

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 November 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066 /prs, hap, dwg

18 November, 2005

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Rainfall and inflow

Mainly dry conditions prevailed across the Murray-Darling Basin this week, however in excess of 25mm rain fell in parts of north-east New South Wales and southern Queensland. Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir has gradually receded to 2 500 ML/day, while the inflow to Hume Reservoir has fallen to 10 000 ML/day. The Kiewa River at Bandiana is now 3 000 ML/day and the flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta has fallen from 17 000 ML/day down to 7 000 ML/day.

River Murray Operations

In response to increased irrigation demand, the release from Hume Dam has been steadily increased and is currently at about 12 000 ML/day. However the majority of the water being released from Hume Dam is from the Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Account (B-M EWA) to assist waterbird breeding, fish spawning and watering floodplain vegetation throughout the Barmah-Millewa Forest wetlands. Since early October, approximately 320 GL of the B-M EWA has been released from Hume Dam, which in conjunction with several natural higher inflow events from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers has resulted in the most extensive flooding of the forest for five years (over 50% of the forest area has been flooded).

Following the advice of NSW and Victorian natural resource agencies, the release of the B-M EWA is now gradually being reduced with a target flow of about 15 000 ML/day downstream of Yarrawonga Weir by 24 November. Further gradual reductions in the release from Yarrawonga are planned for December, however flow rates over the coming weeks will be dependant on weather conditions, the volume of water remaining in the B-M EWA and the nature of the ecological responses occurring within the forest.

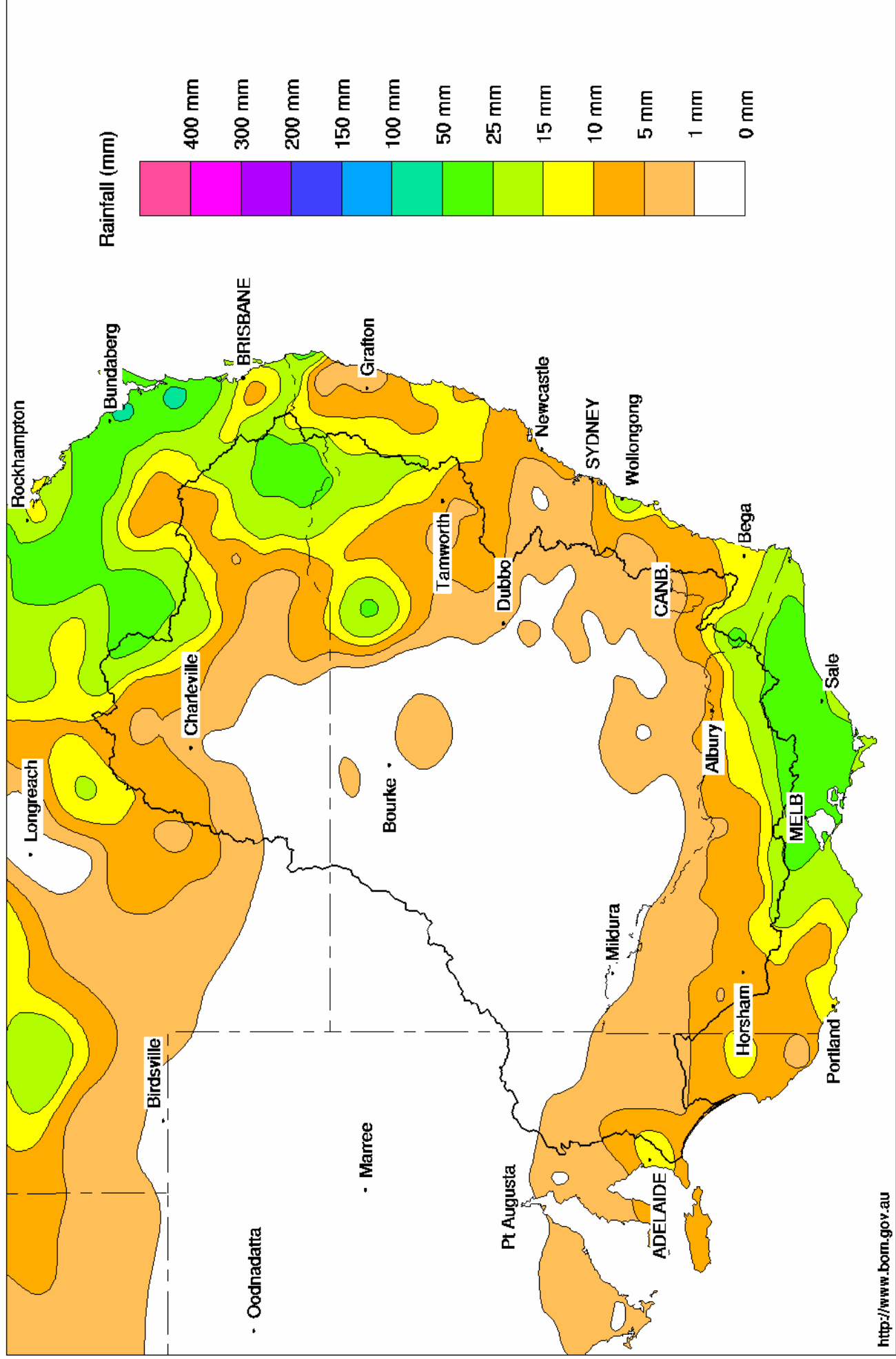
Together with the natural higher inflow events from the Victorian tributaries, the release of the B-M EWA has also boosted flow levels along the length of the River Murray providing 'supplementary' water for irrigators as well as additional water to downstream wetland systems. For example, flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir reached 6 000 ML/day, which has inundated a large area within the Werai Forest (NSW). In addition, as only a small portion of this flow can be captured in Lake Victoria, it is being utilised to enhance the release from the Barrages into the internationally significant wetlands of the Coorong and Murray Mouth. The release from the Barrages was temporarily increased to 12 000 ML/day during the week but is now about 7 000 ML/day.

