

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 September 2006



22 September, 2006

Trim Ref : M2006/00012 06/20337

Rainfall and Inflows

Dry and warm conditions prevailed across most of the Basin this week, with isolated showers providing up to 10 mm of rain in north-eastern Victoria and southern Queensland (*see attached map*). Unregulated inflows to the River Murray System remain at very low levels.

River Operations

Warm, dry and windy conditions have led to a considerable increase in irrigation diversions and 'river losses' along the River Murray System. In response, the release from Hume Dam has been increased by about 5 000 ML/day to provide a flow at Albury-Wodonga of about 18 000 ML/day. The combination of low inflows and higher releases have resulted in storage in Hume Reservoir again falling slowly. Hume Reservoir is currently holding 531 GL (17.5% capacity).

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River in order to meet water requirements along the entire River Murray System during this extended period of drought. Over the past week the storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has fallen by about 60 GL to 2 158 GL (55% capacity).

High regulated flow rates are currently being maintained along the River Murray System between Yarrawonga Weir and Lock 9 in order to transfer water to Lake Victoria to meet forecast water requirements of all three States over the entire season. Release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 9 800 ML/day, and the flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been reduced slightly from 2 900 ML/day to 2 700 ML/day to minimise the chance of water over-topping the banks of the Edward River and flowing into the Werai Forest.

The upper pool level of Torrumbarry Weir is currently 85.88 m AHD (16 cm below FSL) and the flow downstream of the weir has reduced from 7 000 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day as a result of an increase in diversions at National Channel.

Flow downstream of Euston Weir temporarily increased to 8 800 ML/day primarily as a result of the rainfall and reduced irrigation demand experienced in early September. This temporary increase in river flow will be stored in Lake Victoria, which is currently holding 545 GL (81% capacity). The river level downstream of Euston Weir is now expected to gradually fall over the coming week.

Flow to South Australia has remained at close to 4 000 ML/day, which is 500 ML/day below the normal September entitlement rate. Salinity levels along the Lower Murray have been relatively steady with 370 EC at Lock 2 and about 1 550 EC upstream of the Goolwa Barrage. Dry and windy conditions have also increased evaporation losses along the lower Murray and the level of the Lower Lakes has fallen slightly to 0.84 m (AHD). The level of the Lower Lakes is expected to gradually fall over the coming months unless wetter conditions are experienced.

DAVID DREVERMAN

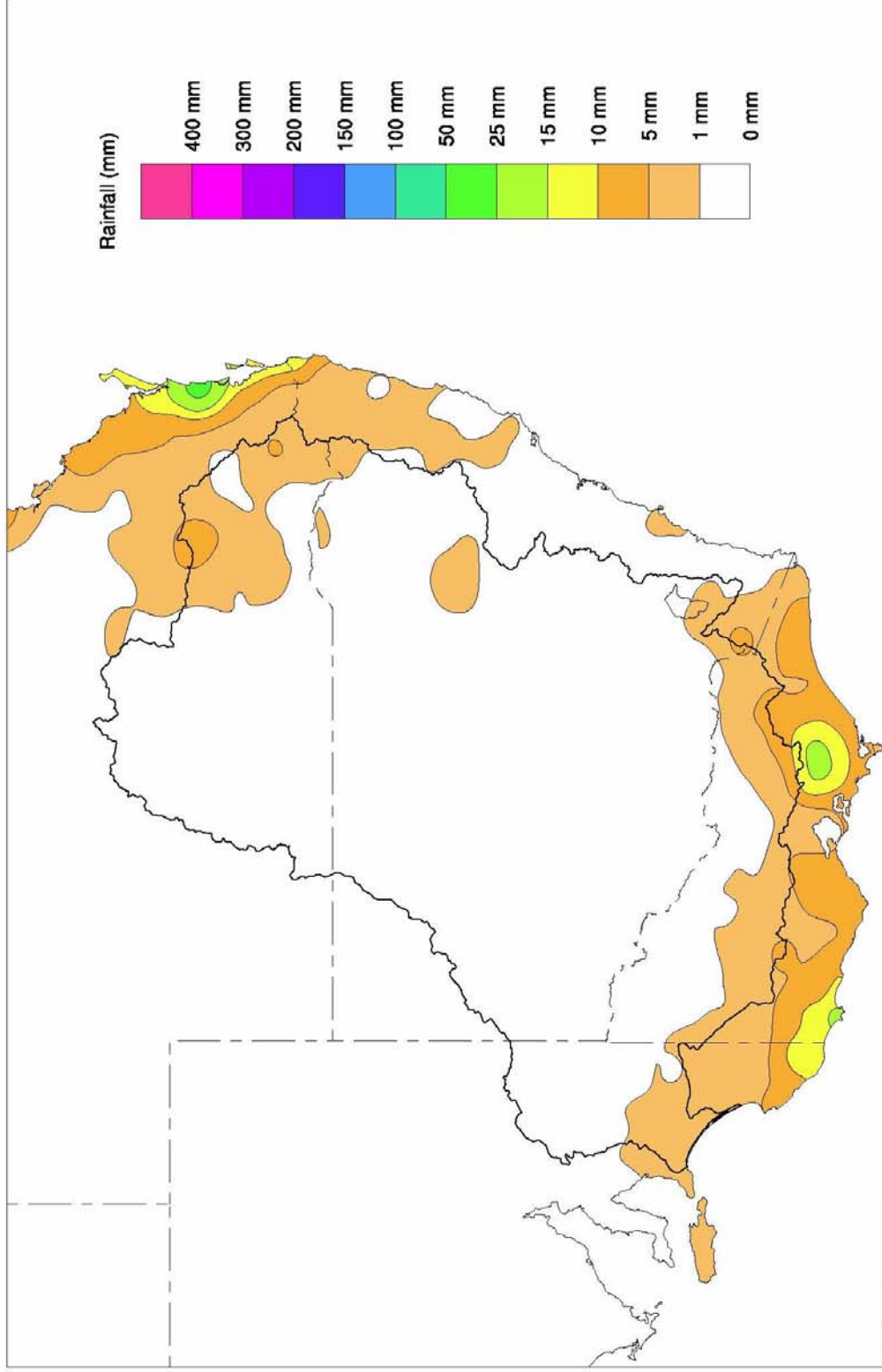
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th September 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending Wednesday 20 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	454.72	2 158	55%	80	2 078	-60
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.71	534	18%	30	504	+2
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.88	545	80%	100	445	+7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		247	14%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		3 484	37%	--	3 027	-56

