



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2009

Trim Ref: D09/14837

Rainfall and Inflows

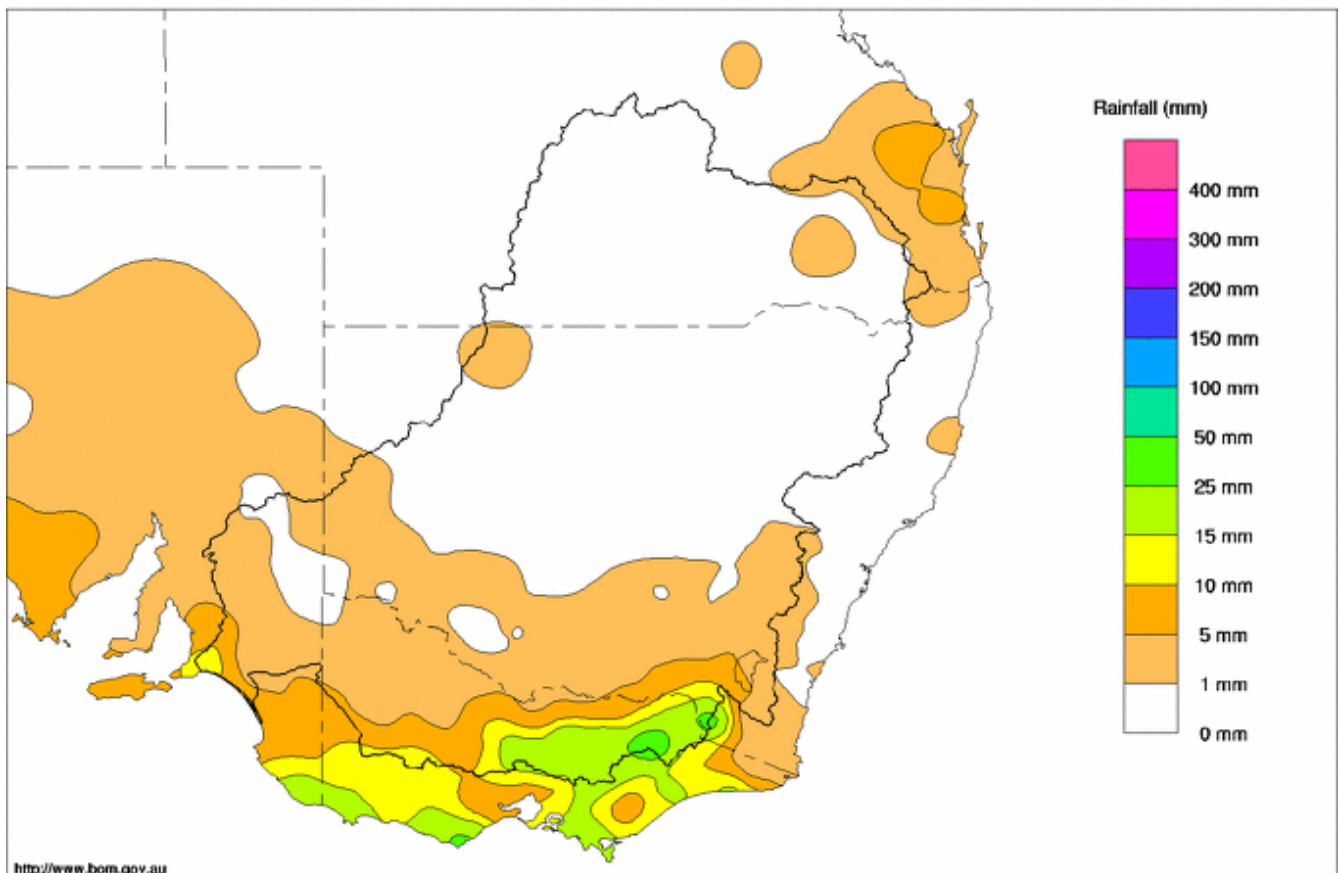
Rainfall of up to 50 mm was recorded in the last week in the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps, with 50 mm falling at Thredbo, 45 mm at Mt Buffalo and 43 mm at Mt Hotham. Smaller amounts of rain fell in other parts of the southern Murray-Darling Basin (see Map 1) and these falls have been sufficient to briefly increase flows in the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie to 2,700 ML/day and in the Ovens River at Rocky Point to about 3,000 ML/day.

Murray System inflows for the last 7 days averaged 10 GL/day and continue to track well below the long term average of 50 GL/day.

There was little rain in the northern half of the Basin and parts of southern Queensland have not had rain for more than 7 weeks.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th August 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

Storage increased in Dartmouth Reservoir by 9 GL to 902 GL (or 23% capacity) and in Hume Reservoir by 31 GL to 589 GL (or 19% capacity). Releases from these reservoirs have been maintained at the normal minimums of 200 ML/day from Dartmouth and 600 ML/day from Hume. Inflows from the Kiewa River maintained flows in the Murray River at Doctors Point (near Albury) at about 1,900 ML/day during the last week, which is above the normal minimum of 1,200 ML/day.

