



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2009

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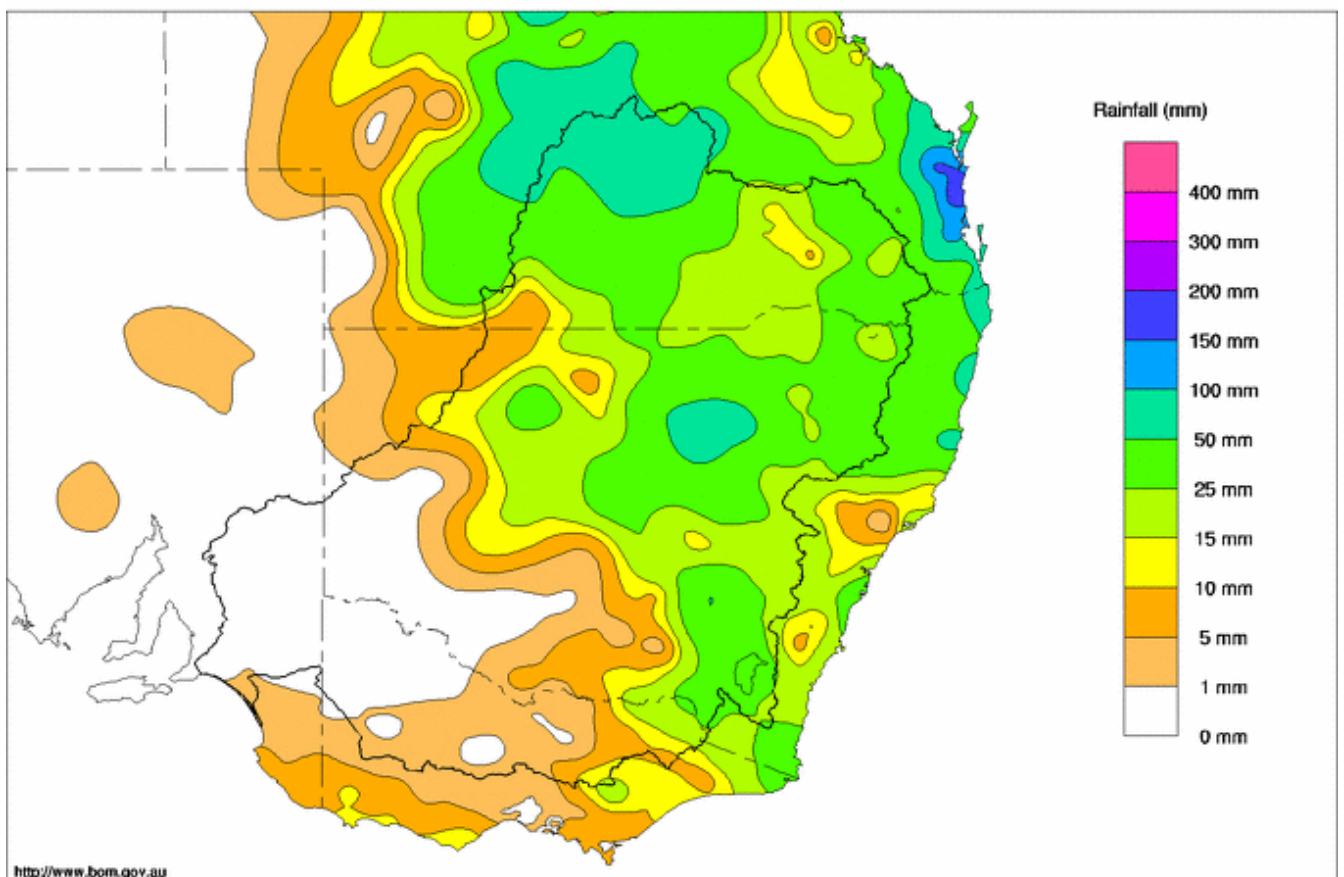
17 April, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week there were good falls of rain across the northern and eastern regions of the Basin with most areas receiving 15 to 50 mm (see Map). The highest falls (50 to 100 mm) were recorded in the upper reaches of the Maranoa and Warrego Rivers in the far north-west of the Basin and also near Coonamble in central NSW. Despite the good falls of rain, there has been very little streamflow response in the tributaries of the Darling River.

Further south, the Victorian Alps received less rainfall (up to 25 mm), while most of north-western Victoria, south-western NSW and South Australia remained dry. Streamflow responses in the upper Murray tributaries were once again very small and Murray system inflows continue to track at record low levels.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th April 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 15/04/2009

Algal Blooms

A red alert for blue-green algae has been issued for the Edward River at Moulamein and for Gulpa Creek at Mathoura. The River Murray, from Hume Reservoir to Tooleybuc (downstream of Swan Hill) also remains under a red alert. Boundary Bend, approximately 4 kilometres downstream of the confluence of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers has been placed on an Amber alert and blue-green algae has also been reported in the Euston Weir pool. Sites further downstream in the Sunraysia region indicate that the bloom has not yet appeared along this section of the River Murray.

