



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2008

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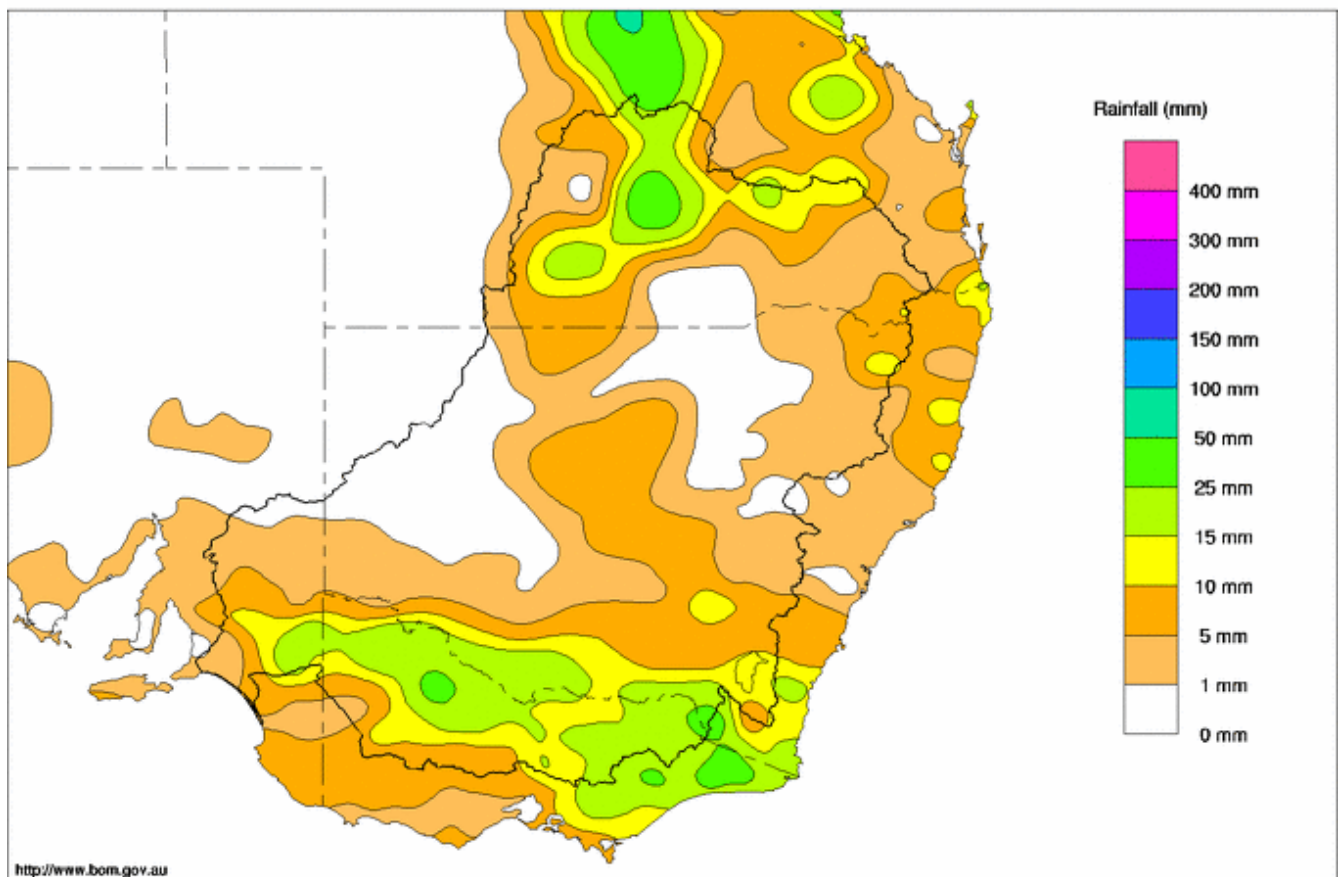
24 December, 2008

Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, there were light falls of rain across most of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map below). The Snowy Mountains received some of the highest falls (up to 50 mm), while many districts along the Murray received 10 to 25 mm. December rainfall (to date) has already exceeded the long term monthly average across much of the southern Basin, particularly in western Victoria and South Australia.

