

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 October 2006



13 October, 2006

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Weather

Unseasonably warm and dry conditions continued along the River Murray System over the last week (*see attached map*), however, a cool change this coming weekend is expected to bring lower temperatures and isolated showers to northern Victoria and southern NSW.

River Murray System Operations

Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir has gradually reduced from 1 200 ML/day to about 800 ML/day, but is still slightly above the minimum for this time of year. Inflow to Hume Reservoir has been steady at about 11 700 ML/day, comprising about 9 900 ML/day due to release from Dartmouth Reservoir, and an average of 1 700 ML/day from the Snowy Mountains Scheme. This highlights the important role that these storages play in augmenting water supply and other requirements along the River Murray System during periods of drought.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained near 17 500 ML/day. Approximately 9 500 ML/day of this is for diversions at the larger irrigation offtakes, with the remainder being released to meet private diversions, assist in maintaining the flow to South Australia (currently 5 000 ML/day), and to allow for 'river losses', such as evaporation and seepage. At present only a relatively small volume, about 250 ML/day, is being used to water important wetlands, such as Hattah Lakes, which are stressed due to this extended period of drought.

Release from Yarrawonga and Torrumbarry Weirs has been maintained at about 10 000 and 4 000 ML/day respectively. Flow along the Colligen Creek downstream of the Wakool Canal Offtake (Edward-Wakool River System) has been increased to 800 ML/day in order to assist in bypassing the 'Barmah Choke' and transfer additional water to Lake Victoria. Over the coming weeks, this will result in a higher flow along the Niemur River and the lower section of the Wakool River. Flow in the Wakool River at Stony Crossing is forecast to increase to about 700 ML/day by late October.

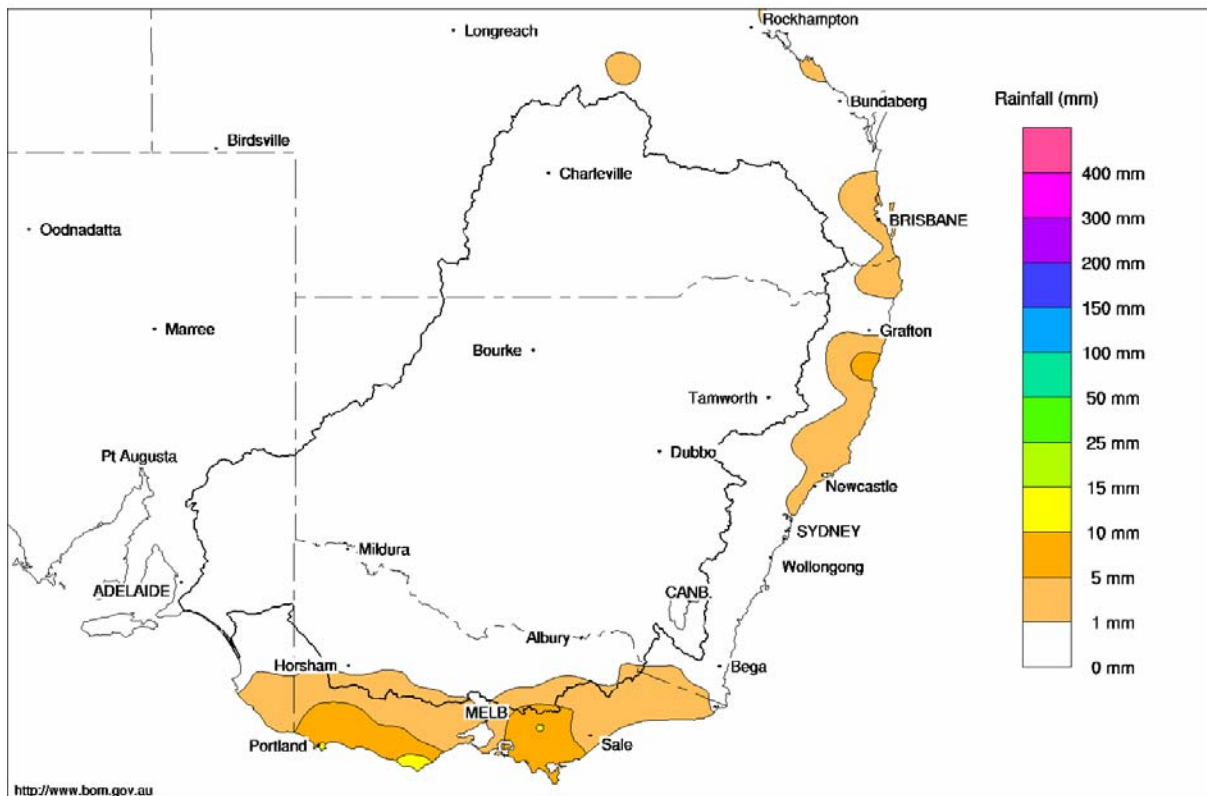
Storage in Lake Victoria has declined by 11 GL to 545 GL (81% capacity), with a further gradual fall expected in coming weeks. The Lock 6 Weir Pool is currently being held 6 cm below the Full Supply Level (FSL) to aid the construction of a regulator at Websters Lagoon on Lindsay Island. When complete, this regulator will reduce evaporative losses in the lagoon, and provide environmental benefits by enabling a more variable water level within the wetland.

