



South Australia

# River Murray Water Resources Report



Issue 1: 6 July 2007

Welcome to the first edition of the South Australian River Murray Water Resource Assessment Report. The purpose of this regular report is to provide updates on the water resource conditions interstate and in South Australia, including information on irrigation allocations and probability of improvement.

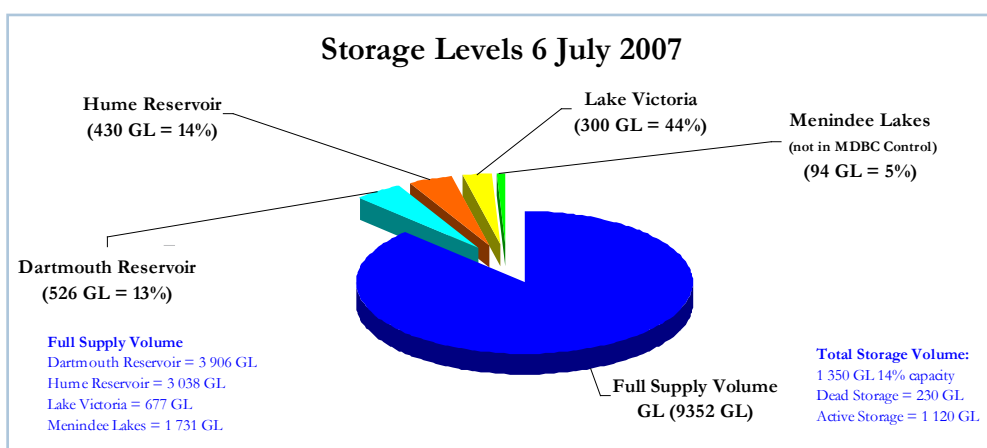
## Observations at a Glance

- River Murray storages and inflows have started to improve as a result of recent rainfall; however, storage levels still remain extremely low.
- This improvement has allowed the Minister for the River Murray to make an initial allocation of 14 GL for carry-over and 4% use of South Australian allocations. Allocations will be reviewed again in late July 2007.
- Average rainfall over the last three months across the catchment areas in north eastern Victoria has primed the catchment for runoff. Significant and persistent rainfall is required to increase storage levels and allocations during 2007-08.
- River Murray inflows have improved during June 2007 and a total of 212 GL was received compared to 115 GL at the same time last year.

## Summary of Murray-Darling Basin Storages

Inflows into Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs have increased as a result of higher inflows from the unregulated tributaries that feed into these storages. Snowy Hydro releases from the Murray 1 Power Station continue to contribute to increasing the level in Hume Reservoir, while improved inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers (downstream of Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs) have contributed to an increase in the storage level in Lake Victoria. Figure 1 outlines the current storage position at 6 July 2007. The total volume of water in storage is 1 309 GL (14%) compared to 3 860 GL (43%) at the same time last year.

Figure 1 Storage Levels



River Murray inflows (excluding Snowy Hydro releases) have started to improve as a result of recent rainfalls; however, they remain well below the long-term average inflow. Figure 2 (next page) indicates how the current inflows are tracking compared to the long-term average, 2006 inflows and the previous monthly minimum inflow. Substantial inflows are required to break the drought.

**Further information on River Murray conditions and rainfall forecasts can be obtained from the following websites:**

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au)

Murray-Darling Basin Commission [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

