

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

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12 December, 2008



Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week much of the southern Basin received falls of 1 to 10 mm. Falls Creek in southern Victoria received the highest fall of 19 mm. The northern Basin experienced heavier rain with parts of northern NSW and eastern Queensland recording between 25 to 100 mm. Felton, in eastern Queensland, received the highest fall of 126 mm. The light rain in the southern Basin was sufficient to reduce evaporation losses along the Murray, however tributary stream flows continue to recede.

River Operations

Dartmouth release has been reduced to 340 ML/day, after peaking at 3 000 ML/day on Friday 5th December. This concludes the second 'pulsed' release from Dartmouth for the season to transfer a small volume of water to Hume Reservoir whilst increasing the variability of flow along the Mitta Mitta River. The release from Hume Dam was increased from 6 600 to 7 800 ML/day to target a flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) of 8 500 ML/day. The flow at Doctors Point has since been reduced to 8 000 ML/day in anticipation of rain in the Upper Murray region this coming weekend.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is steady at about 124.7 m AHD (or 20 cm below Full Supply Level), and the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been held around 7 500 ML/day to assist in the delivery of a small stock and domestic replenishment flow to Bullatale Creek, near Deniliquin. Further downstream, the Torrumbarry Weir pool has been rising since late November and is expected to reach Full Supply Level (86.05 m AHD) within the next few days.

The reduction in the delivery of inter-valley trade water from the Murrumbidgee River has resulted in the tributary inflow at Balranald declining from 1 100 to 750 ML/day. The flow at Balranald is expected to gradually decrease over the coming weeks as the delivery of inter-valley trade is reduced further. Flows in Sunraysia peaked over the past week with Mildura and Wentworth flows reaching 6 300 and 7 500 ML/day respectively. If conditions remain dry, flows in Sunraysia are expected to gradually fall over coming months.

The flow to South Australia has been increased from 4 300 to 4 600 ML/day in order to maintain a target flow of approximately 1 650 ML/day downstream of Lock 1 and to provide for around 200 ML/day currently being siphoned into Lake Bonney. Locks 5 and 6 salinities have been gradually increasing since late November. At Lock 6 for instance, the salinity is currently 280 EC compared with 220 EC in mid November, due to a greater portion of the flow to South Australia being supplied from Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes rather than Hume Reservoir.

Salinities in the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, and also in the Lower Lakes, continue to increase. At Meningie (Lake Albert) in the Lower Lakes, the salinity is currently 6 700 EC, compared with 5 000 EC in early September and the salinity at Milang Jetty (Lake Alexandrina) is currently 4 500 EC, compared with 3 500 EC in early September. The water levels of the Lower Lakes continue to fall, with Lake Alexandrina at about -0.48 m AHD.

This is the last Weekly Report of the Murray–Darling Basin Commission. From Monday 15 December 2008 the functions of the Commission will transfer to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. Reports will continue to be distributed and will be available at www.mdba.gov.au.

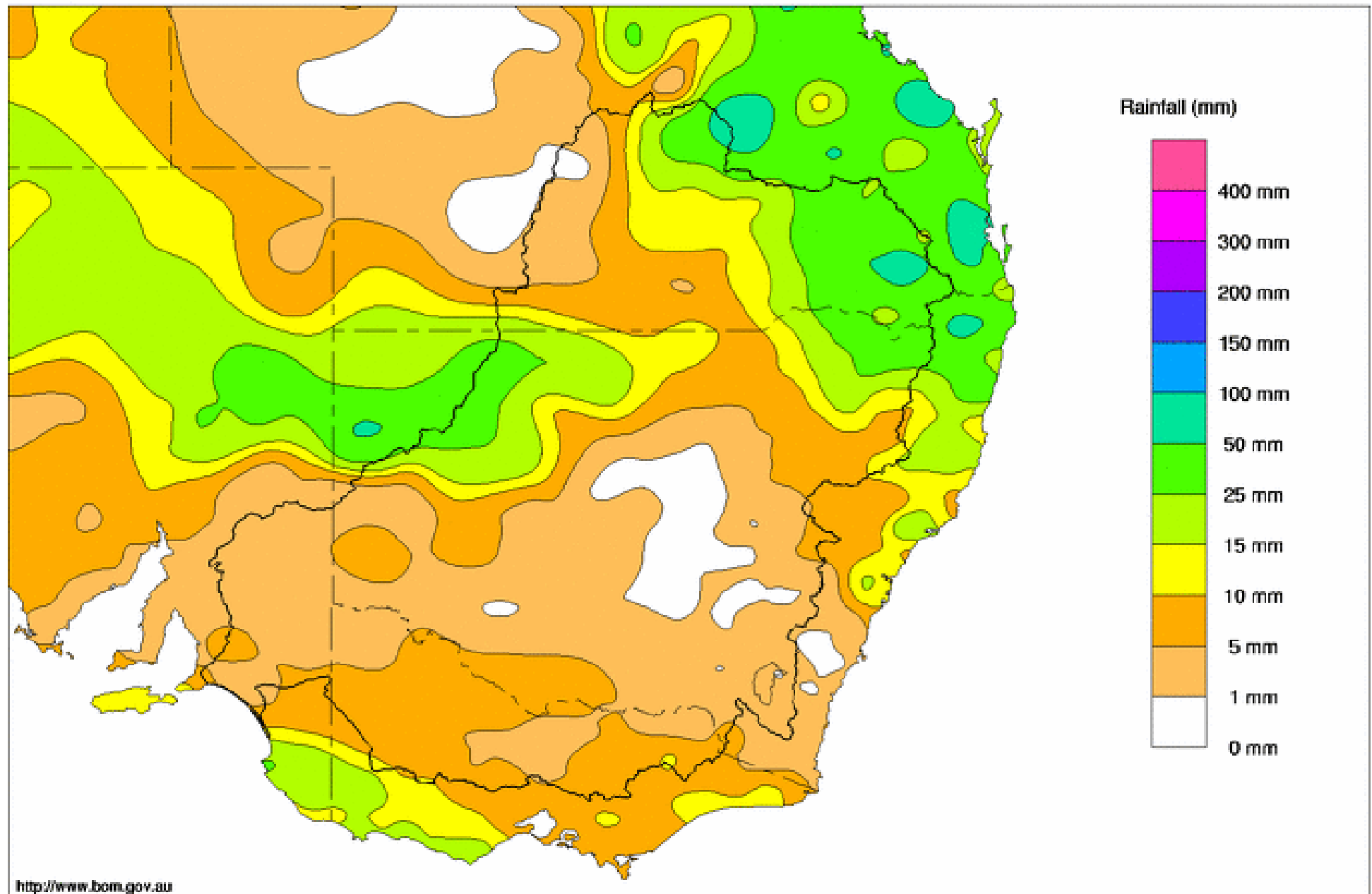
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th December 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



