



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009

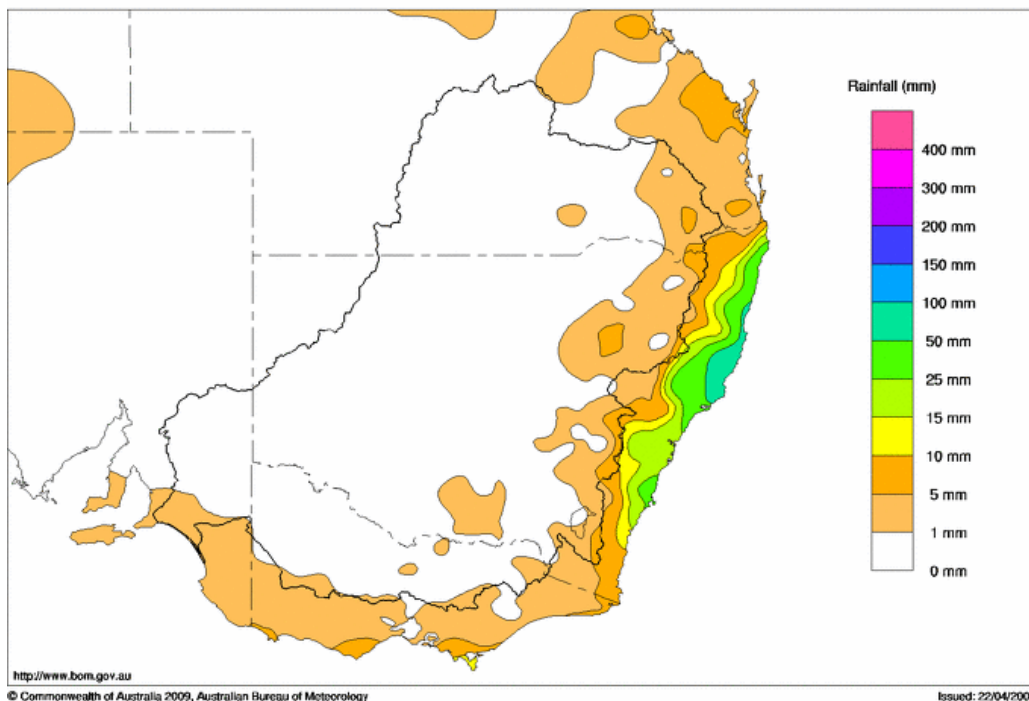
Trim Ref: D09/5082

24 April, 2009

## Rainfall and Inflows

Whilst the past week saw some rain along parts of the NSW coast very little rain fell in the Basin. The eastern highlands, from NSW to Queensland, received 1 to 10 mm. The western half of the Basin received no rain. However, at the time of writing this report, steady rain was falling in the southeast of South Australia and rain is forecast along the Murray Valley over the coming weekend.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd April 2009  
Product of the National Climate Centre



## Algal Blooms

The River Murray from Hume Reservoir to Barmah remains under a red alert for blue-green algae, as does the Edward River at Deniliquin and Moulamein. On a more positive note, blue-green algal concentrations have declined in several areas over the past few weeks resulting in the alert level being reduced from red to amber in the River Murray between Torrumbarry and Boundary Bend and in Gulpa Creek at Mathoura. Further downstream, the River Murray near Euston continues to be on red alert, however the bloom has not extended to Mildura which remains on a Green alert.

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](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au) or Goulburn Murray Water's website at [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au).

## Lake Mulwala Drawdown

The first phase of the lowering of Lake Mulwala is planned to commence early next week. It will involve gradually lowering the weir pool to a level that is sufficient to meet the diversion requirements of the Yarrawonga Main Channel. The second phase will commence on 15 May when diversions to the Yarrawonga Main Channel are expected to cease. The rate of drawdown during this second phase



will be accelerated by increasing the release from Yarrawonga Weir. The lake level will be lowered to about 119.5 m AHD (or 5.4 m below FSL) by early June and will remain lowered until mid July (subject to inflow conditions), before being raised in preparation of the irrigation season in late July. Further updates will be provided in coming weeks.

## River Operations

Due to the continuing very dry conditions in autumn the Murray water entitlements to each state have remained steady since January 2009. Current Murray water entitlements to each state are provided in Table 1.

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir remains constant at around 500 ML/day and, dependent on weather conditions, is expected to be reduced to 200 ML/day within coming weeks as demands downstream decline. Storage in Hume Reservoir continued to gradually decrease and is currently 68 GL (or 2 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) was temporarily increased during the week from 5 200 to 6 500 ML/day but is now being reduced in order to lower Lake Mulwala. It is expected that the flow at Doctors Point will be reduced to less than 3 000 ML/day over the coming week.

