

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 October 2005

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28 October, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

Widespread rain, generally up to about 50 mm, fell over much of the Murray-Darling Basin last week. The rainfall led to small rises in stream flows, such that inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs remain at about the same level as this time last week. The inflows to the River Murray from the Kiewa, Ovens and Goulburn Rivers peaked at about 3 000 ML/day, 6 600 ML/day and 3 000 ML/day respectively.

River Murray Operations

The release from Hume Reservoir was gradually decreased from about 22 000 ML/day to about 11 000 ML/day during the week, as the rainfall significantly reduced irrigation demands and increased tributary inflows. During the latter part of the week, the inflow and outflow to Hume Reservoir more or less equalised, temporarily steadying the storage volume in the reservoir (which is now about 2 720 GL or 90% capacity).

The release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased from about 17 000 ML/day to 22 000 ML/day on Sunday 23 October 2005 to pass local inflows, rejected irrigation demands and water already on route from Hume Reservoir. A release of this size will push water further into the Barmah-Millewa Forest, and will help to achieve the ecological outcomes desired from the current release of environmental water for the forest. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has since been reduced to about 20 000 ML/day and without further rain will be gradually reduced towards 15 000 ML/day.

The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has increased to about 10 000 ML/day due to a combination of return flows from the Barmah-Millewa Forest, inflows from the Goulburn River and reduced diversions from the National Channel. The flow at Toonalook on the Edward River has also increased from 3 000 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day due to return flows from the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

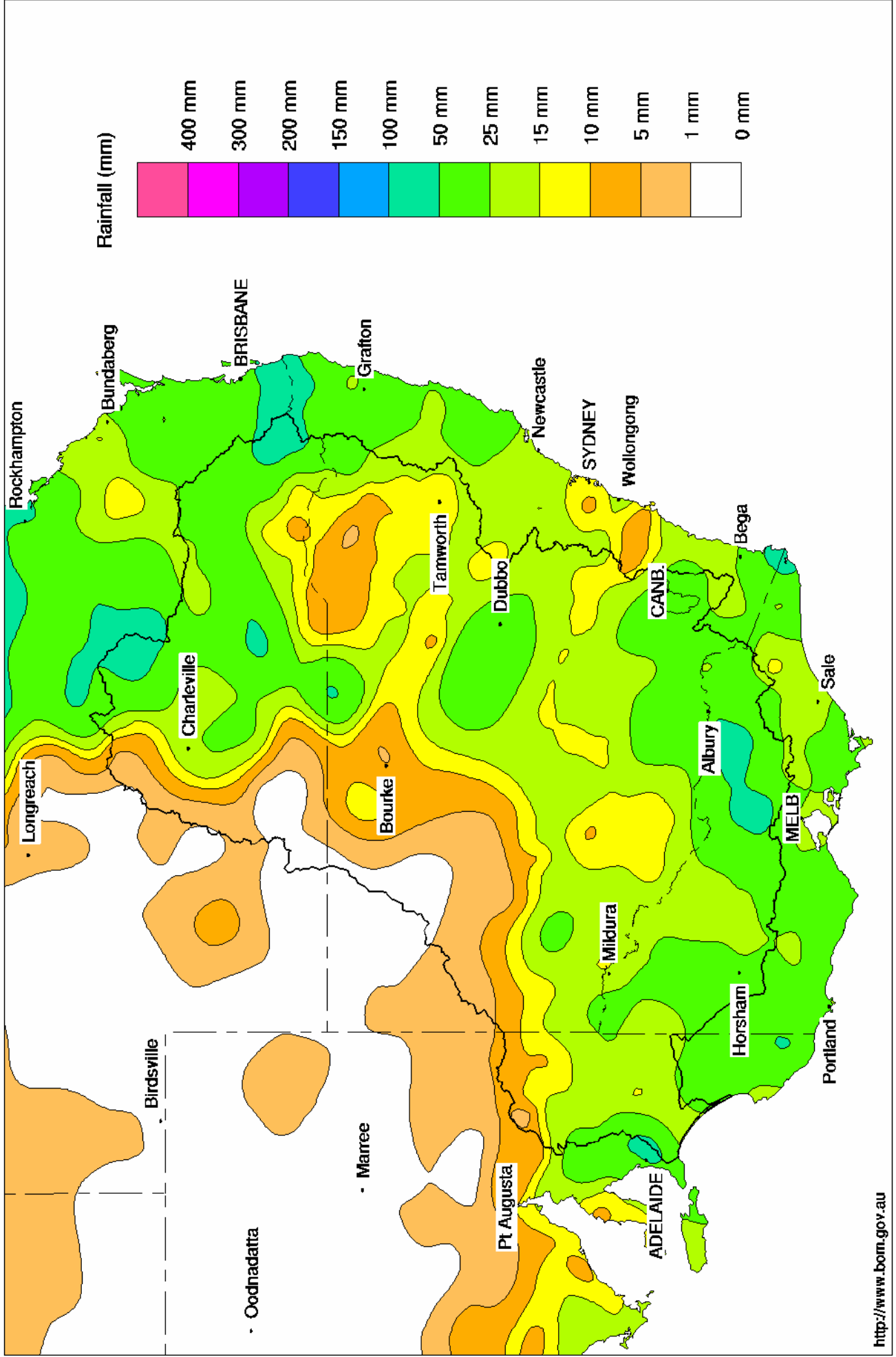
The rainfall over the past week has increased tributary inflows and reduced losses and diversions along the length of the River Murray and Lake Victoria is now expected to remain effectively full until mid November. RMW is closely monitoring the expected inflow to Lake Victoria, and will draw down the lake by 0.1 to 0.2 m, prior to refilling it later. The aim of this operation is to minimise the length of time that the lake is full, to protect vegetation and minimise erosion on the lake shore.

