



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2009

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30 January, 2009

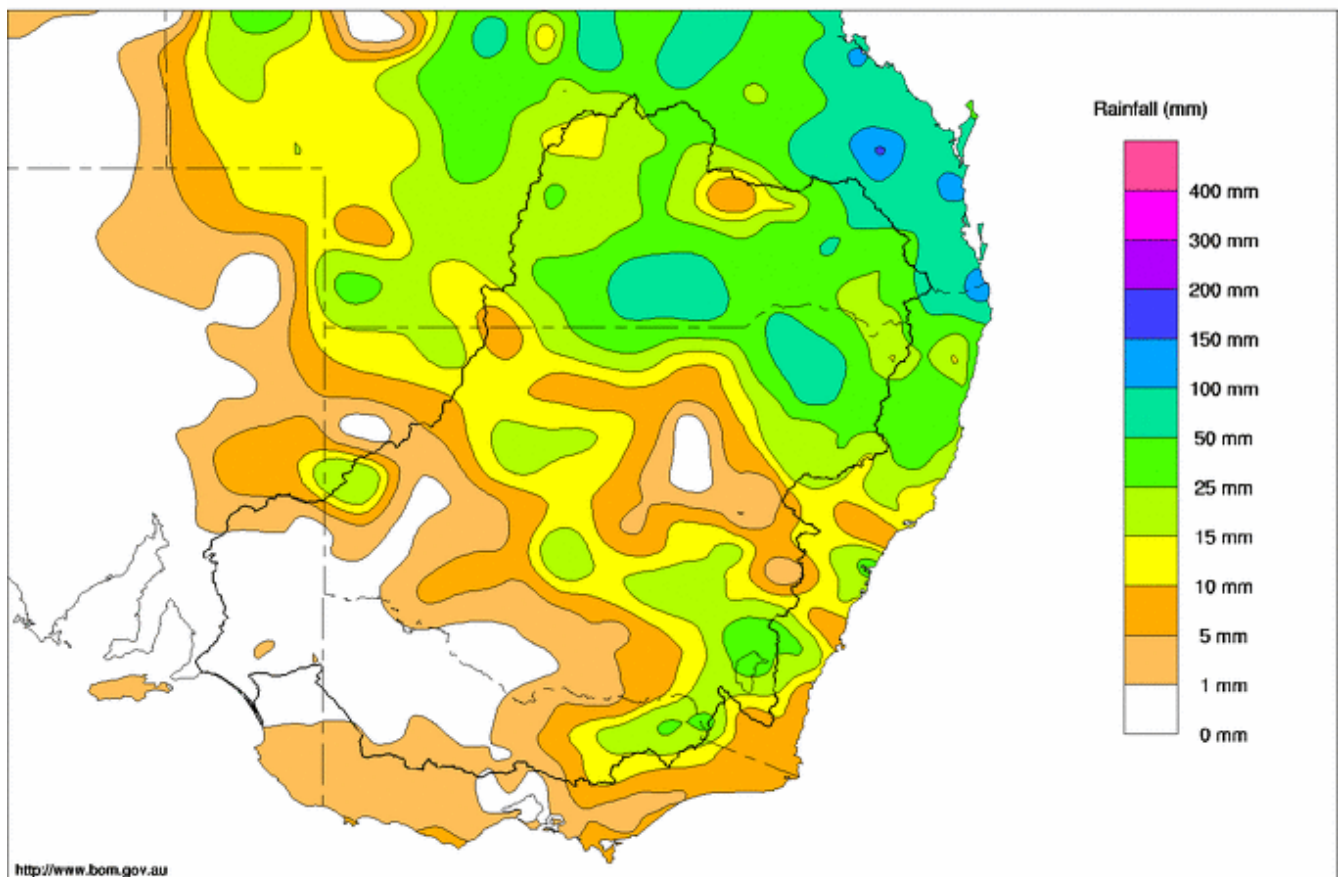
Rainfall and Inflows

The southern half of the Basin has experienced another week of extremely hot weather with many towns along the Murray recording maximum temperatures in the low to mid 40's. Isolated thunderstorms once again brought some relief in the south-east particularly in the southern tablelands of NSW and the ACT (see rainfall map below). However, there was only a relatively small increase in stream flows in the upper tributaries of the Murray, and these are now continuing to recede. In the Sunraysia district and also in the Riverland of South Australia, many towns have not yet recorded any rainfall in January.

Murray system inflows for January to date (up to 28th January) is 60 GL, which is only slightly above the historic low for January of 50 GL observed in 1983 and 2007.

In contrast, the north of the Basin received good falls of rain (up to 100 mm) and this generated an increased streamflow in the Gwydir River, which peaked at 12 000 ML/day at Pallamallawa before dropping back to 1 800 ML/day a few days later.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th January 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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River Operations

In response to low inflows and high demands along the Murray, MDBA active storage continues to decline (by 75 GL) and is currently at 1 536 GL or 18 % of total capacity.

