RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 04 AUGUST 2010

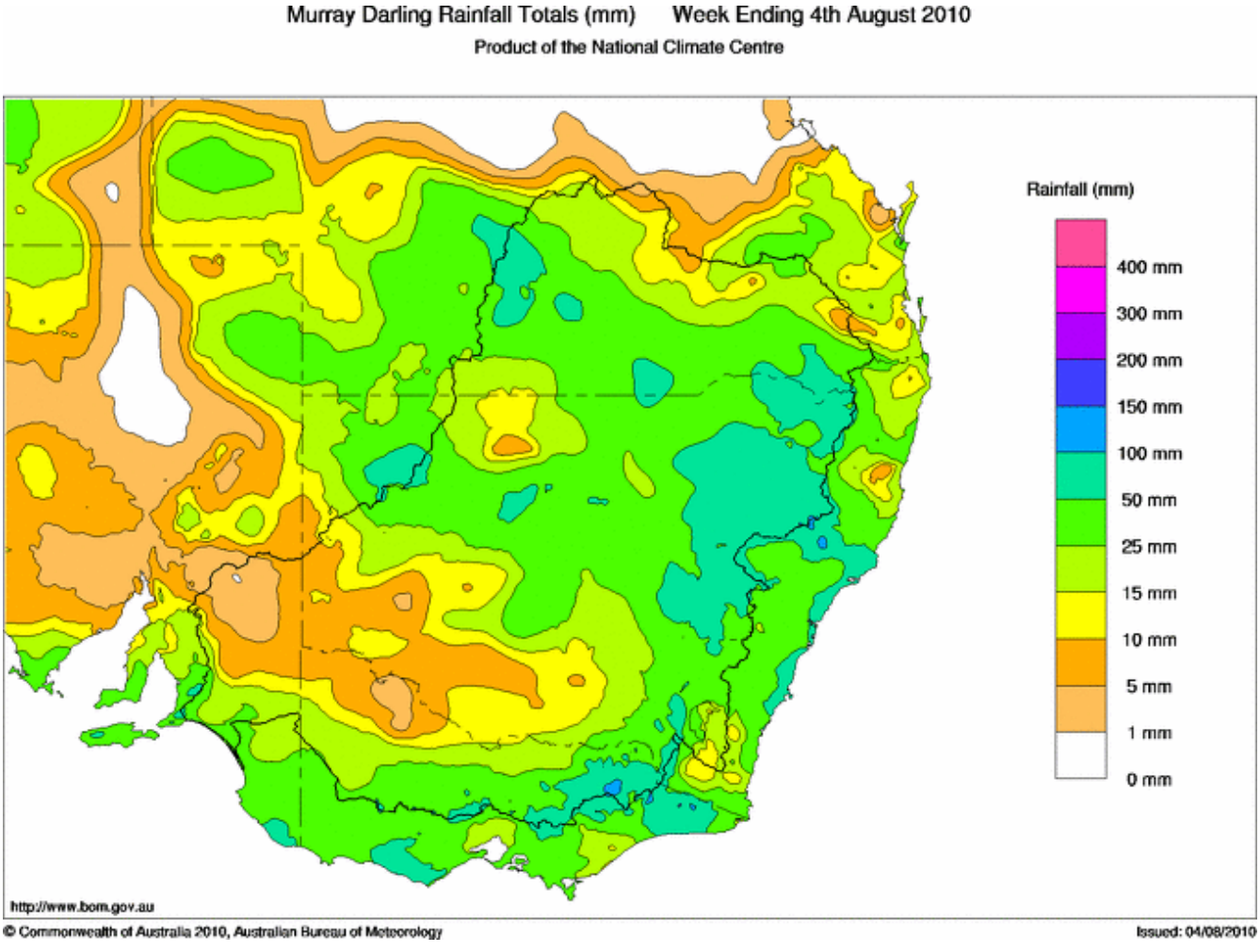
Trim Ref: D10/22310

Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, there were more good falls of rain, including in the upper Murray and its tributaries (see Map 1). For instance, around 100 mm was recorded across the Victorian Alps and in the Snowy Mountains. As a result, streamflows responded well and at Rocky Point on the Ovens River the flow peaked on Tuesday 3 July at 8,950 and is now at 8,000 ML/day, compared to around 2,800 ML/day last week. At Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River, the flow increased from 850 ML/day last week to a peak on 3 July of about 2,800 ML/day. The Ovens River at Wangaratta is currently peaking at 14,000 ML/day.

