



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2008

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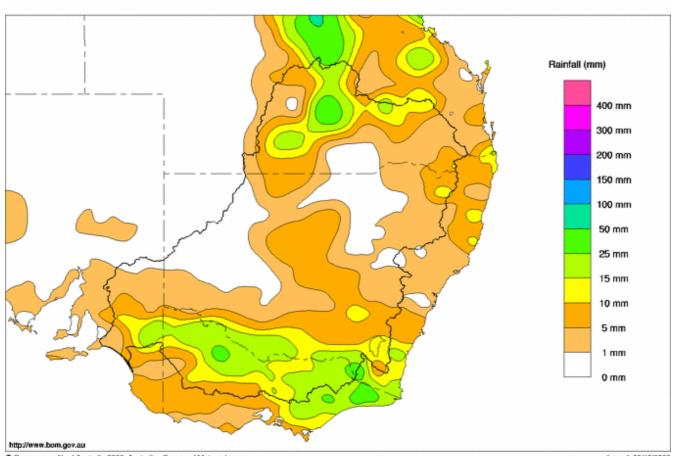
Rainfall and Inflows

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



Commonwealth of Australia 2008, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 23/12/2008

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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.

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Week ending Wednesday 24 Dec 2008

Water in Storage

| MDBC Storages | Full Supply Level | Full Supply Volume | Current Storage Level | Current Storage | | Dead Storage | MDBC Active Storage | Change in Total Storage for the week |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| | (m AHD) | (GL) | (m AHD) | (GL) | % | (GL) | (GL) | (GL) |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00 | 3 906 | 419.47 | 889 | 23% | 80 | 809 | +4 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 176.63 | 796 | 26% | 30 | 766 | -24 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 24.15 | 360 | 53% | 100 | 260 | +20 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 165 | 10% | () # | 0 | -14 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 2 209 | 24% | | 1 834 | -13 |

^{*} Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

Major State Storages

| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 516 | 50% | 3 | 513 | +2 |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 613 | 38% | 24 | 589 | -7 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | 766 | 23% | 100 | 666 | +5 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Dec-2008

| | | | , · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------|--------------------|
| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2008 |
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 793 | n/a | Snowy-Murray | +0 | 355 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 451 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +7 | 197 |
| Target Storage | 1 510 | | Nett Diversion | -7.3 | 158 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +0 | 535 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

| New South | This week | From 1 | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| Wales | THIS WEEK | July 2008 | | |
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 0.0 | 61.6 | | |
| Wakool System loss | -0.2 | 21.8 | | |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.9 | 9.4 | | |
| Licensed Pumps | 2.3 | 44.0 | | |
| Lower Darling | 0.3 | 4.5 | | |
| TOTAL | 3.2 | 141.4 | | |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2008 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 4.9 | 51 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 3.8 | 74 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 3.7 | 43 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.0 | 5 |
| Licensed pumps - LMW | 0.0 | 25 |
| TOTAL | 12.4 | 197 |

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| Entitlement this month Flow this week Flow so far this month | 217 * 30.3 107 | (4 300 ML/day) |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| Flow last month | 125 | |

^{*} Reduced to approx. 140 GL during December drought contingency operations

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

| | Current | Average over the last | Average since |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
| | Current | week | 1 August 2008 |
| Swan Hill | 60 | 50 | 70 |
| Euston | 110 | 120 | 100 |
| Red Cliffs | - | - | 130 |
| Merbein | 170 | 190 | 140 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 400 | 400 | 380 |
| Lock 9 | 270 | 260 | 210 |
| Lake Victoria | 260 | 260 | 250 |
| Berri | 370 | 350 | 370 |
| Waikerie | - | - | 500 |
| Morgan | 470 | 460 | 540 |
| Mannum | 720 | 740 | 570 |
| Murray Bridge | 660 | 620 | 560 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 5 000 | 4 460 | 3 880 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 4 280 | 3 750 | 3 460 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 6 780 | 6 770 | 5 520 |
| Goolwa Barrages | - | - | 17 460 |

[%] of Total Active MDBC Storage = 22%

[#] NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL



Week ending Wednesday 24 Dec 2008

River Levels and Flows

| | Minor Flood stage | Gauge | height | Flow | Trend | Average flow this week | Average flow last week |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| River Murray | (m) | local (m) | (m AHD) | (ML/day) | | (ML/day) | (ML/day) |
| 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 |
| Yarrawonga 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

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 | -0.15 | - | 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 | relation | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow |
|---------------|---------|----------|---------------|---------|----------|
| | (m AHD) | to FSL | local (m) | (m AHD) | (ML/day) |
| 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

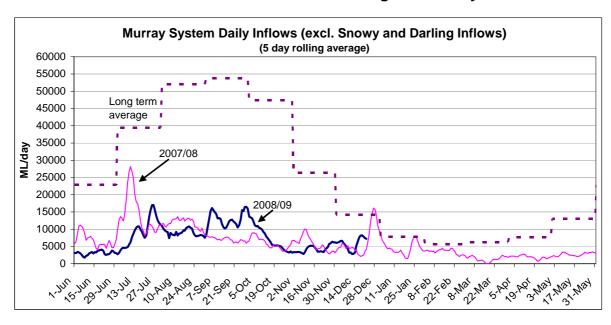
Fishways @ Barrages

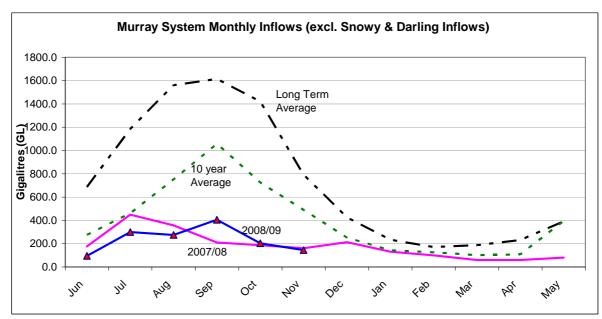
| Darrages | | risiiways | e barrayes | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertcal Slot |
| Goolwa | 128 openings | -0.47 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | -0.50 | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwitchere | 322 gates | - | All closed | Closed | Closed |





Week ending Wednesday 24th December 2008





State Allocations (as at 24th December 2008)

| NSW - Murray | Valley |
|---------------|--------|
| High security | |

| High security | 95% |
|------------------|-----|
| General security | 4% |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

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

NSW - Lower Darling

| High security | 100% |
|------------------|------|
| General security | 50% |

| Victoria - Murray Valley | |
|--------------------------|--|
| high reliability | |

| Victoria - Goulburn Valley | |
|----------------------------|--|

28%

| high reliability | 23% |
|------------------|-----|
| • | |

| South Australia - Murray Valley | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| High security | 15% |
| | |

NSW: http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediareInr/mr_toc_currnr.html http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp VIC:

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