

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 May 2007



Our Ref : M2006/01015/dwg, pcb
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25 May, 2007

Rainfall and Inflows

Significant widespread rain fell this week with the majority of the Basin receiving between 25 and 50 mm of rain. The highest falls occurred in central and northeast Victoria with Mt Buller receiving 123 mm of rain and Rocky Point on the Ovens River 103 mm. The central tablelands in NSW also received high rainfalls with Hill End receiving 74 mm. A week with such heavy and widespread rainfall has only been seen a few times in the last 18 months, specifically the weeks ending 2nd May 2007, 20th July 2006 and the 9th November 2005.

Whilst the rain assisted with wetting catchments there was very little response in streamflow in catchments feeding the Murray. The alpine areas did see some small increases in flows, with the flow at Wangaratta increasing from 81 to 510 ML/day over the past week. However, good followup rains are required over coming months to generate significant rises in streams and inflows to reservoirs.

River Murray Operations

Dartmouth storage has increased slightly to 470 GL (12% capacity). The storage level at Hume Reservoir has increased from 184 GL to 199 GL (6.6% capacity), due primarily to a further reduction in the release from Hume Dam to the operational minimum of 600 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Mulwala has dropped slightly over the past week, and is currently 124.75 m AHD. Release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has remained steady at the normal minimum of 1 800 ML/day and a further reduction to 1 500 ML/day was implemented on the 24th May (*see media release attached*).

Release from Torrumbarry Weir has been reduced to 1 650 ML/day. Without further rain release from Torrumbarry will continue to slowly fall as the flow reductions made at Yarrawonga Weir travel downstream. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir is being held steady at around 150 ML/day.

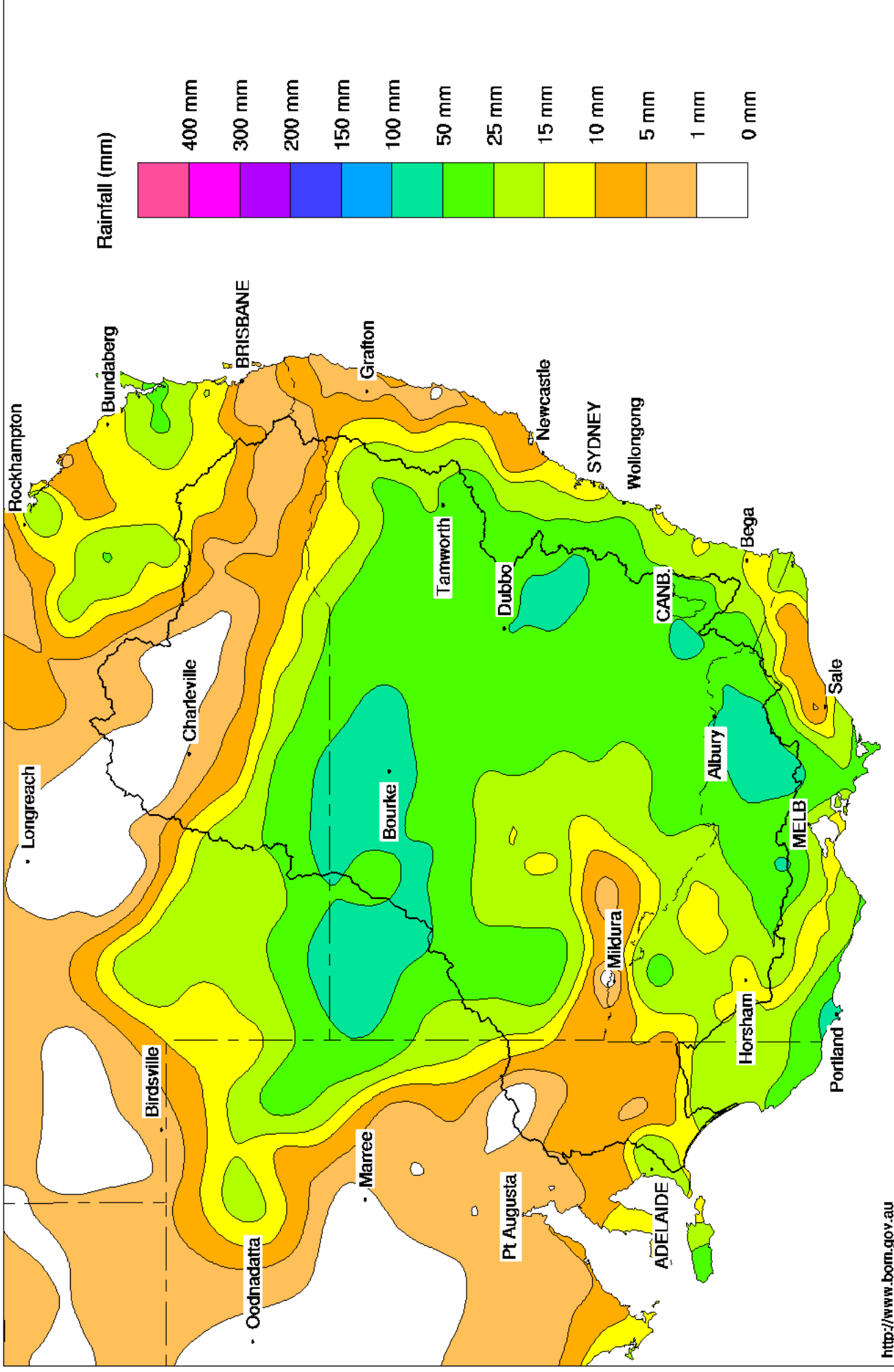
Menindee Lakes storage has increased by 5 GL to 101 GL (30% capacity) due primarily to local rain. Release from Menindee remains at zero. Flow from Wentworth Weir was reduced from 3 200 to 2 800 ML/day. Locks 9, 8 & 7 also experienced similar reductions in flow. The reductions in flow along the entire River Murray System from Hume Dam and into SA are being implemented to save water for next season.

