



River Murray Water Resources Report

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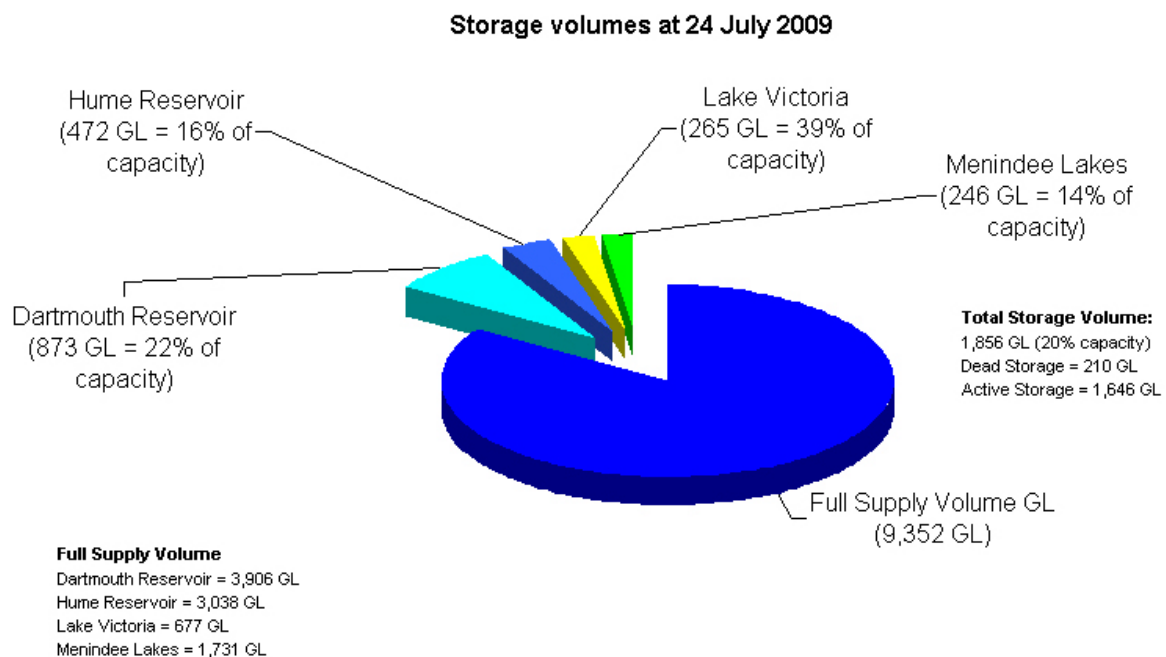
Observations at a glance

- Irrigators are currently able to access 2% of their allocation and 100% of their approved carry-over water volume.
- The volume of water in upstream storages is currently 1,856 GL (20% capacity), compared to about 2,150 GL (23% capacity) at the same time last year.
- Public information sessions of interest to River Murray communities will be held this week at Langhorne Creek, Murray Bridge, Waikerie and Berri.
- Below Lock 1 water levels remain low and salinity levels remain high due to reduced flows into South Australia.

Murray-Darling Basin storages

The volume of water in storage in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes is currently 1,856 GL (20% capacity), compared to about 2,150 GL (23% capacity) at the same time last year. Current storage levels are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Murray-Darling Basin storages



