



# River Murray Water Resources Report

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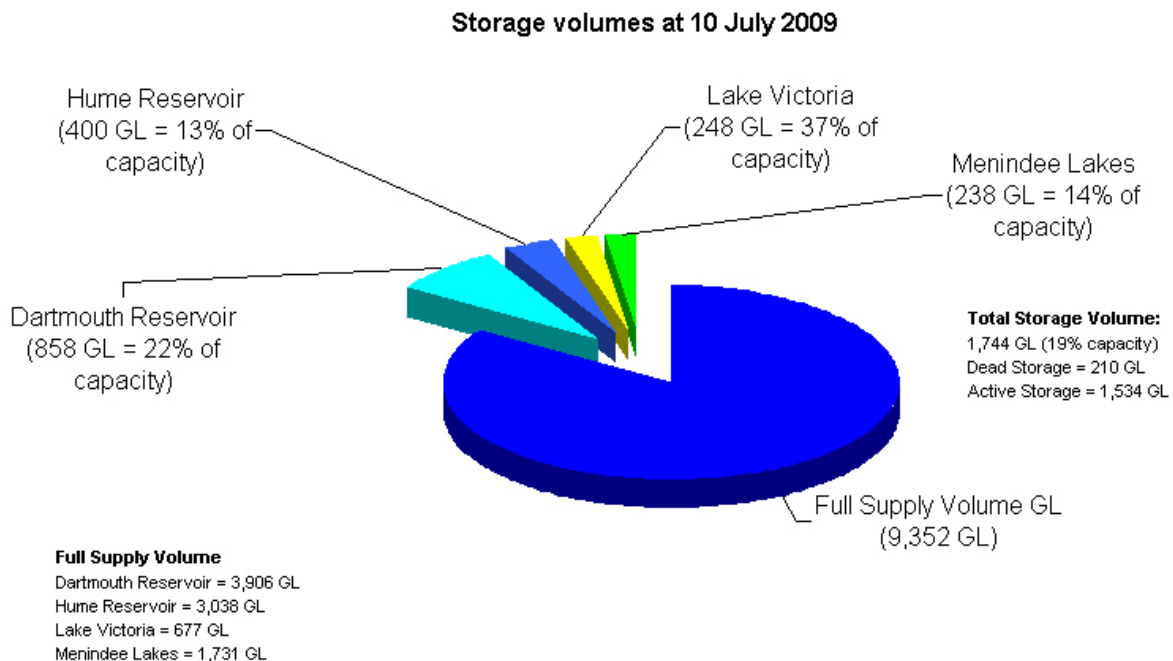
## Observations at a glance

- Irrigators began the 2009-10 water year on 1 July with a 2% opening allocation and access to 80% of their approved carry-over water volume.
- The volume of water in upstream storages is currently 1,744 GL (19% capacity), compared to about 2,150 GL (23% capacity) in July last year.
- In June about 110 GL flowed into the River Murray and the inflow for July is expected to be at least double this volume.
- 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 1,744 GL (19% capacity), compared to about 2,150 GL (23% capacity) in July last year. Current storage levels are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Murray-Darling Basin storages



## Rainfall and River Murray inflows

Recent rainfall has wet catchments and improved River Murray system inflows. In June 2009 about 110 GL flowed into the River Murray and the inflow for July 2009 is expected to be at least double this volume. Further rainfall over this weekend and during the remainder of July will increase the inflow.

