

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 29 March 2006

*Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, dwg  
Trim Ref : 06/7459*

31 March, 2006



## ***Rainfall and Temperature***

Very little rain fell in the upper part of the Murray Catchment this week (*see attached map*) and daily maximum temperatures were 3-4°C warmer than average for this time of year. However, 31 mm fell at Murray Bridge in South Australia and 34 mm was recorded at Burtundy on the Darling River. Unregulated inflows to the River Murray System remain very low and Total System Storage (including Menindee Lakes) has fallen to 43% capacity (3 984 GL), which is about 12% (1 100 GL) below the long-term average for this time of year.

## ***River Murray Operations***

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has continued to be varied on a weekly cycle between 200 and 400 ML/day to assist in maintaining water quality along the Mitta Mitta River. It is planned to continue this cyclic release pattern for a further two weeks if conditions remain dry. The magnitude of the variation is currently being reviewed to see if further benefits can be achieved. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is currently 2 523 GL (65% capacity).

In response to continued high irrigation demand and increased losses along the River Murray System, the release from Hume Reservoir was increased to provide a flow at Doctors Point of about 23 000 ML/day (the regulated channel capacity downstream of Hume Dam is 25 000 ML/day). Storage in Hume Reservoir continues to fall and is currently 913 GL (30% capacity).

Release from Torrumbarry Weir was temporarily increased to 7 700 ML/day during the week but has now been reduced to 4 300 ML/day. This was due to a short-term reduction in the diversion at the National Channel to facilitate maintenance work on Gunbower Weir. This small flow peak is currently passing Euston Weir at 7 300 ML/day (30 March). If conditions remain dry, the flow downstream of at Euston Weir is expected to gradually fall to 5 000 ML/day by mid next week.

Over the past two weeks the rate of fall in the storage at Lake Victoria has slowed. The storage reduced by only 10 GL this week and is currently 258 GL (38% capacity). There is now a reduced chance of a water supply shortfall occurring, however a small risk remains if river losses remain high during April. RMW water will continue to implement the package of measures developed to address this matter, including weir pool manipulations, calling on water from inter valley transfer accounts and within month adjustments to the entitlement flow to South Australia. The situation is continually being monitored and reviewed.

The flow to South Australia during the week has averaged 5 300 ML/day and the salinity at Lock 6 has gradually reduced to 180 EC after reaching 210 EC at the beginning of March 2006. The flow downstream of Lock 1 has gradually reduced to 3 900 ML/day and the level of Lake Alexandrina is steady at 0.7m AHD. Although all Barrage gates are closed, the fishways at Tauwitchere and Goolwa remain open.

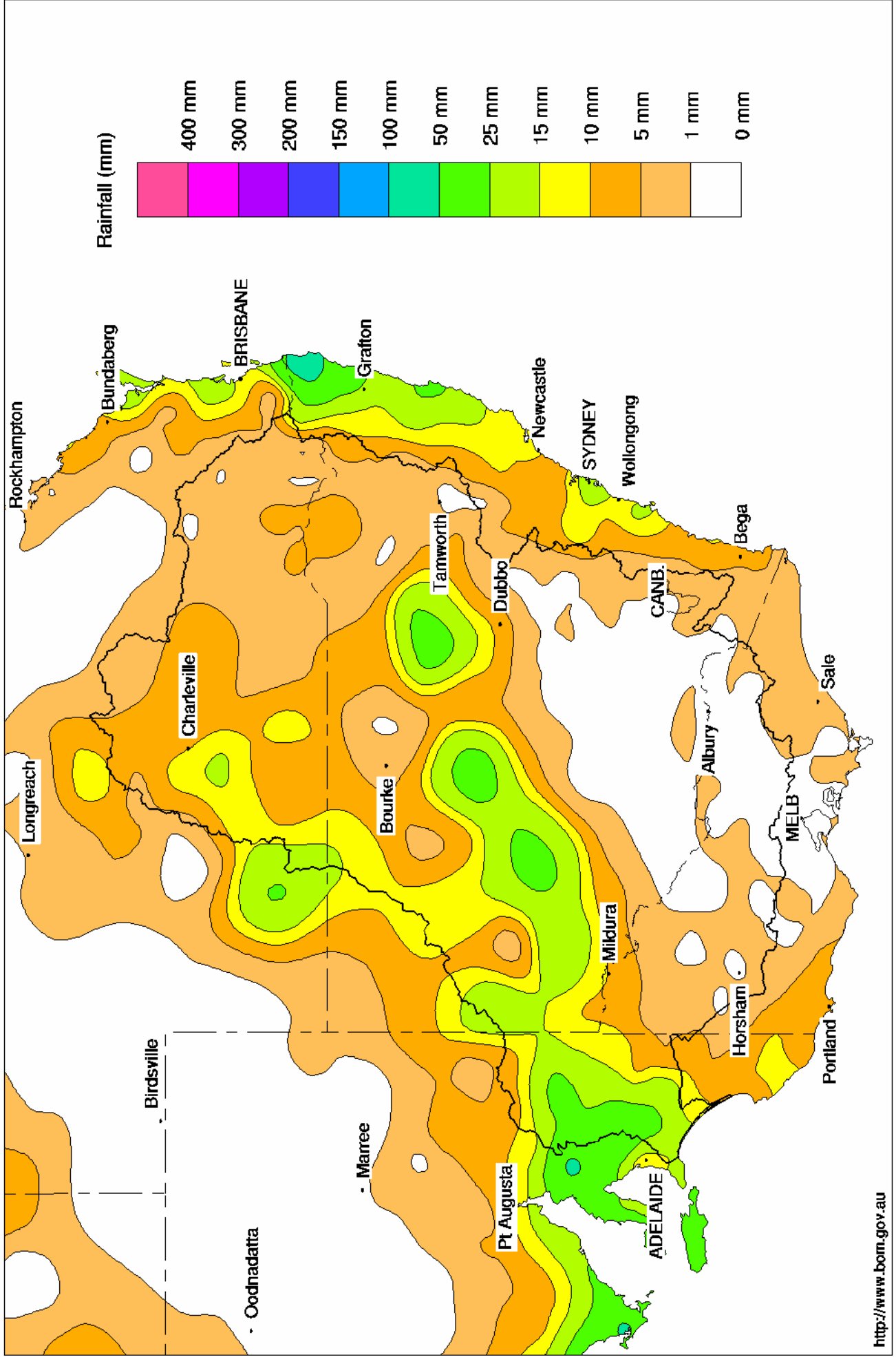
DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