Flow to South Australia was held steady around 1 700 ML/day. Flow at Lock 1 increased this week from 1 700 ML/day to 2 200 ML/day due to the effects of the local rain on the river.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd May 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 23 May 2007

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 | 400.44 | 470 | 12% | 80 | 390 | +3 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 168.51 | 199 | 7% | 30 | 169 | +15 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 22.92 | 239 | 35% | 100 | 139 | +4 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 101 | 6% | (- -) # | 0 | +6 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 1 010 | 11% | -- | 699 | +27 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **8%**

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 | | 250 | 24% | 3 | 247 | +5 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 247 | 15% | 24 | 223 | +19 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | | 199 | 6% | 100 | 99 | +14 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-May-2007

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2007 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 173 | n/a | Snowy-Murray | +3 | 32 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 222 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +0 | |
| Target Storage | 1 290 | | Nett Diversion | 2.8 | 32 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +8 | 43 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2006 |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | .0 | 359.1 |
| Wakool System loss | -0.6 | 69.9 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.0 | 23.2 |
| Licensed Pumps | n/a | 174.3 |
| Lower Darling | n/a | 18.6 |
| TOTAL | -0.6 | 645.1 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2006 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | .0 | 394 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 3.3 | 614 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.3 | 135 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.4 | 159 |
| Licensed pumps - LMW | 1.8 | 222 |
| TOTAL | 5.8 | 1 524 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 93 | |
| Flow this week | 11.8 | (1 700 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 40 | |
| Flow last month | 54 | |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2006 |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 80 | 80 | 70 |
| Euston | 130 | 120 | 100 |
| Red Cliffs | - | - | 110 |
| Merbein | 150 | 140 | 110 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 1 080 | 1 080 | 890 |
| Lock 9 | 180 | 170 | 130 |
| Lake Victoria | 190 | 190 | 170 |
| Berri | 400 | 390 | 250 |
| Waikerie | - | - | 330 |
| Morgan | 430 | 440 | 360 |
| Mannum | 410 | 410 | 430 |
| Murray Bridge | 500 | 520 | 440 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 1 580 | 1 560 | 1 330 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 1 270 | 1 400 | 1 200 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 2 450 | 2 250 | 2 360 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 17 600 | 14 850 | 3 890 |



