



# River Murray Water Resources Report

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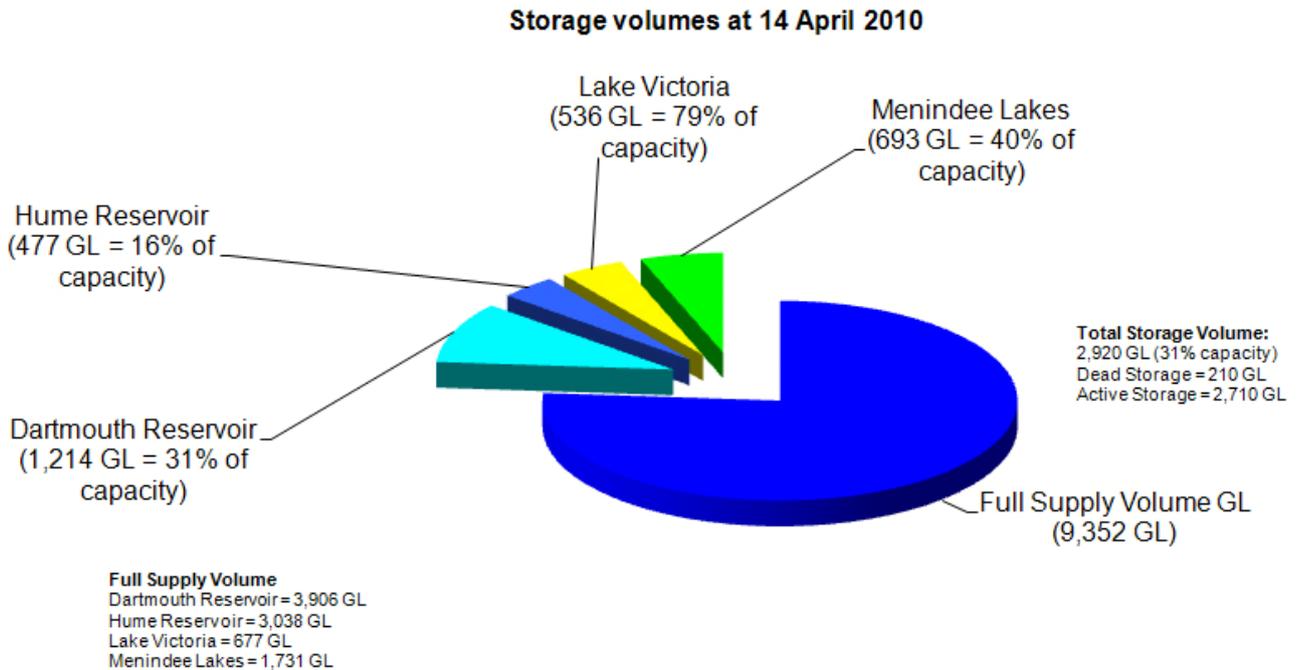
## Observations at a glance

- Irrigators are currently able to access 62% of their water entitlement.
- The volume of water in upstream storages is currently 2,920 GL (31% capacity), compared to 1,371 GL (15% capacity) at the same time last year.
- South Australia has been officially assigned the first 257 billion litres of floodwaters from Queensland and New South Wales, which are now on their way to the Menindee Lakes.

## Murray-Darling Basin storages

The volume of water in storage in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes is currently 2,920 GL (31% capacity), compared to 1,371 GL (15% capacity) at the same time last year. Current storage levels are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Murray-Darling Basin storages