The catchments remain wet and will continue to respond to further rainfall events.

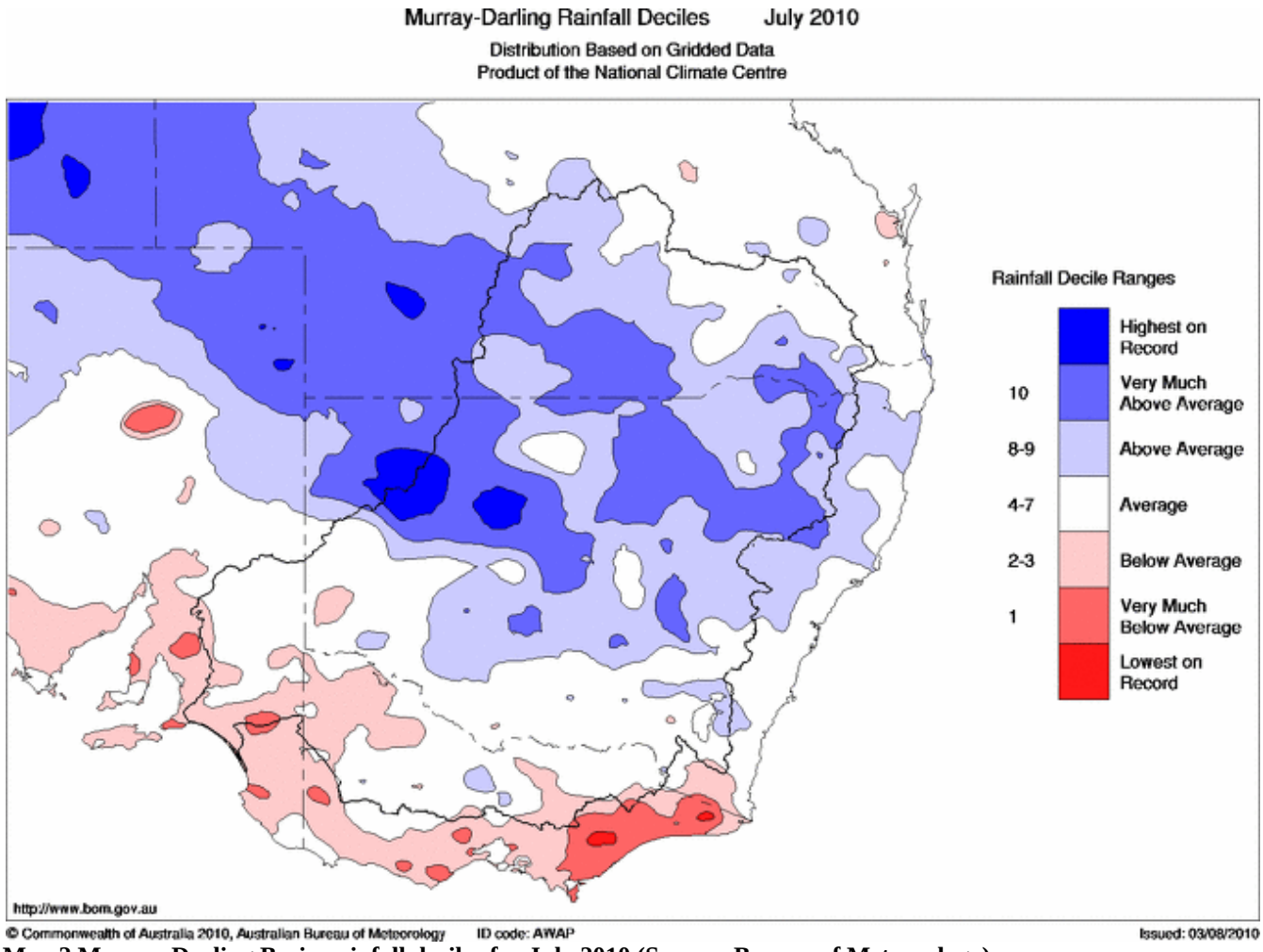
Good falls of rain were also recorded in northern NSW and a number of rivers responded, particularly the Namoi and Border Rivers, however the peak flows are short and sharp. Up to 100 GL is likely to pass Boggabri on the Namoi River and a similar amount is likely to pass Boggabilla on the MacIntyre River. It is too early to determine how much of this water will reach Menindee Lakes.