Despite the good December rainfall, streamflow responses in the upper Murray tributaries have been small. So far this month (up to 23rd December), Murray system inflows are 140 GL, and the December total is expected to be in the range of 160 to 180 GL (if it remains dry). This is significantly better than the December 2006 (80 GL) but well below the long term average of 420 GL.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd December 2008
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 23/12/2008



River Operations

MDBA active storage remains steady at about 1 835 GL (or 22 % capacity) and an additional 165 GL in Menindee Lakes remains under NSW control.

During the past week, storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased by only 4 GL to a total of 889 GL (or 23 % capacity). Dartmouth release, which is currently 350 ML/day, will be temporarily increased to 3 000 ML/day on Thursday 25th December and then reduced back to 350 ML/day over the following 5 days. This is the third 'pulsed' release for the season and will transfer another small volume of water to Hume Reservoir.

Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 24 GL to 796 GL (or 26 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been increased slightly from 7 000 to 8 000 ML/day to offset the gradually receding inflows to the Murray from the Ovens River.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.75 m AHD (or 15 cm below Full Supply Level) and should remain fairly steady over the Christmas – New Year period. Likewise, the weir pools at Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all close to full supply level and should remain steady during the coming week.

The NSW Government continues to release water from Menindee Lakes, however the rate is steadily declining as Lake Pamamaroo is drained. NSW will maintain a small volume of water in Lake Wetherell to supply drinking water to Broken Hill and other nearby towns. As a result of heavy rainfall in the Peel and Namoi valleys in the first half of December, a small volume of water from the Namoi River has flowed into the Barwon-Darling River. About 1 000 ML/day is now passing the township of Bourke, but very little, if any, is likely to reach Menindee Lakes (which is about 600 km further downstream) unless there are further tributary inflows to the Darling over the coming weeks.

Storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 20 GL to 360 GL (or 53 % capacity) as a result of water being delivered from both the Murray and lower Darling Rivers. The storage level is expected to continue rising for another couple of weeks and then start to gradually fall in the new year. The flow to South Australia is currently 4 300 ML/day and the target flow past Lock 1 is 1 450 ML/day. Locks 1 to 6 are all close to, or slightly above, full supply level. The salinity at Morgan is 470 EC which is lower than this time last year (580 EC). Further downstream at Murray Bridge the salinity is about 600 EC which is similar to this time last year.

As a result of the recent rain and below average temperatures, the water level in Lake Alexandrina has remained fairly steady at about -0.5 m AHD over the past few weeks. The longer term outlook for the summer months, however, is that the water level will continue to gradually decline.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, its River Murray Operations team and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish all our readers a safe and happy festive season.

Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 31st December 2008. The next report will cover the two week period ending 7th January 2009.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 24 Dec 2008

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	-	-	-	890	F	1 060	1 150
Jingellic	4.0	1.30	207.82	1 860	R	2 310	2 250
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	R	580	570
Heywoods	5.5	2.29	155.92	6 850	R	5 930	5 480
Doctors Point	5.5	2.42	150.89	8 070	R	7 350	6 770
Albury	4.3	1.40	148.84	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.69	127.71	6 100	F	6 570	6 620
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 510	S	7 520	7 700
Tocumwal	6.4	1.82	105.66	7 360	S	7 480	7 500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.09	80.64	6 210	F	6 500	6 110
Swan Hill	4.5	1.31	64.23	6 540	S	6 420	5 890
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.64	51.76	6 690	R	6 620	6 210
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.52	43.36	7 720	R	7 700	7 700
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 390	F	6 150	6 460
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	5 260	F	6 660	7 360
Rufus Junction	-	3.10	20.03	4 280	R	3 830	3 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.39	-	1 580	R	1 530	1 840
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.18	154.41	820	F	1 150	1 230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.08	145.76	1 060	F	1 340	1 170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	400	F	430	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.28	81.05	1 040	S	1 150	1 150
Edward at Liewah	-	1.78	57.16	1 080	F	1 050	850
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.05	54.54	20	F	30	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.04	57.00	650	S	670	730
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.64	-	1 240	R	1 080	1 070
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	970	F	830	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.12	-	1 330	F	1 600	2 260

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 490	5 240
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.11	+0.79
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.35
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.16
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-1.14

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.63	0.695	70.045	334
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.02	0.722	62.022	882

