



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2009

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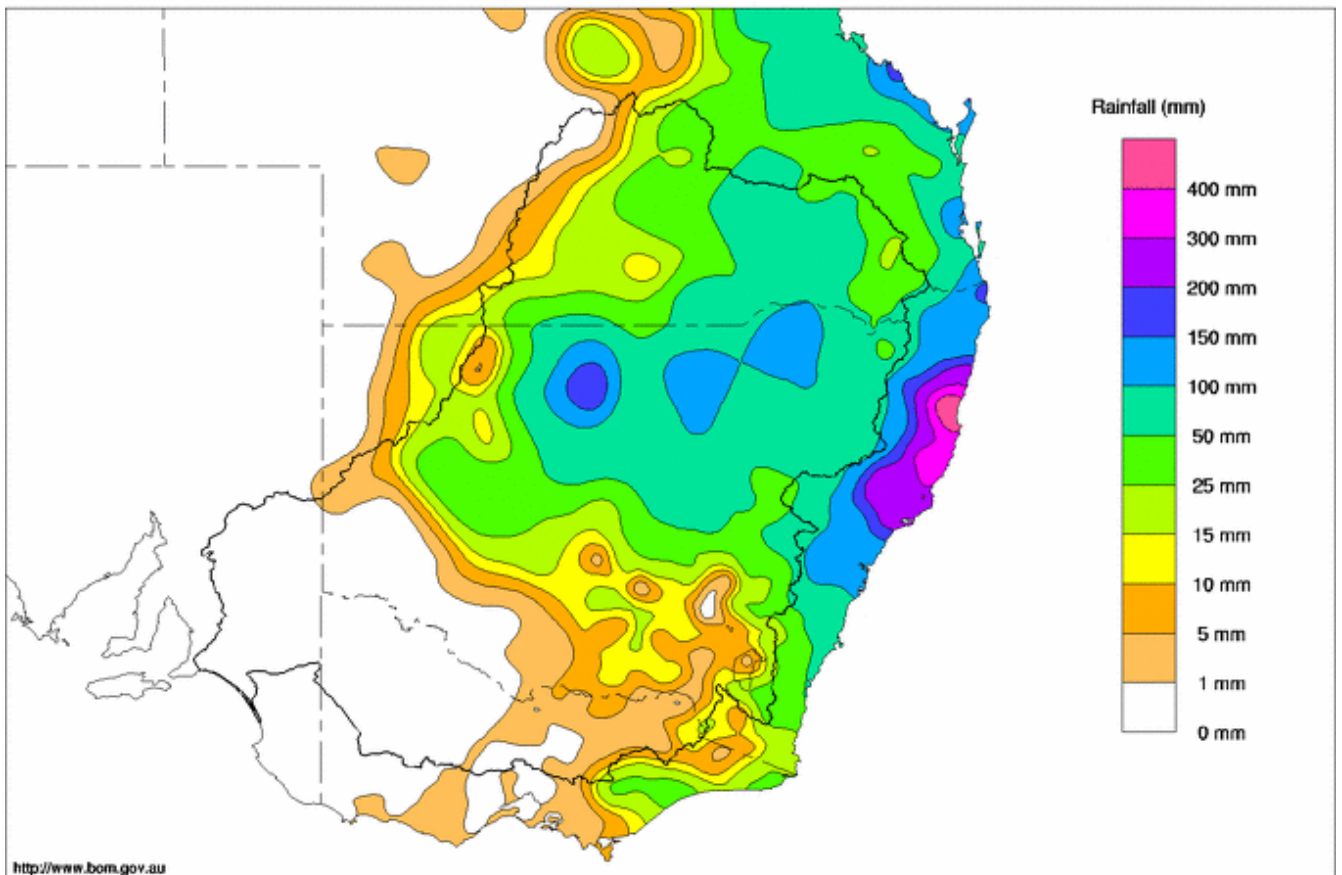
20 February, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

Heavy rain fell across most of the northern Murray-Darling Basin, with large areas of southern Queensland receiving between 50 and 150 mm and northern New South Wales (NSW) receiving between 50 and 200 mm (see Map). The heavy rain resulted in localised flooding at Bourke (which received falls of 230 mm), and elsewhere in NSW's north west. The Darling River at Bourke peaked at 12 000 ML/day on Saturday and is now 4 500 ML/day. The peak has now arrived at Tilpa which has risen to 12 000 ML/day. NSW Water Minister Phil Costa expects "70 to 100 gigalitres of the floodwater [to] make it downstream to the Menindee Lakes storage system" (see media release attached).