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	419.12	880	23%	80	800	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.09	842	28%	30	812	-38
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.79	323	48%	100	223	+19
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		196	11%	(- -) #	0	-22
Total		9 352		2 241	24%	--	1 834	-42

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	506	49%	3	503	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	620	38%	24	596	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	754	22%	100	654	-3

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Dec-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	718	+13	Snowy-Murray	+0	355
Snowy-Murray Component	404	+10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	179
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	0.0	176
			Murray 1 Release	+0	535

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.5	56.7
Wakool System loss	-0.3	22.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	8.2
Licensed Pumps	3.1	40.3
Lower Darling	0.4	4.2
TOTAL	4.5	131.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	42
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	4.0	67
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.7	38
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	10
TOTAL	18.1	160

* 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	31.8	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	45	
Flow last month	125	

* Reduced to approx. 140 GL during December drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	160	190	100
Red Cliffs	200	190	130
Merbein	180	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	390	390	370
Lock 9	190	200	210
Lake Victoria	270	270	250
Berri	320	320	380
Waikerie	400	400	500
Morgan	480	490	550
Mannum	610	670	550
Murray Bridge	620	590	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 380	4 400	3 830
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	4 350	4 280	3 410
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	6 530	6 680	5 390
Goolwa Barrages	19 340	19 390	17 460



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	360	S	570	720
Jingellic	4.0	1.17	207.69	1 190	F	1 640	2 400
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.41	218.30	500	F	1 070	610
Heywoods	5.5	2.36	155.99	7 840	R	7 050	6 600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.48	150.95	8 770	R	7 910	7 700
Albury	4.3	1.46	148.90	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.88	127.90	7 230	R	6 990	7 030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 430	R	7 320	7 460
Tocumwal	6.4	1.76	105.60	7 020	F	7 260	7 390
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.01	80.56	5 980	R	5 950	6 310
Swan Hill	4.5	1.19	64.11	5 760	S	5 960	6 180
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.50	51.62	6 110	F	6 300	6 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.51	43.35	7 660	F	7 740	7 950
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 940	F	6 090	6 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.05	27.81	6 890	R	7 160	7 480
Rufus Junction	-	3.08	20.01	4 170	F	3 950	3 580
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.32	-	1 730	R	1 640	1 710
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.95	154.18	485	F	660	990
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.86	145.54	547	F	730	1 100
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.09	92.51	327	R	320	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.07	80.85	810	S	920	800
Edward at Liewah	-	1.46	56.84	780	R	730	830
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.11	54.61	41	F	50	100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.19	57.15	761	F	920	1 160
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.68	-	1 362	F	1 150	430
Darling at Bourke	-	3.93	-	5	F	10	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.65	-	2 500	F	2 640	2 940

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 030	8 520
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.02	+0.81
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.04	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.05	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.41	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.46	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-1.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.78	1.022	70.372	809
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.00	0.763	62.063	930.075



