

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 30 August 2006



Trim Ref : 06/18916

1 September, 2006

## *Rainfall and Streamflows*

Much of the Basin received rainfall during the week (*see attached map*), although these falls were below 10mm across most areas. Streamflows in the upper Murray catchments barely responded to the rain and have already receded back to low levels. Rainfall over the 9 month period 1 December to end of August (*see attached map*) has been in the lowest 10% of records over large areas of the Basin, including the upper Murray catchments.

## *August sets new record*

Inflows to the River Murray system over August were the lowest on record for that month, making this the third consecutive month in which record low inflows have been observed. It is important to note that the previous record dry months did not all occur in the same year with the previous driest August in 1902 and the previous driest June and July in 1967 (see table below).

**Total River Murray System Inflows (GL)**  
(including inflows to Menindee Lakes, excluding Snowy Scheme Releases)

	<b>1902</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>How much lower in 2006?</b>
<b>June</b>	220	115	110	-5
<b>July</b>	225	155	135	-20
<b>August</b>	125	340	115	-10
<b>3 month total</b>	570	610	360	<b>-210</b>

The table shows that whilst inflows in recent months have, individually, been a little below previous minimums, the 3 month total to end August 2006 was *considerably* below the previous minimum total for this period.

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest El Niño-Southern Oscillation update issued August 30<sup>th</sup> reports "a further drop in the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), warming over much of the tropical Pacific and a marked decrease in the strength of the Trade Winds, (which) are all indicative of the incipient phase of an El Niño event." The further development of an El Niño event increases the likelihood of drier and warmer than average conditions across eastern Australia for the remainder of 2006.

