



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 01 JULY 2009

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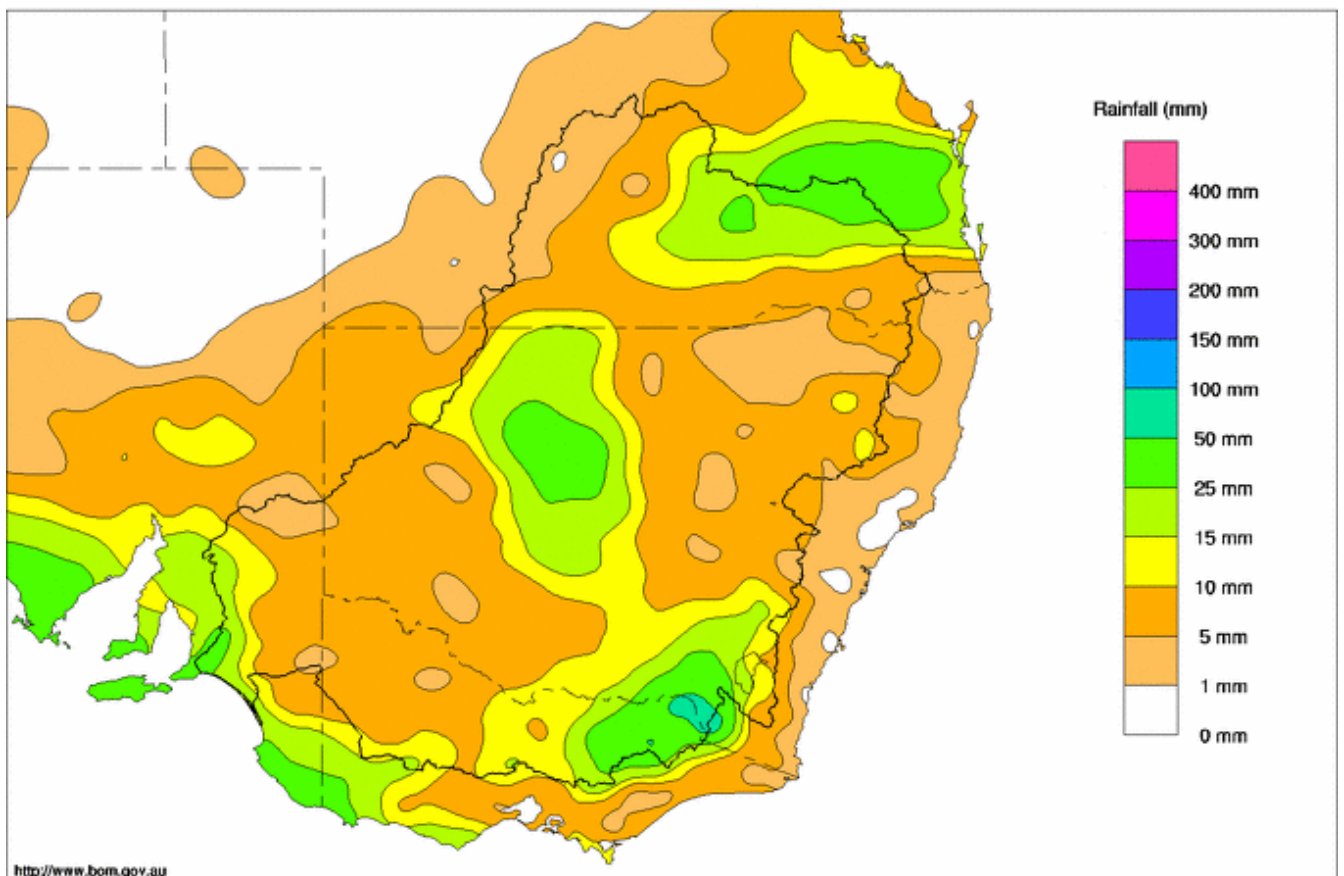
Rainfall and Inflows

For the week ending 1st July, good falls of rain were recorded across north-eastern Victoria and southern NSW (see Map 1). In particular, there was up to 100 mm in the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps.

