

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 June 2006



*Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, dwg  
Trim Ref : 06/12072*

16 June, 2006

## Rainfall and Inflows

Moderate falls of rain occurred throughout central NSW and southern Queensland over the past week, with 26 mm at Wagga Wagga (Murrumbidgee Catchment) and 26 mm at Condobolin (Lachlan Catchment). However, very little rain fell along the River Murray and in northern Victoria. As a result, the unregulated inflow to the River Murray System remains at very low levels.

## River Murray System Operations

In response to a lower inflow from the Kiewa River, the release from Hume Dam has been increased to about 900 ML/day (minimum release is 600 ML/day) to provide the minimum required flow at Doctors Point of 1 200 ML/day.

Release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained at the minimum flow of 1 800 ML/day and the Torrumbarry Weir pool is being gradually lowered assist in maintaining minimum river level requirements further downstream at Swan Hill. The upstream pool level at Torrumbarry Weir is currently 85.98 m AHD (7 cm below full supply level) and if conditions remain dry, it may be lowered by up to 40 cm below full supply level.

The river level at Swan Hill has been relatively steady over the past week at about 0.64 m (gauge height). However, the flow downstream of Euston Weir reduced gradually from 4 600 ML/day down to 3 400 ML/day. If conditions remain dry, the flow downstream of Euston Weir is expected to fall to about 2 500 ML/day over the coming week.

To enhance flows downstream of Euston Weir and assist meeting water requirements throughout Sunraysia over the coming month, the Euston Weir pool will be gradually lowered by up to 40 cm below full supply level. This action will also conserve water resources in Hume Reservoir (see attached media release).

Salinity levels along most of the River Murray are relatively low at present, however there has been a small increase in river salinity downstream of Lock 2 over the past month. Since mid May the salinity at Morgan has increased from 350 EC to 460 EC. This is lower than the average river salinity at Morgan over past 20 years, which has been 530 EC. A small increase in river salinity along the Lower Murray is not unusual at this time of year due to the lower South Australian entitlement flow during winter.

The level of the Lower Lakes has gradually risen to 0.76m AHD, which is 1 cm above the full supply level. The fishways at Tauwichee and Goolwa Barrages remain open and a small release (about 50 ML/day) continues through the Boundary Creek Barrage. The Goolwa fishway was temporarily closed last weekend to minimise saline ocean water flowing into the lake from the Goolwa Channel during periods of very high tide. The salinity at Goolwa has been relatively steady over the past month at about 1 350 EC, compared to about 2 300 EC this time last year.

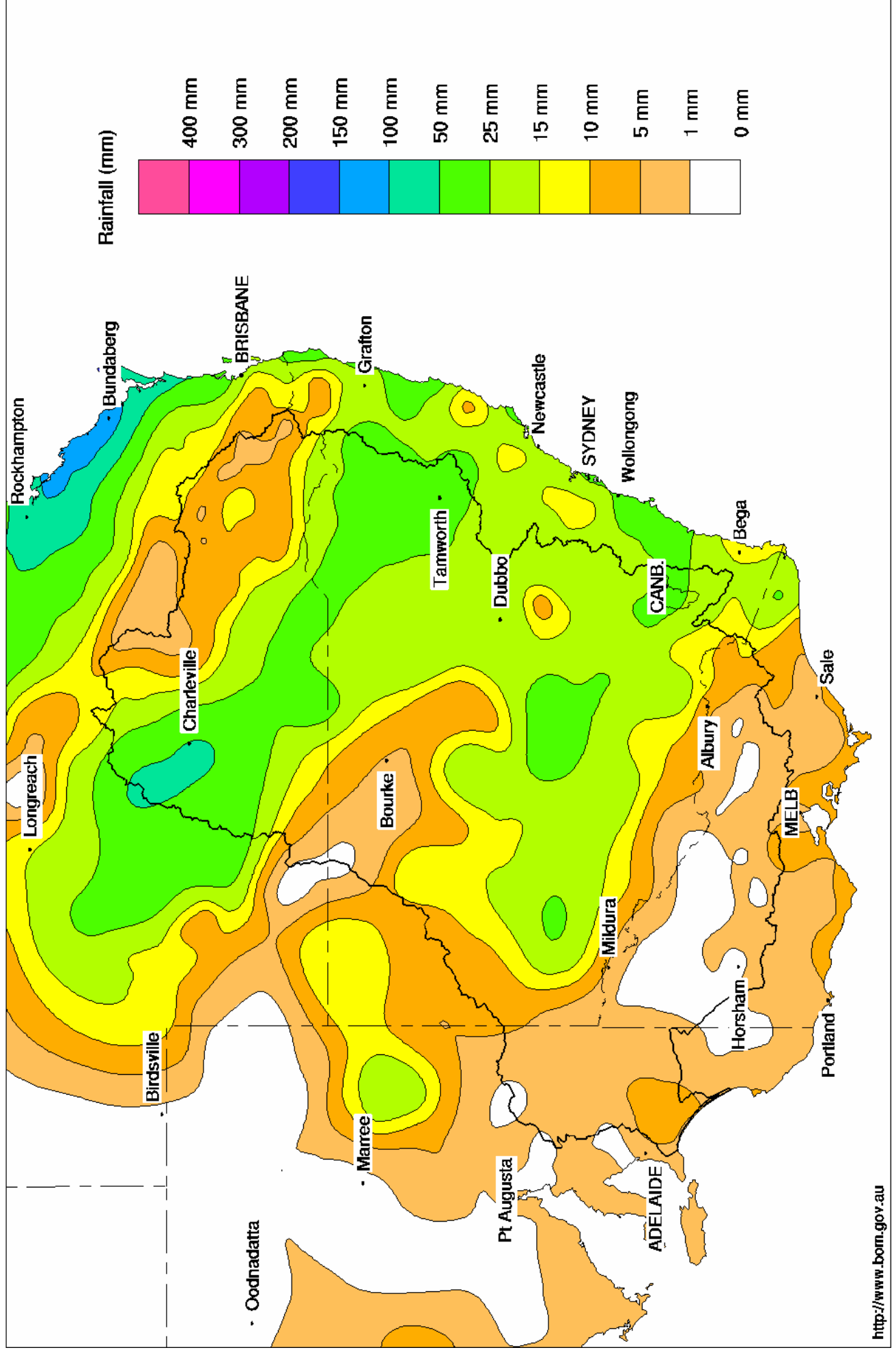
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th June 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



# MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 15 June 2006

## Partial Lowering of Euston Weir Pool Level



The water level of Euston Weir pool will be partially lowered to conserve water in Hume Reservoir for the 2006-07 season and to minimise bank erosion, River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager David Dreverman announced today.

Inflows to the River Murray so far during 2006 have been extremely low and River Murray storages remain well below average, according to Mr Dreverman.

“Resources held in Lake Hume can be increased by utilising the water stored in Euston Weir Pool to meet minimum flow and water supply requirements further downstream,” he said.

This is part of a package of measures being implemented to assist with conserving water in Lake Hume and to offset the current low flows along the mid reaches of the River Murray, with Lake Mulwala and Torrumbarry Weir pool already being drawn down below their full supply levels.

The partial lowering of Euston Weir pool will also assist in minimising the undercutting of the river banks along the weir pool. Erosion of the river banks tends to be higher when the weir pool levels are held constant for prolonged periods.

The water level of Euston Weir pool is currently 47.54 m AHD or 6 cm below full supply level (47.6 m AHD). It is expected the pool level will be gradually lowered over the coming month to a level about 40 cm below full supply level.

“However, the extent of the drawdown may be less than this if inflows to Euston Weir pool improve as a result of rainfall and increased inflow to the River Murray. The weir pool level will be regularly reviewed to take into account changing conditions along the River Murray and the pool level will be returned to the full supply level when irrigation requirements increase”, Mr Dreverman said.

River pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to take this operation into account and make any necessary adjustments in response to the lower pool level.

In particular boat masters are reminded that regardless of the changes to the weir pool level, they need to follow the NSW Maritime Authority's *Boating Handbook* (<http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/boathandling.html#inland>) which states: “continually assess the safety of the vessel’s speed” and “familiarise yourself with the area each time before attempting any high-speed activities such as water skiing or aquaplaning.”

Mr Dreverman emphasised that The *Boating Handbook* states: “inland waterways are often murky and constantly changing, so boat masters need to be aware of possible dangers and obstructions that may be hidden just below the surface” and that “it is not feasible or practical to remove all these hazards, nor to mark them all with navigation markers”.

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(Sheridan Lockerbie is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Trim ref: M2006/00026 06/12269

**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	462.28	2 525	65%	80	2 445	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.71	535	18%	30	505	+45
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.90	438	65%	100	338	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		271	16%	(- -) #	0	-1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 769</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3 288</b>	<b>+45</b>

\* 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		345	34%	3	342	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		819	50%	24	795	+34
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		741	22%	100	641	+2

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Jun-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 171	-56	Snowy-Murray	+38	138
Snowy-Murray Component	652	-35	Tooma-Tumut	+2	11
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	35.5	127
			Murray 1 Release	+44	164

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	1 206.3
Wakool System loss	-0.8	33.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	29.0
Licensed Pumps	2.1	388.4
Lower Darling	0.1	64.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1 721.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	402
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	724
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	144
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	61
Licensed pumps - LMW	2.4	254
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1 585</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	90	
Flow this week	21.7	(3 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	43	
Flow last month	91	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	120	110	100
Euston	130	100	110
Red Cliffs	120	110	130
Merbein	50	60	120
Burtundy (Darling)	650	670	600
Lock 9	100	100	140
Lake Victoria	170	180	190
Berri	250	250	230
Waikerie	-	390	330
Morgan	460	460	330
Mannum	380	380	360
Murray Bridge	310	310	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 210	1 200	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	980	990	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 340	2 360	2 200
Goolwa Barrages	1 390	1 380	1 900



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	6 840	F	6 460	6 130
Jingellic	4.0	2.11	208.63	8 100	R	6 910	6 800
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.59	218.48	1 060	R	620	670
Heywoods	5.5	1.33	154.96	900	S	900	720
Doctors Point	5.5	1.50	149.97	1 170	F	1 300	1 270
Albury	4.3	0.69	148.13	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.66	126.68	1 730	F	1 760	1 780
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.37	115.41	1 810	S	1 810	1 810
Tocumwal	6.4	0.89	104.73	2 180	F	2 220	2 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.92	79.47	1 910	S	1 950	2 100
Swan Hill	4.5	0.64	63.56	2 060	S	2 040	2 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.68	50.80	2 890	F	3 180	4 990
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.80	42.64	3 430	F	3 970	5 820
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 500	F	3 980	6 650
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 450	F	4 110	6 060
Rufus Junction	-	2.84	19.77	2 520	R	2 600	2 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.72	-	3 460	R	2 880	2 850
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.87	154.10	420	F	520	630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.78	145.46	411	F	430	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	383	S	410	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.41	-	180	S	190	390
Edward at Liewah	-	1.27	56.65	679	F	830	1 320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.26	54.75	153	F	220	400
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	F	240	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	10	S	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	F	100	90
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	6	S	10	10

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 760	2 240
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.26	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.56
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.06	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.37
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.03

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.84	0.51	69.86	219
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.82	0.1	61.4	228



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-9.00

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.81	All closed	Open	Open

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