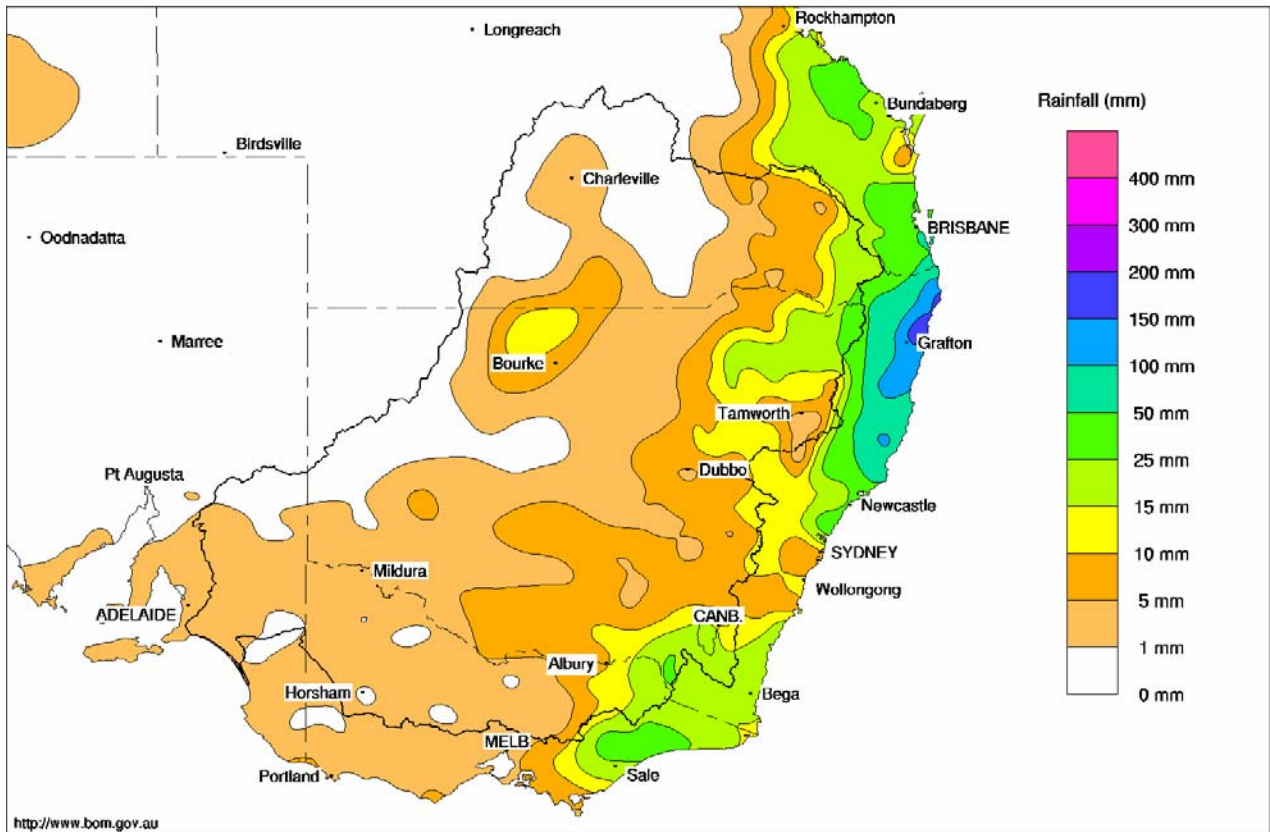
## *River Murray operations*

The rainfall has reduced irrigation demands, with total diversions from Lake Mulwala falling from 9 000 ML/day to 5 500 ML/day. The lower demands allowed a reduction in release from Hume Reservoir which has helped slow its rate of fall. Flow rates in the mid-river continue to fall gradually and the upper pool level of Torrumbarry Weir is being raised slowly (currently 85.97m AHD, 8 cm below full supply level) in order to meet increasing irrigation demands. Over coming months, it is anticipated that this weir pool level will be varied within a range of 20 cm below FSL. Bulk transfers from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria are continuing with storage in Lake Victoria now about 520 GL (77% capacity).

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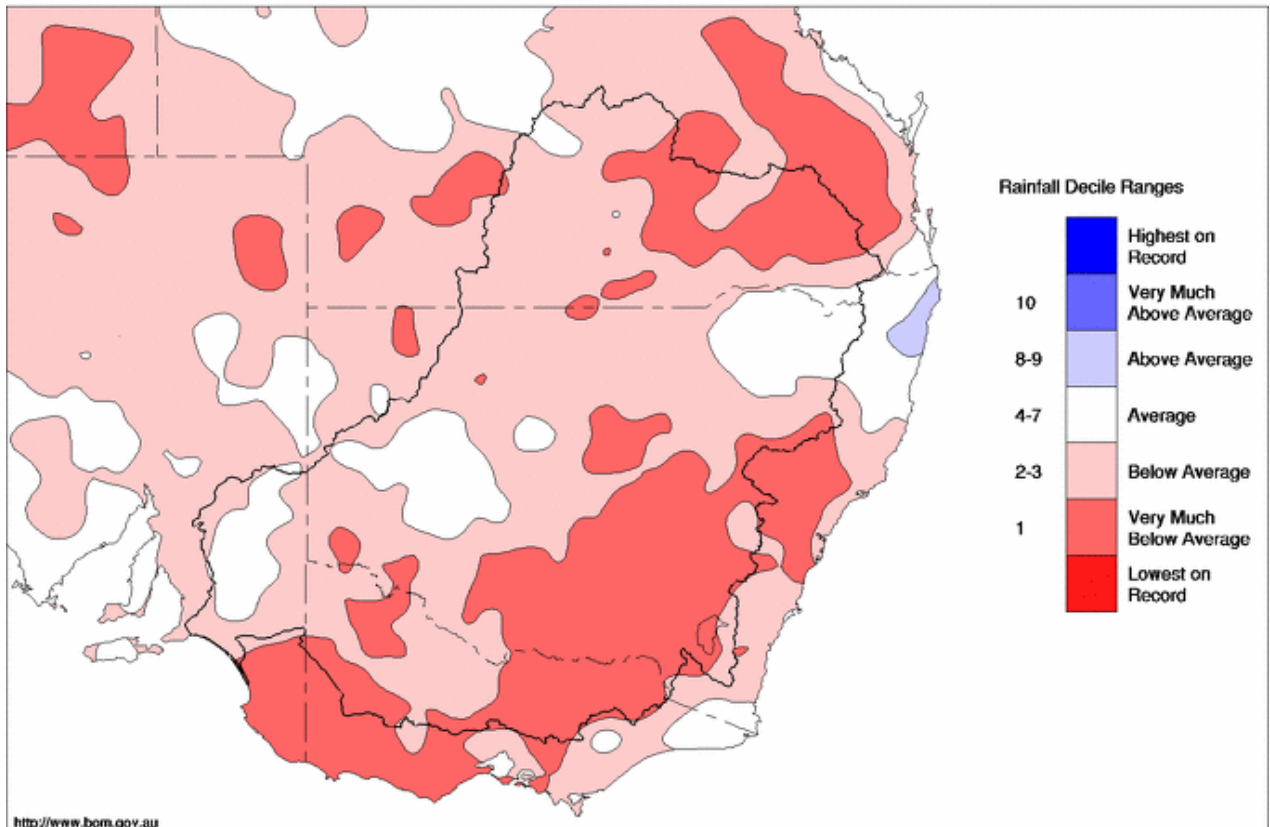
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 31st August 2006  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles 1 December 2005 to 31 August 2006  
 Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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**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	458.37	2 331	60%	80	2 251	-57
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.45	514	17%	30	484	-19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.64	518	76%	100	418	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		257	15%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 620</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3 153</b>	<b>-55</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 37%

