

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 April 2006

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28 April, 2006



## Rainfall and inflows

Patchy rain was recorded across northern Victoria and southern NSW during the week (*see attached map*), with 28mm falling at Mount Buffalo and 17 mm at Khancoban. However, only very small rises in streamflow were recorded and inflow to the Upper Murray storages remains at very low levels, expected to be exceeded 9 years in 10.

## River Murray Operations

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been varied on a weekly cycle since February 2006 as part of a trial to assist in improving water quality in the Mitta Mitta River. Initially, the flow was varied between 200 and 400 ML/day (average 300 ML/day), however over the past week this was altered to vary between 300 and 900 ML/day (average 400 ML/day). If conditions remain dry, this latest variable release pattern will continue for at least another two weeks whilst environmental monitoring of the trial is undertaken.

In response to higher losses and increased irrigation diversions from Lake Mulwala, the release from Hume Reservoir was temporarily increased by about 3 000 ML/day to provide 18 400 ML/day at Doctors Point. The flow at Doctors Point has since been reduced to 17 000 ML/day (27 April) and it is likely that further reductions will be made over the coming week as the irrigation season comes to a close. Murray Irrigation Limited (NSW) has announced that their major irrigation offtakes, the Mulwala and Wakool Canals, will close on 8 May. If dry conditions continue, diversions by the main Victorian irrigation channels, the Yarrowonga Main Canal and the National Channel, will continue until at least 15 May. To reduce the risk of bank erosion and unseasonal flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest, the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced slightly from 10 000 ML/day to 9 800 ML/day

Following a reduction in diversions from the National Channel, the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir increased from 6 100 to 6 800 ML/day. Further downstream at Euston, the flow has increased to 7 500 ML/day and if conditions remain dry it is expected to rise to about 8 300 ML/day over the coming week.

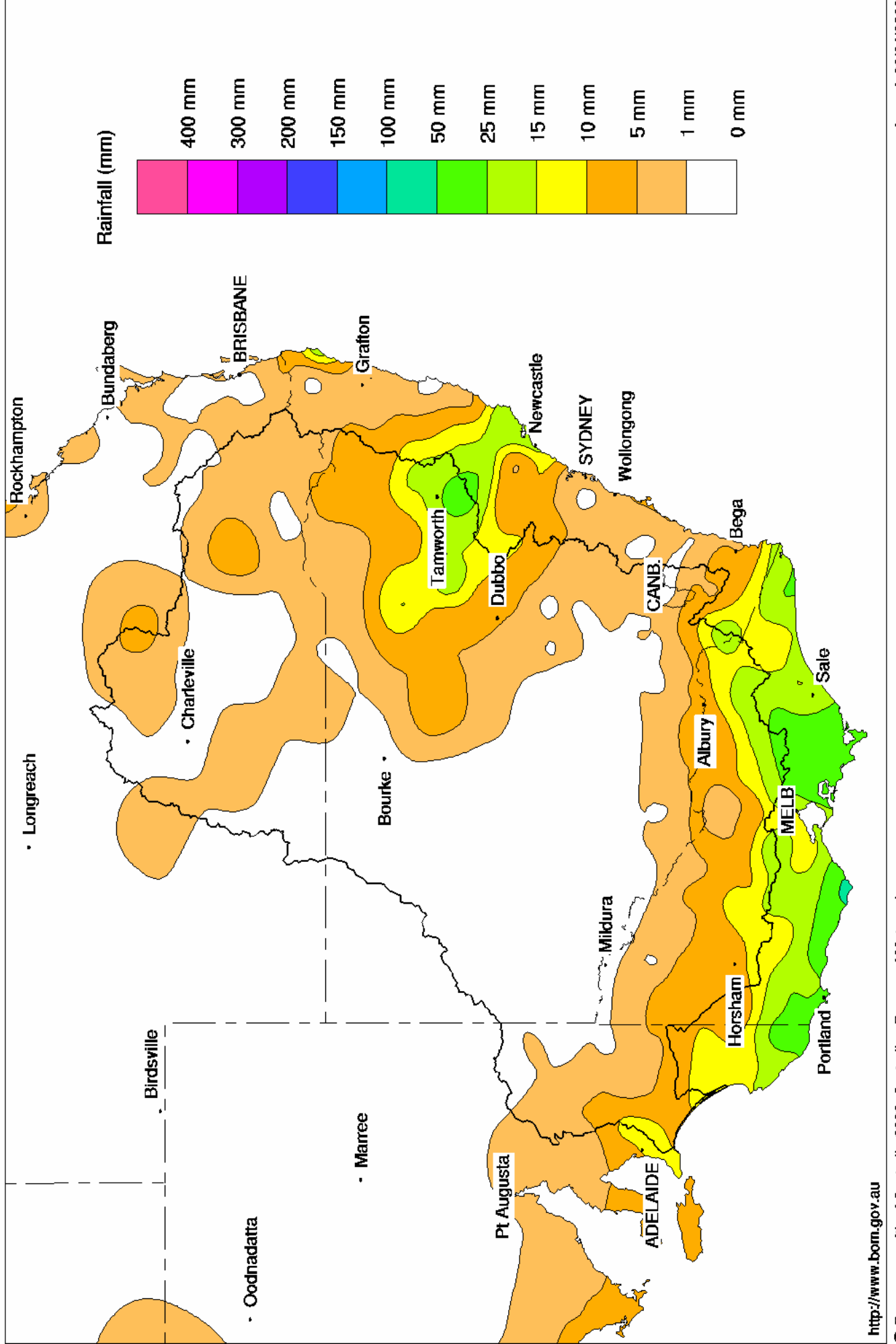
Flow to South Australia was temporarily increased to from 4 000 to 8 400 ML/day on 27 April, following a flow gauging of the Rufus River with the outlet gates of Lake Victoria fully opened. This flow gauging will provide important information on the maximum outlet capacity of the lake under low storage conditions. Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 2 GL this week and is expected to increase to near 350 GL by late May or early June.