Lake Mulwala has remained steady at around 124.7 m AHD and the release was reduced from 3 800 to 3 500 ML/day due to decreasing demands downstream. The release from Torrumbarry Weir has declined slightly from 2 400 to 2 100 ML/day. Torrumbarry pool level will be gradually lowered to about 20 cm below full supply level over the coming week to increase the downstream flow.

Further downstream the release at Wentworth Weir has also declined and is currently about 1 500 ML/day. The flow at Burtundy on the lower Darling River remains steady at about 170 ML/day.

The weir pool levels at Locks 4 to 6 are between 5 to 10 cm below their Full Supply Levels (FSL) and the weir pool levels at Locks 1 to 3 are close to their FSLs. The flow to South Australia has been temporarily increased from 3 100 to 3 500 ML/day in order to raise the pool levels of Locks 4 to 6 closer to their FSLs. The Lock 1 release averaged 1 440 ML/day over the past week and the salinity at Lock 1 averaged 480 EC. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently around -0.97 m AHD.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray

**Table 1.** Water available in the Murray Valley in 2008-09 in each state.

	Murray Entitlements* GL	After Trade Adjustment* GL
NSW	800	750
Victoria	970	1070
South Australia	1140	1390

\* The trade adjusted volumes allow for interstate trade and for trade between the Murrumbidgee, Goulburn and Murray Valleys.

\* It is important to understand that the volumes available to South Australia include 696 GL for dilution and loss, whereas volumes for NSW and Victoria exclude any allowance for evaporation or other loss upstream of South Australian border, in the River Murray. However, NSW and Victoria need to cover irrigation district losses and (in NSW) losses in the Wakool system from their available entitlements.



**Week ending Wednesday 22 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	416.53	813	21%	80	733	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	164.61	68	2%	30	38	-16
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.00	153	23%	100	53	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		239	14%	(-) #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 274</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>-35</b>

\* 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	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	482	30%	24	458	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	405	12%	100	305	-12

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Apr-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	487	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+17	640
Snowy-Murray Component	-	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	227
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	15.5	413
			Murray 1 Release	+18	848

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.8	160.0
Wakool System loss	1.1	44.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	24.6
Licensed Pumps	n/a	109.3
Lower Darling	n/a	10.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>348.6</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	6.0	131
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.0	244
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	99
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	15
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.0	142
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>631</b>

\* 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 *	
Flow this week	21.3	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	67	
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	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	610	640	460
Lock 9	150	160	200
Lake Victoria	290	290	260
Berri	270	270	360
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	460	480	510
Mannum	630	630	620
Murray Bridge	690	700	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 780	5 930	4 150
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 430	5 270	4 180
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	11 870	11 150	7 310
Goolwa Barrages	30 140	30 440	22 820



**Week ending Wednesday 22 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	-	-	-	3 550	F	2 350	2 160
Jingellic	4.0	1.51	208.03	3 290	R	2 280	2 190
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.44	218.33	530	S	640	3 060
Heywoods	5.5	2.28	155.91	6 380	R	5 850	6 030
Doctors Point	5.5	2.26	150.73	6 420	R	5 810	6 210
Albury	4.3	1.28	148.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.53	127.55	5 270	F	5 200	6 260
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 500	S	3 540	4 040
Tocumwal	6.4	1.15	104.99	3 650	S	3 800	4 370
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.91	79.46	2 090	F	2 300	2 460
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 050	S	2 080	2 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.50	50.62	2 550	F	2 650	2 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.58	42.42	2 390	F	2 370	2 480
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 140	F	2 180	2 570
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.74	27.50	1 530	S	1 720	1 870
Rufus Junction	-	2.75	19.68	2 600	S	2 550	2 440
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.78	-	1 410	S	1 440	1 340
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.65	153.88	170	F	180	190
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.52	145.20	70	F	100	140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	370	R	360	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.75	80.52	480	S	560	610
Edward at Liewah	-	1.23	56.61	600	F	670	690
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.91	54.40	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.41	56.37	180	S	180	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	10	S	20	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	370	F	380	190
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	170	F	170	180

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.47
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.08	-0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.10	+0.24
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.10	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.04
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.04	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+0.27	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	-1.53

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.75	0.7	70.05	342
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.11	0.0678	61.3678	203

