

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 22 November 2006



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23 November, 2006

Rainfall and inflows

After the widespread rain of last week, the Basin was mainly dry this week with only a few scattered showers in southern areas (*see attached map*). These showers were insufficient to produce any additional runoff into the River Murray system, leading to a fall in the unregulated inflows to Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs. An increase in temperatures during the latter part of this week caused a rise in irrigation demands and transmission losses along the river system. Continuing high temperatures across most of the Basin are forecast for the coming week.

Climate outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology updated their commentary on the El Niño-Southern Oscillation today, noting a strengthening of El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean. These warmer than average temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean bias the climate towards drier than average across eastern Australia, and are expected to persist for much of the summer. However the Bureau has stated that a switch towards wetter conditions has been observed in the January or February of some previous El Niño events. Warm temperatures in the Indian Ocean can bias the climate towards wetter than average conditions across eastern Australia, which would help to alleviate the impact of the current El Niño. The BOM's latest seasonal rainfall outlook shows the chances of accumulating at least average rainfall during December to February are close to 50% for much of Australia.

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been increased further this week to assist in meeting demands upon Hume Reservoir over the coming months, producing a river level at Tallandoon of 3.39m (10 600 ML/day). If drier conditions remain, it is likely that these higher flows in the Mitta Mitta River will continue for much of the season. Storage in Dartmouth fell 68 GL this week to 1 586 GL (41% capacity), whilst lower water demands on Hume saw it fall only 13 GL to 280 GL (9% capacity).

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has been maintained above 6 000 ML/day, with National Channel diversions remaining at approximately 2 000 ML/day this week. Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River has increased to 1 400 ML/day at Balranald as part of the Murrumbidgee Inter-valley Trade Account requested by RMW to help meet irrigation demands over the coming months.

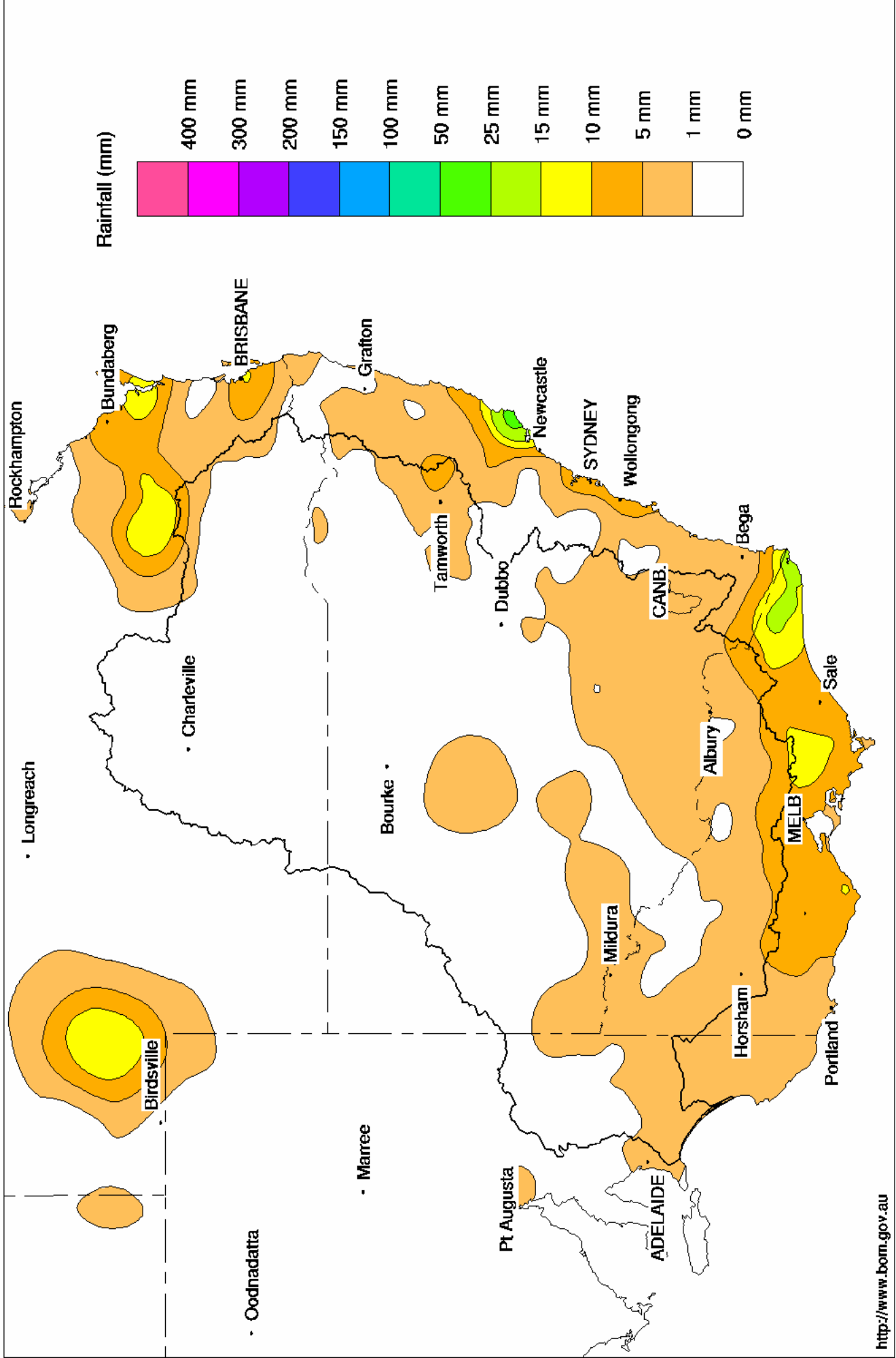
The previous week's rainfall, and lower temperatures during the first part of this week, has had the effect of reducing demands and river losses through the River Murray system. In turn, this has brought some improvement to storage in Lake Victoria, which increased 12 GL to 497 GL (73% capacity) this week. This improvement will assist river operations in maintaining the necessary supply to South Australia over the coming months. RMW will in coming weeks provide updates on expected flow rates to South Australia over summer. The average daily flow to South Australia has been reduced to approximately 4 550 ML/day for the remainder of November. The average level of the Lower Lakes remained constant at 0.67m AHD this week.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd November 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	441.15	1 586	41%	80	1 506	-68
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.10	280	9%	30	250	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.45	497	73%	100	397	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		193	11%	(- -) #	0	-6
Total		9 352		2 555	27%	--	2 153	-76