Further information can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee free call Hotline on 1800 999 457, and also 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.

River Operations

MDBA active storage continues to decline and is currently 852 GL (or 10 % capacity). An additional 247 GL in Menindee Lakes remains under NSW control.

Storage in Hume Reservoir continued to gradually decrease and is currently 84 GL (or 3 % capacity). The release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced from 7 000 to 5 200 ML/day and should continue to decrease as the end of the irrigation season approaches. Since early April, a small volume of water (about 40 GL) has been transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir to supplement storage in Hume Reservoir. Sufficient water has now been transferred to Hume Reservoir and the flow at Colemans gauge on the Mitta Mitta River is being reduced from 3 000 to 500 ML/day over the next few days.

The planned drawdown of Lake Mulwala is expected to commence in about two weeks time. Initially, the release from Hume Reservoir will be reduced and water stored in Lake Mulwala will be used to supply most of the downstream water demand. The water level in Lake Mulwala will be gradually lowered to about 123.5 m AHD (or 1.4 m below FSL) by mid-May. After mid-May, the rate of lowering will be accelerated by increasing the release from Yarrawonga Weir until the lake has been fully lowered by early June. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

The release from Torrumbarry Weir is steady at about 2 400 ML/day and further downstream at Wentworth Weir the release is steady at about 1 900 ML/day. The flow at Burtundy on the lower Darling River also remains steady at about 180 ML/day.

During the past week the flow to South Australia has been increased slightly (from 2 900 to 3 100 ML/day) to bring weir pool levels back towards Full Supply Level. The Lock 1 release is averaging 1 320 ML/day and the salinity at Lock 1 is currently 470 EC which is similar to this time last year. The water level in Lake Alexandrina remains steady at -0.95 m AHD (or 1.70 m below Full Supply Level).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 15 Apr 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	416.66	816	21%	80	736	-18
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	165.26	84	3%	30	54	-9
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.09	162	24%	100	62	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		247	14%	(-) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		1 309	14%	--	852	-43

* 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	410	40%	3	407	-22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	479	29%	24	455	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	417	12%	100	317	-12

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Apr-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	499	-4	Snowy-Murray	+10	622
Snowy-Murray Component	186	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	222
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	9.2	400
			Murray 1 Release	+9	830

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)	8.8	154.5	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.0	125
Wakool System loss	1.8	42.9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.9	237
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	24.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.0	98
Licensed Pumps	2.6	106.7	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	15
Lower Darling	0.1	10.3	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.8	139
TOTAL	13.7	338.4	TOTAL	20.2	614

* 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	135 *	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.8	
Flow so far this month	45	
Flow last month	124	

* Reduced to approx. 90 GL during April drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	50	50	60
Euston	80	70	90
Red Cliffs	90	90	120
Merbein	90	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	670	660	460
Lock 9	160	150	200
Lake Victoria	290	280	260
Berri	270	290	360
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	460	480	510
Mannum	650	640	620
Murray Bridge	620	680	630
Milang (Lake Alex.)	-	-	3 860
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 230	5 600	4 150
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 880	11 580	7 210
Goolwa Barrages	33 220	30 090	22 660

Week ending Wednesday 15 Apr 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	-	-	-	2 960	S	2 160	1 930
Jingellic	4.0	1.44	207.96	2 780	R	2 190	1 750
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.08	218.97	2 630	F	3 060	2 820
Heywoods	5.5	2.12	155.75	5 240	F	6 030	8 110
Doctors Point	5.5	2.13	150.60	5 180	F	6 210	8 300
Albury	4.3	53.21	200.65	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.61	127.63	5 650	F	6 260	7 710
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.76	115.80	3 710	F	4 040	4 400
Tocumwal	6.4	1.27	105.11	4 320	F	4 370	4 710
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.01	79.56	2 400	R	2 460	2 450
Swan Hill	4.5	0.61	63.53	2 170	S	2 090	2 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.54	50.66	2 670	R	2 640	3 060
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.54	42.39	2 210	S	2 480	2 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 460	F	2 570	3 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	1 870	F	1 870	2 780
Rufus Junction	-	2.69	19.62	2 280	F	2 440	2 400
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.82	-	1 320	S	1 340	1 420
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.67	153.90	190	F	190	200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.61	145.29	160	F	140	110
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	370	R	350	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.81	80.58	540	S	610	710
Edward at Liewah	-	1.37	56.75	710	R	690	800
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.93	54.42	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.42	56.38	180	F	190	170
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	30	F	30	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	-	190	S	190	250
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	180	R	180	360

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	N/A	N/A
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.05	+0.49
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	-0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.07	-0.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.10	+0.25
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.03	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.32	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	-1.57

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.68	0.55	69.9	211
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.60	0.122	61.422	246

