



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2009

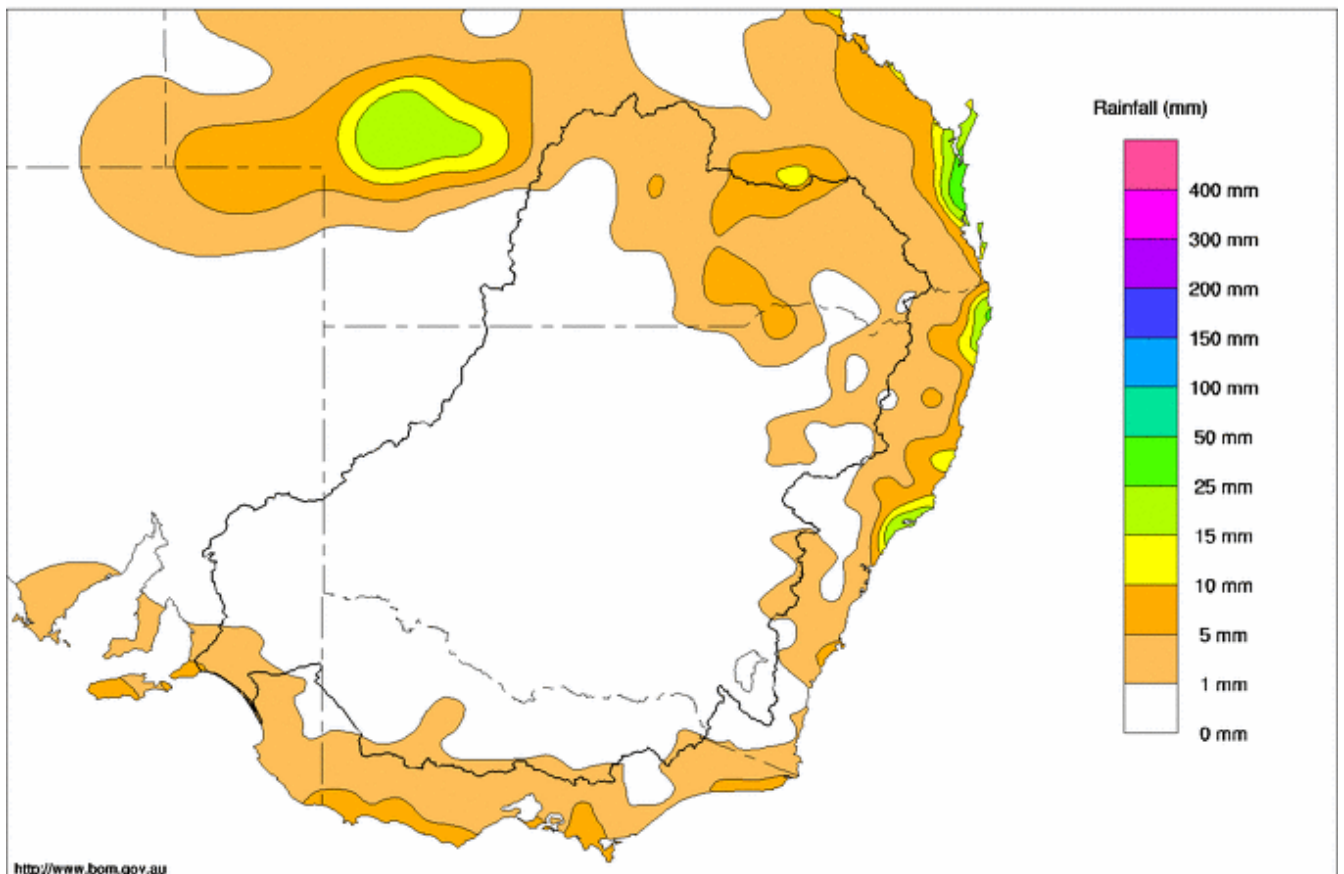
Trim Ref: D09/6279

15 May, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, very little rain was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). Haden, in southern Queensland, recorded the highest rainfall with 14 mm.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th May 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 13/05/2009

Algal Update

The alert levels for the River Murray at Corowa, Lake Mulwala and the river downstream as far as Moama, as well as in the Gulpa Creek/Edward River/lower Wakool River system have been reduced to Amber. The mid reaches of the River Murray from Torrumbarry Weir to Boundary Bend remain on Amber alert and Euston is now also on Amber alert. Further information can be obtained by calling the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457, from the NSW Department of Water and Energy's website www.dwe.nsw.gov.au or Goulburn Murray Water's website at www.g-mwater.com.au.