* 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		317	31%	3	314	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		862	53%	24	838	-42
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		726	21%	100	626	-23

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Sep-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	729	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+19	544
Snowy-Murray Component	474	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	34
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	19.3	510
			Murray 1 Release	+29	615

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	13.6	129.5
Wakool System loss	0.8	8.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	2.2
Licensed Pumps	5.0	37.0
Lower Darling	2.1	6.5
TOTAL	22.0	183.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	10.8	53
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.4	134
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	11
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.9	6
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	33.3	206

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	28.1	
Flow so far this month	80	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	70	80
Euston	100	110	110
Red Cliffs	150	160	130
Merbein	160	140	100
Burtundy (Darling)	630	630	620
Lock 9	110	110	130
Lake Victoria	150	130	150
Berri	250	250	240
Waikerie	-	-	370
Morgan	390	400	400
Mannum	420	420	440
Murray Bridge	400	390	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 100	1 130	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	850	850	770
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 150	2 150	2 210
Goolwa Barrages	1 570	1 550	1 520



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	-	-	-	4 920	R	4 500	4 820
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	208.19	4 460	F	5 170	6 020
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.27	220.16	9 880	R	9 850	9 850
Heywoods	5.5	3.11	156.74	16 530	R	14 230	11 270
Doctors Point	5.5	3.23	151.70	16 900	R	14 410	12 390
Albury	4.3	2.20	149.64	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.06	129.08	15 700	R	13 940	14 110
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	10 410	10 500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.83	80.38	5 120	F	5 880	6 080
Swan Hill	4.5	1.19	64.11	5 520	F	6 130	5 050
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.15	52.27	8 690	F	8 900	7 190
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.71	43.55	8 640	F	8 280	6 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 130	F	6 380	6 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	6 570	F	6 710	6 870
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	19.88	3 510	R	3 390	3 260
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.98	-	3 130	S	3 110	2 950
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.90	154.13	460	R	400	740
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	344	S	380	530
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	368	S	380	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.44	-	2 710	F	2 790	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	3.08	58.46	2 690	F	2 710	2 650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	54.91	380	R	340	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	197	R	200	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	23	F	30	20
Darling at Bourke	-	3.91	-	-	F	10	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	1	F	10	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 290	3 930
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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	+0.15	+0.66
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.16	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.23	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.37
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.39	1.05	70.4	900
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.12	0.16	61.46	278



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.85

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.81	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.84	All closed	Open	Open

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