



River Murray Water Resources Report

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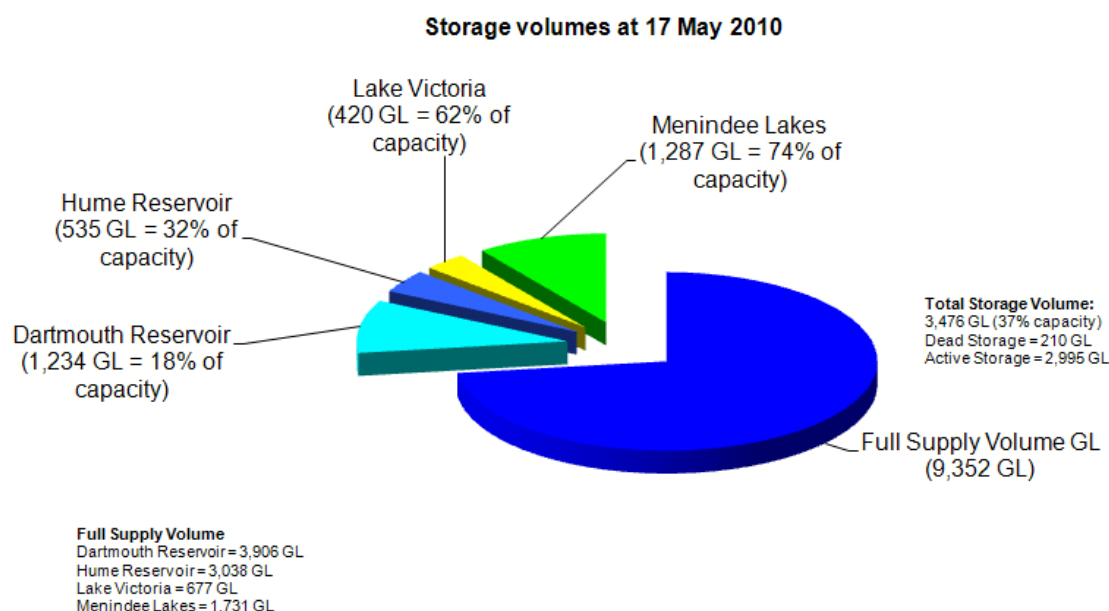
Observations at a glance

- Irrigators are currently able to access 62% of their water entitlement.
- The volume of water in upstream storages is currently 3,476 GL (37% capacity), compared to 1,320 GL (14% capacity) at the same time last year.
- The inflow for April 2010 was 140 GL, which is one of the highest April inflows in the past 10 years.

Murray-Darling Basin storages

The volume of water in storage in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes is currently 3,476 GL (37% capacity), compared to 1,320 GL (14% capacity) at the same time last year. The long-term storage volume for the end of April is 4,960 GL (52%). Current storage levels are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Murray-Darling Basin storages



Rainfall and River Murray inflows

River Murray system inflows have continued to improve in response to recent rainfall. The inflow for April 2010 was 140 GL, which is one of the highest April inflows in the past 10 years. However, it was still below the long-term April average inflow of about 235 GL.