Lake Mulwala Drawdown

The second phase of the lowering of Lake Mulwala has commenced. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 3 000 to 4 000 ML/day and will be increased further over the next week to about 5 000 ML/day, depending on weather conditions. The level of Lake Mulwala is currently 124.27 m AHD (63 cm below FSL) and will be lowered to about 119.5 m AHD (or 5.4 m below FSL) by early June. The lake will remain lowered until mid July (subject to inflow conditions), before being raised in preparation for the irrigation season in late July. Updates will continue to be provided in coming weeks.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir remained steady at around 815 GL (or 21% capacity) and the release was also held steady at 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has continued to increase, rising by 24 GL to 137 GL (or 4.5 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point averaged 1 200 ML/day over the past week and, if conditions remain dry, will be held at this level in order to minimise inflows into Lake Mulwala while it is being drawn down.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy commenced the annual lowering of Stevens Weir on 7 May with the pool level lowered this week to 4.43 m local datum (77 cm below FSL). The level is being drawn down to a minimum height of around 0.45 m over the winter months following the completion of the delivery of water for irrigation and stock and domestic purposes (See media release attached). NSW State Water has advised that Wakool River System supply points will be closed from Friday 15 May 2009 (For more information go to <http://www.statewater.com.au/whanew/mediareleases.htm>).

Torrumbarry weir pool was lowered to 85.88 m AHD (17 cm below FSL) over the past week and will gradually be raised back to FSL once the National Channel diversions cease next week. Wentworth weir pool is around 10 cm above FSL (30.9 m AHD) and Mildura Weir is currently around 5 cm above FSL (34.40 m AHD). Locks 9 and 8 have also been raised above their FSLs, with the Lock 9 pool level currently 23 cm above FSL (27.4 m AHD) and the Lock 8 weir pool 40 cm above FSL (24.6 m AHD). These Locks may be raised by up to 25 and 50 cm above their FSLs respectively. These temporary weir pool raisings are being implemented in order to capture flows in transit whilst the inlet to Lake Victoria is partially closed due to maintenance works at Scaddings Bridge.

The flow to South Australia has averaged around 1 900 ML/day over the past week. The weirs at Locks 2 to 5 are all close to Full Supply Level (FSL) whereas the weir at Lock 6 is 8 cm below FSL and the weir at Lock 1 is 5 cm above FSL. Lake Alexandrina is currently about 1 m below sea level.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 13 May 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	416.61	815	21%	80	735	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.95	137	4%	30	107	+24
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	21.82	141	21%	100	41	-1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		227	13%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		1 319	14%	--	882	+20

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **10%**

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	398	39%	3	395	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	501	31%	24	477	+6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	401	12%	100	301	-6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-May-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	448	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+26	39
Snowy-Murray Component	318	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	23.4	36
			Murray 1 Release	+25	42

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2008		This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-4.7	162.9	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.9	137
Wakool System loss	2.1	49.7	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.2	268
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	24.7	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	100
Licensed Pumps	1.4	114.7	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	17
Lower Darling	0.1	10.7	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.3	151
TOTAL	-1.0	362.7	TOTAL	15.8	673

* 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	93 *	
Flow this week	12.5	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	25	
Flow last month	93	

* Reduced to approx. 60 GL during May drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	40	40	60
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	120
Burtundy (Darling)	480	490	470
Lock 9	130	140	200
Lake Victoria	300	300	260
Berri	320	280	350
Waikerie	390	390	480
Morgan	460	460	510
Mannum	650	650	620
Murray Bridge	700	700	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 830	5 800	4 270
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 760	4 640	4 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 700	10 860	7 560
Goolwa Barrages	26 730	26 750	23 310

