

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 May 2005

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27 May, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

A burst of cold wintry weather brought a few light showers to the southern part of the Basin late this week (*see attached map*). The showers were insufficient to significantly alter tributary inflows to the River Murray, which remain at extremely low levels for this time of year. Inflows to the River Murray from the Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon and Murrumbidgee Rivers currently total only 1 600 ML/day. Flows from these tributaries would normally average about 3 500 ML/day during May.

Mid River

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced slightly from 2 300 ML/day to 2 100 ML/day this week. Normally, at this time of year, the release would be reduced to the minimum target of 1 800 ML/day. However, due to the very low tributary inflows and the persistence of higher than normal river losses, a slightly higher flow has been maintained to meet the minimum river level at Swan Hill (0.6 m gauge height).

The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir is currently about 3 000 ML/day and as the draining of irrigation channels nears completion, the flow is expected to fall towards 2 300 ML/day unless there is significant rainfall.

On the Edward River, NSW State Water has been gradually drawing down the Stevens Weir pool. The pool level has been gradually reduced from about 4.8 m at the end of April to 1.1 m on 25 May. The level will be further reduced over the next few days until the drawdown is complete and the weir gates are fully removed from the river.

There was a small increase in the flow along the Edward River as a result of the drawdown of the Stevens Weir, and last week the flow at Moulamein temporarily increased from 350 ML/day to about 600 ML/day. Following the completion of the drawdown, the flow will return to 'run of river' over the winter period and a flow in the order of 150 to 200 ML/day is expected to pass Stevens Weir.

Lower Lakes and Barrages

The barrage gates remain closed and there has not been any water released from the barrages since the small release in October last year. The last significant release of about 280 GL occurred 19 months ago in September and October 2003. The current average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.56 m AHD (at 25 May), which is below the full supply level of 0.75 m AHD. The lake level is slightly lower than at the same time last year (0.59 m AHD), and well below the average for this time of year, of 0.69 m AHD. Notably, it is significantly higher than the level in May 2003 of 0.46 m AHD, which occurred at the end of the very dry 2002/03 season.

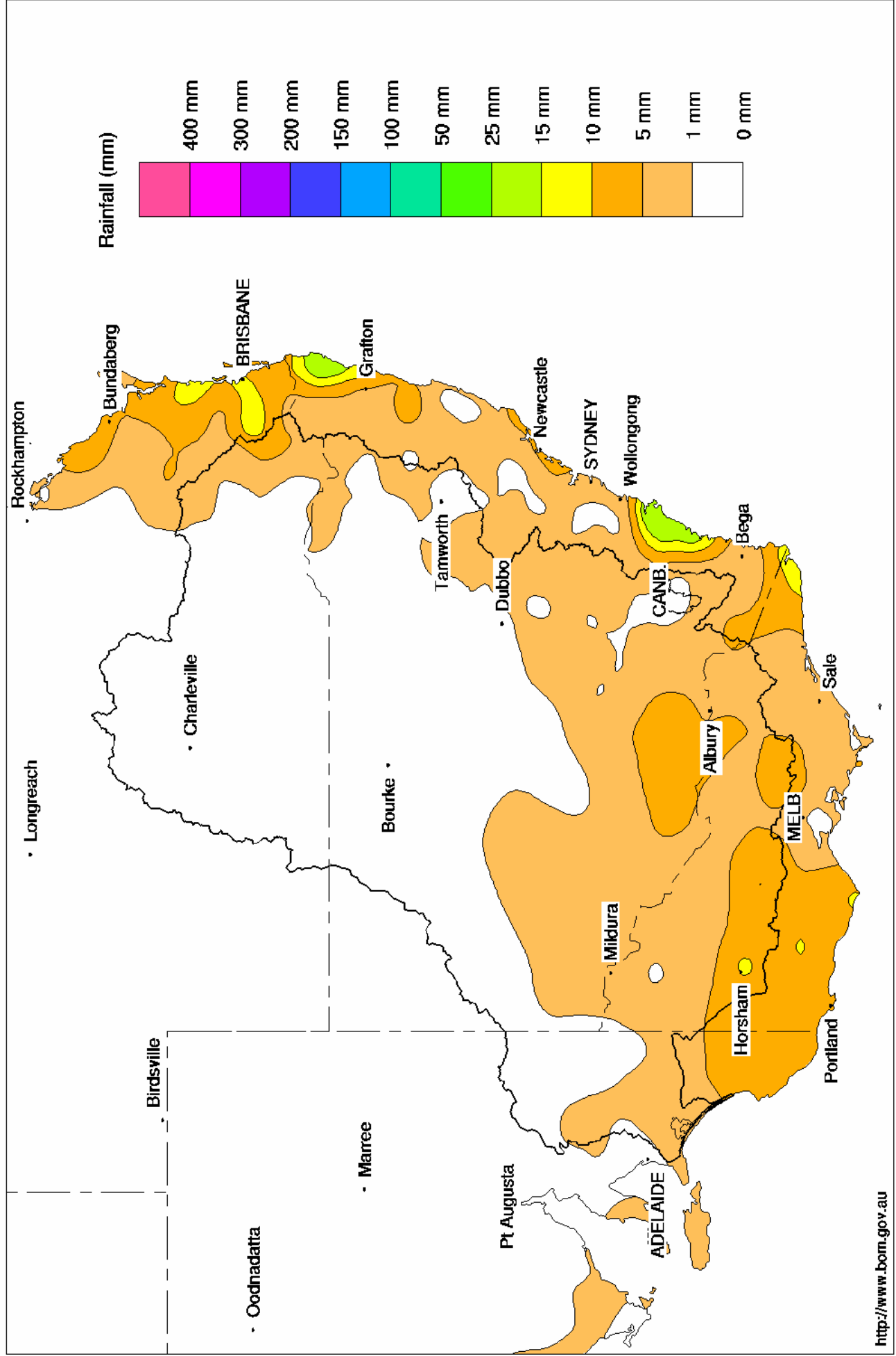
Salinities are currently almost 1500 EC at Milang and 2400 EC at Meningie, and are slightly higher than at the same time last year, when salinities were 1400 EC and 2300 EC respectively.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th May 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	444.48	1 716	44%	80	1 636	-0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.52	691	23%	30	661	+46
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.38	383	57%	100	283	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		340	20%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		3 131	33%	--	2 581	+37

