

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 August 2005

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Trim Ref : 05/13214

12 August, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

Further widespread rain fell across the southern and eastern parts of the Basin this week, with between 50 and 100 mm falling over the Murray Catchment. This rain generated significant rises in stream levels with the River Murray at Jingellic reaching 31 000 ML/day, the Kiewa River at Bandiana peaking at 9 500 ML/day and the Ovens River at Wangaratta reaching 12 000 ML/day.

The storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has increased by 57 GL to 1 891 GL (48% capacity), while storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 168 GL to 1 395 GL (46% capacity). Although the rate of inflow to Menindee Lakes is steadily declining, this storage increased by 44 GL to 457 GL (26% capacity).

River Murray Operations

To conserve water resources during this inflow event, the release from Hume Dam has been reduced to 600 ML/day and approximately 2 000 ML/day of the inflow to Lake Mulwala is being diverted along the Mulwala Canal and into the Edward River at Deniliquin. This water will be stored further downstream in Lake Victoria together with other inflows from this event. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 13 000 ML/day and to prevent overbank flows within the Barmah-Millewa Forest, several regulators on the banks of the River Murray within the forest have been opened to provide water to environmentally important wetlands. The increased inflow to the Edward River will also result in a higher flow in a number of rivers and creeks of the Edward-Wakool System, which have had very low flow for several months.

In late August there will be an increased inflow from the Murrumbidgee River, which will coincide with the current increased flow along the River Murray. Early indications are that this will produce a relatively small flow peak in the River Murray that may approach a level that would impact on the works program at Wentworth Weir (Lock 10) to construct a new fishway and to modify the navigable pass. To mitigate the flow peak before it reaches Wentworth Weir and minimise potential impacts on these important works, the Euston, Mildura and Wentworth weir pools will be partially drawn down over the coming weeks and be refilled from the flow peak as it passes (*see attached media release*). As part of this operation, the further refilling of the Torrumbarry Weir pool, which was partially lowered during July to allow an inspection of river bank erosion, will be delayed by one week to capture part of the flow peak as it passes that site.

It is expected that the inflow from this most recent rain and the additional inflow from the Murrumbidgee River will be fully captured in Lake Victoria. Storage in Lake Victoria increased this week by 21 GL to 448 GL (66% capacity).

At Lake Alexandrina, strong winds during the week forced a significant volume of water to flow over the causeway between Mundoo and Ewe Island Barrages and this has contributed to a small fall in the level of the lake to 0.84m AHD. In response the Tauwitchere and Goolwa Barrages have been closed, but the two fishways at Tauwitchere remain open.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 11 August 2005

Temporary changes to river levels in mid-Murray Weir pools



Temporary minor drawdown of weir pools above Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs will take place during August to aid major works at Weir and Lock 10 at Wentworth, River Murray Water (RMW) announced today.

The further refilling of Torrumbarry Weir pool, which was partly drawn down by 40cm during July, will be delayed as part of this program.

“The changes to weir pool levels is aimed at mitigating a small flow peak in the River Murray before it reaches Wentworth to enable major works underway at Lock 10 to proceed with minimal disruption” RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said.

“As a result of rainfall in early August, there will be an increase in flow along the River Murray and this will be enhanced further over the coming weeks by additional inflow from the Murrumbidgee River,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Early indications are that the peak flow at Wentworth may approach a level which would impact on works in progress at Lock 10, which is part of a long-term program to modify the navigable pass and construct new fishways at weirs along the River Murray Channel, one of the Living Murray significant ecological assets.”

“The Euston, Mildura and Wentworth weir pools will be gradually drawn down over the coming weeks and be refilled in late August as this relatively small flow peak passes. For the Torrumbarry Weir pool, which was partially lowered during July to allow an inspection of river bank erosion, the refilling of the upper 20 cm of the weir pool will be delayed by one week to capture part of the flow peak as it passes that site.”