In contrast, the southern Basin, particularly Victoria and South Australia, has received very little rain (0 -15 mm) for the month to date and Murray System inflows for February are tracking close to the historic minimum (about 60 GL in 2007).

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th February 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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River Operations

Dartmouth release remains at 500 ML/day and is currently sufficient to target a river level at Tallandoon of 1.4 m. Dartmouth storage volume continues to very gradually decrease and is currently 869 GL (22.3 % capacity). Flow at Doctors Point averaged 11 500 ML/day over the past week and Lake Mulwala remained steady at around 124.7 m AHD. Yarrawonga release also remained steady at 9 500 ML/day.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the pool level has been steady at FSL (86.05 m AHD) and during the past week the release has increased slightly from 6 200 to 6 500 ML/day. At Euston Weir, the pool level has been raised back up to FSL after being lowered to 47.45 m AHD (15 cm below FSL) in late January / early February. Euston release has risen from 4 500 to 5 500 ML/day and is expected to continue to rise over the next week.

Flow downstream of Mildura has increased from 2 500 to 3 700 ML/day and the pool level remains steady at around FSL (34.4 m AHD). Flow downstream of Wentworth has also increased, rising from 1 200 to 2 900 ML/day and the pool level remains steady at around FSL (30.8 m AHD). These increased flows are a result of the increased release from Yarrawonga Weir in late January, as well as a reduction in evaporative losses over the past week.

Lake Victoria outflow has been reduced from 3 800 to 2 400 ML/day as flows downstream of Wentworth increase and reliance on Lake Victoria storage to supply South Australian flow eases. Lake Victoria storage is currently 190 GL (or 28 % capacity) and the rate of fall is expected to decrease as the higher flows along the Murray continue to arrive.

The cooler weather following the heat wave earlier this month has enabled the flow to South Australia to be reduced from 5 500 to 5 000 ML/day. The weir pools of Locks 1 to 6 are gradually increasing and the weirs pools of Locks 1 to 3 are now at or above their Full Supply Levels. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is -0.85 m AHD and is expected to continue to gradually fall. The water level in Lake Albert is currently about -0.54 m AHD and is being maintained by the pumping from Lake Alexandrina.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 18 Feb 2009

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	418.73	869	22%	80	789	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.26	422	14%	30	392	-65
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.38	190	28%	100	90	-30
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		107	6%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		1 589	17%	--	1 271	-100

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = 15%

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	517	50%	3	514	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	568	35%	24	544	-30
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	572	17%	100	472	-21

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Feb-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	608	-18	Snowy-Murray	+17	515
Snowy-Murray Component	295	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	214
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	17.2	301
			Murray 1 Release	+22	711

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)	1.9	80.6	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	71
Wakool System loss	3.0	27.8	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.7	153
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	19.4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.1	81
Licensed Pumps	4.0	78.8	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	7
Lower Darling	0.5	9.1	Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	92
TOTAL	10.2	215.8	TOTAL	25.2	404

* 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	194 *	(5 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	35.3	
Flow so far this month	94	
Flow last month	141	

* Reduced to approx. 135 GL during February drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	50	50	70
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	110	130
Merbein	120	120	140
Burtundy (Darling)	610	590	410
Lock 9	220	230	220
Lake Victoria	310	300	260
Berri	360	350	370
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	550	520	520
Mannum	710	710	610
Murray Bridge	790	790	610
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 610	5 230	4 180
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 270	5 200	3 800
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	9 540	9 300	6 220
Goolwa Barrages	32 170	32 720	20 060