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.52

Barrages

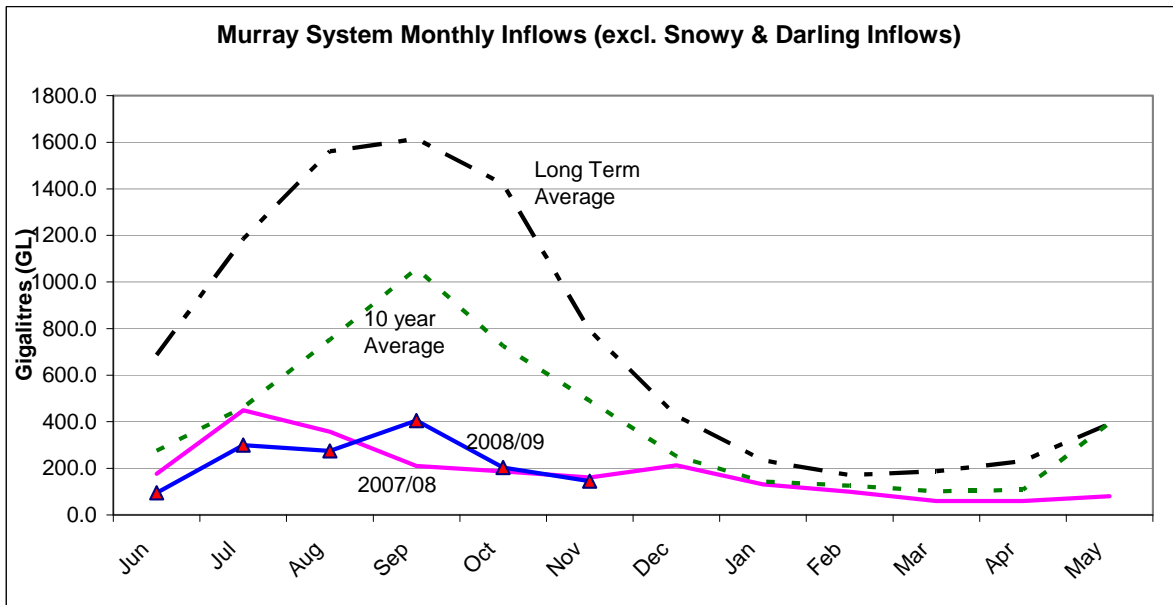
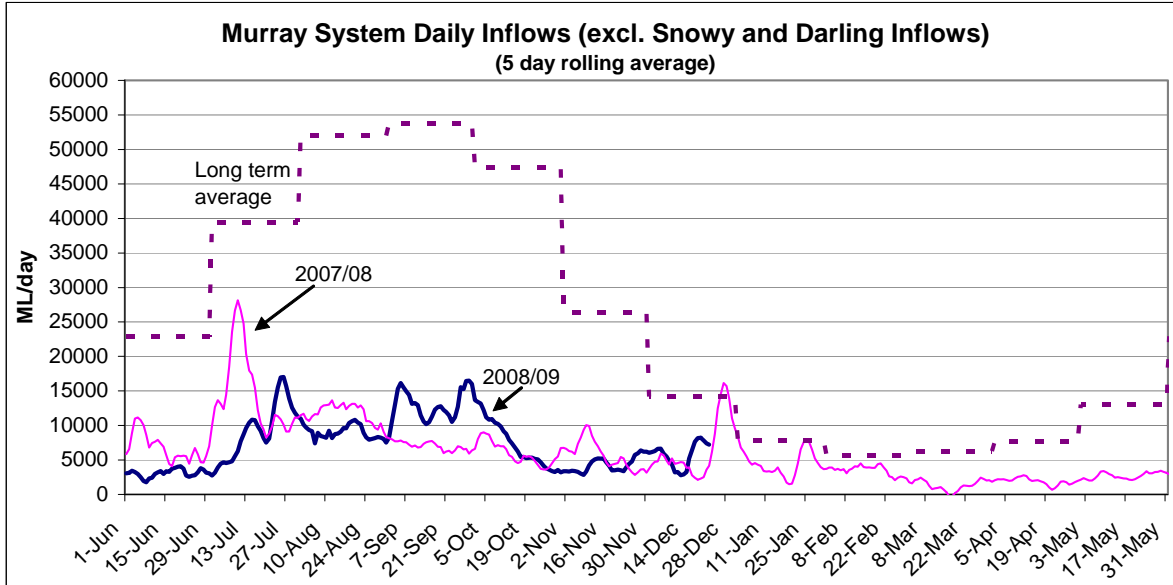
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.47	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.50	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 24th December 2008



State Allocations (as at 24th December 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	4%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	28%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	12% (& extra 2% Feb 09)

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	23%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	15%
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NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html

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

SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>