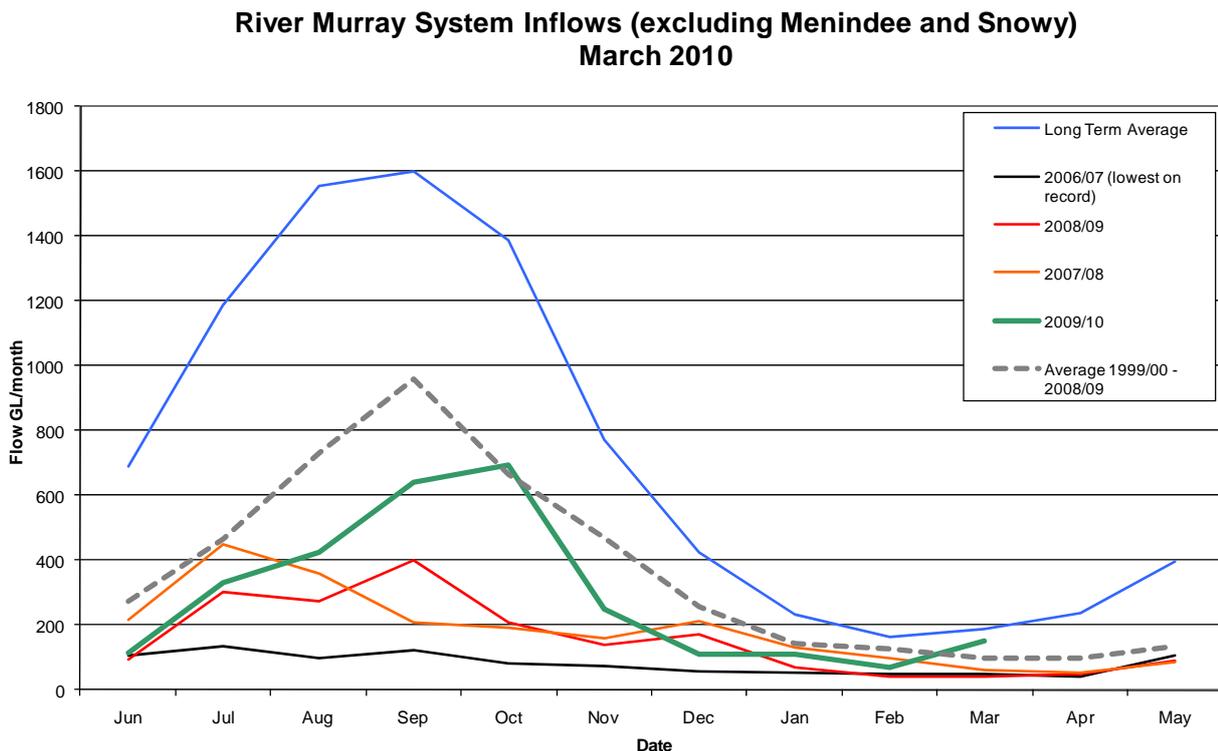
## Rainfall and River Murray inflows

The total River Murray system inflow so far in 2009-10 is 2,895 GL. This is well below the long-term average for this period of 8,200 GL. The average inflow during this period over the past 10 years was 4,190 GL.

River Murray inflow during March 2010 was 150 GL, which was higher than the 40 GL received in March 2009 but less than the long-term March average of about 190 GL.

Figure 2 shows the River Murray System inflows.

Figure 2: River Murray system inflows



On 1 April 2010, Minister for the River Murray, Paul Caica, announced that South Australia had been officially assigned the first 257 GL of floodwaters from Queensland and New South Wales, which are now on their way to the Menindee Lakes. Minister Caica said South Australia is set to get a minimum of 500 GL of water from the Queensland floods, with this first tranche arriving within weeks.

For further information view the Minister's full announcement at

<http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/images/stories/mediareleasesAPR10/water%20reserve.pdf>

## River operations

The flow to South Australia has remained high during January, February and March due to the delivery of the State's Lower Lakes Environmental Reserve (170 GL), which began in December 2009. This water was delivered in full by the end of March 2010.

Further water secured by South Australia in January 2010 from flooding in New South Wales is now being delivered to the Lower Lakes. This means higher flows will continue over Lock 1 until the end of May 2010.

Higher flows across the border will also continue for the remainder of 2009-10 and most weir pools are slightly above their normal full supply level.

Information about river operations upstream of the South Australian border is available from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)

## Salinity and water levels

Salinity levels between Lock 6 and Murray Bridge remain low. However below Wellington salinity levels in both Lakes Alexandrina and Albert remain high. The average salinity in Lake Alexandrina is currently 3,730 EC and in Lake Albert is currently 17,475 EC.

The average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about minus 0.64m AHD, and in Lake Albert the average water level is about minus 0.62m AHD.

**Table 1** shows the current water levels and salinity at selected locations.

**Table 1: Water and salinity levels at 14 April 2010**

	Actual Water Levels at 14/04/10		Full Supply Level Level	Variation from Pool Level	Current EC Level
	U/S mAHD	D/S m AHD	U/S of Weir m AHD	U/S of Weir m AHD	
Lock 6	19.26	16.39	19.25	-0.09	194
Lock 5	16.36	13.43	16.30	0.06	217
Lock 4	13.22	10.61	13.20	0.02	238
Lock 3	9.82	6.50	9.80	0.03	276
Lock 2	6.19	3.53	6.10	0.09	282
Lock 1	3.30	-0.22	3.20	0.10	265
Lake Alexandrina (average)	-0.64				3,730
Lake Albert (average)	-0.62				17,475
Goolwa	-0.05				17,550
Water levels below Lock 1 are affected by wind and will vary throughout the day					
EC Readings below Lock 1 are averages and will vary throughout the day					

## Water allocations in South Australia and interstate

River Murray irrigation allocations in South Australia are currently at 62% of water entitlement and will remain at this level until 30 June 2010.

The 2010-11 carry-over application process closed on 31 March 2010. Late applications will not be accepted.

The latest information about allocations in New South Wales is available at <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/>

The latest information about allocations in Victoria is available at [http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases/2009\\_media\\_releases](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases/2009_media_releases)

## **Weather outlook**

The Bureau of Meteorology recently released their national rainfall and temperature outlook for the Murray-Darling Basin for the period April to June 2010. The seasonal climate outlook shows a 40-70% chance of exceeding median rainfall, and a 40-50% chance of exceeding median maximum daytime temperatures.

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