

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 September 2006



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15 September, 2006

Rainfall and inflows

Much of the Basin received a welcome fall of rain this week (*see attached map*), although the totals observed were generally less than 20mm. Whilst streamflow responses in the upper Murray were limited, a noticeable reduction in diversions and losses has provided a modest, but much needed, boost to storage levels.

Drought Planning

The Bureau of Meteorology BOM has recently advised of strengthening signs of an El Niño with the message that “*a warming Pacific and a low SOI bias the climate towards being drier and warmer than average across eastern and northern Australia for the remainder of 2006*”.

It is important to note that River Murray Water has been planning the operation of the River Murray System on the basis of very dry conditions since the beginning of the season. In this regard, Dartmouth Dam is performing its primary function as a drought reserve by being drawn upon to supplement storage in Hume. The continuing dry conditions and updated advice from the BOM suggests that these transfers may need to continue at high rates throughout spring and into summer. RMW will continually review conditions and system operations, and provide updates as appropriate.

River operations

This week's rainfall led to a reduction in irrigation demands, which in turn permitted a reduction in the release from Hume Reservoir. Storage in Hume subsequently increased from 510 GL to 535 GL (17.6% capacity), with transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir continuing at channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River. Flow at Albury/Wodonga was maintained close to 12 000 ML/day this week, although release from Hume Reservoir may rise slightly next week to meet increased downstream demands.

A program of weir pool variation at Torrumbarry commenced this week, with the pool level currently at 85.94m (11cm below full supply level) and being gradually lowered toward about 20 cm below FSL. Diversion from the Torrumbarry weir pool to National Channel reduced in response to the rain during the week, resulting in a rise in release from Torrumbarry Weir to a peak of 7 000 ML/day. The river at Swan Hill is currently peaking at a gauge height of 1.35m and is expected to fall back below 1.0 m by the end of September if conditions remain dry.

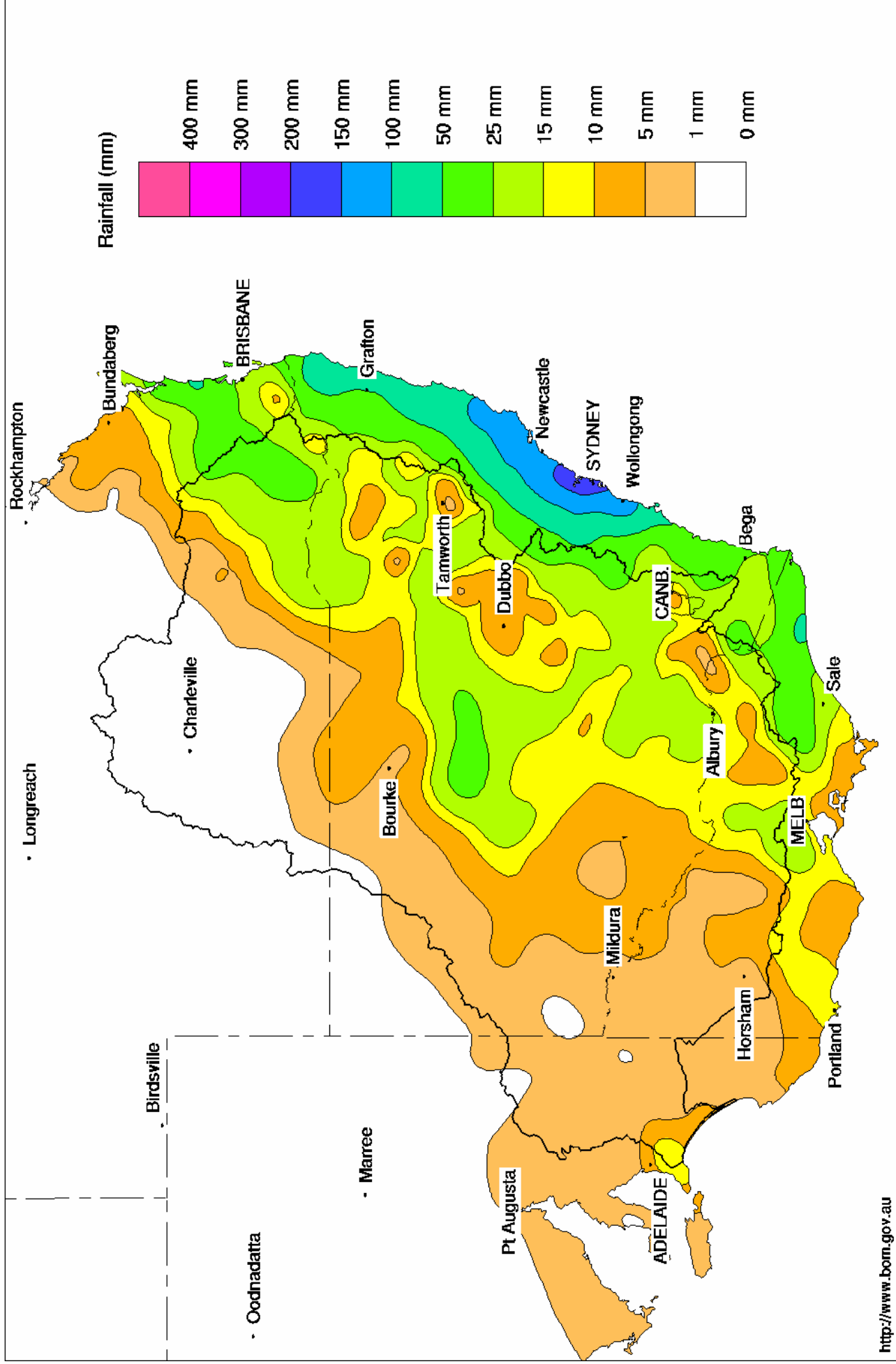
Storage in Lake Victoria will receive a boost from the higher river lows and is now expected to continue rising throughout September reaching about 85% of capacity. Flow to South Australia is currently averaging 4 000 ML/day, or 500 ML/day below the normal entitlement rate for September by agreement with South Australia. The Lower Lakes have been maintained at their surcharge level (0.85m AHD), although this level may fall in coming weeks if conditions remain dry.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th September 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 13 Sep 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	456.00	2 218	57%	80	2 138	-58
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.68	532	18%	30	502	+25
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.82	538	79%	100	438	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		252	15%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 540	38%	--	3 078	-27