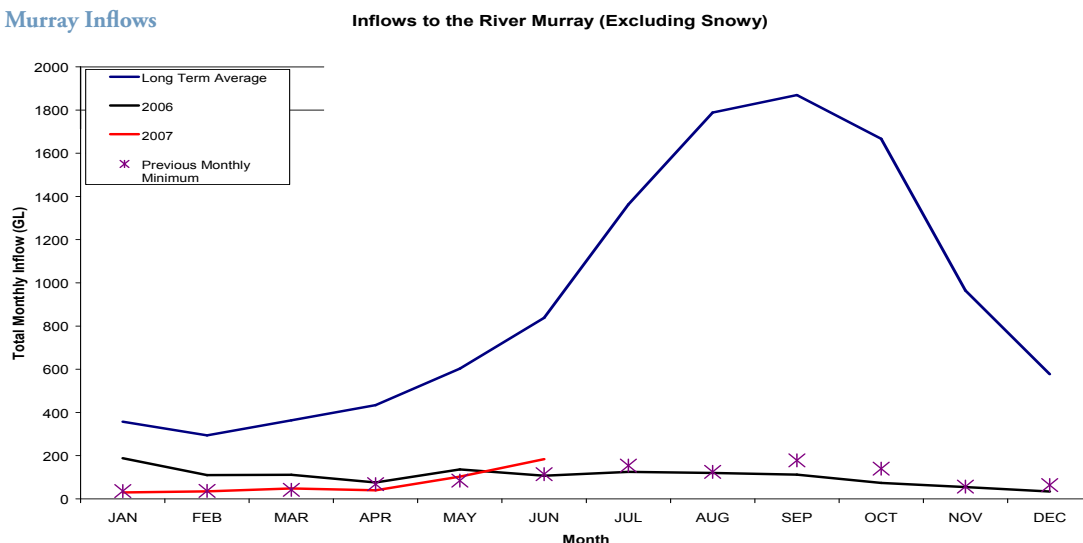
SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board [www.rivermurray.sa.gov.au/AWMN/awsview.php](http://www.rivermurray.sa.gov.au/AWMN/awsview.php)

SA Water Daily Reports [www.riverland.net.au/%Eheinz/ex-flow-frame.htm](http://www.riverland.net.au/%Eheinz/ex-flow-frame.htm)

Bureau of Meteorology [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

Queensland Department of Primary Industry [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au)

Figure 2 River Murray Inflows



## SA River Murray Operations

### Lock 6 to the Barrages

Due to ongoing low inflow conditions, the current flows to South Australia are below the normal July entitlement flow of 3 500 ML/day. The current flow is averaging only 1 200 ML/day and this is impacting on water levels in some weir pools, particularly in the upper reaches of all weir pools and below Lock 1. Information on pool levels can be found below in Table 1.

	Actual Water Levels at 02/7/07		Full Supply Level Level	Variation from Pool Level	Current EC Level
	U/S mAHD	D/S mAHD	U/S of Weir m AHD	U/S of Weir m AHD	
<b>Lock 6</b>	19.20	16.22	19.25	-0.05	228
<b>Lock 5</b>	16.30	13.20	16.30	0	284
<b>Lock 4</b>	13.20	9.90	13.20	0	448
<b>Lock 3</b>	9.81	6.21	9.80	0.01	577
<b>Lock 2</b>	6.12	3.22	6.10	0.02	515
<b>Lock 1</b>	3.26	0.11	3.20	0.06	437
<b>Lake Alexandrina</b>	0.17				1720
<b>Lake Albert (Meningie)</b>	0.23				2530
<b>Goolwa</b>					15000

Lake Alexandrina and Albert water and salinity Levels based on 5 day average

Water levels below Lock 1 are affected by wind and will vary throughout the day

EC Readings below Lock 1 are daily averages and will vary throughout the day

### South Australian River Murray Water Entitlements

All licensed River Murray irrigators are currently restricted to 4% use of their licensed allocation. The Minister for the River Murray has announced 14 GL will be available for carry-over. For further information on River Murray water restrictions and carry-over, please visit DWLBC's website at: [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/rivercond/index.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/rivercond/index.html)

### Likelihood of Improvement During 2007-08

The likelihood of an increase in River Murray water allocations cannot be determined until late July 2007 when the Murray-Darling Basin Commission provides its latest water resource assessment. This assessment will include the recent improvements in River Murray inflows. The level of restriction will be reviewed on a monthly basis and will be subject to change due to rainfall and inflows across the Murray-Darling Basin and in South Australia.

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