

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 April 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, sc
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20 April, 2006



Rainfall

Similar dry weather conditions persisted this week with the exception of isolated patches of between 10 and 50 mm of rainfall in the North West and Southern parts of the Basin (*see attached map*), most of which occurred on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. Rainfall across parts of North East Victoria yielded only small stream rises due to the dry catchment conditions. Lesser falls in the NSW Riverina and Victorian irrigation areas were sufficient however to bring about a reduction in irrigation demand for several consecutive days. Much of the South West and interior parts of the Basin received less than 5 mm of rain.

River Murray Operations

The release from Hume Dam was progressively reduced over the Easter long weekend in response to a decrease in irrigation demand associated with local rainfall and cooler temperatures. The flow at Doctors Point averaged 17 000 ML/d this week, compared to about 20 000 ML/d in the previous week. The release from Hume Dam is expected to increase again over coming days to about 18 – 20 000 ML/d.

The storage volume in Hume Reservoir is currently about 19 % (566 GL) and continues to fall steadily. Storage in Hume will be sufficient to meet irrigation demands through to the end of the 2005/06 irrigation season and to meet the water transfer requirements to Lake Victoria without any additional water transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir.

The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir increased this week (averaged ~5 600 ML/d compared to 4 400 ML/d in the previous week) due in part to the progressive reduction in diversions from the National Channel. River flows elsewhere across the River Murray system have increased slightly in response to eased irrigation demand and river losses, whilst the transfer of water to Lake Victoria continues.

The current outlook for Lake Victoria storage levels this season shows the lake stabilising at about its current level (~ 245 GL +/- 5 GL) over the coming weeks and then increasing toward 350 GL in early June. Lowering of the upper pools of Locks 7, 8 and 9 back toward Full Supply Level (FSL) is currently being implemented.

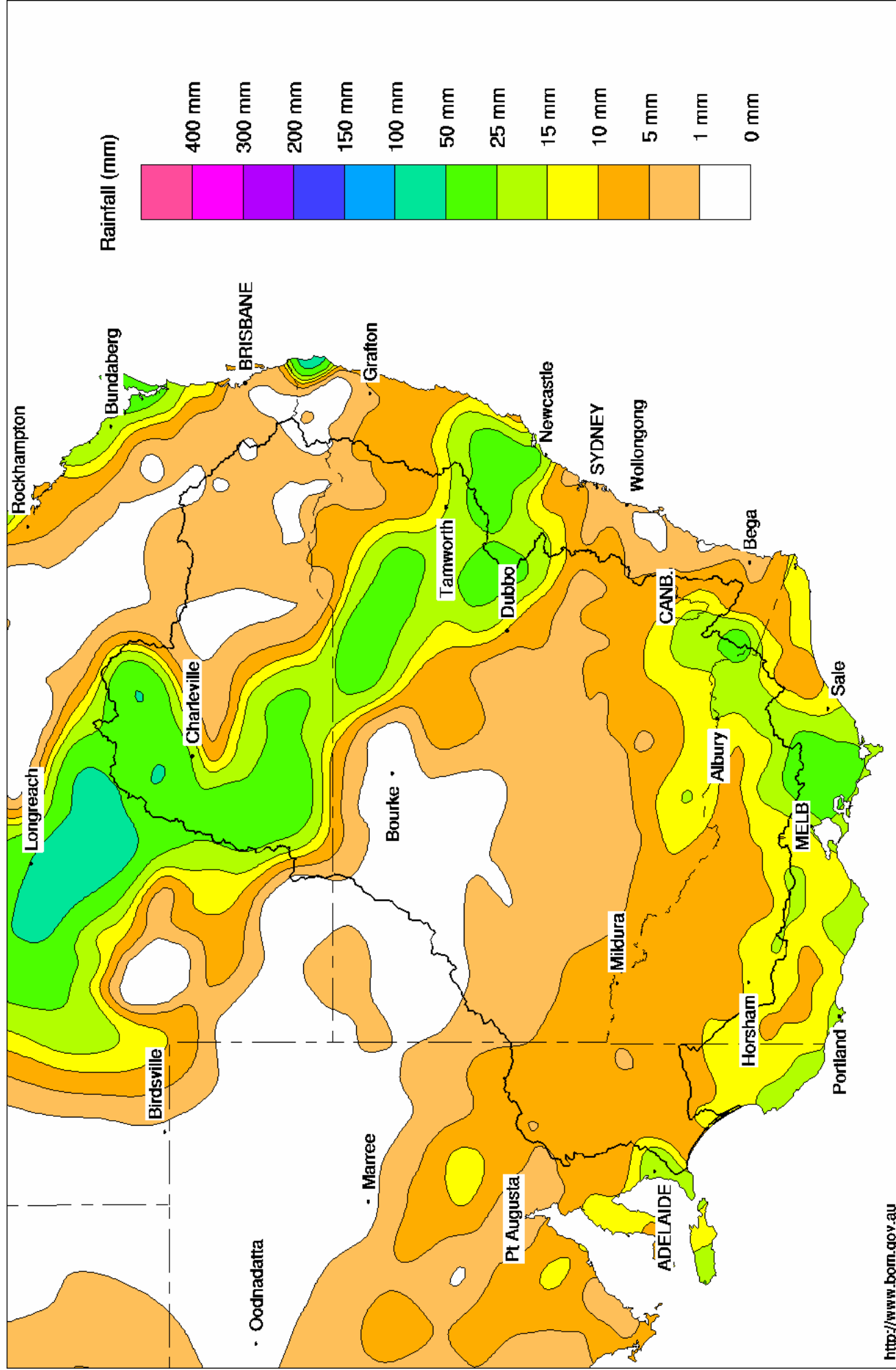
The flow to South Australia for the remainder of April has been adjusted to provide an average daily flow of about 4 100 ML/d. This is in order to provide a total volume of 135 GL to South Australia for the month whilst allowing a second flow gauging of the Lake Victoria outlet capacity to be undertaken during the last week of April. The flow to South Australia during the gauging is expected to temporarily increase to around 7 500 ML/d for around 1 day. The gauging will provide important information on the maximum outlet capacity with the lake under low storage conditions.