“This planned operation will be subject to change at short notice if there are increased tributary inflows above current predictions.”

River diverters, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changes in river levels into account when planning their activities. The estimated changes in river levels are as follows:

Weir	Current Weir Pool Level	Estimated Maximum Drawdown	Approximate Start Date of Drawdown	Approximate Date Weir Pool Level to Reach Maximum Drawdown
Euston FSL = 47.60m AHD	At FSL	30 cm below FSL	11 August	19 August
Mildura FSL = 34.43m AHD	3 cm above FSL	10 cm below FSL	15 August	19 August
Wentworth FSL = 30.76m AHD	4 cm below FSL	10 cm below FSL	16 August	20 August
Torrumbarry FSL = 86.05m AHD	20 cm below FSL	20 cm below FSL	Already partially drawn down	Commence refilling 16 August

FSL is Full Supply Level; AHD is Australian Height Datum

For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

Phone: 02 6279 0107

Mobile: 0417 219 158

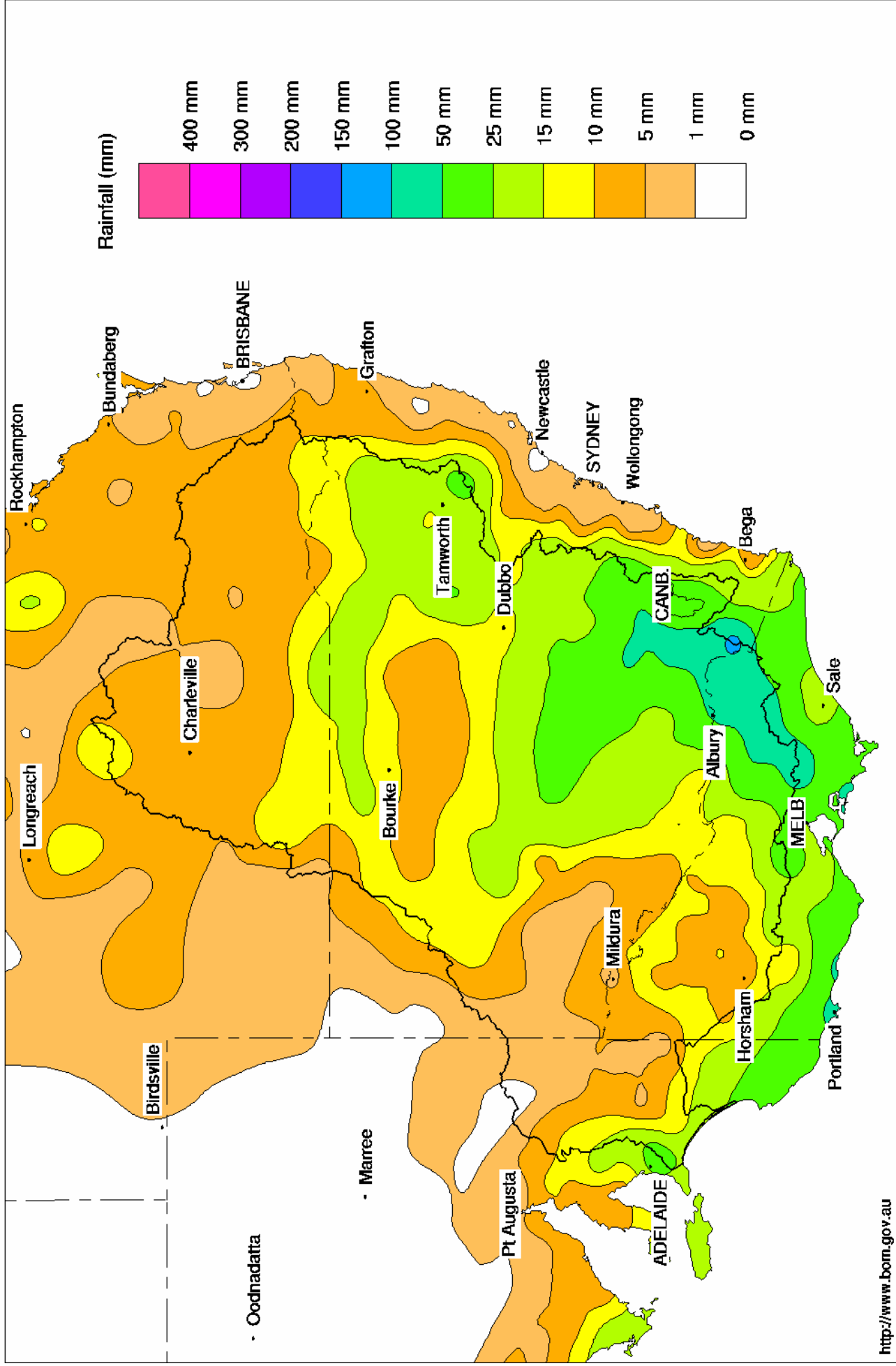
E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

