

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 July 2005

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22 July, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

Widespread showers fell over the southern part of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, bringing up to 50 mm of rain to north-eastern Victoria and to an isolated pocket in central NSW (*see attached map*). The rain led to renewed but minor increases in inflow to the Upper Murray.

River Murray Operation

On Monday 18 July, release from Dartmouth Reservoir increased from 200 ML/day to 750 ML/day for the purposes of electricity generation. Combined with local inflows, the flow at Tallandoon increased to about 2 000 ML/day (or 1.83 m gauge height). The duration of these higher releases will depend upon electricity demand in the near future and runoff from further rainfall.

Renewed inflows to the River Murray from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers were sufficient to meet downstream demands, and accordingly the release from Hume Reservoir remained steady at the minimum flow of 600 ML/day. The release from Hume has been restricted to the minimum flow since the middle of June, enabling inflow to the reservoir to be captured and stored for the coming water supply season. This week, the storage in Hume increased by a further 84 GL, to 1 129 GL (or 37% capacity), which is about 800 GL more than at the same time last season.

The first diversions for the season began this week from the Yarrawonga weir pool into the Mulwala Canal. Diversions initially commenced at low rates to start filling channels in preparation for the start of the 2005-06 irrigation season. Diversions from the Torrumbarry weir pool into the National Channel are also expected to commence today (Friday 22 July). In addition, NSW State Water will commence gradually refilling Stevens Weir Pool on the Edward River today (*see attached Media Release*).

Darling River System

Flows from the heavy rainfall in northern NSW earlier this month are slowly progressing downstream in the Darling Catchment. The flow in the Barwon River at Brewarrina peaked on Monday 18 July at about 17 000 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow in the Darling River at Bourke is close to 14 000 ML/day and is expected to peak near this level in the next few days. The first flows from this event have just reached Menindee Lakes, and current estimates indicate that the storage level may increase by about 70 GL. Such an increase would bring the storage level close to the peak level reached in February this year.

Lower Lakes and Barrages

Local rainfall and runoff has recently boosted the level of the Lower Lakes in South Australia, allowing the rock ramp and vertical slot fish-ladders in the Tauwitchere Barrage to be opened this week. One barrage gate adjacent to each of the fish-ladders has also been opened to provide flows to "attract" fish towards the fish-ladders. The release will be extended for as long as possible while ensuring that as much water as possible is made available for water users over the coming season.

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Media Release

18 July 2005

REFILLING OF STEVENS WEIR POOL STARTS THIS WEEK

State Water today advised that the refilling of Stevens Weir pool will commence later this week in preparation for the 2005-2006 irrigation season.

South Area Customer Service Manager, Lindsay Beck said the gradual refilling of the weir pool is scheduled to start on Friday 22 July 2005.

'The pool level will be increased by approximately 30cm per day, to a level that will meet current requirements.

'The refilling of the weir pool is expected to take about ten days.

'River users should take into account expected changes to river conditions in the next few weeks when planning their activities

'Increases in the Edward River level at Denilquin around the end of June had not been from the operation of Stevens Weir, but from an increase in flows into the Edward River system.

State Water will also start refilling the Wakool River system, Yallakool, and Colligen Creeks via their offtake regulators, when the water level in the Stevens Weir pool has reached targeted levels,' Mr Beck concluded.