River Murray Water (RMW) recently issued advice of 'flow surplus to regulated requirements' downstream of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. In NSW, 'supplementary' water has been announced to NSW irrigators downstream of the Forest, whilst in Victoria the surplus flow is being used for environmental watering at a number of sites along the river. RMW is also continuing to work with The Living Murray initiative and State authorities to deliver some of the 'surplus' flows to the environment through the raising of the upper pool level of Lock and Weirs 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th October 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	459.94	2 408	62%	80	2 328	+17
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	190.41	2 727	90%	30	2 697	-5
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.94	669	99%	100	569	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		465	27%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		6 269	67%	--	5 594	+9

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **66%**

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	673	66%	3	670	+13
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 032	63%	24	1 008	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 598	47%	100	1 498	+17

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Oct-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 279	+16	Snowy-Murray	+12	365
Snowy-Murray Component	1 108	+15	Tooma-Tumut	+7	197
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	5.1	169
			Murray 1 Release	+20	613

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	25.0	236.0
Wakool System loss	-1.5	7.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	2.3
Licensed Pumps	7.5	66.8
Lower Darling	0.3	15.3
TOTAL	31.3	328.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.0	42
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.6	161
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	11
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	5
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.1	58
TOTAL	16.8	277

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170	
Flow this week	61.5	(8 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	260	
Flow last month	239	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	70	80	100
Euston	130	120	130
Red Cliffs	120	120	140
Merbein	120	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	530	530	530
Lock 9	110	120	150
Lake Victoria	190	180	190
Berri	170	180	250
Waikerie	-	-	400
Morgan	250	260	390
Mannum	310	330	450
Murray Bridge	370	390	450
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 290	1 280	1 370
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	710	770	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 130	2 080
Goolwa Barrages	1 420	1 450	1 910

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	-	-	-	5 270	R	4 430	5 270
Jingellic	4.0	2.21	208.73	9 090	R	9 100	10 880
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.94	218.83	2 500	R	1 990	1 990
Heywoods	5.5	2.79	156.42	12 690	R	14 070	18 510
Doctors Point	5.5	3.11	151.58	15 400	R	16 190	20 790
Albury	4.3	2.12	149.56	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.97	128.99	15 000	F	20 040	18 490
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.07	118.11	21 000	F	19 590	15 160
Tocumwal	6.4	3.70	107.54	22 800	R	19 880	14 050
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.91	81.46	9 140	R	7 490	6 100
Swan Hill	4.5	1.45	64.37	7 520	R	6 160	6 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.22	52.34	9 020	R	8 490	10 070
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.70	43.54	8 580	R	8 800	10 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.08	8 070	F	8 670	9 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.10	27.86	7 490	R	7 880	9 030
Rufus Junction	-	3.70	20.63	7 710	R	8 250	9 870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	8 920	F	10 340	10 890
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.20	155.43	2 910	R	2 620	2 390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.80	147.48	6 340	R	5 440	4 400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.78	94.20	3 325	R	1 270	560
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 600	F	2 520	1 740
Edward at Liewah	-	2.87	58.25	2 450	R	2 350	2 190
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.60	55.09	789	F	760	880
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.64	56.60	286	R	270	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	90	S	70	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	294	S	310	270
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	14	F	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	14 630	16 910
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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	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+1.40
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.15	+0.52
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.15	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.42	+0.41
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.18	+0.94
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.46	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.43
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.66	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.40
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.58	+0.42	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+0.20

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.81	0.72	70.07	421
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.10	0.26	61.56	373

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	0.53	5
Mundoo	26 openings	0.74	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	19

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