**(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a
spokesperson)**

TRIM Ref: 05/13258

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th August 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	448.70	1 891	48%	80	1 811	+57
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.93	1 395	46%	30	1 365	+168
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.00	448	66%	100	348	+21
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		457	26%	(- -) #	0	+44
Total		9 352		4 190	45%	--	3 524	+290

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 41%

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		420	41%	3	417	+39
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		542	33%	24	518	+41
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 067	31%	100	967	+45

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Aug-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 903	+82	Snowy-Murray	+5	275
Snowy-Murray Component	845	+37	Tooma-Tumut	+15	76
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-9.8	199
			Murray 1 Release	+28	357

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	8.2	28.0
Wakool System loss	0.4	4.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.3
Licensed Pumps	0.6	3.7
Lower Darling	0.1	.3
TOTAL	9.4	37.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.0	18
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	2
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	0.0	8
TOTAL	15.8	28

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	
Flow this week	27.6	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	40	
Flow last month	109	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	120	140	150
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	130	140	130
Merbein	110	100	110
Burtundy (Darling)	530	530	540
Lock 9	170	170	160
Lake Victoria	200	200	200
Berri	310	310	310
Waikerie	470	490	500
Morgan	480	480	480
Mannum	450	450	450
Murray Bridge	440	430	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 370	1 370	1 370
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	860	950	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	2 140	2 150
Goolwa Barrages	2 280	1 800	1 810



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 900	F	7 050	3 190
Jingellic	4.0	2.59	209.11	13 080	F	19 140	7 310
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.20	219.09	3 680	R	3 410	2 020
Heywoods	5.5	1.22	154.85	600	S	1 950	4 600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.99	150.46	3 940	F	6 630	6 950
Albury	4.3	1.04	148.48	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.51	127.53	5 170	F	7 940	5 600
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.00	117.04	11 900	S	11 340	8 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.51	106.35	12 080	R	11 020	7 110
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.95	80.50	5 600	R	5 270	5 040
Swan Hill	4.5	1.03	63.95	4 680	R	4 340	5 600
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.32	51.44	5 150	F	5 930	7 360
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.30	43.14	6 140	F	7 680	8 250
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.00	8 050	F	8 470	7 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	7 110	F	7 550	7 290
Rufus Junction	-	3.07	20.00	3 810	R	3 540	3 250
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 980	S	3 960	3 960
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.45	155.68	4 270	F	6 530	2 360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.01	147.69	7 199	F	8 380	4 750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.70	93.12	1 250	R	800	600
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	F	1 870	580
Edward at Liewah	-	1.42	56.80	800	F	1 030	1 540
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.25	54.74	143	S	140	140
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.98	56.94	513	F	810	1 350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	-	190	S	220	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 630	S	1 900	3 850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	S	40	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	33 420	13 040
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	+0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.79
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.20	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.19

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	0.98	70.33	781
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.42	61.72	547

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.83

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.77	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.75	2



AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level