Week ending Wednesday 13 May 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	-	-	-	4 320	F	3 840	3 730
Jingellic	4.0	1.66	208.18	4 490	R	4 240	3 900
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.23	218.12	270	S	270	350
Heywoods	5.5	1.41	155.04	1 080	R	970	810
Doctors Point	5.5	1.49	149.96	1 210	F	1 260	1 260
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.48	126.50	1 280	F	1 310	1 630
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.60	115.64	2 960	S	2 980	2 960
Tocumwal	6.4	1.06	104.90	3 200	S	3 160	3 310
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.98	79.53	2 300	S	2 070	2 610
Swan Hill	4.5	0.54	63.46	1 750	R	1 960	2 520
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.39	50.51	2 190	F	2 630	3 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.58	42.42	2 340	F	2 890	3 100
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 780	F	2 480	3 030
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	2 940	R	2 660	2 510
Rufus Junction	-	2.53	19.46	1 350	R	1 080	1 360
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.74	-	1 210	R	1 160	1 380
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.80	154.03	330	F	360	620
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.65	145.33	210	F	240	390
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	360	S	360	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.24	81.01	1 000	F	710	340
Edward at Liewah	-	1.03	56.41	470	R	430	560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.10	54.59	30	F	40	80
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.32	56.28	120	S	120	140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	0	S	10	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	90	S	80	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	130	F	170	200

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 420	2 520
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.63	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.01	+0.27
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.17	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.08	-0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.16
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.39	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.06
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.23	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.38	+0.30	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-1.49

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.00	0.5505	69.9005	211
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.47	0.02	61.32	169