At other parts of the River Murray, the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir peaked at about 15 000 ML/day on 14 November, while the flow downstream of Euston Weir is expected to peak at about 17 500 ML/day between the 21st and 24th of November. At Wentworth Weir, the flow is currently 12 000 ML/day and expected to rise to about 13 500 ML/day by late November.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th November 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	461.14	2 468	63%	80	2 388	+19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	190.83	2 807	92%	30	2 777	+15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.80	652	96%	100	552	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		455	26%	(- -) #	0	-7
Total		9 352		6 382	68%	--	5 717	+17

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 67%

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	747	73%	3	744	+26
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 089	67%	24	1 065	+14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 650	49%	100	1 550	+12

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Nov-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 305	-4	Snowy-Murray	+24	421
Snowy-Murray Component	1 140	-1	Tooma-Tumut	+5	217
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	18.1	204
			Murray 1 Release	+29	691

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	11.9	275.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	7.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	3.4
Licensed Pumps	2.2	80.2
Lower Darling	2.0	18.1
TOTAL	16.5	384.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.8	48
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.1	181
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.4	16
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	6
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.7	79
TOTAL	21.8	331

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	
Flow this week	97.6	(13 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	190	
Flow last month	300	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	160	140	110
Euston	120	120	130
Red Cliffs	130	140	140
Merbein	120	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	540	540	530
Lock 9	140	130	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	190
Berri	180	180	240
Waikerie	-	310	380
Morgan	280	290	360
Mannum	290	300	420
Murray Bridge	320	340	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 310	1 300	1 350
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 010	830	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 150	2 130	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	1 550	1 640	1 830



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	-	-	-	4 950	F	4 760	5 250
Jingellic	4.0	2.11	208.63	8 100	R	8 090	9 760
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.78	218.67	1 820	F	1 940	2 030
Heywoods	5.5	2.56	156.19	10 450	R	7 410	8 080
Doctors Point	5.5	2.92	151.39	13 100	R	12 430	12 010
Albury	4.3	1.92	149.36	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.68	128.70	12 700	R	14 700	14 440
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.97	118.01	20 000	F	24 840	21 710
Tocumwal	6.4	3.93	107.77	24 940	F	25 810	23 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.22	82.77	14 970	S	14 050	11 740
Swan Hill	4.5	2.37	65.29	13 530	R	12 710	11 870
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.80	53.92	17 320	R	16 650	15 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.78	44.62	16 150	R	15 740	13 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.43	14 760	F	15 280	11 660
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.38	28.14	11 970	R	12 000	9 590
Rufus Junction	-	4.41	21.34	12 580	F	13 450	10 340
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	13 700	R	13 360	9 310
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.35	155.58	3 340	R	6 240	5 920
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.92	147.60	6 831	F	9 830	9 710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.33	93.75	2 396	F	3 190	1 190
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 380	F	5 770	5 280
Edward at Liewah	-	3.28	58.66	3 140	S	3 100	2 800
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.07	55.56	2 520	R	2 360	1 680
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.89	56.85	443	R	370	260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	60	R	30	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	F	140	230
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	12	F	20	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 960	14 720
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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	-0.00	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+2.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.16	+0.82
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.08	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.44	+0.72
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.63	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.32	+1.30
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.74	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.58
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.10	+0.77	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.65
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.58	+0.70	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+0.44

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	1.45	70.8	1710
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.14	0.03	61.33	176

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.87

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.95	5
Mundoo	26 openings	0.94	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.85	28

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

