

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 August 2006

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10 August, 2006



Rainfall and Inflows

Inflows to the River Murray system in July were the lowest on record (130 GL), and less than 10 % of the long-term average inflow for July. So far in August, this dry trend has continued across the Murray-Darling Basin (*see attached map*). Light showers across the eastern and southern parts of the Basin this week generally provided less than 5 mm of rain. Parts of north east Victoria received slightly higher falls of about 10 mm. Total active storage in the River Murray system at the end of July was about 3 340 GL, which is slightly higher than last year (3 250 GL), but well below the long-term average (5 600 GL).

River Murray Operations

Water transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoirs were accelerated this week. The level of the Mitta Mitta River at Colemans is currently about 2.30 m gauge height (5 500 ML/d) and is expected to rise to about 2.80 m by the weekend (12/13 August). Further downstream, the river level at Tallandoon is expected to reach about 3.2 m gauge height (approximately 10 000 ML/day) and will remain at about this level if conditions remain dry. Dartmouth Reservoir is currently at about 64 % capacity (2 500 GL) and is expected to gradually fall as a result of the increased release. Hume Reservoir is currently at about 19 % of capacity (588 GL) and is expected to remain at about this level over coming weeks.

The release from Hume Reservoir was progressively reduced this week from a flow of about 13 500 to 11 500 ML/d at Doctors Point as there was sufficient water held in Lake Mulwala to meet demands at the major irrigation offtakes (Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel). However, in response to increasing demands over coming days, the flow at Doctor's Point has recently been increased (currently about 13 500 ML/d) and may increase further if conditions remain dry.

Water transfers from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria continue. A small reduction was made to the flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir (from 10 000 ML/d to 9 800 ML/d) this week. This was primarily to assist in the efficient transfer of water downstream, as a small amount of water was spilling into parts of the Barmah-Millewa Forest at the higher flow rate. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir on the Edward River remains at around 2 900 ML/d to assist transfers. Storage in Lake Victoria has increased by about 24 GL this week and is currently about 64 % of capacity.

The Torrumbarry Weir upper pool level remained steady at 85.78 m AHD (27 cm below full supply level) this week. National Channel diversions commenced on 9 August at low rates and are expected to increase to about 2 000 ML/d by the weekend (12/13 August). The water level upstream of Torrumbarry Weir will be periodically reviewed to ensure that the requirements of river users can be met, whilst providing some degree of water level variability that will assist a range of longer-term environmental objectives including riverbank stability.

Euston Weir upper pool level is currently about 47.40 m AHD (20 cm below full supply level) and is expected to remain at about this level over the coming week. River flows upstream of Euston Weir have averaged around 9 000 ML/d over the past week, which has assisted pumped diversions from the weir pool and connected creeks whilst the weir pool level has been lowered.