*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](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

---

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th March 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



**Water in Storage**

| MDBC Storages       | Full Supply Level<br>(m AHD) | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level<br>(m AHD) | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | MDBC Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Storage for the week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|                     |                              |                            |                                  | (GL)            | %          |                      |                             |  |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00                       | 3 906                      | 462.23                           | 2 523           | 65%        | 80                   | 2 443                       | -1                                     |
| Hume Reservoir      | 192.00                       | 3 038                      | 177.79                           | 913             | 30%        | 30                   | 883                         | -136                                   |
| Lake Victoria       | 27.00                        | 677                        | 22.94                            | 258             | 38%        | 100                  | 158                         | -10                                    |
| Menindee Lakes      |                              | 1 731 *                    |                                  | 290             | 17%        | (- -) #              | 0                           | -4                                     |
| <b>Total</b>        |                              | <b>9 352</b>               |                                  | <b>3 984</b>    | <b>43%</b> | <b>--</b>            | <b>3 484</b>                | <b>-151</b>                            |

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 41%

# 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 |  | 347 | 34% | 3   | 344 | -2  |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 |  | 698 | 43% | 24  | 674 | -12 |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 390 |  | 849 | 25% | 100 | 749 | -39 |

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Mar-2006

| Storage                | Active storage<br>(GL) | Weekly change<br>(GL) | Diversions (GL)  | This week | From 1 May 2005 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 579                  | -38                   | Snowy-Murray     | +9        | 836             |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 801                    | -5                    | Tooma-Tumut      | +0        | 254             |
| Target Storage         | 1 410                  |                       | Nett Diversion   | 9.1       | 582             |
|                        |                        |                       | Murray 1 Release | +10       | 1 147           |

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

| New South Wales         | This week   | From 1 July 2005 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 43.1        | 1 067.4          |
| Wakool System loss      | 1.9         | 24.1             |
| Western Murray Irrig.   | 0.6         | 26.5             |
| Licensed Pumps          | 17.9        | 313.9            |
| Lower Darling           | 0.3         | 57.5             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>63.7</b> | <b>1 489.2</b>   |

| Victoria                        | This week   | From 1 July 2005 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)   | 19.3        | 351              |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 22.6        | 604              |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 2.3         | 132              |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 2.0         | 46               |
| Licensed pumps - LMW            | 4.9         | 211              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>51.2</b> | <b>1 345</b>     |

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

|                        |      |                |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 186  | (5 300 ML/day) |
| Flow this week         | 37.2 |                |
| Flow so far this month | 177  |                |
| Flow last month        | 199  |                |

