

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 17 October 2007

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19 October, 2007



Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, up to 50 mm of rain fell across the Darling Downs in south-east Queensland (see map). However, the response in river flows has been small. In contrast, most areas in the southern half of the Basin received less than 5 mm of rain. During the past 2 ½ months the southern Basin has suffered a severe dry spell. Yarrowonga, for instance, has received only 11 mm of rain during this period compared with a long term average of about 120 mm. As a result of the continuing dry conditions, inflow to the River Murray System during the past week was only 36 GL, compared with the long term weekly average for October of 365 GL.

River Operations

During the week, Dartmouth storage volume increased by 5 GL, and is now at 18 % capacity (690 GL). The release from Dartmouth remains at 200 ML/day but is planned to be increased in late October to transfer water to Hume Reservoir. Storage volume at Hume Reservoir peaked this week at 29 % capacity (875 GL) and has now commenced to gradually fall. The release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to provide a flow at Doctors Point (Albury) of 4 800 ML/day and, if the dry weather continues, is expected to continue increasing over the coming weeks. Total storage for the River Murray System declined by 21 GL, and is now at 2 110 GL (or 23 % capacity).

The level of Lake Mulwala is steady at 124.2 m AHD (70 cm below Full Supply Level) and unless there is a significant change in the weather, is expected to remain at or slightly above this level during the coming months. As a result of the increasing demand downstream particularly in the Sunraysia district, the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been increased to 4 300 ML/day and is expected to continue increasing over the next few weeks. Similarly, the release from Torrumberry Weir has been increased to 3 000 ML/day and should continue to gradually increase over coming weeks.

The partial drawdown of Euston Weir is proceeding as planned and the pool level is currently 34 cm below FSL. Lowering of the pool will continue at about 3-5 cm/week until it reaches the target of 50 cm below FSL by early November. The flow downstream of Wentworth Weir has reduced to 1 000 ML/day and is expected to remain low until extra water arrives from Lake Mulwala in early November. Water from Lock 8 is being released to supplement flow downstream, and subsequently the upper pool level has fallen to 26 cm below FSL. Further information about the operation of Lock 8 is included in the attached media release.

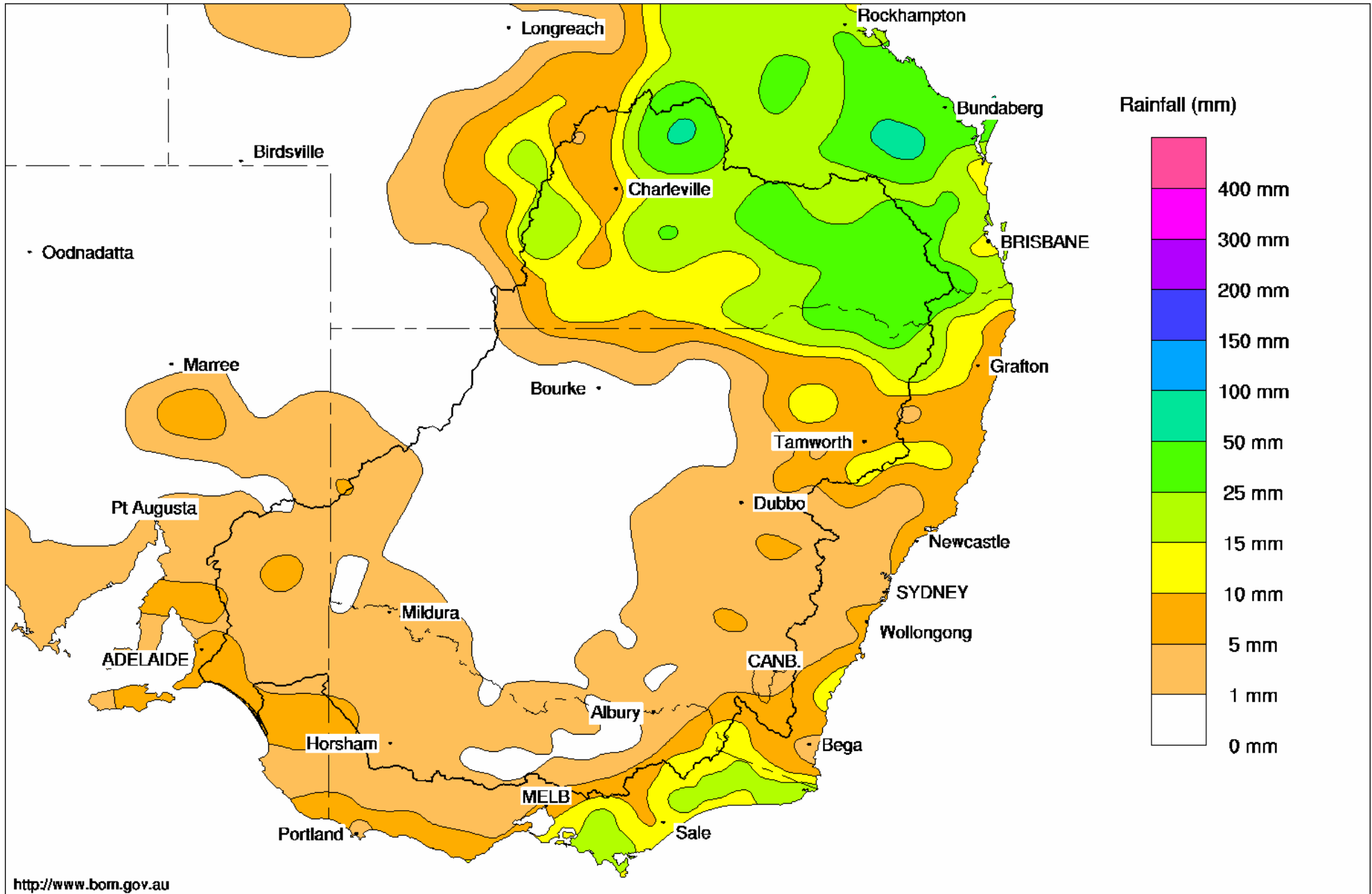
The flow to South Australia increased in early October and has helped control salinity levels between Locks 2 to 6. The salinity at Morgan has dropped slightly from 780 EC on 1st October to 733 EC on 17th October. The salinity at Lock 1, however, has continued to gradually increase.