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **36%**

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	316	31%	3	313	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	904	55%	24	880	-20
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	749	22%	100	649	-6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Sep-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	737	-21	Snowy-Murray	+28	521
Snowy-Murray Component	480	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+2	34
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	26.1	487
			Murray 1 Release	+31	586

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	7.3	115.9
Wakool System loss	0.7	7.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.7
Licensed Pumps	6.4	32.0
Lower Darling	0.2	4.4
TOTAL	14.8	161.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.6	43
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.3	115
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	19.5	172

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.7	
Flow so far this month	52	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	130	150	110
Red Cliffs	170	120	120
Merbein	90	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	620	620	620
Lock 9	110	110	140
Lake Victoria	110	140	150
Berri	240	240	240
Waikerie	-	380	370
Morgan	400	390	400
Mannum	420	420	450
Murray Bridge	390	400	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 160	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	880	920	760
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 150	2 160	2 230
Goolwa Barrages	1 550	1 540	1 510



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	-	-	-	3 930	F	4 820	4 800
Jingellic	4.0	1.88	208.40	6 130	F	6 020	5 480
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.26	220.15	9 820	F	9 850	9 860
Heywoods	5.5	2.61	156.24	10 930	S	11 270	14 250
Doctors Point	5.5	2.80	151.27	11 800	F	12 390	14 910
Albury	4.3	1.76	149.20	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.66	128.68	12 500	F	14 110	15 370
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 790	9 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	10 400	S	10 500	10 480
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.33	80.88	6 940	R	6 080	4 570
Swan Hill	4.5	1.31	64.23	6 320	R	5 050	4 180
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.97	52.09	7 880	R	7 190	6 860
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.49	43.33	7 310	R	6 990	7 170
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 060	F	6 100	6 430
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	27.72	6 790	S	6 870	7 170
Rufus Junction	-	2.94	19.87	3 460	R	3 260	3 480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	2 970	S	2 950	3 380
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.27	154.50	980	R	740	600
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.80	145.48	445	F	530	480
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	433	F	450	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.55	-	2 910	F	2 910	2 920
Edward at Liewah	-	3.09	58.47	2 710	S	2 650	2 560
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	316	S	320	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	234	F	240	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	23	F	20	- 10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	19	S	20	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	9	S	10	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 930	4 040
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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	+0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.18	+0.65
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.10	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.12	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.23	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.76	0.5	69.85	211
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.84	0.13	61.43	252



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.86

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.93	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.94	All closed	Open	Open

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