

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 October 2007

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26 October, 2007



## Rainfall and Inflows

Whilst the West and Southwest of the Murray - Darling Basin received significant rainfall over the past week, Braemar in the Northeast of South Australia received the highest fall of 104 mm. Higher than average temperatures resulted in high irrigation demands and losses along the Lower Murray (Mildura reached 37 °C compared with an average maximum of 23°C for October), effectively offsetting any gains from the recent rain.

The total volume of water currently held in River Murray System storages is about 2 080 GL (22%), which is the lowest for this time of year since 1940, before the construction of Dartmouth Reservoir and Menindee Lakes storage, and the raising of Hume Dam. System storage this time last year was 2 970 GL.

## River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being increased from its minimum flow of 200 ML/day due to the rising demand for water along the River Murray System. The release will be increased to about 700 ML/d by 30 October and then to around 5 000 ML/d in mid November. A variable release pattern will also be used to enhance the environment of the Mitta Mitta River (*see media release attached*).

Dartmouth release will be continuously reviewed and where possible releases will be reduced to conserve water. Dartmouth Reservoir is the best storage to conserve water because it has lower evaporation losses and its waters can be released to meet water demands along the entire river system. Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 21 GL to 845 GL as inflows have declined and the release has been increased from 3 500 to 5 000 ML/day. Similarly, Yarrawonga release has been increased from 4 300 to 5 000 ML/day with the pool level held steady at about 124.2 m AHD. These increases have been made in order to boost flows along the River Murray to meet rising loss rates and irrigation demands.

Torrumbarry Weir pool was temporarily lowered by a further 11 cm over the week to 85.78 m AHD, which is 27 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL), in order to increase the flows downstream. Flow at Swan Hill has steadily increased from 2 300 to 3 000 ML/day but remains low at Euston due to the increased diversions and losses. Flows along this stretch of the river are expected to rise steadily next week.

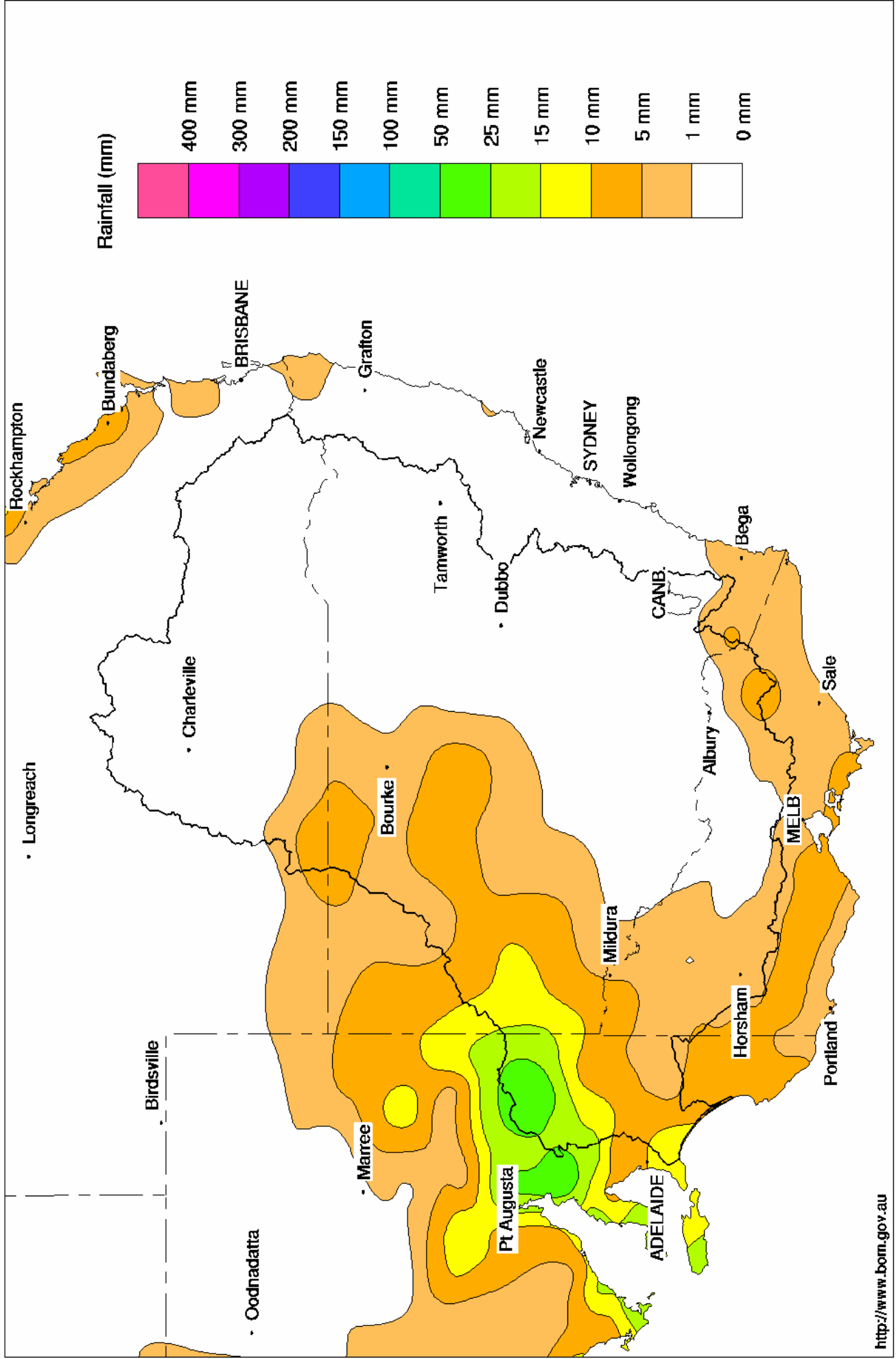
Release from Wentworth Weir is currently extremely low with flow past Lock 9 reaching a minimum of around 200 ML/day. Flows in this reach are expected to increase next week as the increased releases from Yarrawonga Weir and Hume Reservoir begin to arrive.