This rain has resulted in the best streamflow response in the upper Murray system since September 2008. For instance, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River, the flow increased from 750 to 8,000 ML/day and at Hinnomunjie on the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Dartmouth Dam, the flow increased from 500 to 4,900 ML/day. This event will provide a very welcome boost to Murray system inflows but many more such events will be required before inflows start to approach the long term average for July.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st July 2009

Product of the National Climate Centre

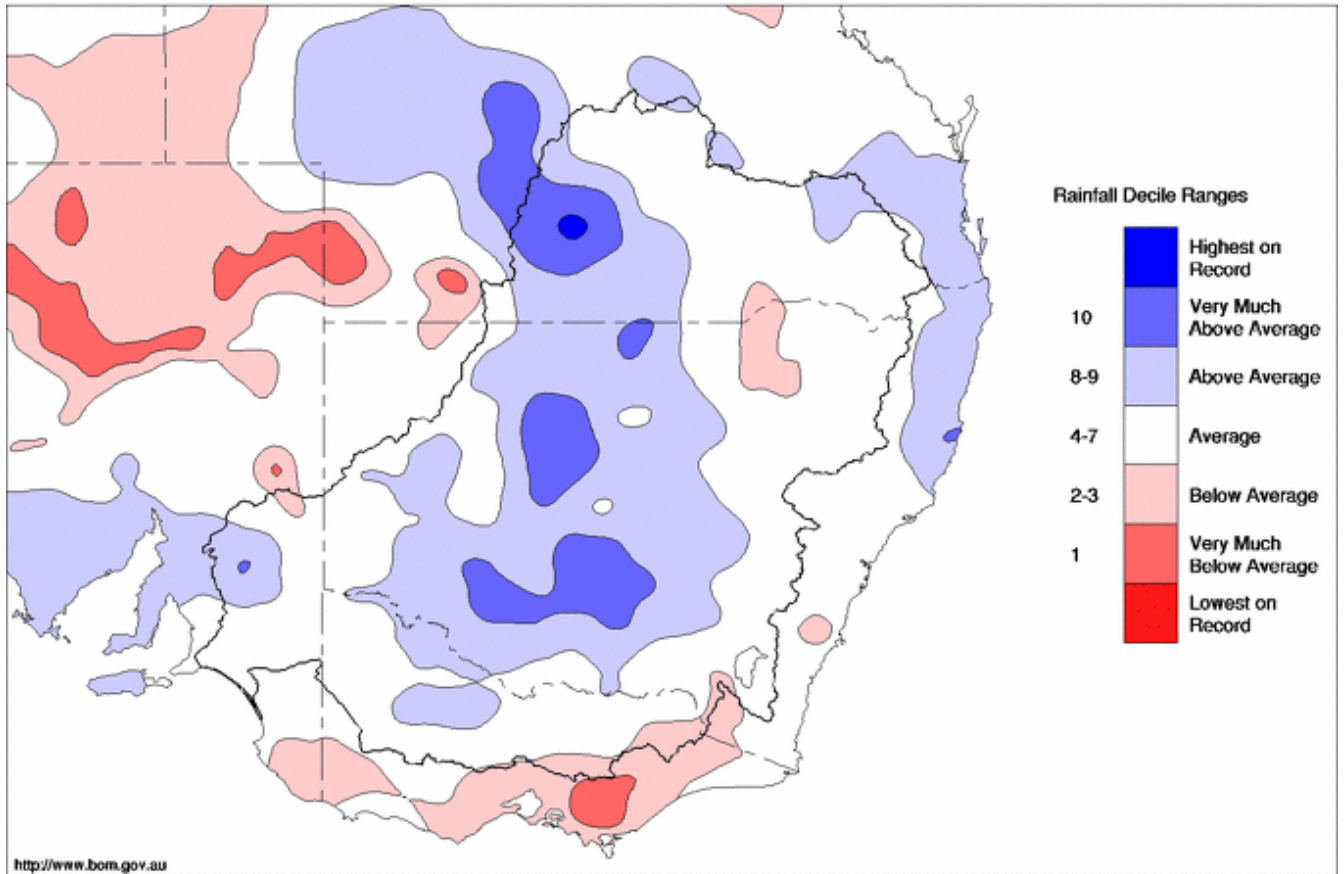


Map 1



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2009

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 30/06/2009

Map 2

June 2009 Summary

During June, most regions across the Basin received average or above average rainfall (see Map 2). However, the upper reaches of the high yielding catchments in the Victorian Alps and Snowy Mountains received below average rainfall. This, combined with the very severe rainfall deficits that already existed across this region, has resulted in Murray system inflows (excluding Darling and Snowy inflows) for June 2009 of about 110 GL, which is well below the long term average of 690 GL and only slightly above the historic low of 95 GL in June 2008.

River Operations

During the past week, MDBA active (useable water) storage increased by 55 GL to 1,200 GL (or 14% capacity). Releases from Dartmouth and Hume Dams are both currently at their normal minimums of 200 and 600 ML/day respectively. Over the last couple of days, the flow at Doctors Point has increased from 1,200 to 1,800 ML/day and is likely to increase further as the higher flows from the Kiewa River pass into the Murray.

During the coming week, the increased flows in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers will arrive at Yarrawonga Weir and will be passed downstream. Current estimates indicate that the release from Yarrawonga Weir is expected to increase from 2,400 ML/day to over 7,000 ML/day, but this might vary depending on river transmission losses and further rainfall over the next few days.

Lake Mulwala has been fully drawn down for the past 3 weeks to help control the invasive aquatic weed *Egeria densa*. The water level might be increased during the coming week as the peak flows



from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers arrive, however, significant rises in levels are not currently planned until refilling starts in mid-July. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

The regulator gates at Edward and Gulpa offtakes are currently open, and when the increased releases from Yarrawonga arrive during the coming week, the flow into the Edward River is likely to increase. Similarly, the release from Torrumbarry Weir is currently 2,300 ML/day and should also start to gradually rise as the increased flows from upstream arrive.