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 25%

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		307	30%	3	304	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		470	29%	24	446	-7
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		530	16%	100	430	-20

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Nov-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	665	-2	Snowy-Murray	+7	673
Snowy-Murray Component	401	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+0	34
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	6.9	639
			Murray 1 Release	+10	767

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.0	236.8
Wakool System loss	2.9	27.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	8.1
Licensed Pumps	4.9	93.8
Lower Darling	0.5	12.3
TOTAL	12.0	378.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	9.9	165
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.1	327
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.9	50
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	9.3	59
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.1	40
TOTAL	43.1	641

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	
Flow this week	32.9	(4 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	115	
Flow last month	153	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	50	50	70
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	780	760	670
Lock 9	130	120	130
Lake Victoria	150	150	150
Berri	220	210	230
Waikerie	320	330	370
Morgan	340	340	400
Mannum	470	460	450
Murray Bridge	460	460	410
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 230	1 240	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 210	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 200	2 180	2 190
Goolwa Barrages	2 050	2 140	1 670



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	-	-	-	1 720	F	1 440	2 890
Jingellic	4.0	1.29	207.81	1 790	R	2 040	3 180
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.39	220.28	10 610	R	10 390	10 130
Heywoods	5.5	2.92	156.55	14 010	S	13 470	14 050
Doctors Point	5.5	3.01	151.48	14 200	S	13 660	13 910
Albury	4.3	1.99	149.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.96	128.98	14 900	S	13 940	15 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.71	116.75	10 200	S	10 150	10 090
Tocumwal	6.4	2.22	106.06	9 820	F	9 800	9 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.08	80.63	6 040	F	6 200	6 120
Swan Hill	4.5	1.23	64.15	5 780	F	5 890	5 610
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.25	52.37	9 170	F	9 220	8 800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.83	43.67	9 330	S	9 160	8 350
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 170	F	7 160	6 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	6 930	R	7 050	6 040
Rufus Junction	-	3.09	20.02	4 310	R	4 230	5 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.81	-	2 100	F	3 660	3 840
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.60	153.83	140	F	240	140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.51	145.19	80	S	120	90
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	324	F	350	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.44	82.21	2 710	F	2 700	2 700
Edward at Liewah	-	3.10	58.48	2 720	S	2 700	2 640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.69	55.18	1 020	F	1 100	1 190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.04	58.00	1 440	R	1 400	790
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.32	-	255	F	420	100
Darling at Bourke	-	3.18	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.73	-	151	S	160	230

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 460	790
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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	+0.10	+0.80
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.04	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.34	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.02
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	+0.06

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	1.89	71.24	2630
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.75	63.05	2260



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.67

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.57	All closed	Open	Open

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