**Lower Lakes**

**FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	-0.97

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

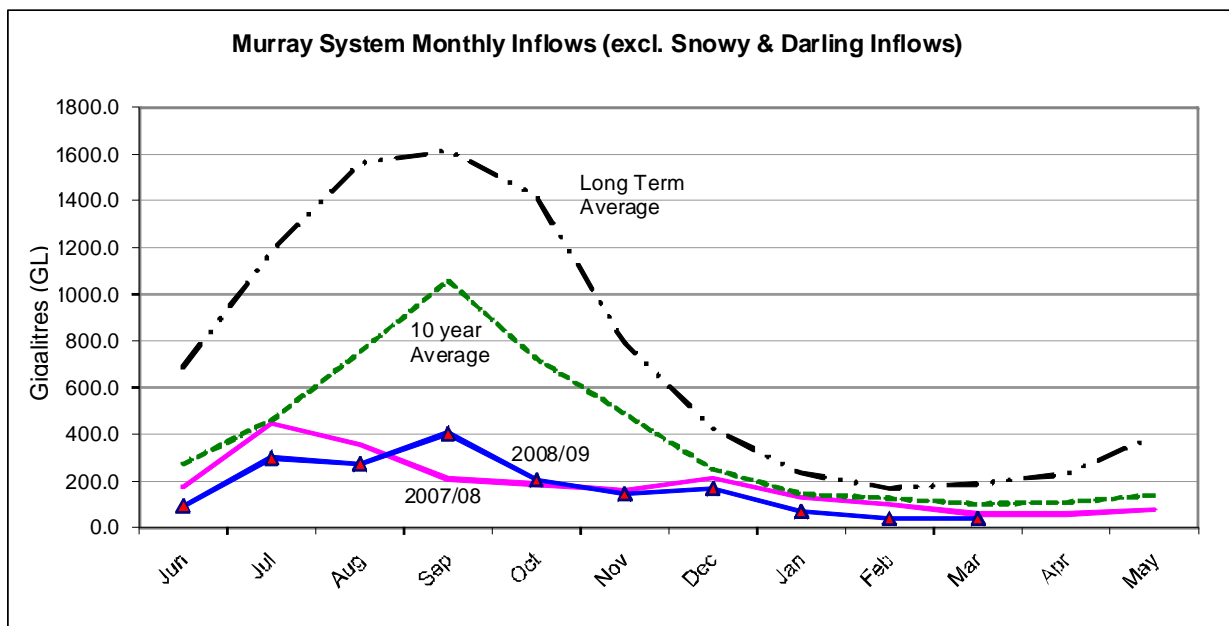
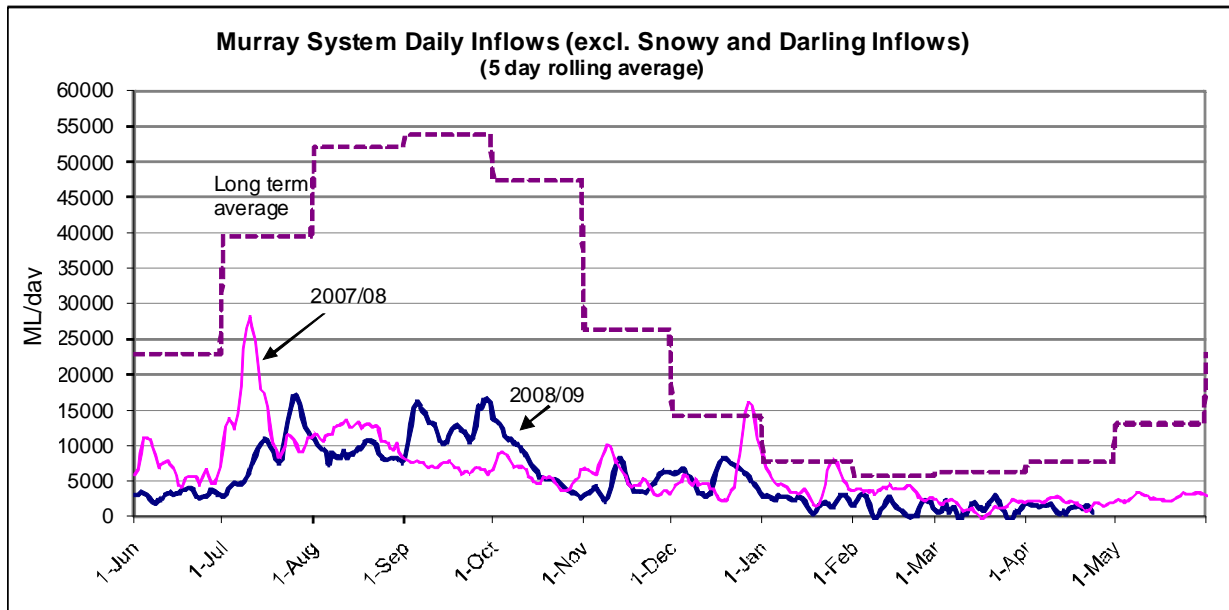
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.95	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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





Week ending Wednesday 22nd April 2009



**State Allocations (as at 22nd 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](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>