Map 1 Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 4 August 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

July 2010 Summary

Rainfall in July 2010 was above average for much of the Murray–Darling Basin (see Map 2), particularly in the northern and central areas. The Bureau of Meteorology has reported that, as a whole, the Basin recorded rainfall which was 37% above average for July; this was the wettest July since 1986. For the most part however, the southern parts of the Basin encountered average rainfall. As a result, Murray System Inflows (excluding Menindee inflows and Snowy releases) were around 600 GL, this is above the 10 year average of around 450 GL and is the highest July inflow since 2003, but is still well below the long term average of 1,170 GL.



Map 2 Murray-Darling Basin rainfall deciles for July 2010 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

River Operations

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) increased by 87 GL during the week to 3,751 GL (43% capacity). At the same time last year, active storage was only a third of this at 1,200 GL (14% capacity).

Total Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 20 GL to 1,366 GL (35% capacity) and total storage in Hume reservoir increased by 54 GL to 1,124 GL (37% capacity). Releases at Hume and Dartmouth storages are at their normal winter minimums of 600 and 200 ML/day respectively.

The pool level at Yarrawonga Weir is currently 124.72 m AHD (0.18 m below FSL). As a result of increased inflows, mainly from the Ovens River, the release from Yarrawonga Weir will increase to about 12,500 ML/day in the next few days and some regulators in the Barmah–Millewa Forest will be opened for the second time this winter.

On the Edward River, the flow past Toonalook has fallen from around 1,700 ML/day last week to 1,000 ML/day as returning flows from the Millewa Forest dwindle. Flows will begin to rise again next week as the Edward Offtake is increased from 800 to around 1,300 ML/day.

The Goulburn River responded well to this week's rain, and flow at McCoy's Bridge is expected to peak during the week at around 6,000 ML/day. As a result of this and increased releases from Yarrawonga Weir, Torrumbarry flows during the week are expected to peak at around 12,000 ML/day.

Further downstream on the Murray, the installation of a new trestle at Mildura Weir was successfully completed and the weir pool is currently being raised back to FSL (see Figure 1 and 2). The salinity remained lower than expected, with a peak of only 200 EC recorded downstream.

Figure 1 Mildura Weir trestle - pre-installation (Source: Phil Pfeiffer MDBA)

Figure 2 Installed Trestle at Mildura Weir (Source: John Prentice MDBA)

Total Storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 10 GL to 1,563 GL (90% capacity). Inflows are steady at about 2,000 ML/day and the release remains at the normal August minimum of 200 ML/day. Release from Menindee Lakes is expected to be increased in mid August up to 5,000 ML/day and further details will be provided in coming weeks.

Lake Victoria's total storage is steady with a small increase of 3 GL to 388 GL (57% capacity). The flow to South Australia has increased to 7,000 ML/day for August, consisting of 4,000 ML/day of entitlement flow and 3,000 ML/day of Additional Dilution Flow (ADF). ADF, which is dependent on the storage level in Menindee Lakes, is likely to continue for all of August and most of September.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has increased to +0.01 m AHD. This is the first time since December 2007 that it has been above 0.0 m AHD. The level should continue to increase over the next couple of months, in response to the higher flows (entitlement flow plus ADF) passing into SA. The water level in Lake Albert is fairly steady at -0.37 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 04 Aug 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	435.11	1 366	35%	80	1 286	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.71	1 124	37%	30	1 094	+54
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.44	388	57%	100	288	+3
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		1 563	90%	(480 #)	1 083	+10
Total		**9 352**		**4 441**	**47%**	**- -**	**3 751**	**+87**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **43%**

\# 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		546	53%	3	543	+20
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		901	55%	24	877	+26
Eildon Reservoir	3 334		1 112	33%	100	1 012	+51