The flow downstream of Lock 1 averaged 3 600 ML/d this week. The level of Lake Alexandrina rose briefly to about 0.73m AHD, as a result of local rainfall over Easter, and is now slowly falling again. The fishways at Tauwichee and Goolwa Barrages remain open.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th April 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	462.21	2 522	65%	80	2 442	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.09	566	19%	30	536	-97
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.95	247	36%	100	147	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		285	16%	(- -) #	0	-1
Total		9 352		3 619	39%	--	3 124	-99

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 37%

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	343	33%	3	340	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	711	44%	24	687	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	733	22%	100	633	-32

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Apr-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 459	-27	Snowy-Murray	+5	863
Snowy-Murray Component	777	-1	Tooma-Tumut	+1	257
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	4.3	606
			Murray 1 Release	+5	1 176

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	23.6	1 165.5
Wakool System loss	0.8	30.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	27.5
Licensed Pumps	13.7	357.2
Lower Darling	0.5	58.7
TOTAL	38.8	1 639.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	10.1	388
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.3	674
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	138
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.0	51
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	225
TOTAL	35.6	1 476

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	29.5	
Flow so far this month	85	
Flow last month	188	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	80	90	100
Euston	110	100	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	140
Merbein	100	100	130
Burtundy (Darling)	710	720	580
Lock 9	120	120	140
Lake Victoria	220	210	190
Berri	230	230	220
Waikerie	-	330	330
Morgan	350	350	320
Mannum	360	360	360
Murray Bridge	330	340	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 170	1 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	900	820	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 220	2 380	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	2 350	2 340	1 870

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	-	-	-	430	F	1 420	1 090
Jingellic	4.0	1.23	207.75	1 380	F	1 880	1 540
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.35	218.24	560	F	570	560
Heywoods	5.5	2.89	156.52	13 010	F	15 940	18 540
Doctors Point	5.5	2.98	151.45	13 800	F	17 000	19 860
Albury	4.3	1.98	149.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.04	129.06	15 500	F	19 070	20 430
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 000	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	10 950	R	10 740	10 650
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.11	80.66	6 170	R	5 630	4 440
Swan Hill	4.5	1.09	64.01	4 940	R	4 230	3 520
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.66	51.78	6 560	R	6 090	5 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.35	43.19	6 450	R	5 830	5 420
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.90	5 020	F	4 530	4 560
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	4 910	S	4 430	4 510
Rufus Junction	-	2.99	19.92	3 360	S	3 450	3 720
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 570	S	3 640	3 860
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.71	153.94	240	F	240	300
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	377	F	340	350
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.27	92.69	535	R	530	690
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 760	F	2 640	2 480
Edward at Liewah	-	2.87	58.25	2 400	S	2 400	2 470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.39	54.88	331	R	320	420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	244	S	250	290
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	F	140	230
Darling at Bourke	-	4.09	-	329	S	350	410
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	63	S	70	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	860	780
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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	+0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.23	+0.71
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.09	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.51
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.37	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.48	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.49	+0.28	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.13

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.24	0.71	70.06	410
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.14	61.44	261

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.70

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.62	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.73	All closed

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