River Levels and Flows

| River Murray | 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) | | | | |
| Khancoban | - | - | - | 1 250 | R | 1 580 | 2 170 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.23 | 207.75 | 1 430 | F | 1 970 | 2 400 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.38 | 218.27 | 570 | R | 440 | 360 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.17 | 154.80 | 600 | S | 660 | 820 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 1.39 | 149.86 | 910 | F | 1 050 | 1 160 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 0.59 | 148.03 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 0.51 | 126.53 | 1 350 | R | 1 340 | 1 420 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 0.34 | 115.38 | 1 800 | S | 1 790 | 1 790 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 0.79 | 104.63 | 1 920 | S | 1 950 | 1 920 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 0.83 | 79.38 | 1 650 | S | 1 720 | 1 950 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.54 | 63.46 | 1 480 | F | 1 610 | 2 010 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 1.46 | 50.58 | 2 390 | F | 2 760 | 3 090 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 0.66 | 42.50 | 2 920 | S | 3 010 | 3 320 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | 30.82 | 3 020 | F | 3 080 | 3 320 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.85 | 27.61 | 2 780 | R | 2 790 | 3 160 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 2.61 | 19.54 | 1 280 | R | 1 180 | 1 250 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | 0.07 | - | 2 230 | S | 2 310 | 1 320 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.82 | 154.05 | 360 | F | 450 | 410 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.84 | 145.52 | 510 | R | 420 | 90 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.14 | 92.56 | 369 | F | 360 | 320 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 0.38 | 80.15 | 150 | F | 170 | 280 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 0.93 | 56.31 | 445 | F | 500 | 500 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.32 | 54.81 | 232 | S | 280 | 290 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.46 | 56.42 | 191 | S | 200 | 220 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 2.97 | - | - | F | 10 | - |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.31 | - | 1 634 | R | 890 | 10 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.71 | - | 63 | R | 50 | 50 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 2 160 | 1 230 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | -0.15 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.09 | +0.28 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.09 | +0.02 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.00 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.08 | +0.12 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.05 | +0.03 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.10 | +0.28 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.02 | +0.21 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.12 | +0.14 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.05 | +0.19 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.05 | +0.08 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.22 | +0.09 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.06 | -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 | -4.50 | 0.6 | 69.95 | 296 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -4.10 | 0.12 | 61.42 | 244 |



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | |
|--|---------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | (m AHD) |
| | 0.11 |

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.14 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.20 | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.13 | All closed | Closed | Closed |

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

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, 24 May 2007

MURRAY LEVELS FROM YARRAWONGA TO ECHUCA TO FALL BELOW NORMAL MINIMUMS

River Murray Water today announced that flows along the River Murray between Yarrowonga and Echuca are expected to gradually fall below normal minimum rates over the coming week.

David Dreverman, General Manager of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission's River Murray Water, said that; "although we have experienced good rainfall in recent weeks and are starting to see small increases in streamflows, it is still necessary to make these reductions to conserve water in Hume Reservoir for the 2007-08 water year."

"Commencing 24 May, the release from Yarrowonga Weir will be reduced from the normal minimum of 1 800 ML/day (0.34 m) to 1 500 ML/day (0.28 m)", he said.

A similar reduction in water level will progressively take effect at downstream sites, such as Tocumwal and Barmah over the coming week, unless there is further significant rainfall.

Despite the reduced levels in the Murray, flow to Gulpa Creek is expected to continue at a very low rate (about 20 ML/day).

The level of the River Murray at Echuca is expected to remain fairly constant at the current level of 86.06 m AHD in the near future as the upper pool level of Torrumbarry Weir is being maintained near full supply level. However, if there is no significant rain in coming weeks, the level of the Torrumbarry Weir pool may also need to be gradually reduced to meet downstream water requirements. Further information on the river level at Echuca will be provided by River Murray Water at a later time if this scenario eventuates.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

Media contact:

Sam Leone

Media Officer

Phone: 02 6279 0141 , E-mail: sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au

(Sam Leone is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

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