- ENDS -

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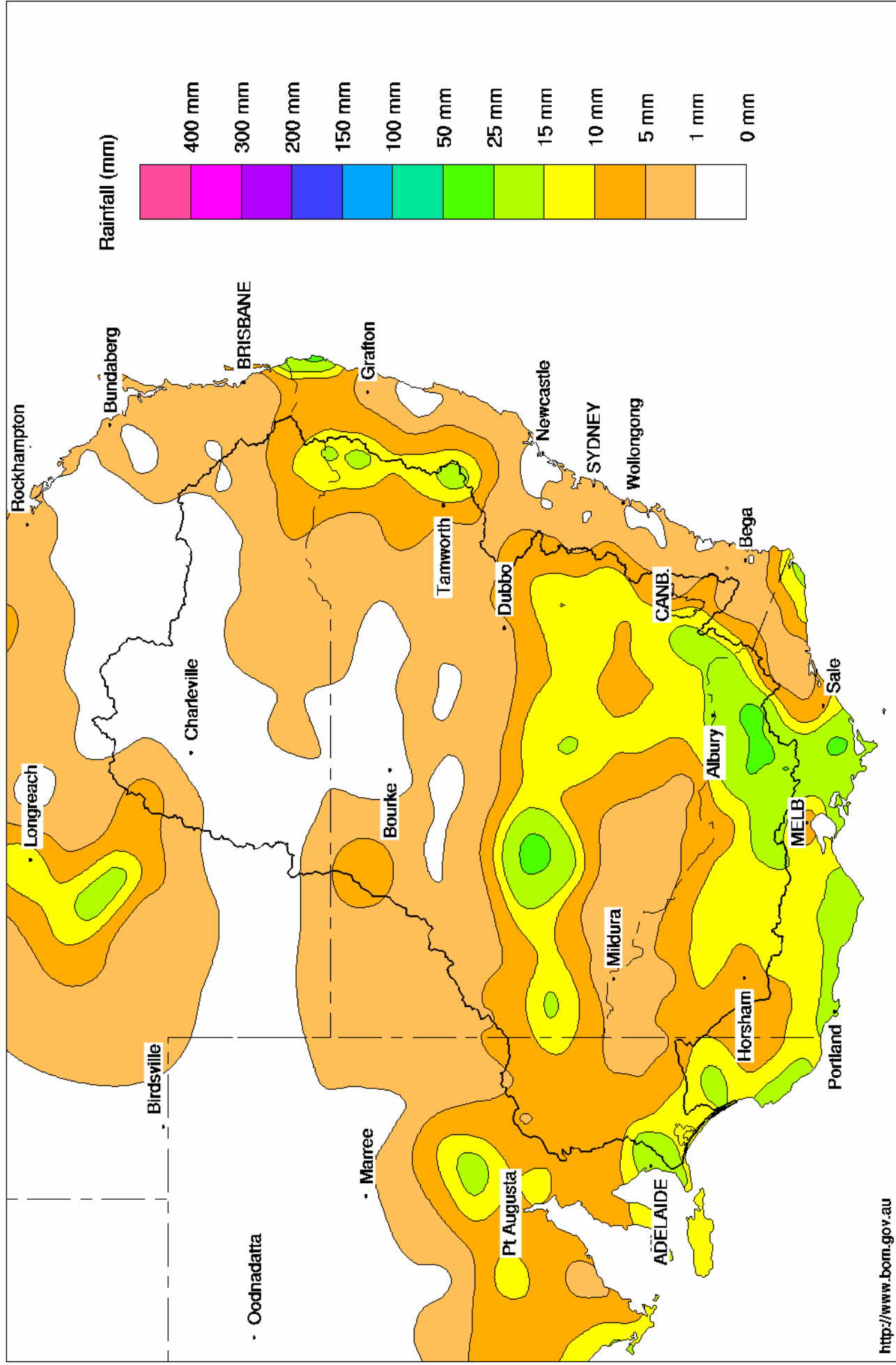
For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:
http://statewater.com.au/whats_new

For **Available Water Determinations** and DIPNR Media Releases go to:
<http://dipnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel>

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th July 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	446.60	1 803	46%	80	1 723	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.76	1 129	37%	30	1 099	+84
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.38	383	57%	100	283	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		331	19%	(- -) #	0	-1
Total		9 352		3 647	39%	--	3 105	+126

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL
 # NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL
 % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **37%**

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		363	35%	3	360	+27
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		424	26%	24	400	+46
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		981	29%	100	881	+16

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Jul-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 798	-13	Snowy-Murray	+21	259
Snowy-Murray Component	780	-11	Tooma-Tumut	+7	46
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	13.9	214
			Murray 1 Release	+27	298

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.6	.6
Wakool System loss	0.6	1.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.0
Licensed Pumps	0.6	1.8
Lower Darling	0.0	.1
TOTAL	1.8	3.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	5
TOTAL	1.6	6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	(3 400 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.0	
Flow so far this month	70	
Flow last month	91	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	170	140	120
Euston	240	160	120
Red Cliffs	140	160	140
Merbein	100	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	510	540	540
Lock 9	180	170	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	320	320	250
Waikerie	460	470	380
Morgan	460	450	390
Mannum	440	440	450
Murray Bridge	390	410	460
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 360	1 360
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	930	930	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 090	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	2 890	2 990	2 170



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	-	-	-	5 090	F	5 140	3 960
Jingellic	4.0	2.25	208.77	9 460	F	9 780	9 360
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.82	218.71	1 980	S	1 610	1 520
Heywoods	5.5	1.17	154.80	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.81	150.28	2 680	R	2 520	2 100
Albury	4.3	0.92	148.36	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.96	126.98	2 700	F	2 590	2 440
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.16	116.20	6 000	S	6 000	6 790
Tocumwal	6.4	1.64	105.48	5 910	R	5 900	6 900
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.88	80.43	5 310	F	5 750	5 770
Swan Hill	4.5	1.19	64.11	5 830	F	6 160	5 500
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.96	52.08	7 830	F	7 530	7 050
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.65	43.49	8 290	S	7 650	7 400
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.00	7 410	F	7 530	6 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	6 830	S	6 990	6 130
Rufus Junction	-	2.93	19.86	3 010	R	2 950	3 070
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 650	S	4 930	4 370
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.01	155.24	2 450	R	2 360	1 820
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.28	146.96	4 530	F	4 060	3 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.40	92.82	755	R	600	620
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 350	F	1 480	1 370
Edward at Liewah	-	2.28	57.66	1 670	R	1 650	1 240
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.26	54.75	153	S	170	190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.72	56.68	334	R	330	580
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.44	-	580	F	710	810
Darling at Bourke	-	5.71	-	13 363	R	10 770	2 400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	76	S	70	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 930	14 140
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+0.65
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.35	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.34	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.04	1.97	71.32	2800
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.29	61.59	404

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	0.86	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.86	All closed

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