Lake Mulwala is slowly refilling and has reached 124.26 m AHD (0.64 m below FSL), rising 0.17 m since the previous week. The slow rise is due to low inflows averaging 4,600 ML/day only just exceeding releases, which have recently been increased to 3,100 ML/day.

Releases from Lake Mulwala were recently increased to allow refilling of the National Channel (from Torrumbarry Weir) in preparation for the irrigation season and to meet other downstream requirements along the River Murray. Until these increased releases arrive at downstream sites, river flows will remain very low.

The pool level at Torrumbarry Weir has remained steady at 85.86 m AHD (or 19 cm below FSL) and releases have averaged 2,000 ML/day. Further downstream at Euston Weir, the release has steadily declined to about 1,600 ML/day but is expected to gradually increase soon as the higher releases from Lake Mulwala arrive. Flows through Mildura and Wentworth are expected to remain low during August. The pool levels at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are all close to Full Supply Level.

Storage in Menindee Lakes (which remains under NSW control) is steady at 244 GL (14% capacity). Upstream of the Menindee Lakes, the flow in the Darling River at Wilcannia has steadily declined from 888 ML/day on 4th July 2009 to 155 ML/day and is not expected to rise until there is significant rain in the northern part of the Basin.

Storage in Lake Victoria is steady at 288 GL (43% capacity). The target flow to South Australia is steady at 1,800 ML/day and the flow past Lock 1 averaged 900 ML/day. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at -0.76 m AHD (or 1.51 m below FSL).

The salinity at Murray Bridge on the lower Murray has been steady for the last few months at about 680 EC. Further downstream, at Taillem Bend, the salinity has been fluctuating between 1,100 and 1,400 EC, with the higher values due to mixing of the surface water with more saline water at lower depths.

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DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 19 Aug 2009

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	419.98	902	23%	80	822	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.36	589	19%	30	559	+31
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.44	288	43%	100	188	-1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		244	14%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		2 024	22%	--	1 570	+37

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **18%**

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	386	38%	3	383	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	663	41%	24	639	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	627	19%	100	527	+26

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Aug-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	563	+45	Snowy-Murray	+1	256
Snowy-Murray Component	268	+11	Tooma-Tumut	+9	94
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-7.4	162
			Murray 1 Release	+10	309

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2009		This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.8	19.1	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.4	3
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	-.4	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	.7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	2
Licensed Pumps	1.1	5.2	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Lower Darling	0.0	.2	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.5	6
TOTAL	6.1	24.8	TOTAL	3.9	11

* 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 *	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	12.3	
Flow so far this month	34	
Flow last month	56	

* Reduced to approx. 56 GL during August drought contingency operations

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	80	230	140
Euston	110	110	100
Red Cliffs	130	120	130
Merbein	110	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	390	380	380
Lock 9	170	160	150
Lake Victoria	220	220	220
Berri	430	450	440
Waikerie	450	450	450
Morgan	510	510	500
Mannum	530	590	600
Murray Bridge	670	680	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 490	5 260	5 080
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	4 200	4 360	4 770
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	9 610	9 310	9 340
Goolwa Barrages	19 040	19 180	20 440

Week ending Wednesday 19 Aug 2009

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	-	-	-	2 880	R	2 410	1 850
Jingellic	4.0	1.58	208.10	3 850	F	4 280	3 380
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	570	F	550	500
Heywoods	5.5	1.20	154.83	600	S	600	610
Doctors Point	5.5	1.70	150.17	2 300	F	1 940	2 190
Albury	4.3	0.83	148.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.60	126.62	1 740	R	1 860	2 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.59	115.63	2 910	S	2 430	1 840
Tocumwal	6.4	0.94	104.78	2 660	R	2 270	1 980
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.92	79.47	2 120	F	2 010	1 920
Swan Hill	4.5	0.54	63.46	1 750	S	1 740	1 780
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.28	50.40	1 850	R	1 880	2 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.38	42.22	1 580	R	1 720	2 280
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 940	F	2 260	2 450
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	1 460	S	1 620	1 910
Rufus Junction	-	2.46	19.39	1 200	R	1 120	1 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.76	-	840	S	900	990
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.83	155.06	1 950	F	1 590	1 820
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.03	146.71	3 850	R	2 980	2 950
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.03	92.45	260	S	250	230
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.45	80.22	200	S	190	190
Edward at Liewah	-	0.52	55.90	210	S	190	180
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.97	54.46	0	S	0	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	-	-	170	R	160	150
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	60	S	70	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	220	S	250	340
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	20	F	50	90

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) 6 550 5 770

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	-0.64	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.14
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.19	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.09	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.16
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.14	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-1.51

