



# MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## Temporary rise in Murray salinity at Wentworth expected

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission today advised water users on the Murray River between Wentworth and Lock 9 and also along Frenchman's Creek to expect an increase in salinity as the initial flush of water from the lower Darling River makes its way through the Wentworth Weir pool to Lake Victoria.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the water being delivered down the lower Darling River had arrived in the upper reaches of the Wentworth Weir pool and was expected to arrive at the weir on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

“Water quality monitoring in the lower Darling indicates that the salinity of the initial flush of Darling water is up to 1 700 EC and should quickly drop to about 250 to 300 EC,” she said.

A small temporary rise in salinity (up to 280 EC) in the Murray, which originated from the Campaspe River in mid-December, will also arrive at Wentworth in the next few days.

“Although the water from the lower Darling River will be diluted by the fresher water in the Murray River, the combined effect is expected to cause a short term rise in salinity for a couple of days, of about 700 EC in the Murray downstream of Wentworth.”

“The increased salinity should only be temporary and salinity below Wentworth Weir should return to more normal levels in the range of 150 to 250 EC,” Dr Craik said.

“We plan to mitigate impacts on South Australia by passing as much of the higher salinity water as possible into Lake Victoria where it will be diluted with 320 Gigalitres of 180 EC water. After mixing, the salinity in the lake is expected to rise by 40 EC to 220 EC.”

“We advise water users between Wentworth and Lock 9 to take into account the rise in salinity when planning their operations over the next two weeks,” Dr Craik said.

For the latest information on river salinity go to:

[www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/flow-salinity/flow&sal-forecast.pdf](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/flow-salinity/flow&sal-forecast.pdf)

**For media inquiries contact : Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332**

TRIM Ref: 08/1412