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

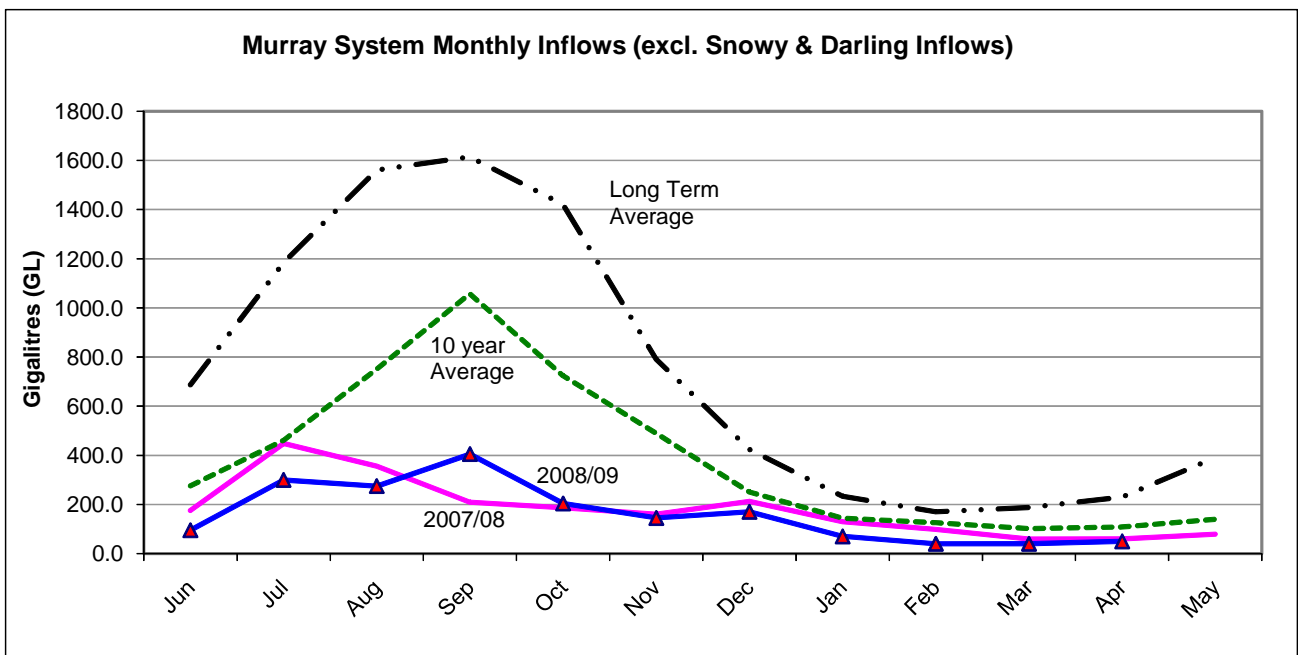
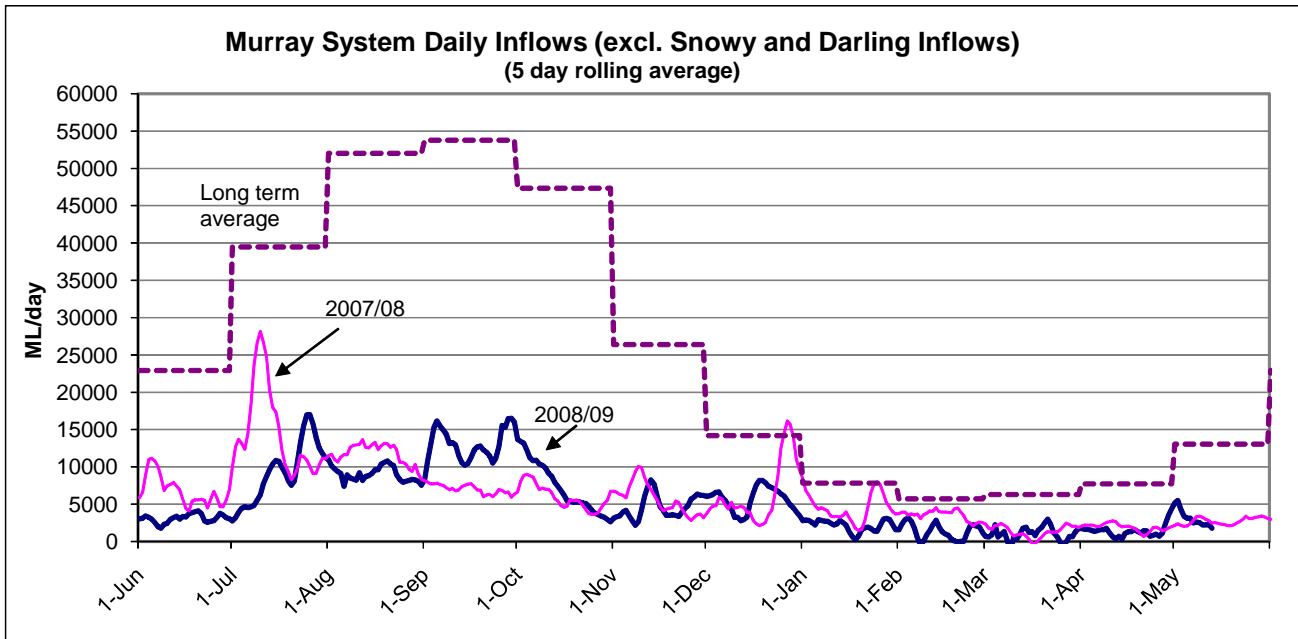
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-1.0

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-1.02	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	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



State Allocations (as at 13th May 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	33%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%
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NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

Tuesday, 5 May 2009

Edward River Weir Pool Draw Down To Begin

The Department of Water and Energy today announced that it would commence the annual lowering of Stevens Weir pool on 7 May 2009.

The level is being drawn down over the winter months following the completion of the delivery of water for irrigation and stock and domestic purposes, including the replenishment to the Wakool River system.

Manager of River Works and Management, Digby Jacobs said that the Department had advised State Water to drawdown the weir pool over May to minimum height of approximately 0.45m.

"This draw down is consistent with the conservative approach we have taken with water resource management in the Murray Valley over the past 5 years. Having the available space in the system mid-stream will allow us to capture any inflows should there be further rainfall over autumn and winter,

"The draw down provides a more natural wetting and drying regime that is important to wetland and riparian health," said Mr Jacobs

The public are advised to be aware of snags and other obstructions that they might not see during the summer and are further advised to check pump outlets and boat moorings.

Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 40 3234