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.95

Barrages

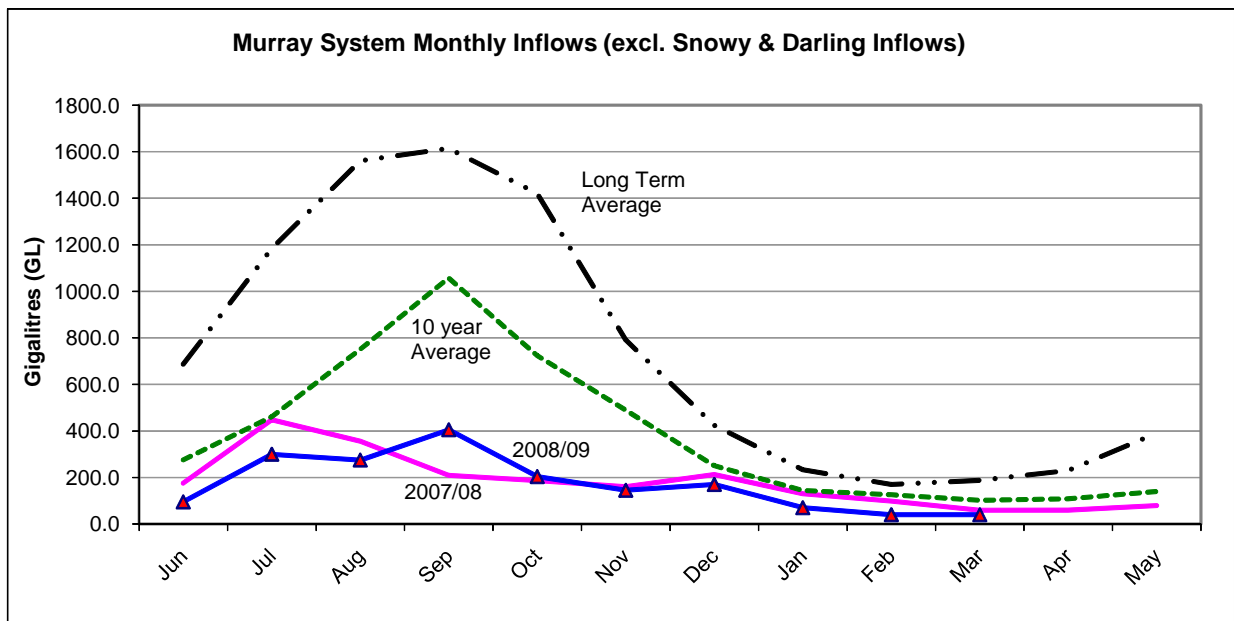
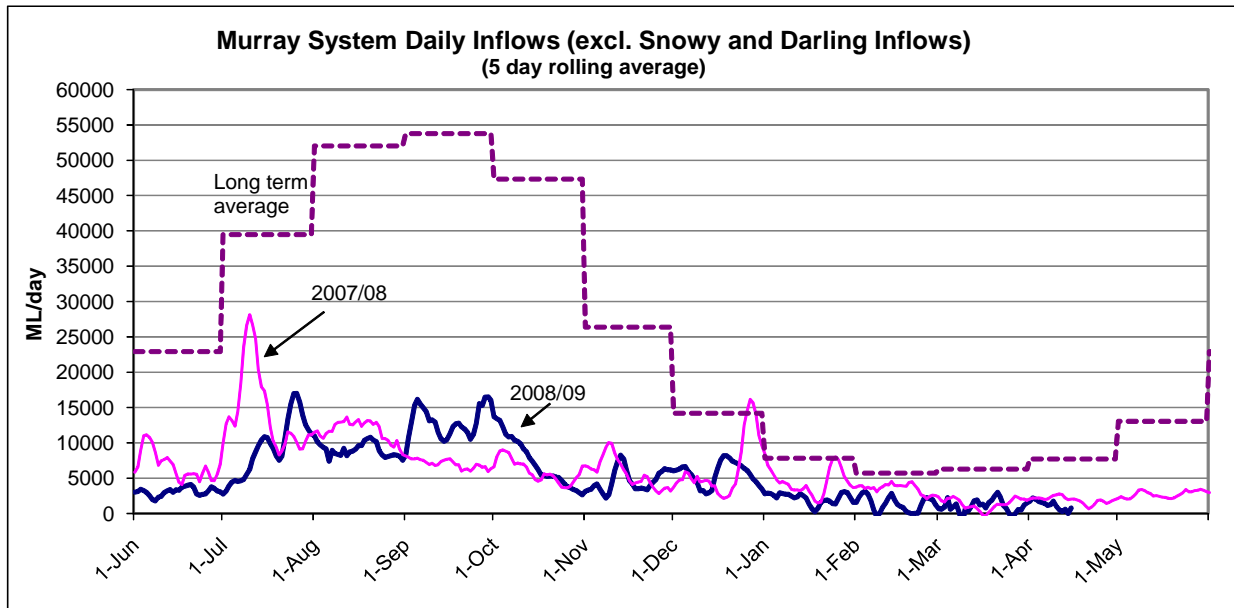
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-1.27	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.58	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.30	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



Week ending Wednesday 15th April 2009



State Allocations (as at 15th April 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 : 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>