

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 March 2005

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10 March, 2005



Rainfall

There were light falls of rain over the last week of up to 5 mm across the Basin, with up to 25 mm in the south east (*see attached map*). There was a temporary small increase in tributary inflows to the Upper Murray, however these are now slowly receding.

River Murray Operation

Diversions at the major offtakes from the Yarrawonga Weir Pool have remained relatively steady this week, as warm and mainly dry conditions have persisted across the irrigation areas. However the demand in the Torrumbarry irrigation system picked up strongly, partly because some farmers are maintaining (through irrigation) their pasture, which started growing early this year following the unusually heavy rainfall in February.

Releases from Hume Reservoir and Yarrawonga Weir this week have averaged about 13 500 ML/day and 8 000 ML/day respectively, to meet downstream diversion demands and river losses. In addition, RMW has requested that some additional water be received from the Goulburn River to supplement the flow in the River Murray and assist in meeting water demand. Water from the Goulburn River System is available to the River Murray System following the net trade in water from water users in the Goulburn Valley to water users in the River Murray Valley. Accordingly, the flow in the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge is currently about 1 400 ML/day, which is significantly higher than the otherwise minimum flow of about 350 ML/day.

The recent high flow in the River Murray from the February rain event has now mostly been captured in Lake Victoria, where the storage level increased by a further 11 GL this week (to 87% of capacity). Storage in Lake Victoria is expected to begin decreasing over the coming week, as the flow at Wentworth recedes and releases from Lake Victoria are increased to provide South Australia with its entitlement flow (6 000 ML/day during March).

Changes to the Weekly Report Data pages

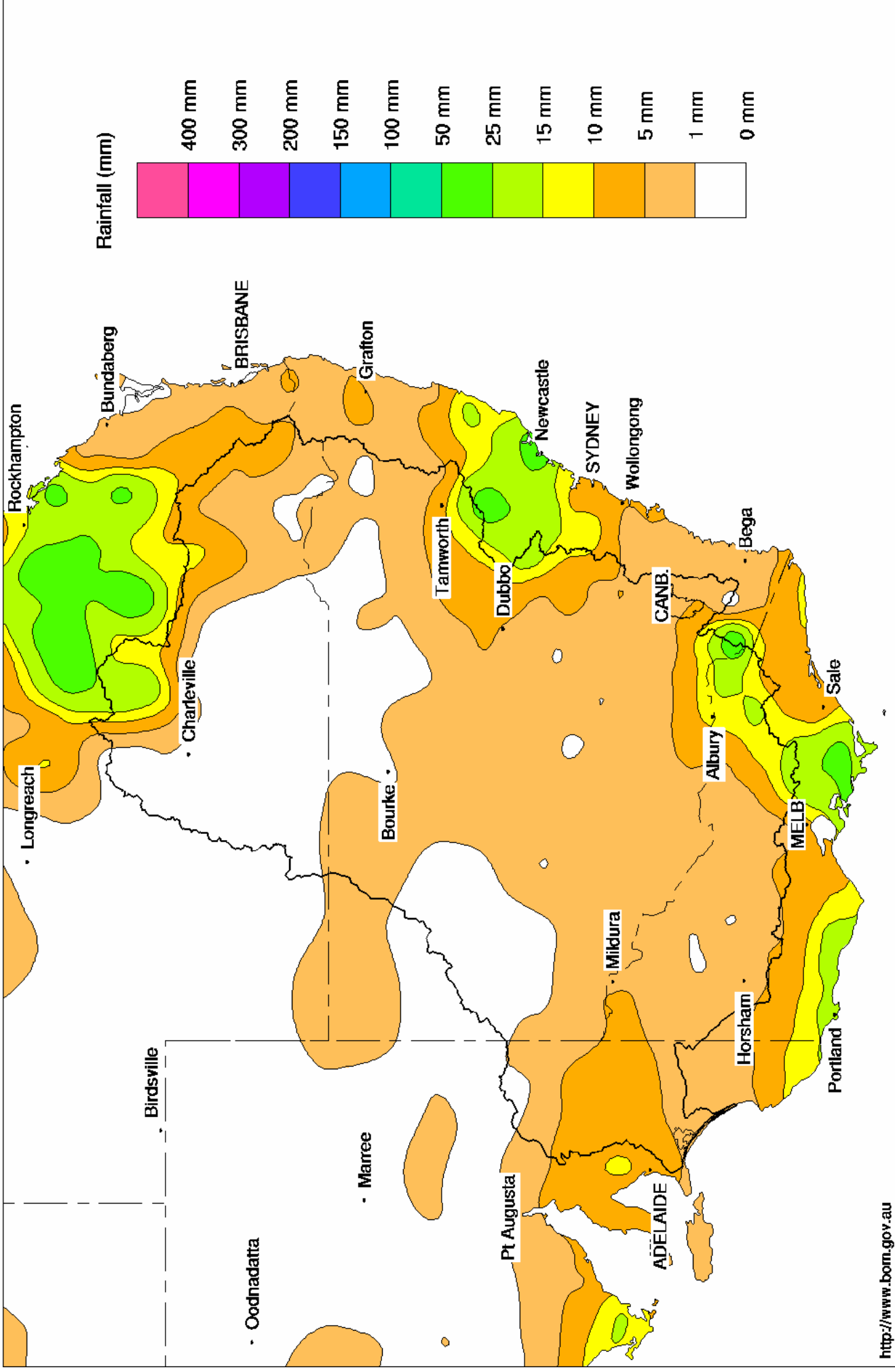
As part of our ongoing effort to keep readers up to date and informed, a new section titled **Lower Lakes** has been added to the second data page. This section provides the average lake level over the past 5 days for Lake Alexandrina in South Australia. The lake level for each day is determined by averaging the level at the following five sites located around the perimeter of the lake: Milang Jetty, Tauwitschere Barrage, Narrung Jetty, Poltalloch and Mulgundawa. If further information is required, daily level, salinity and wind data for the Lower Lakes can also be obtained from the following SA Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation website:

<https://info.pir.sa.gov.au/swimsmmap/arcims/website/lakes/index.cfm>.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th March 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	444.69	1 725	44%	80	1 645	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.57	996	33%	30	966	-57
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.28	591	87%	100	491	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		410	24%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 721	40%	--	3 102	-47

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **36%**

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	249	24%	3	246	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	304	19%	24	280	-45
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 208	36%	100	1 108	-30

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Mar-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 432	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+29	497
Snowy-Murray Component	1 191	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	274
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	28.2	223
			Murray 1 Release	+32	849

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	33.3	585.2
Wakool System loss	2.0	13.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	25.9
Licensed Pumps	9.4	214.3
Lower Darling	0.3	23.8
TOTAL	45.8	863.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	13.5	272
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.2	456
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	131
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	28
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.2	210
TOTAL	48.6	1 098

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(6 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	42.4	
Flow so far this month	54	
Flow last month	197	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	120	110	110
Euston	110	120	120
Red Cliffs	170	180	120
Merbein	140	150	120
Burtundy (Darling)	680	680	530
Lock 9	160	180	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	320	320	370
Morgan	320	330	390
Mannum	400	400	480
Murray Bridge	370	370	510
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 390	1 410	1 320
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 350	1 060
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 240	2 200	2 120
Goolwa Barrages	2 130	2 170	1 940



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	-	-	-	5 280	S	5 330	5 230
Jingellic	4.0	1.88	208.40	6 350	F	6 280	6 560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.53	218.42	980	R	980	1 040
Heywoods	5.5	2.93	156.56	13 730	S	13 520	12 510
Doctors Point	5.5	2.97	151.44	13 700	F	13 910	13 290
Albury	4.3	2.01	149.45	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.91	128.93	14 500	R	14 240	13 110
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.47	116.51	7 950	F	8 090	8 100
Tocumwal	6.4	2.01	105.85	8 300	R	8 110	8 380
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.54	80.09	4 130	F	4 430	6 560
Swan Hill	4.5	0.93	63.85	3 870	F	4 640	6 850
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.50	51.62	5 870	F	7 250	10 790
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.32	43.16	6 040	F	7 580	11 860
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.99	7 430	F	8 890	11 770
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	6 660	S	7 790	12 390
Rufus Junction	-	3.28	20.21	5 440	F	5 620	6 430
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 550	S	3 700	4 280
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.88	154.11	480	R	630	970
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.05	145.73	904	F	890	1 020
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.77	93.19	1 381	S	1 440	800
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	400	F	400	630
Edward at Liewah	-	1.43	56.81	808	F	1 390	2 690
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.53	55.02	529	F	630	780
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	R	240	530
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	F	110	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	131	F	170	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	92	R	120	200

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 740	3 060
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.97
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.19	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.20	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.47	0.11	61.41	236

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.65

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.67	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.65	All closed

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