In response to a small inflow from the Darling River, storage in Menindee Lakes increased by 5 GL to 229 GL (or 13 % capacity). This water originated from the heavy rainfall in the northern Basin during late May. The flow at Wilcannia, upstream of Menindee Lakes, is steady at about 800 ML/day and further upstream at Bourke is steady at about 1,100 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 16 GL to 240 GL (or 35 % capacity) and is expected to continue increasing gradually over the coming weeks. The target flow to South Australia is currently 1,800 ML/day and at Weir 1 (Blanchetown) is 1,060 ML/day. Weirs 1 to 5 are all close to, or slightly above, full supply level (FSL), while Weir 6 is 8 cm below FSL. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is about -0.9 m AHD and in Lake Albert is about -0.2 m AHD. Pumping of water from Lake Alexandrina into Lake Albert has now ceased.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has announced that relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke downstream to other stretches of the Murray River will be extended from 1 July to 30 September 2009 (see attached media release).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 01 Jul 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	417.46	837	21%	80	757	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.97	333	11%	30	303	+28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.96	240	35%	100	140	+16
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		229	13%	(- -) #	0	+5
Total		9 352		1 639	18%	- -	1 200	+55

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **14%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		382	37%	3	379	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		543	33%	24	519	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		435	13%	100	335	+8

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30-Jun-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	391	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+15	169
Snowy-Murray Component	276	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	31
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	9.4	138
			Murray 1 Release	+19	198

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	0
Wakool Sys Allowance	-0.2	.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	0
Licensed Pumps	1.0	.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	0
Lower Darling	0.0	.0	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.8	0
TOTAL	1.0	.0	TOTAL	2.7	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.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	109 *	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	12.8	
Flow so far this month	2	
Flow last month	52	

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

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	60	60
Euston	120	120	90
Red Cliffs	150	150	120
Merbein	120	110	120
Burtundy (Darling)	360	350	460
Lock 9	130	140	190
Lake Victoria	270	210	260
Berri	380	330	350
Waikerie	-	-	470
Morgan	380	430	500
Mannum	590	580	620
Murray Bridge	720	710	650
Milang (Lake Alex)	5 260	5 930	4 550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	4 180	4 230	4 230
Meningie (Lake Alb)	8 690	9 270	7 900
Goolwa Barrages	29 430	27 240	23 870