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.95	0.515	69.865	178
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.44	0.007	61.307	160

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.76

Barrages

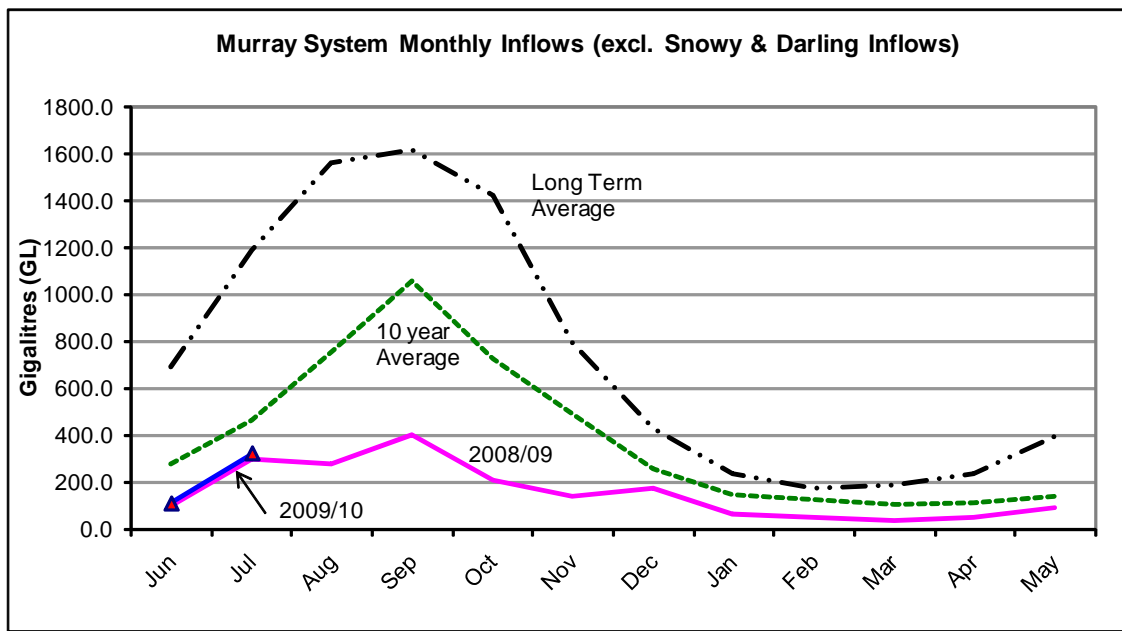
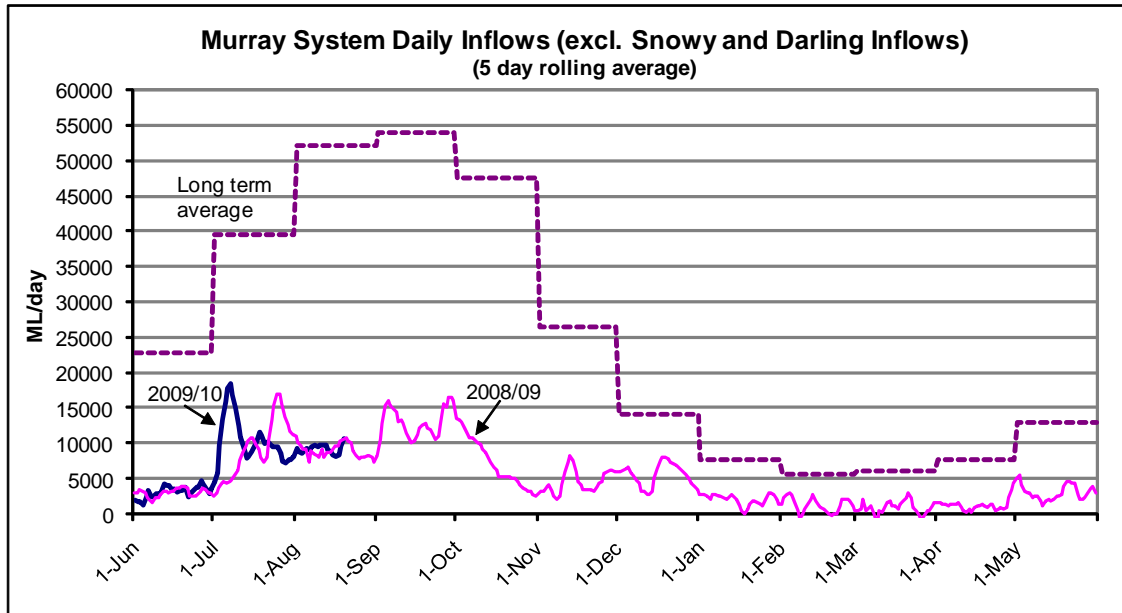
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.59	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.69	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



Week ending Wednesday 19th August 2009



State Allocations (as at 19th August 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	8%
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	0%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	5%
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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>