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

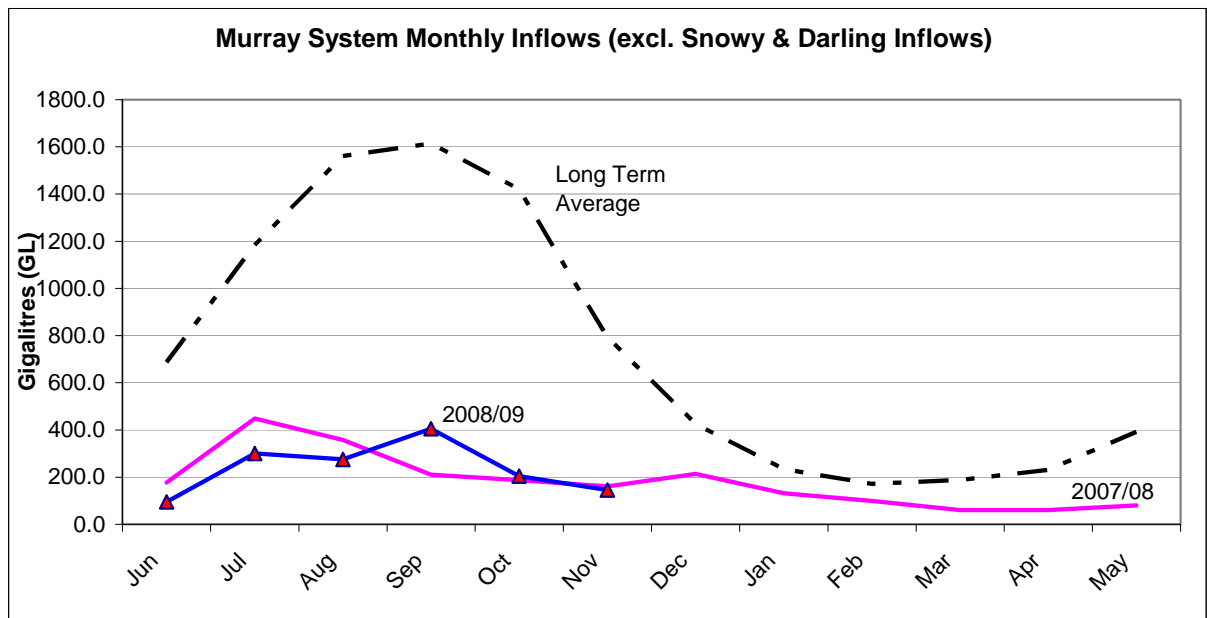
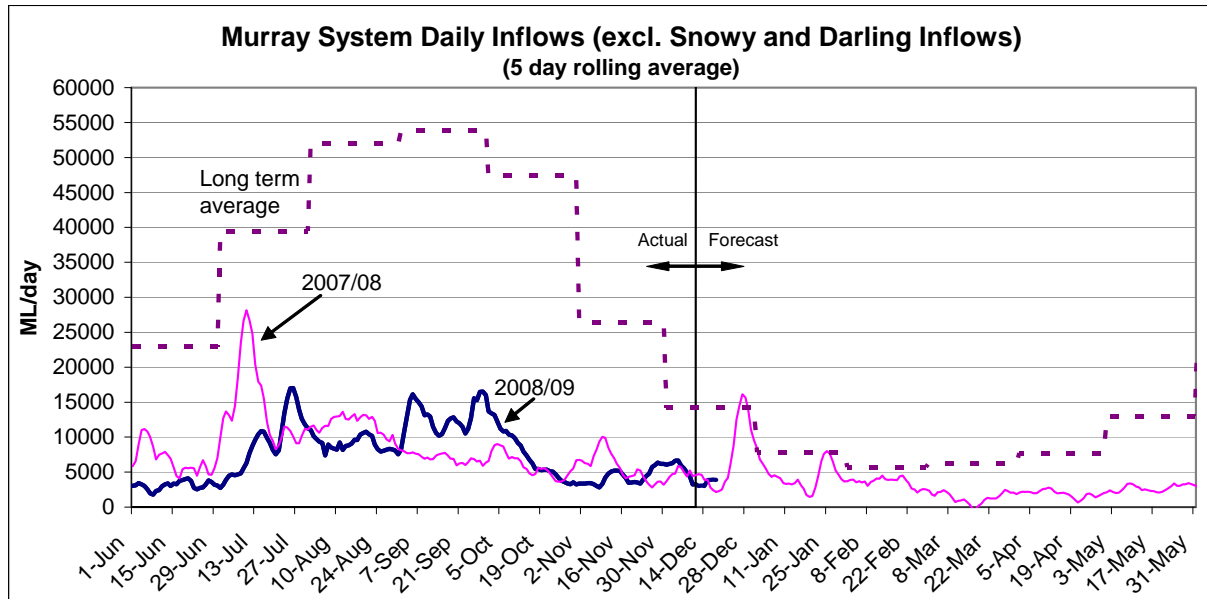
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.51

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.39	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.42	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 10th December 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	2%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	9% (& extra 2% Feb 09)

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	40%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	24%
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Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	21%
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South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	15%
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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>