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Aug-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2010
Lake Eucumbene - Total	527	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+9	290
Snowy-Murray Component	409	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+3	68
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	6.5	222
			Murray 1 Release	+15	352

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2010
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.3	15.0
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.1	0.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.0
Licensed Pumps	0.2	2.0
Lower Darling	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	**4.6**	**17.0**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2010
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	0.0
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.9	44.0
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	1.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	0.0
Licensed pumps - LMW	2.0	5.0
TOTAL	**21.2**	**50.0**

* 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	124.0 *
Flow this week	41.0 (5 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	26.4
Flow last month	141.0

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for August due to Additional Dilution Flow

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2010
Swan Hill	70	80	80
Euston	90	70	70
Red Cliffs	110	150	130
Merbein	130	140	150
Burtundy (Darling)	240	250	240
Lock 9	110	110	110
Lake Victoria	190	160	170
Berri	230	240	230
Waikerie	290	290	290
Morgan	340	340	340
Mannum	340	330	330
Murray Bridge	300	290	300
Milang (Lake Alex.	3 900	3 940	3 900
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.	1 790	1 600	1 620
Meningie (Lake Alb.	12 550	13 100	12 800
Goolwa Barrages	20 540	20 380	20 720

Week ending Wednesday 04 Aug 2010

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	-	-	-	4 520	F	2 480	3 770
Jingellic	4.0	2.29	208.81	9 750	R	6 520	6 480
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.72	218.61	1 180	F	1 090	840
Heywoods	5.5	1.19	154.82	600	S	600	610
Doctors Point	5.5	1.87	150.34	3 340	F	2 480	2 350
Albury	4.3	0.98	148.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.87	126.89	2 730	R	2 140	2 540
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.55	116.59	9 270	R	6 280	9 730
Tocumwal	6.4	1.61	105.45	6 310	R	6 470	11 000
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.71	80.26	4 930	F	6 210	11 450
Swan Hill	4.5	1.18	64.10	5 760	F	7 140	8 820
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.78	51.90	7 310	F	8 890	7 350
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.83	43.67	7 920	F	8 770	6 010
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	8 570	F	8 010	6 120
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	6 280	F	6 450	7 510
Rufus Junction	-	3.55	20.48	6 410	R	5 030	3 480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	6.13	-	4 940	R	3 370	2 890
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.40	155.63	3 030	F	2 180	2 080
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.03	148.71	14 030	R	7 180	5 710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.32	92.74	670	R	730	1 890
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.45	81.23	1 250	F	1 310	1 010
Edward at Liewah	-	1.63	57.01	970	R	790	670
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.14	54.63	70	S	70	70
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.92	56.88	560	S	420	130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	-	560	F	610	210
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	220	R	230	260
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.77	-	200	S	200	240

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 010	8 300

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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+1.22
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+0.19
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.29
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.99	+0.27	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.89
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.12	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.50	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+5.38

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	-0.00	1.021	70.371	852
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.467	61.767	599

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.01

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.25	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