Further downstream, the flow at Lock 6 increased from 2 800 to 4 000 ML/day on 27 April as a result of the higher flow to South Australia, while the level of Lake Alexandrina has been steady at 0.72m AHD. The vertical slot fishways at Goolwa and Tauwichee Barrages were closed for several days over the past week to minimise saline water flowing into the lake during periods of high tide.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th 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	462.16	2 519	64%	80	2 439	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.91	471	15%	30	441	-95
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.02	249	37%	100	149	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		282	16%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 521</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3 029</b>	<b>-98</b>

\* 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	342	33%	3	339	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	721	44%	24	697	+10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	722	21%	100	622	-12

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Apr-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 425	-34	Snowy-Murray	+6	869
Snowy-Murray Component	770	-7	Tooma-Tumut	+1	258
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	4.7	610
			Murray 1 Release	+9	1 185

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	22.5	1 188.1
Wakool System loss	1.1	31.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	27.9
Licensed Pumps	10.3	367.5
Lower Darling	0.4	59.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>1 674.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	8.0	396
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.8	687
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	139
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	52
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	230
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>1 503</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	135	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	28.0	
Flow so far this month	113	
Flow last month	188	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	70	70	100
Euston	80	90	120
Red Cliffs	120	110	140
Merbein	90	90	120
Burtundy (Darling)	690	700	590
Lock 9	120	120	140
Lake Victoria	210	210	190
Berri	230	240	220
Waikerie	330	330	330
Morgan	350	350	330
Mannum	360	360	360
Murray Bridge	300	310	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 150	1 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	890	700	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 410	2 420	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	3 140	3 480	1 910



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	-	-	-	1 330	R	1 620	1 420
Jingellic	4.0	1.31	207.83	1 910	F	1 750	1 880
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.37	218.26	590	F	680	570
Heywoods	5.5	3.25	156.88	17 130	R	15 630	15 940
Doctors Point	5.5	3.34	151.81	18 400	R	16 660	17 000
Albury	4.3	2.36	149.80	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.14	129.16	16 400	R	16 310	19 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 840	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	10 560	S	10 700	10 740
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.22	80.77	6 550	R	6 380	5 630
Swan Hill	4.5	1.23	64.15	5 850	R	5 490	4 230
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.97	52.09	7 880	R	7 430	6 090
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.50	43.34	7 370	R	6 990	5 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	6 150	F	5 730	4 530
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	5 410	R	5 230	4 430
Rufus Junction	-	3.00	19.93	3 420	F	3 370	3 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 570	S	3 620	3 640
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	300	F	290	240
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.81	145.49	462	S	450	340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.25	92.67	518	S	550	530
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 870	F	2 810	2 640
Edward at Liewah	-	2.97	58.35	2 540	R	2 450	2 400
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	363	R	340	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	F	230	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	30	S	40	140
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	258	S	280	350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	63	S	60	70

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	550	860
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.72
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.47
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.42	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.44	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-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	-0.34	0.71	70.06	410
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.12	0.13	61.43	252

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	0.82	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	All closed

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