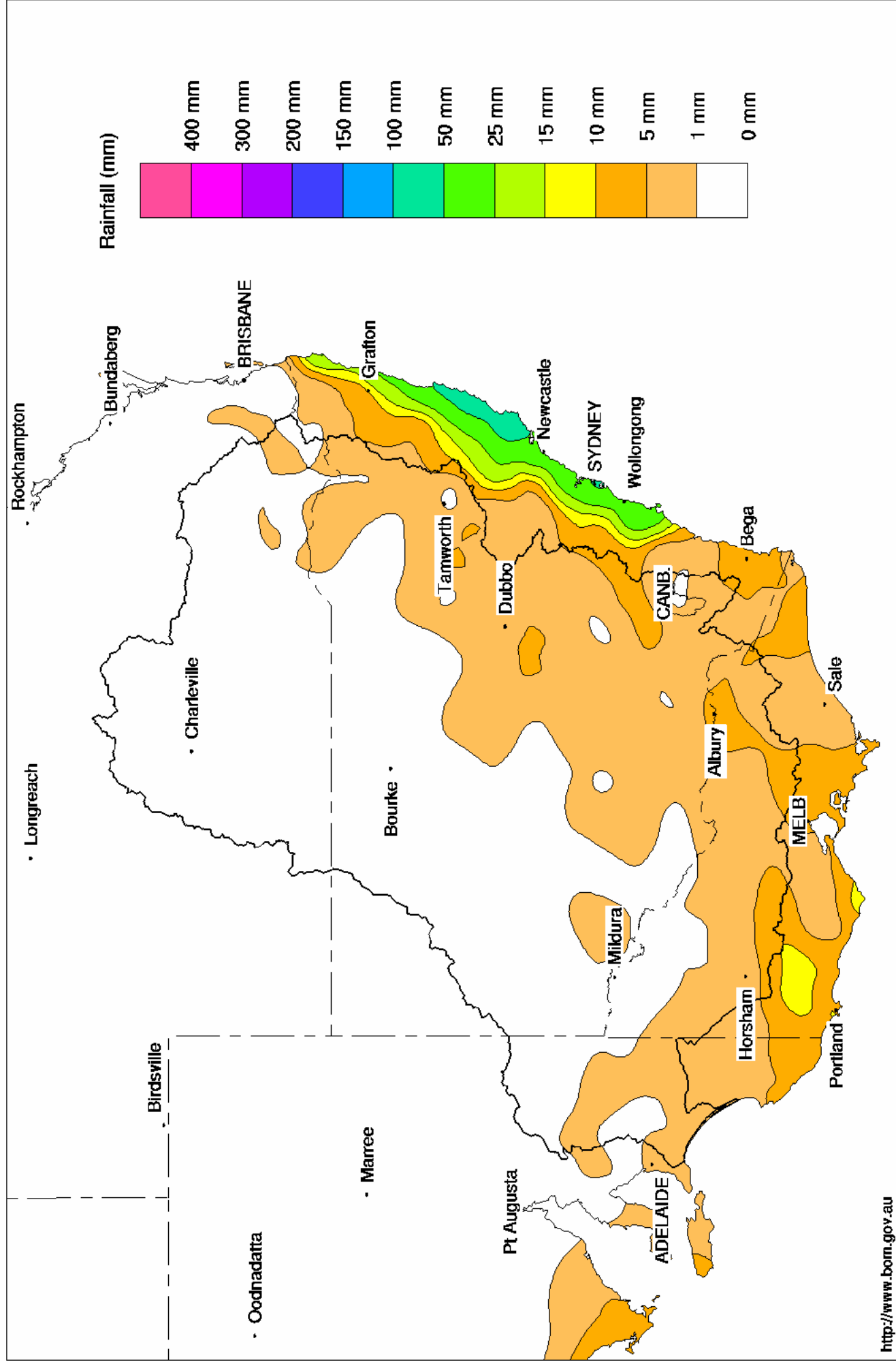
The flow downstream of Lock 1 averaged 3 700 ML/d this week. The Lower Lakes continued to rise steadily and are currently near to their fully surcharged level of 0.85 m AHD. The operation of the Barrages over coming weeks is currently being reviewed in light of the continuing dry and low inflow conditions.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th August 2006

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	461.75	2 499	64%	80	2 419	-35
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.35	588	19%	30	558	-11
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.85	432	64%	100	332	+24
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		264	15%	(- -) #	0	-0
Total		9 352		3 783	40%	--	3 308	-22

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 39%

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	357	35%	3	354	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 010	62%	24	986	+26
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	776	23%	100	676	+5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Aug-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	765	-34	Snowy-Murray	+32	420
Snowy-Murray Component	503	-29	Tooma-Tumut	+0	18
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	32.4	403
			Murray 1 Release	+39	460

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.8	24.0
Wakool System loss	0.9	2.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.5
Licensed Pumps	0.9	4.5
Lower Darling	0.3	.6
TOTAL	9.0	31.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.7	2
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	1.7	6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.2	
Flow so far this month	36	
Flow last month	108	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	70	80	80
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	130	140	140
Merbein	90	80	90
Burtundy (Darling)	620	610	610
Lock 9	170	170	170
Lake Victoria	160	150	150
Berri	250	250	250
Waikerie	400	380	370
Morgan	390	380	380
Mannum	460	470	470
Murray Bridge	390	360	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 160	1 150
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	660	640	640
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 270	2 260	2 270
Goolwa Barrages	1 500	1 440	1 450

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	-	-	-	6 000	F	5 490	4 660
Jingellic	4.0	1.96	208.48	6 810	S	6 220	5 700
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.69	219.58	6 380	R	5 300	2 260
Heywoods	5.5	2.64	156.27	11 100	F	11 690	12 890
Doctors Point	5.5	2.78	151.25	11 500	S	12 240	13 240
Albury	4.3	1.74	149.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.61	128.63	12 100	F	13 010	13 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 850	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 480	S	10 570	10 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.68	81.23	8 260	S	8 160	7 670
Swan Hill	4.5	1.42	64.34	7 060	F	7 460	6 990
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.37	52.49	9 750	R	9 020	7 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.93	43.77	9 870	R	9 190	7 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 450	F	8 160	6 290
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.10	27.86	9 260	S	8 960	7 300
Rufus Junction	-	2.94	19.87	3 460	R	3 400	3 380
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.78	-	4 260	F	3 760	3 570
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.96	154.19	530	R	680	560
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.88	145.56	589	F	590	540
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	416	F	410	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.55	-	2 910	F	2 900	2 470
Edward at Liewah	-	2.85	58.23	2 370	R	1 840	1 040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	-	-	203	R	180	160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.89	56.85	443	F	500	700
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	20	R	10	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	S	90	70
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	29	R	20	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 280	3 190
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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	+0.64
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.27	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.18	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.31	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.46	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.40	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.39	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.03

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.11	70.46	1010
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.35	0.46	61.76	591



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	1	-	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.78	2	1	1

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