# 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		335	33%	3	332	-11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		956	59%	24	932	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		768	23%	100	668	-5

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Aug-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	729	-1	Snowy-Murray	+16	484
Snowy-Murray Component	466	-5	Tooma-Tumut	+3	23
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	12.5	461
			Murray 1 Release	+20	530

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	20.9	91.1
Wakool System loss	0.8	5.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.1
Licensed Pumps	7.1	19.1
Lower Darling	0.2	2.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>119.4</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	10.8	32
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.7	69
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	4
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>108</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	124	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.8	
Flow so far this month	120	
Flow last month	108	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	70	120	80
Euston	80	80	100
Red Cliffs	100	110	120
Merbein	90	100	100
Burtundy (Darling)	630	630	620
Lock 9	130	130	150
Lake Victoria	150	160	160
Berri	240	240	240
Waikerie	-	-	380
Morgan	400	400	410
Mannum	430	440	450
Murray Bridge	390	400	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 130	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	910	860	710
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 220	2 220	2 240
Goolwa Barrages	1 540	1 540	1 500



**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	-	-	-	3 710	R	3 230	3 230
Jingellic	4.0	1.52	208.04	3 340	F	4 140	4 230
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.26	220.15	9 820	R	9 650	9 870
Heywoods	5.5	2.90	156.53	14 440	S	15 650	18 610
Doctors Point	5.5	3.04	151.51	14 500	R	15 910	19 060
Albury	4.3	2.01	149.45	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.99	129.01	15 100	F	18 090	18 790
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 790	9 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 480	S	10 500	10 480
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.81	80.36	5 090	F	5 190	5 500
Swan Hill	4.5	1.01	63.93	4 440	S	4 650	5 490
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.83	51.95	7 300	F	7 670	8 700
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.51	43.35	7 430	S	8 100	9 220
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 640	F	7 910	8 870
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	27.84	8 700	S	8 900	9 960
Rufus Junction	-	2.94	19.87	3 460	R	3 350	3 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.82	-	3 790	S	3 790	3 520
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.97	154.20	550	R	530	410
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.81	145.49	462	F	510	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	416	F	430	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.55	-	2 910	S	2 910	2 900
Edward at Liewah	-	3.02	58.40	2 600	S	2 610	2 650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	363	F	390	300
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.51	56.47	219	S	260	500
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.08	-	- 10	F	- 10	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	49	F	80	100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	1	S	10	10

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 380	1 530
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**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	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+0.64
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.08	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.14	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.21	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	-0.23	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.23	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.07

<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	-1.33	0.62	69.97	315
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.07	0.16	61.46	278



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.90	All closed	Open	Open

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