Storage in Hume Reservoir, which is currently supplying the bulk of the water for the Murray upstream of Lake Victoria, decreased by 37 GL to 581 GL (or 19 % capacity). If it remains dry, storage in Hume Reservoir will continue to gradually fall, and by early autumn might be as low as 300 GL (10 % capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) is currently 11 500 ML/day and is likely to increase to 12 500 ML/day in the next few days in response to the high demands and river losses downstream. The release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased to 8 700 ML/day last week and is expected to be further increased to 9 200 ML/day in the next few days.

The NSW Government has announced a second replenishment flow of up to 30 GL for the Wakool River system. This will provide much needed stock and domestic water to landholders and help replenish the environment by flushing stagnant, salty water and rejuvenating fish habitats and riparian flora.

Low flows to affect weir pools in Sunraysia. The extreme period of hot and dry weather along the Murray has resulted in very high irrigation demand and transmission losses, and is resulting in very low river flows in the Sunraysia district. At Wentworth Weir the flow has decreased from 2 000 to 1 000 ML/day, and is expected to remain very low during the coming week. Over the next few days, the pool level at Euston Weir will be lowered by up to 20 cm to provide a small boost to downstream flows. The weir pools at Mildura and Wentworth are currently a few cm below full supply level, and may fall to about 10 cm below full supply level this weekend. Increased releases from Yarrowonga Weir and Hume Dam have arrived at Torrumbarry Weir where the downstream flow has increased from 4 100 to 5 250 ML/day. This will allow the Torrumbarry Weir pool level to be slowly raised back towards full supply level. The increased flows are expected to arrive at Euston Weir in four to six days time.

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 37 GL to 286 GL (42 % capacity) and is expected to continue falling over the coming weeks while it supplies the bulk of South Australia's water requirements. As a result of the extreme hot weather, Locks 1 to 6 in South Australia all remain slightly below full supply level.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently -0.72 m AHD and continues to fall, in response to the very hot and dry conditions. This is well below the water level of -0.2m AHD at this time last year.

The recent hot weather, combined with the very low flows, has increased the risk of algal blooms and all water users along the Murray are advised to remain vigilant. Further information and algal alerts are provided by the NSW Department of Water and Energy, and by SA Water.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 28 Jan 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	419.09	879	22%	80	799	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.27	581	19%	30	551	-37
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.41	286	42%	100	186	-37
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		120	7%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		1 865	20%	--	1 536	-78

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **18%**

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		525	51%	3	522	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		561	34%	24	537	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		660	19%	100	560	-33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Jan-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	740	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+30	431
Snowy-Murray Component	380	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	208
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	30.0	223
			Murray 1 Release	+30	621

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.5	73.8
Wakool System loss	0.3	22.3
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	15.6
Licensed Pumps	5.2	64.7
Lower Darling	0.7	7.2
TOTAL	10.1	183.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.0	65
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.7	120
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.2	69
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	10.0	62
TOTAL	31.4	322

* 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	217 *	
Flow this week	33.8	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	127	
Flow last month	136	

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

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	80	80	70
Euston	70	70	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	120	120	140
Burtundy (Darling)	530	510	390
Lock 9	240	240	220
Lake Victoria	280	290	250
Berri	340	330	370
Waikerie	430	430	490
Morgan	520	480	530
Mannum	720	740	600
Murray Bridge	760	750	590
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 020	4 940	4 050
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 960	4 870	3 670
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	8 190	8 210	5 910
Goolwa Barrages	26 570	27 100	18 570



Week ending Wednesday 28 Jan 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	-	-	-	5 750	F	4 350	5 520
Jingellic	4.0	1.68	208.20	4 650	R	4 900	4 930
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	590	S	620	680
Heywoods	5.5	2.72	156.35	10 920	R	10 470	10 000
Doctors Point	5.5	2.71	151.18	11 400	F	11 240	10 690
Albury	4.3	1.68	149.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.35	128.37	10 300	R	10 230	9 490
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.48	116.52	8 710	S	8 720	8 030
Tocumwal	6.4	1.98	105.82	8 310	S	8 240	7 560
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.80	80.35	5 250	R	4 740	4 080
Swan Hill	4.5	0.93	63.85	4 170	R	3 980	4 290
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.99	51.11	4 160	R	4 170	4 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.83	42.67	3 850	S	4 040	4 800
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 130	F	2 530	3 110
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	1 310	F	1 650	2 140
Rufus Junction	-	3.11	20.04	4 340	F	4 410	4 210
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.66	-	1 460	S	1 340	1 500
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.76	153.99	290	F	390	350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.67	145.35	240	F	230	160
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	450	R	390	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.35	81.12	1 120	F	1 090	1 150
Edward at Liewah	-	1.64	57.02	940	S	940	890
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.77	54.26	0	F	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	270	R	220	170
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	120	F	260	640
Darling at Bourke	-	4.19	-	790	S	790	840
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	170	R	160	300

