has helped to develop the works program to minimise the interruption.

The community will be notified when the work is complete and the lock chamber is back in operation.

The lock and weirs have been operating for more than 80 years and this work will ensure that they continue to operate for a long time to come.

The next lock scheduled for maintenance is Lock 4 at Bookpurnong, South Australia and it is anticipated work will begin in January 2011. The public will be notified prior to the closure of the lock.

For more information and for media inquiries contact Matthew Peake, Media Officer, SA Water, (08) 7424 1840, Mobile 0438 871 854.

Trim ref: D09/23426