Week ending Wednesday 01 Jul 2009

River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 400	F	3 010	3 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	207.97	2 850	F	3 710	4 500
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	450	R	350	330
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	154.89	740	R	670	760
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 270	R	1 240	1 220
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.47	126.49	1 260	F	1 300	1 230
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.47	115.51	2 400	S	2 340	2 100
Tocumwal	6.4	0.93	104.77	2 610	R	2 450	2 420
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.99	79.54	2 340	F	2 570	2 630
Swan Hill	4.5	0.63	63.55	2 290	F	2 380	3 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.69	50.81	3 200	F	3 480	4 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.86	42.70	3 670	F	3 970	5 350
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 440	F	3 850	4 690
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	3 130	R	3 860	5 260
Rufus Junction	-	2.48	19.41	1 290	R	1 320	1 210
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.72	-	1 060	S	1 120	1 030
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.11	154.34	700	R	790	700
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.00	145.68	860	R	810	560
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.13	92.55	390	S	380	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.46	80.23	210	F	230	380
Edward at Liewah	-	1.19	56.57	580	F	730	950
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.11	54.60	40	F	50	60
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.42	56.38	180	F	180	110
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.40	-	410	F	500	710
Darling at Bourke	-	4.25	-	1 120	F	1 230	1 540
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	30	F	40	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 200	2 930
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-5.30	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+0.17
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.08	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.00
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.15
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.05	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-1.47

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-15.00	-	-	-
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-14.60	-	-	-