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

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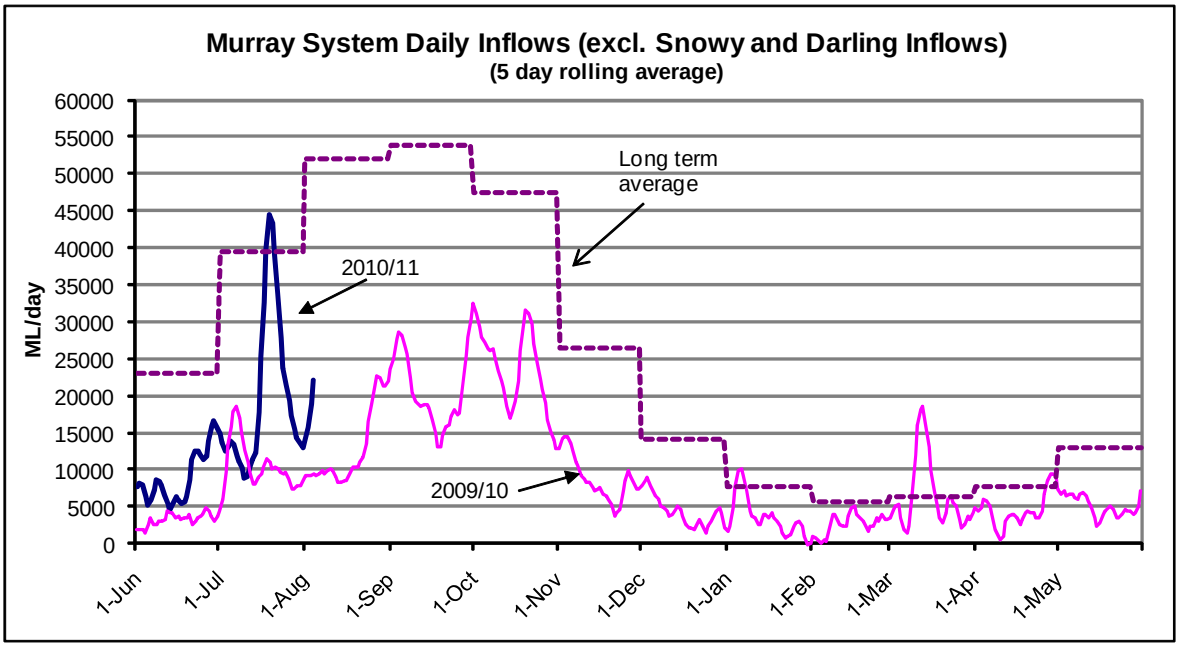

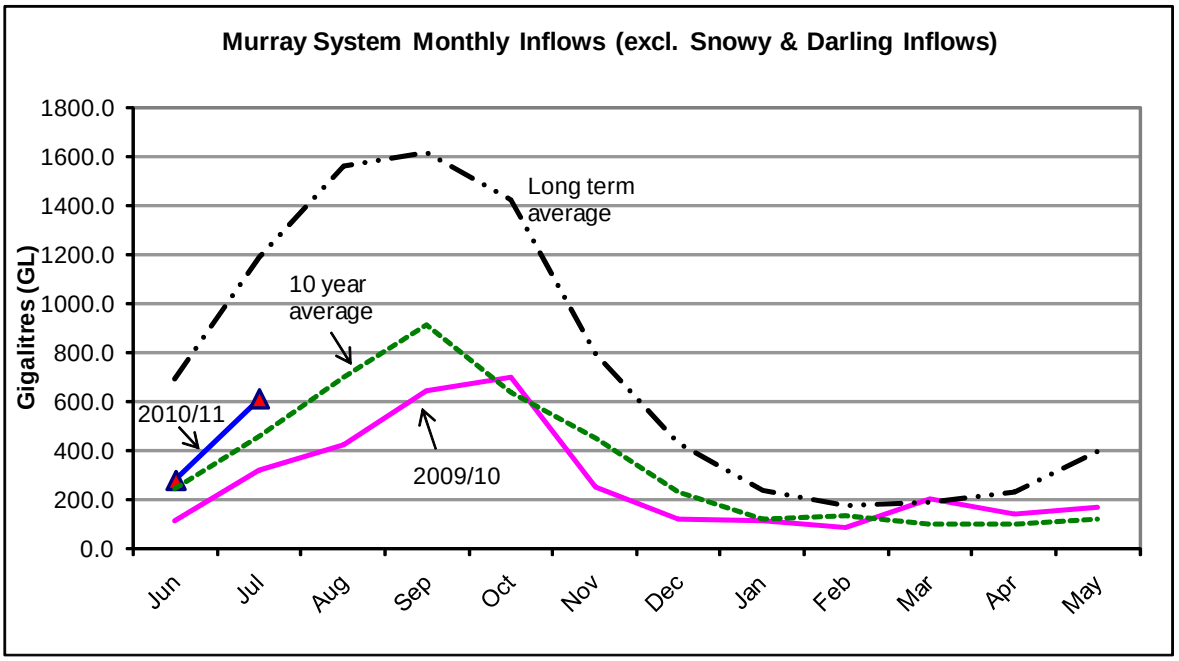

State Allocations (as at 04 August 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	40%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	80%
General security	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victoria - Murray Valley

High reliability	2%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	5%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	31%

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/