Week ending Wednesday 18 Feb 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	-	-	-	4 780	F	2 350	4 760
Jingellic	4.0	1.46	207.98	2 920	R	2 050	4 940
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	530	F	560	550
Heywoods	5.5	2.74	156.37	10 930	F	11 260	11 650
Doctors Point	5.5	2.70	151.17	11 200	F	11 530	12 510
Albury	4.3	1.68	149.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.41	128.43	10 700	R	11 030	11 270
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.56	116.60	9 350	F	9 480	9 660
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	9 010	S	9 010	9 130
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.17	80.72	6 510	R	6 380	6 080
Swan Hill	4.5	1.17	64.09	5 690	R	5 460	4 790
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.38	51.50	5 670	R	5 500	4 770
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.14	42.98	5 510	R	4 840	3 950
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 570	F	2 920	2 030
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.97	27.73	2 930	R	1 930	1 090
Rufus Junction	-	3.10	20.03	4 280	F	4 530	5 050
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.71	-	1 620	F	1 650	1 410
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.64	153.87	160	F	170	350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.57	145.25	120	F	170	140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	450	S	410	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.47	81.24	1 280	F	1 210	1 120
Edward at Liewah	-	1.61	56.99	900	R	860	910
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.14	54.64	60	R	50	20
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	200	F	200	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	70	S	40	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.80	-	6 140	F	6 420	690
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	130	R	120	120

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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.81
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.05	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.10	+0.43
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.33	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.14
No. 9 Kulinine	27.40	+0.13	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+0.36	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-1.46

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.49	0.372	69.722	95
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.94	0.217	61.517	330

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.85

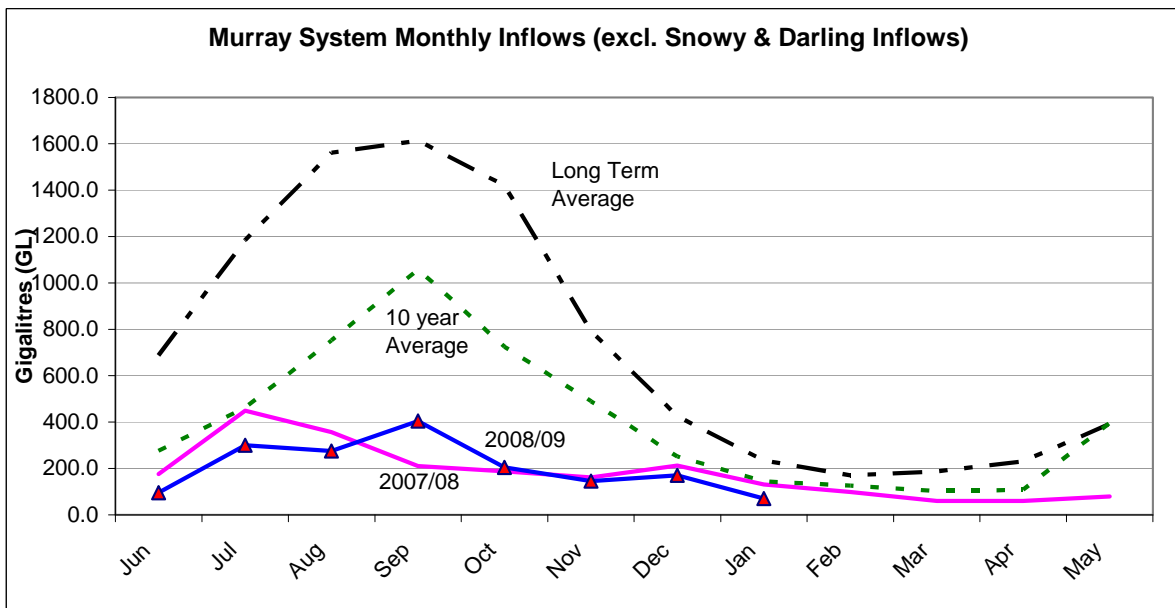
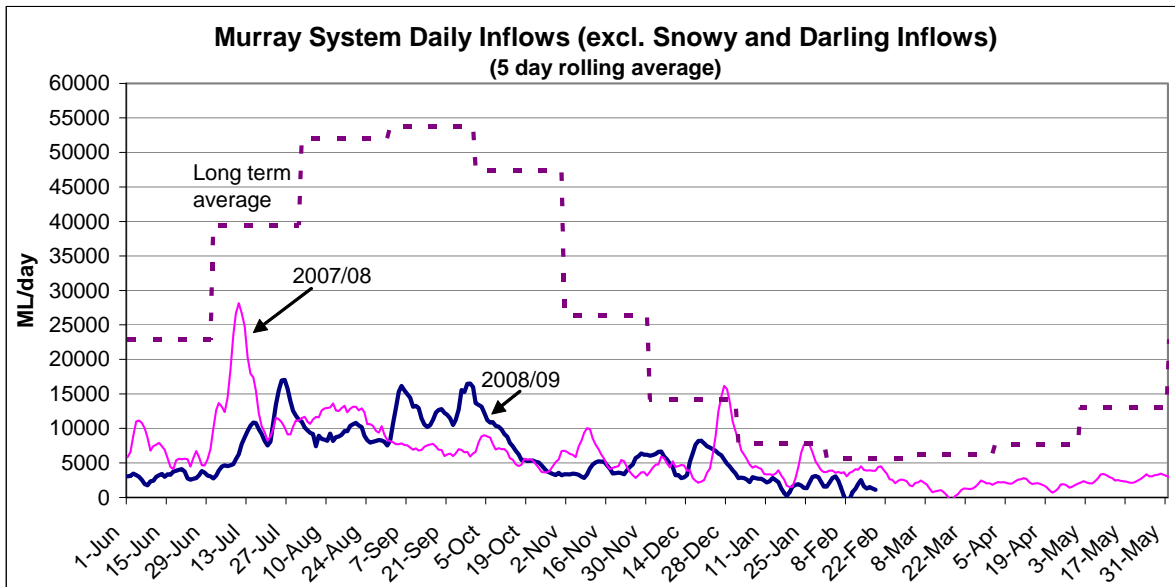
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.84	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.62	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 18th February 2009