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 30%

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		240	23%	3	237	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		126	8%	24	102	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		895	26%	100	795	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-May-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 943	-62	Snowy-Murray	+36	109
Snowy-Murray Component	857	-31	Tooma-Tumut	+1	4
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	34.9	105
			Murray 1 Release	+29	107

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-.2	843.4
Wakool System loss	0.5	26.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	31.2
Licensed Pumps	4.8	325.1
Lower Darling	0.3	35.8
TOTAL	5.6	1 262.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	388
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	635
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.2	160
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	8.6	49
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.7	253
TOTAL	13.5	1 485

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	21.0	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	75	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	110	110	110
Euston	110	120	120
Red Cliffs	170	160	140
Merbein	140	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	560	560	540
Lock 9	190	190	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	250	260	240
Waikerie	-	380	360
Morgan	420	410	380
Mannum	390	390	460
Murray Bridge	400	410	470
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 480	1 480	1 350
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 080	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 460	2 380	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	2 240	2 180	1 990



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	-	-	-	3 690	R	4 640	7 080
Jingellic	4.0	1.64	208.16	4 230	S	5 890	7 270
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	670	R	630	620
Heywoods	5.5	1.39	155.02	1 050	S	1 050	1 740
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 210	S	1 200	1 940
Albury	4.3	0.70	148.14	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.58	126.60	1 520	S	1 580	2 660
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.44	115.48	2 100	S	2 200	2 410
Tocumwal	6.4	0.91	104.75	2 190	S	2 300	2 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.20	79.75	2 910	F	3 000	2 930
Swan Hill	4.5	0.82	63.74	3 370	R	3 270	3 160
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.90	51.02	3 640	S	3 590	3 650
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.80	42.64	3 430	R	3 290	3 500
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	2 740	F	2 910	2 610
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	2 610	R	2 740	2 280
Rufus Junction	-	2.70	19.63	1 820	F	2 220	2 490
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	1 640	F	1 780	1 430
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	300	S	290	310
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.90	145.58	575	R	530	630
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.24	92.66	504	F	610	460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	300	F	350	480
Edward at Liewah	-	0.89	56.27	428	F	500	330
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.30	54.79	202	S	250	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	224	S	220	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.08	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	F	30	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	R	30	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 820	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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.41
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.21

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.98	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.18	0.11	61.41	236

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.55

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.55	All closed

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