The level of the Lower Lakes near the Murray Mouth has been relatively steady over the past week at about 0.8m AHD (5 cm above FSL). Monitoring at the Goolwa and Tauwichee Barrage fishways has identified thousands of fish attempting to migrate from the Coorong into the Lakes and Lower Murray. These include small and medium sized fish such as galaxids, gobies, hardyhead, congolli and juvenile mullet. The monitoring has also detected adult lampreys (rarely found along the River Murray) which are migrating upstream to spawn in freshwater.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th October 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending Wednesday 11 Oct 2006

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	450.58	1 972	50%	80	1 892	-66
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.30	425	14%	30	395	-46
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.88	545	80%	100	445	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		232	13%	(- -) #	0	-8
Total		9 352		3 173	34%	--	2 731	-131

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **32%**

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		317	31%	3	314	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		707	43%	24	683	-59
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		640	19%	100	540	-26

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Oct-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	724	-5	Snowy-Murray	+10	581
Snowy-Murray Component	463	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+0	34
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	10.1	547
			Murray 1 Release	+12	662

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	19.1	191.5
Wakool System loss	1.3	12.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	4.0
Licensed Pumps	7.1	58.8
Lower Darling	0.4	9.6
TOTAL	28.5	276.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.9	99
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.8	210
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.1	22
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.0	16
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.0	7
TOTAL	53.8	354

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170	(4 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	34.4	
Flow so far this month	55	
Flow last month	120	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	80	80
Euston	100	110	110
Red Cliffs	120	110	120
Merbein	100	100	110
Burtundy (Darling)	770	680	630
Lock 9	130	140	130
Lake Victoria	150	150	150
Berri	230	230	240
Waikerie	380	390	380
Morgan	400	400	400
Mannum	450	450	440
Murray Bridge	420	420	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 140	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 040	1 050	820
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 150	2 140	2 200
Goolwa Barrages	1 730	1 670	1 570



River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 350	R	1 970	2 520
Jingellic	4.0	1.35	207.87	2 160	F	2 270	3 400
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.28	220.17	9 940	S	9 960	9 920
Heywoods	5.5	3.17	156.80	17 460	F	17 530	17 420
Doctors Point	5.5	3.27	151.74	17 400	S	17 690	17 660
Albury	4.3	2.28	149.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.46	129.48	19 400	F	18 660	18 830
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 790	9 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.25	106.09	10 040	S	10 020	10 210
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.52	80.07	4 090	R	3 870	4 390
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	63.80	3 620	F	3 740	3 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.50	51.62	5 870	S	5 970	6 410
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.15	42.99	5 290	F	5 600	6 600
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 240	F	4 470	5 750
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	4 130	S	4 330	5 680
Rufus Junction	-	3.13	20.06	4 550	F	4 330	4 190
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.73	-	2 990	R	2 650	2 600
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.68	153.91	210	S	270	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.59	145.27	153	F	180	240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	R	380	370
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.44	-	2 710	F	2 710	2 700
Edward at Liewah	-	2.96	58.34	2 520	S	2 540	2 550
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.30	54.79	206	R	210	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	F	220	390
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	S	100	90
Darling at Bourke	-	3.71	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.55	-	20	R	10	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 050	1 730
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.81
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.07	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.02

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.74	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.73	0.15	61.45	269



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.81

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.86	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.89	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.88	All closed	Open	Open

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