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.90

Barrages

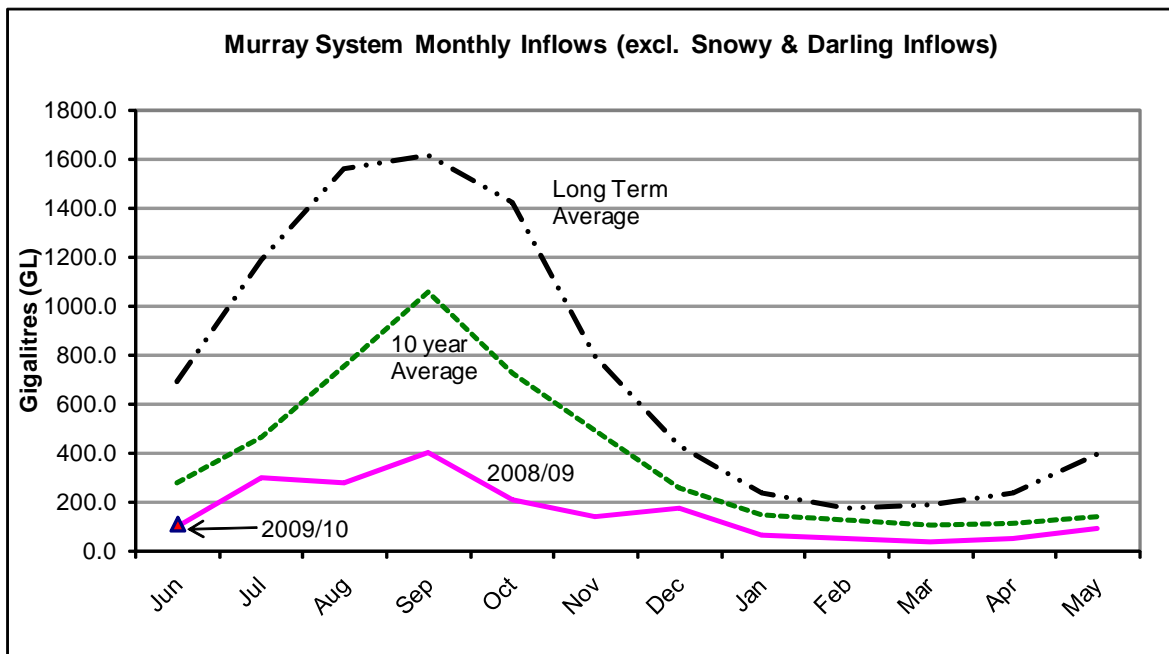
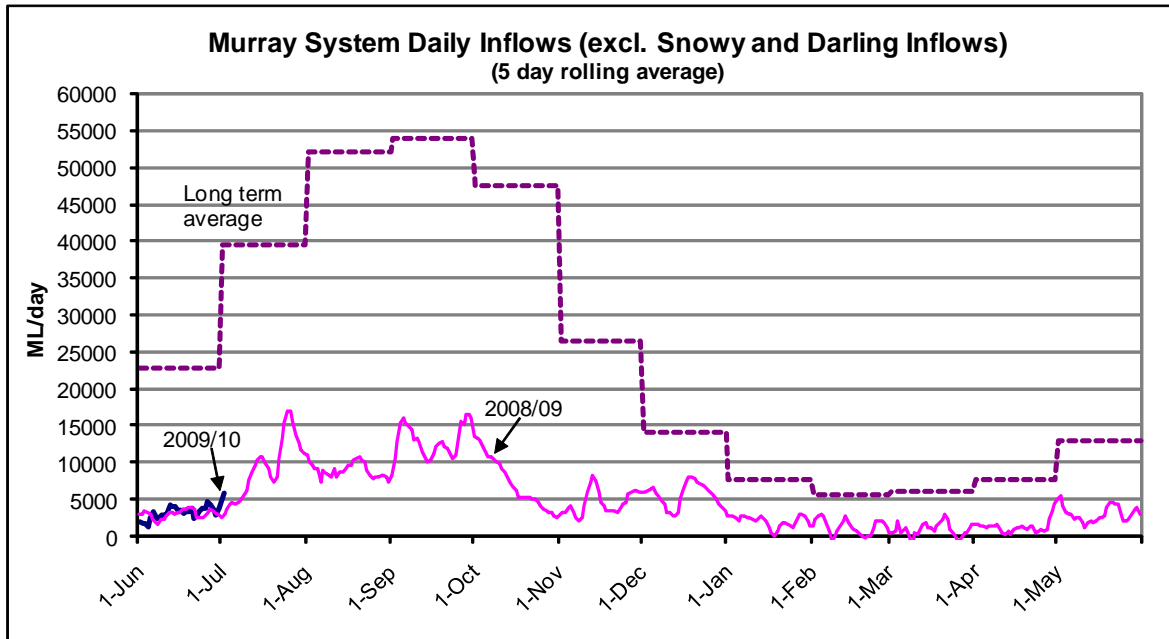
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitihere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 1st July 2009



State Allocations (as at 1st July 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	0%
General security	0%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	0%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	0%
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	2%
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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>

Relaxation of water trading rules through Barmah Choke extended to end of September

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority announced today that relaxation of the trading rule controlling the transfer of water allocations from upstream of the Barmah Choke downstream to other stretches of the Murray River will be extended from 1 July to 30 September 2009.

Chief Executive Mr Rob Freeman said the decision, supported by all Basin governments, was based on the drought and the low water resource outlook for the 2009/10 water season.

“It is highly unlikely that channel capacity will be reached between 1 July and 30 September as a result of extending the Barmah Choke relaxation rule,” he said.

The minimal net trades through the Barmah Choke at the end of May 2009 and the low water resource outlook for the Murray system show that there was a low risk of exceeding the channel capacity of the Choke.

Mr Freeman said extending the relaxation rule would continue to enable entitlement holders above the Choke to sell their water allocations downstream.

The Barmah Choke constrains the volume of water that can pass for downstream users and delivery of additional flows from trading water allocations from upstream to downstream cannot be guaranteed.

However, because of the extended drought conditions and the lower than normal flows in the river, transfers of allocations are guaranteed.

“If weather conditions change and there is more water within the river, we may need to cease this trading arrangement,” Mr Freeman said.

“However, any allocation transfers approved up until that time would be honoured. Trade in entitlements from above to below the Choke will continue to be prohibited.

Media contact: Sam Leone, phone (02) 6279 0141

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