State Allocations (as at 18th February 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	30%
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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>

MEDIA RELEASE

North-West NSW floods reach Menindee Lakes

Wednesday 18 February 2009

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa today said that localised flooding at Bourke and other parts of the State's north west will increase flows in the Darling River, with between 70 and 100 gigalitres expected to flow through to Menindee Lakes.

"First and foremost our thoughts are with those communities facing an enormous cleanup caused by flood, as well the farmers who have suffered crop and stock losses," said Mr Costa.

"Bourke has been declared a natural disaster zone after receiving 200 millimetres of rain in 15 hours on Friday night and Walgett also received heavy rainfall over the weekend.

"It is estimated between 70 to 100 gigalitres of the floodwater will make it downstream to the Menindee Lakes storage system, which can store over 1,680,000 megalitres but is only at 6 percent of capacity at present.

"This water will benefit Broken Hill by securing its water supply for at least 18 months and will provide some water for downstream water users in the Darling River," he said.

Mr Costa said it was unfortunate that the rainfall was not expected to generate enough inflows to provide any benefit downstream of Menindee Lakes.

"The river banks and surrounding floodplains are so dry that the floodwater is rapidly being soaked up," he said.

"Flows in the Darling River at Bourke have already halved since they peaked at 12,000 megalitres per day on Saturday.

"I know that communities down south are desperate for more water and anxiously awaiting inflows from this flood, but unfortunately without further rain the benefits will be short lived.

"Despite the extra flows, unless we receive some good autumn rainfall in the Lower Darling, we'll need to implement drought contingency measures soon."

The Minister said that flows in the Darling River would not be pumped out by Bourke irrigators as most of their land is under water and in fact, they may need to pump the water off their crops to try and save their produce.

Ends

Contact Peter McCabe 0439 707 101