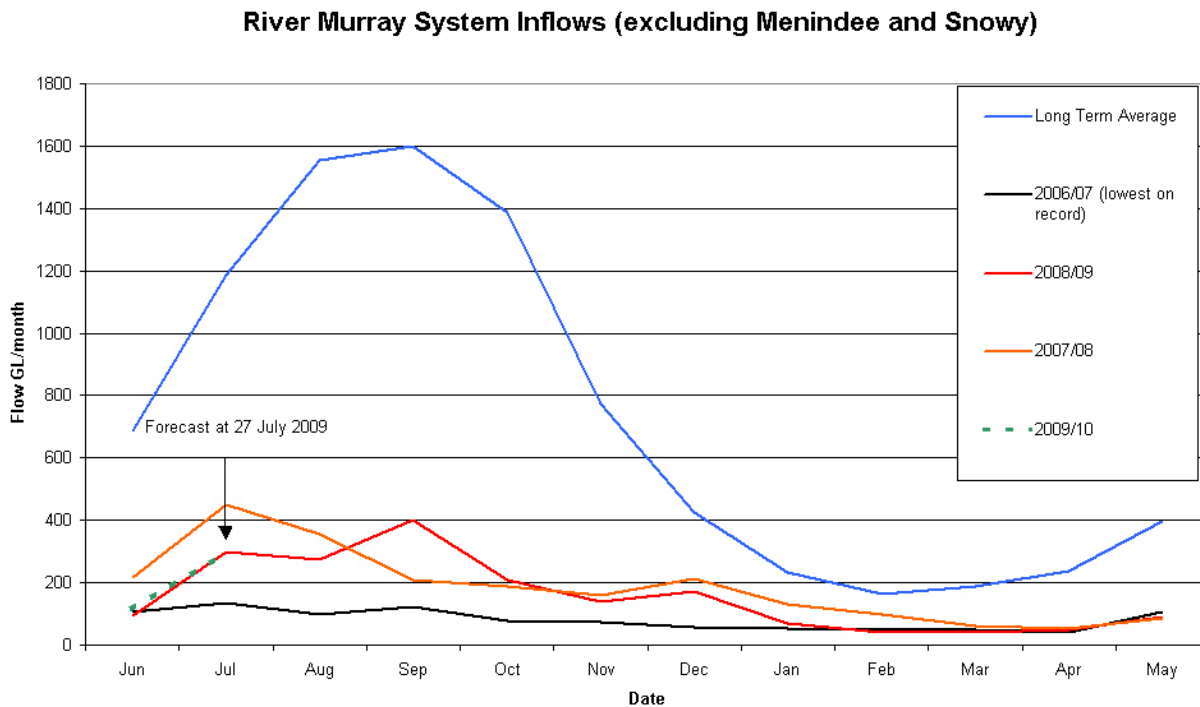
Rainfall and River Murray inflows

River Murray system inflows have remained at low levels despite much of the Murray-Darling Basin receiving average rainfall during June, with follow up rainfall in July. The June inflow was just 110 GL, compared to the long-term average of 690 GL.

Heavy rainfall late last month and early this month could result in about 290 GL of inflow for July. This would still be well below the long-term July average of 1,190 GL.

Figure 2 shows the monthly River Murray inflows.

Figure 2: River Murray system inflows (excluding Menindee and Snowy)



River operations

Flows to South Australia have been reduced to 1,700 ML/day. This flow still provides about 1,000-1,100 ML/day over Lock 1.

Information about river operations upstream of the South Australian border is available from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority website www.mdba.gov.au

Salinity and water levels

Salinity levels above Lock 1 remain fairly low. However, downstream of Lock 1 salinity levels remain high due to low water levels. Salinity in Lake Alexandrina (at Milang) is currently 5,443 EC compared to about 4,090 EC last July. Salinity in Lake Albert (at Meningie) is currently 9,454 EC.

In Lake Alexandrina (Milang) the water level is currently about minus 0.89m AHD, and in Lake Albert (at Meningie) it is about minus 0.19m AHD.

Table 2 shows the current water levels and salinity at selected locations.

Table 2: Water and salinity levels

	Actual Water Levels at 27/07/09		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	19.17	16.30	19.25	-0.08	215
Lock 5	16.36	13.29	16.30	0.06	386
Lock 4	13.26	9.98	13.20	0.06	432
Lock 3	9.86	6.32	9.80	0.03	399
Lock 2	6.24	3.30	6.10	0.14	455
Lock 1	3.30	-0.69	3.20	0.10	412
Lake Alexandrina (Milang)	-0.89				5,443
Lake Albert (Meningie)	-0.19				9,454
Goolwa	-0.85				20,294
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					

Water allocations in South Australia and interstate

River Murray irrigation allocations in South Australia are currently at 2%. View the Minister's latest River Murray announcement at www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html

The latest information about allocations in New South Wales is available at www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currn.html or http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/water/avail_alloc.shtml

The latest information about allocations in Victoria is available at www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases/media-releases-2008/

Public meetings this week

Public information sessions of interest to River Murray communities will be held this week at Langhorne Creek, Murray Bridge, Waikerie and Berri. The meetings will include information about the drought, the outlook for irrigation allocations in 2009-10 and the unbundling of water licences.

Details of the meetings are as follows: Tuesday 28 July: Langhorne Creek, 1pm, Football Club; Murray Bridge, 4.30pm, Unity College Steeple. Wednesday 29 July: Waikerie, 10am, Waikerie Club; Berri, 2pm, Berri Resort. For further information contact DWLBC on (08) 8463 7068.

Carry-over

Irrigators can now access 100% of their approved carry-over volume. The carry-over policy and further information is available at www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html#Carryoverwater

Weather outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's national outlook for total rainfall over the late winter to mid-spring period (August to October) shows a 40-45% chance of exceeding the median rainfall across most of the Murray-Darling Basin. There is a 70-80% chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature during the same period.

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

SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

Murray-Darling Basin Commission www.mdbc.gov.au

SA Water Daily Reports www.riverland.net.au/%7Eheinze/ex-flow-frame.htm

Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au

Queensland Department of Primary Industry www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au

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