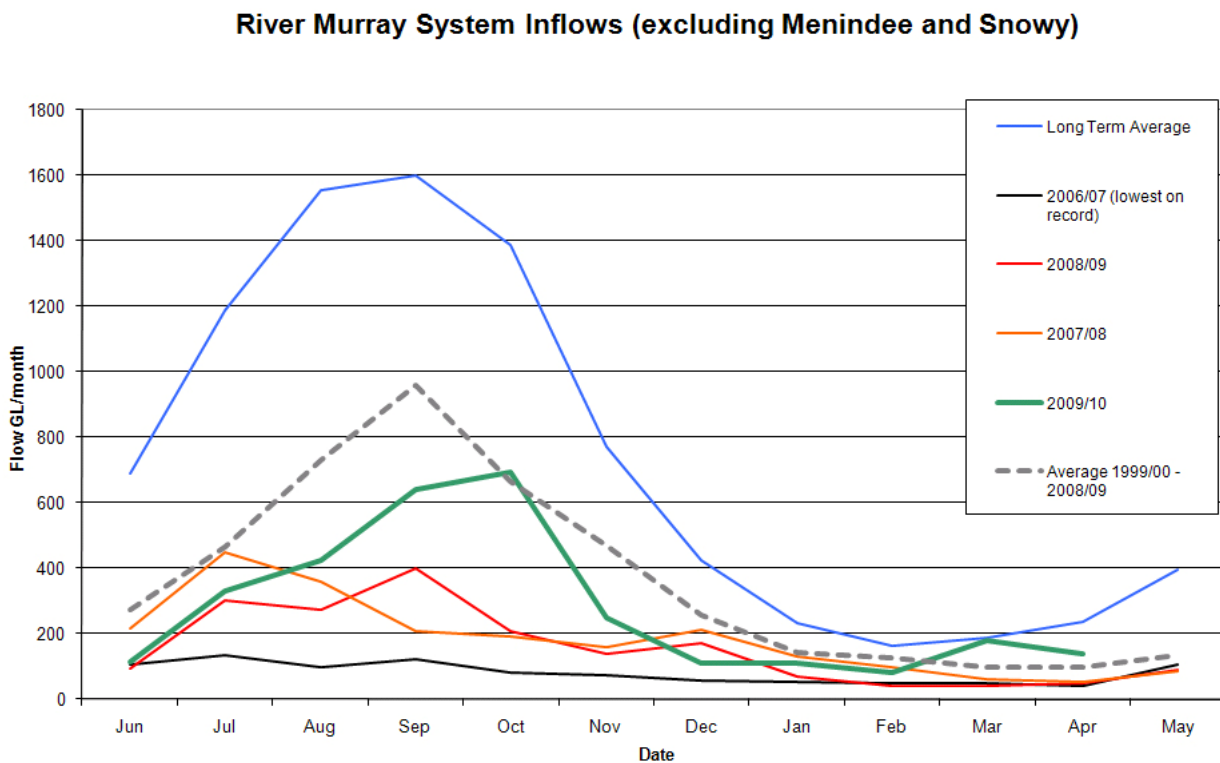
The total River Murray system inflow to the end of April 2010 was 3,070 GL. This was well below the long-term average of 8,440 GL, and the average over the past 10 years of 4,290 GL.

Table 1 and Figure 2 show the River Murray System inflows.

Table 1: River Murray system inflows in various years

Period June to April	River Murray System Inflow (GL) (Rounded totals)
2006-07	860
2007-08	2,140
2008-09	1,790
2009-10	3,070
Long-term average	8,440
Last 10 years	4,290

Figure 2: River Murray system inflows



River operations

The flow to South Australia will remain high during May 2010 to facilitate the delivery of about 5,500 ML/day, which includes environmental water currently being delivered to the Lower Lakes.

Flow past Lock 1 is currently averaging 4,190 ML/day, compared to about 1,270 ML/day in May 2009.

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 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 3,700 EC and in Lake Albert is currently 14,600 EC.

The average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about minus 0.51m AHD, and in Lake Albert the average water level is about minus 0.55m AHD.

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

Table 2: Water and salinity levels at 14 May 2010

	Actual Water Levels at 14/05/10		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	19.28	16.31	19.25	-0.09	177
Lock 5	16.32	13.37	16.30	0.02	210
Lock 4	13.22	10.45	13.20	0.02	227
Lock 3	9.84	6.41	9.80	0.03	253
Lock 2	6.19	3.42	6.10	0.09	255
Lock 1	3.25	-0.29	3.20	0.05	267
Lake Alexandrina (average)	-0.51				3,700
Lake Albert (average)	-0.55				14,600
Goolwa	-0.07				19,000
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					

Floodwater information

On 14 May 2010, the NSW Office of Water released its latest information paper about the passage of floodwaters along the Barwon-Darling River to the Menindee Lakes. This document can be found under the "News Updates" heading at www.water.nsw.gov.au/

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

Weather outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology recently released their national rainfall and temperature outlook for the Murray-Darling Basin for the period May to July 2010. The seasonal climate outlook shows a 45-75% chance of exceeding median rainfall, and a 40-60% chance of exceeding median maximum daytime temperatures.

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