The water level in the Lower Lakes (currently at 0.15 m AHD) has been steadily falling since mid August due to a combination of low rainfall, low inflow and increasing evaporative losses. The level is expected to continue falling over the next few months unless there is significant local rainfall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 17th October 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 19 October, 2007

Lock 8 weir pool lowered to meet river flow requirements

The level of the Lock 8 weir pool is currently 26 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL), and will be lowered further over the coming weeks as more water is released to meet flow requirements to the South Australian border.

Dr Wendy Craik AM, CEO of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission said the lowering of the Lock 8 weir pool is necessary to supplement the very low flow currently passing Wentworth Weir (Lock 10) and Lock 9 (about 1 000 ML/day).

“We have deliberately maintained low flows from Hume Reservoir through Sunraysia to Wentworth over past few months, to conserve water resources in Hume Reservoir as long as possible.

“Over the coming months, the level of the Lock 8 pool may fluctuate within the range of 24.6 m to 24.1 m (AHD) - that is, up to 50 cm below FSL – in line with varying river flows due to changes in the weather and the demand for water”, Dr Craik said.

Increased demand and higher temperatures along the river have made it impossible to hold Hume Reservoir at the minimum release any longer. The flow was increased from Hume and Lake Mulwala last week, and these increases will reach Lock 8 in early November.

Although this degree of variation in the Lock 8 weir pool has been implemented in the past, Dr Craik reiterated: “river pumpers, boat operators and other river users upstream of Lock 8 are advised to take these changing water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities”.

MDBC will issue further advice if there are significant changes to this plan.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332

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	411.33	690	18%	80	610	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.34	866	29%	30	836	-9
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.43	494	73%	100	394	-19
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		57	3%	(- -) #	0	+1
Total		9 352		2 107	23%	--	1 840	-21

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

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		395	38%	3	392	-7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		484	30%	24	460	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		806	24%	100	706	+8

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Oct-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	418	+16	Snowy-Murray	+0	255
Snowy-Murray Component	313	+21	Tooma-Tumut	+2	101
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-1.5	154
			Murray 1 Release	+2	403

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .2	23.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	2.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	2.2
Licensed Pumps	1.1	13.7
Lower Darling	0.2	1.7
TOTAL	1.4	44.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	21
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.4	29
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	10 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	3
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.1	13
TOTAL	10.7	75 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170 *	
Flow this week	18.3	(2 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	44	
Flow last month	50	

* Reduced to approx. 80 GL during October drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	110	120	110
Euston	130	150	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	190	180	130
Burtundy (Darling)	1 270	1 300	1 140
Lock 9	140	140	130
Lake Victoria	180	170	170
Berri	440	440	480
Waikerie	-	690	670
Morgan	730	740	710
Mannum	520	510	440
Murray Bridge	540	530	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 440	2 360	2 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 230	2 950	2 210
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 690	2 630	2 530
Goolwa Barrages	15 000	15 640	14 740



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	-	-	-	380	F	760	920
Jingellic	4.0	1.18	207.70	1 170	F	1 540	2 160
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.25	218.14	360	S	390	420
Heywoods	5.5	1.67	155.30	3 180	S	2 720	1 430
Doctors Point	5.5	2.02	150.49	4 270	R	3 980	3 020
Albury	4.3	1.05	148.49	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.19	127.21	3 630	F	3 150	2 980
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.77	115.81	3 810	S	3 720	3 050
Tocumwal	6.4	1.18	105.02	3 640	F	3 450	2 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.14	79.69	2 690	R	2 360	2 160
Swan Hill	4.5	0.65	63.57	2 350	R	2 270	2 120
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.43	50.55	2 300	S	2 290	2 100
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.47	42.31	2 010	R	1 750	1 830
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 520	F	1 460	1 430
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.72	27.48	960	S	1 060	1 140
Rufus Junction	-	2.74	19.67	1 900	F	1 980	1 930
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.07	-	1 520	S	1 540	1 670
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.35	154.58	1 106	R	1 150	1 540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.98	145.66	812	S	1 000	1 430
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	385	S	390	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.45	80.22	210	F	200	210
Edward at Liewah	-	0.52	55.90	224	F	230	220
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.01	54.50	9	S	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.40	56.36	154	F	170	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	44	R	40	90
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	105	F	220	480
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.62	-	0	F	0	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 020	4 910
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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	-0.68	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.03	+0.44
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.17	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.34	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.23
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.08	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.04	-0.28	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.26	-0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.68

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.20	0.52	69.87	227
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.52	0.09	61.39	220



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.15

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.30	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.24	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.18	All closed	Closed	Closed

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