

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 22 February 2006



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24 February, 2006

Rainfall and Temperature

Localised rain fell in the north-east of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with 25 to 100 mm recorded over the Gwydir, Namoi and Macquarie catchments (see attached map). However, in the south of the Basin, another week of warm and dry weather was experienced. For the month to date, less than 10 mm of rain has fallen over the upper catchment of the River Murray.

Observations and Outlook

In its Drought Statement, issued on 3 February 2006, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) reported that rainfall deficiencies are evident around the western border regions of Queensland and NSW for both the past four month and twelve month periods. To make matters worse, during the past four months, temperatures have been very high (highest on record in many cases) in the same area.

Looking ahead, in its recent 3 month rainfall outlook for the period March to May 2006 inclusive, the BOM has indicated a neutral rainfall outlook for the Murray-Darling Basin. The BOM also reports a neutral temperature outlook for this period.

System Operations

The total volume of water in MDBC storages fell by a further 144 GL this week, as releases from Hume and Lake Victoria were continued to supply downstream demands and meet river losses. The release from Hume was gradually increased to target a flow at Doctors Point of 23 000 ML/day which is close to the channel capacity of 25 000 ML/day and up from 20 000 ML/day this time last week. The release from Lake Victoria was reduced slightly from about 5 000 ML/day to 4 600 ML/day to assist in maintaining the flow to South Australia.

Flows along the mid Murray have remained relatively steady this week. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has remained constant at 10 000 ML/day. There has been a gradual increase in the inflows from the Goulburn River, from 1 300 ML/day to 1 500 ML/day, to deliver water from the inter-valley trade account held in Eildon Reservoir to assist flows in the River Murray. At Euston and Wentworth, the flow has averaged 6 300 ML/day and 4 100 ML/day respectively.

Flow on the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir was steady at 2 900 ML/day, and is expected to stay at this level for at least the next week, depending on the demand at the Wakool Canal offtake. As the release from Stevens Weir passes downstream, there have been gradual increases in flow at Moulamein and Liewah, to 2 800 ML/day and 2 600 ML/day, respectively.

During spring last year, the upper pool levels of Lock and Weirs 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8 were raised for environmental benefit. Following the completion of the period of surplus flow in December, a program of gradual lowering of the weir pools commenced. Lock 1 was the last of the weir pools to be lowered, and is expected to be back at its full supply level within the next week.

The barrage gates remain closed, with the exception of a release of about 80 ML/day through the fishways at Goolwa and Tauwitchere, which is being sourced from an environmental water allocation. Recent monitoring indicated that on each high tide hundreds of small fish, such as juvenile congolli (which would have spawned last spring), sandy sprat and common galaxias are moving through the Tauwitchere Rock Ramp fishway.

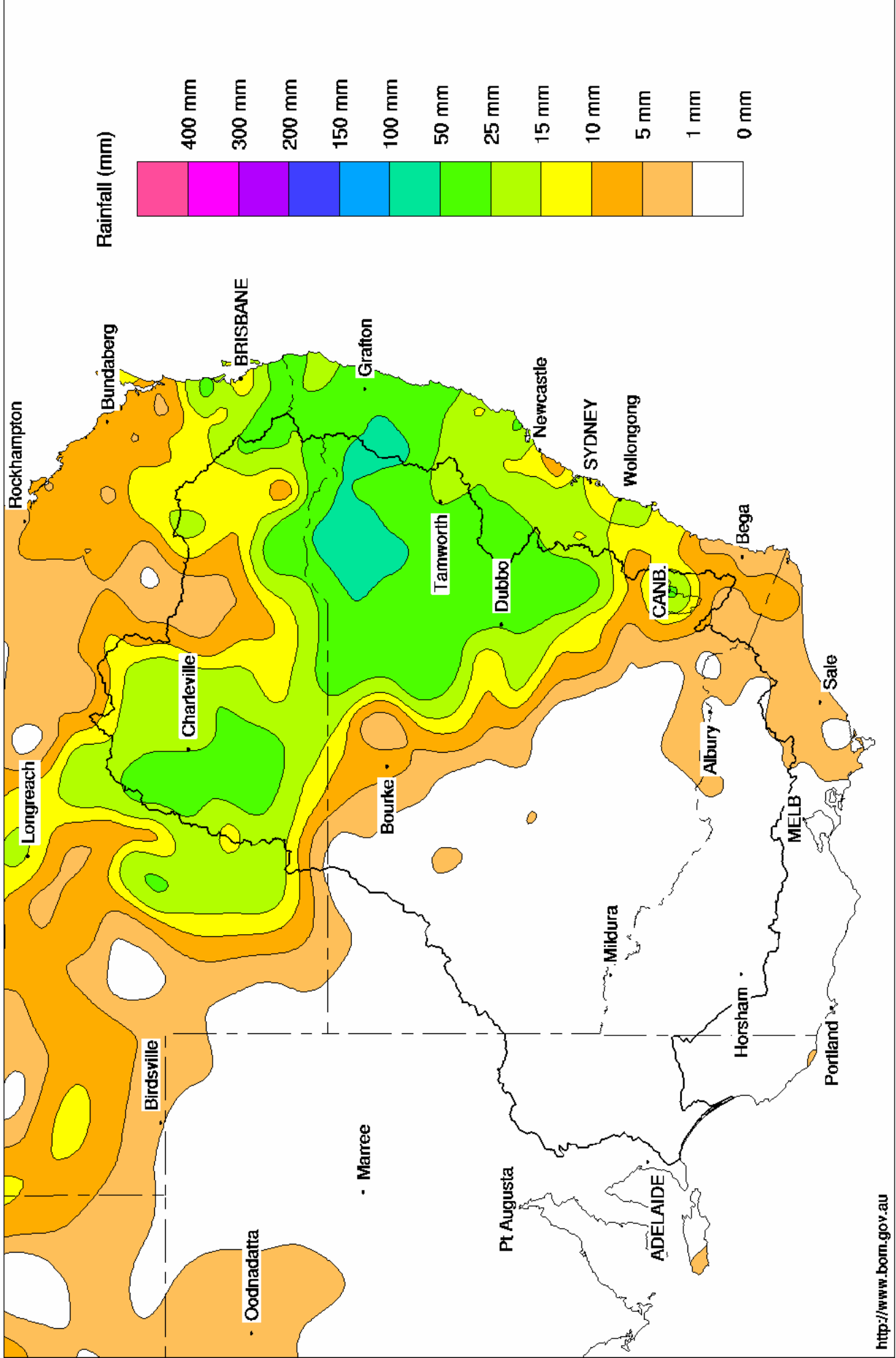
DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water

Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd February 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	462.38	2 531	65%	80	2 451	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	183.15	1 556	51%	30	1 526	-97
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.94	338	50%	100	238	-35
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		312	18%	(- -) #	0	-8
Total		9 352		4 736	51%	--	4 214	-144

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **50%**

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	365	36%	3	362	-20
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	799	49%	24	775	-27
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 106	33%	100	1 006	-73

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Feb-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 810	-65	Snowy-Murray	+39	750
Snowy-Murray Component	889	-41	Tooma-Tumut	+0	247
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	38.6	503
			Murray 1 Release	+45	1 063

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	33.4	859.8
Wakool System loss	0.8	19.4
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	22.4
Licensed Pumps	12.3	229.3
Lower Darling	4.2	55.8
TOTAL	51.9	1 186.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.0	273
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.6	479
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.0	114
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	6.0	37
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.6	187
TOTAL	57.2	1 090

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.9	
Flow so far this month	156	
Flow last month	220	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	110	110	110
Euston	100	110	120
Red Cliffs	140	140	140
Merbein	140	140	130
Burtundy (Darling)	570	550	560
Lock 9	170	180	140
Lake Victoria	210	210	190
Berri	230	230	220
Waikerie	310	320	340
Morgan	330	330	320
Mannum	330	330	360
Murray Bridge	330	330	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 180	1 270
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 110	1 130	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 250	2 230	2 120
Goolwa Barrages	1 890	1 890	1 810

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	-	-	-	6 160	S	6 680	4 200
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	208.41	6 210	S	6 690	3 740
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	530	F	550	560
Heywoods	5.5	3.60	157.23	21 490	R	19 590	19 820
Doctors Point	5.5	3.70	152.17	23 000	S	21 200	21 300
Albury	4.3	2.77	150.21	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.69	129.71	21 700	R	20 770	22 040
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 010	10 060
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 630	S	10 670	10 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.08	80.63	6 070	F	6 040	6 170
Swan Hill	4.5	1.13	64.05	5 200	R	5 130	5 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.82	51.94	7 260	S	7 210	6 930
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.34	43.18	6 390	R	6 320	6 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.90	4 860	F	4 600	4 660
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	4 330	R	4 120	4 430
Rufus Junction	-	3.52	20.45	6 570	R	6 640	6 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 300	F	4 480	4 510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.66	153.89	190	F	320	250
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.64	145.32	207	F	240	320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.82	93.24	1 481	S	1 390	1 320
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	F	2 910	2 840
Edward at Liewah	-	2.97	58.35	2 540	R	2 490	2 320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.46	54.95	453	S	440	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	224	R	230	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.57	-	980	R	410	200
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	371	F	490	430
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	S	30	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10	120
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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	+0.09	+1.21
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.20
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.23
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	0.67	70.02	366
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.44	0.2	61.5	314

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.72

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.75	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	All closed

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