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

|                         | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2005 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill               | 90      | 80                         | 100                         |
| Euston                  | 90      | 100                        | 120                         |
| Red Cliffs              | 120     | 120                        | 140                         |
| Merbein                 | 120     | 120                        | 130                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | 660     | 660                        | 570                         |
| Lock 9                  | 130     | 130                        | 140                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 200     | 180                        | 190                         |
| Berri                   | 260     | 250                        | 220                         |
| Waikerie                | -       | 300                        | 330                         |
| Morgan                  | 340     | 330                        | 320                         |
| Mannum                  | 380     | 370                        | 360                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 370     | 360                        | 370                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 1 160   | 1 170                      | 1 260                       |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 860     | 1 000                      | 980                         |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 2 230   | 2 270                      | 2 140                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 1 940   | 1 920                      | 1 830                       |



**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                        | -                     | -            | -       | 430           | F     | 1 750                           | 1 550                           |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                   | 1.15         | 207.67  | - 10          | F     | 2 510                           | 1 660                           |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                   | 1.31         | 218.20  | 500           | F     | 520                             | 640                             |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                   | 3.55         | 157.18  | 20 700        | S     | 21 500                          | 19 050                          |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                   | 3.64         | 152.11  | 22 300        | S     | 23 110                          | 20 840                          |
| Albury                           | 4.3                   | 2.70         | 150.14  | -             | -     | -                               | -                               |
| Corowa                           | 7.0                   | 3.89         | 129.91  | 23 800        | F     | 24 040                          | 22 270                          |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                   | 1.76         | 116.80  | 10 000        | R     | 9 940                           | 9 840                           |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                   | 2.26         | 106.10  | 10 400        | F     | 10 590                          | 10 710                          |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                   | 1.57         | 80.12   | 4 270         | F     | 5 190                           | 5 570                           |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                   | 0.98         | 63.90   | 4 250         | F     | 4 770                           | 4 270                           |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                   | 2.79         | 51.91   | 7 140         | R     | 6 740                           | 6 260                           |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                   | 1.42         | 43.26   | 6 870         | R     | 6 380                           | 6 660                           |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                     | -            | 30.96   | 5 480         | F     | 5 260                           | 5 930                           |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                   | 3.10         | 27.86   | 5 190         | R     | 5 010                           | 5 780                           |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                     | 3.26         | 20.19   | 4 980         | R     | 4 550                           | 5 150                           |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                     | -            | -       | 3 910         | R     | 4 040                           | 4 750                           |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                       |              |         |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                   | 0.68         | 153.91  | 210           | F     | 280                             | 260                             |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                  | 7.79         | 145.47  | 428           | S     | 440                             | 470                             |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                   | 1.63         | 93.05   | 1 101         | F     | 1 350                           | 1 790                           |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                     | -            | -       | 2 500         | F     | 2 510                           | 2 400                           |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                     | 2.83         | 58.21   | 2 340         | S     | 2 340                           | 2 330                           |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                     | 0.37         | 54.86   | 298           | S     | 310                             | 520                             |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                   | 1.10         | 57.06   | 611           | S     | 600                             | 670                             |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                     | 3.35         | -       | 330           | F     | 350                             | 520                             |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                     | 4.20         | -       | 850           | R     | 750                             | 780                             |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                     | 0.69         | -       | 43            | F     | 40                              | 40                              |

|   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| <b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 580 | 1 100 |
|---|-----|-------|

**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

| <b>Murray</b>     | FSL (m AHD) | u/s   | d/s   |                      | FSL (m AHD) | u/s   | d/s   |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrowonga        | 124.90      | -0.10 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River    | 22.10       | +0.23 | +0.95 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | -0.07 | -     | No. 6 Murtho         | 19.25       | +0.02 | +0.11 |
| No. 15 Euston     | 47.60       | +0.00 | -     | No. 5 Renmark        | 16.30       | +0.01 | +0.15 |
| No. 11 Mildura    | 34.40       | +0.05 | +0.16 | No. 4 Bookpurnong    | 13.20       | +0.01 | +0.59 |
| No. 10 Wentworth  | 30.80       | +0.05 | +0.46 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | +0.04 | +0.20 |
| No. 9 Kulnine     | 27.40       | +0.26 | +0.47 | No. 2 Waikerie       | 6.10        | +0.04 | +0.11 |
| No. 8 Wangumma    | 24.60       | +0.48 | +0.27 | No 1. Blanchetown    | 3.20        | +0.03 | +0.04 |

| <b>Murrumbidgee</b> | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. |         | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
|                     |             |                 | local (m)     | (m AHD) |               |
| No. 7 Maude         | 75.40       | -0.09           | 0.99          | 70.34   | 797           |
| No. 5 Redbank       | 66.90       | -0.46           | 0.61          | 61.91   | 758           |

**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 | 0.70          | All closed |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | 0.68          | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings   | -             | All closed |
| Ewe Island     | 111 gates    | -             | All closed |
| Tauwichee      | 322 gates    | 0.66          | All closed |

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