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)		
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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	-0.10	+0.80
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.19	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.11	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.10	+0.38
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+0.08
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.04	+0.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	-0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	-1.41

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.78	0.468	69.818	146
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.156	61.456	274

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.72

Barrages

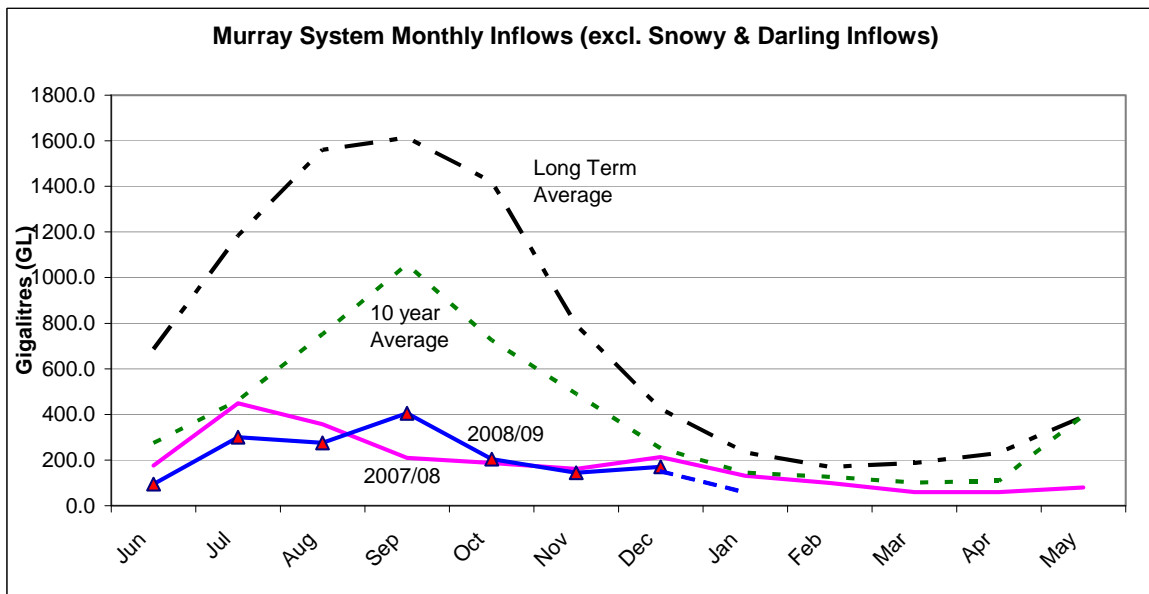
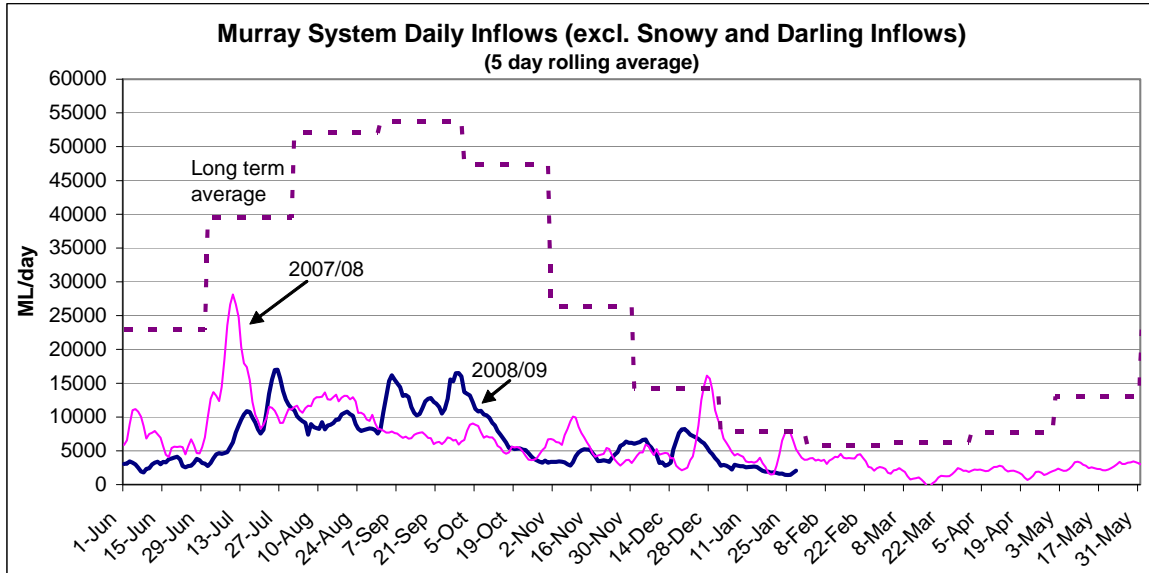
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.67	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.52	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



Week ending Wednesday 28th January 2009



State Allocations (as at 28th January 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	29%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18% (on 1st Feb)
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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>