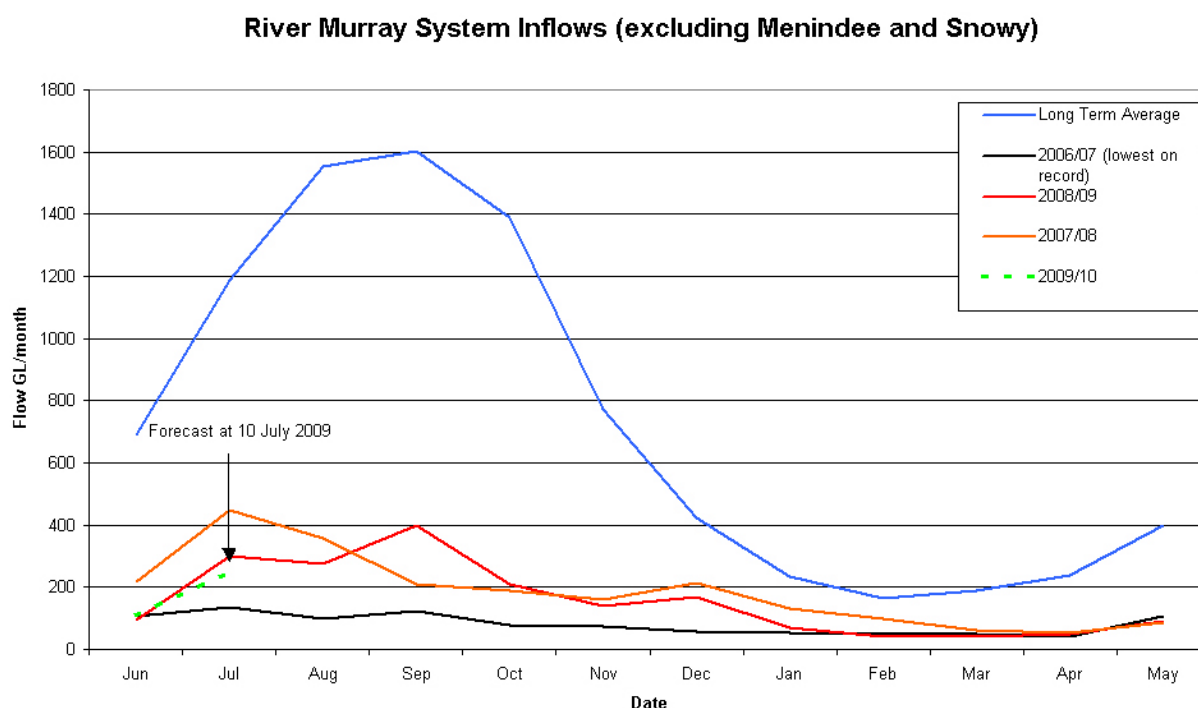
River Murray system inflows for the June-July period based on selected years/periods are listed below in Table 1.

**Table 1: River Murray system inflows in the June-July period**

Period (June-July)	River Murray System Inflow (GL)
2009-10	330+ (depending upon further rainfall in July)
2008-09	395
2007-08	665
2006-07	240
Last 10 years	735
Long-term average	1 875

Figure 2 shows the monthly River Murray inflows.

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



## River operations

Flow to South Australia is currently averaging 1,700-1,800 ML/day due to lower demand, reduced losses and the need to conserve water. This flow still provides around 1,000 ML/day over Lock 1. All weir pools with the exception of Lock 6 are currently above their normal full supply levels.

Information on 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 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 4,982 EC compared to about 4,090 EC last July. Salinity in Lake Albert (at Meningie) is currently 8,955 EC.

In Lake Alexandrina (Milang) the water level is currently about minus 0.87m AHD, and in Lake Albert (at Meningie) it is about minus 0.28m AHD.

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

**Table 2: Water and salinity levels**

	Actual Water Levels at 10/07/09		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	
<b>Lock 6</b>	19.17	16.26	19.25	-0.08	222
<b>Lock 5</b>	16.34	13.24	16.30	0.04	320
<b>Lock 4</b>	13.22	9.97	13.20	0.02	363
<b>Lock 3</b>	9.82	6.25	9.80	0.03	414
<b>Lock 2</b>	6.19	3.28	6.10	0.09	375
<b>Lock 1</b>	3.28	-0.83	3.20	0.08	435
<b>Lake Alexandrina (Milang)</b>	-0.87				4,982
<b>Lake Albert (Meningie)</b>	-0.28				8,955
<b>Goolwa</b>	-0.65				22,151
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](http://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](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currn.html) or [http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/water/avail\\_alloc.shtml](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/](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases/media-releases-2008/)

## Carry-over

Irrigators can currently access 80% 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](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html#Carryoverwater)

## Weather outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's national outlook for total rainfall over the September quarter (July to September) shows some parts of the Murray-Darling Basin are likely to be drier than usual. The national outlook for maximum temperatures during the September quarter shows warmer than normal days are expected across much of the Basin.

### 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)  
SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board [www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)  
Murray-Darling Basin Commission [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)  
SA Water Daily Reports [www.riverland.net.au/%7Eheinz/ex-flow-frame.htm](http://www.riverland.net.au/%7Eheinz/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)

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