Flow rates across the River Murray System can be expected to increase over coming weeks in order to meet the increasing water demands.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th October 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 26 October, 2007

## **Releases from Dartmouth Reservoir to be increased**

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission announced today that releases from Dartmouth Reservoir will be gradually increased over the next two months to meet the rising demand for water along the River Murray System.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said that on Monday 29 October release from Dartmouth Dam will rise from the current rate of 200 ML/day to 500 ML/day.

On Tuesday 30 October, the release will be stepped up to 700 ML/day.

From mid November higher rates using a variable flow pattern from 1 500 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day are planned.

“These operations will be continuously reviewed and adjusted as necessary to take into account any changes to weather conditions and release requirements.

“Dartmouth is currently at 18% capacity and if it stays dry to will fall to 13% by early January. If extreme dry conditions persist through early 2008, levels will continue to drop towards the minimum operating level by May.

“While Dartmouth is the system’s drought reserve, we will release as little as possible this season to conserve water resources. We will operate the system to try and store any late season improvements and reserves in Dartmouth.

“When possible, the release from Dartmouth Dam will be varied rather than held at a constant flow.

“The variable release pattern will benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.”

Dr Craik said the pattern and volume of subsequent releases would depend on continual reassessment of the overall water requirements along the River Murray System and also take into account the outcomes of ecological and bank stability assessments.

“Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the higher and variable flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

“We will issue more information in early December 2007 or earlier if there is a major change to this release plan,” Dr Craik said.

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

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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	411.47	693	18%	80	613	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.13	845	28%	30	815	-21
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.26	476	70%	100	376	-18
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		64	4%	(- -) #	0	+6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 078</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 804</b>	<b>-30</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 21%

# 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	387	38%	3	384	-7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	492	30%	24	468	+8
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	805	24%	100	705	-1

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Oct-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	431	+13	Snowy-Murray	+0	255
Snowy-Murray Component	334	+21	Tooma-Tumut	+0	101
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	0.0	154
			Murray 1 Release	+4	407

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .6	23.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	3.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	2.6
Licensed Pumps	1.2	14.9
Lower Darling	0.2	1.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>45.4</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	23
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.4	32
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.5	13 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	3
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.1	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>87 *</b>

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

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170 *	
Flow this week	18.2	(2 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	62	
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	90	100	110
Euston	130	120	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	210	200	140
Burtundy (Darling)	1 300	1 280	1 150
Lock 9	140	140	130
Lake Victoria	180	170	170
Berri	380	400	470
Waikerie	700	690	670
Morgan	720	730	710
Mannum	540	530	450
Murray Bridge	520	530	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 410	2 400	2 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 840	2 900	2 270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 620	2 680	2 550
Goolwa Barrages	15 100	15 150	14 770



**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	-	-	-	1 320	F	890	760
Jingellic	4.0	1.38	207.90	2 360	R	1 230	1 540
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.25	218.14	360	R	360	390
Heywoods	5.5	1.92	155.55	5 060	R	4 230	2 720
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	6 220	R	5 060	3 980
Albury	4.3	1.22	148.66	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.43	127.45	4 760	R	4 050	3 150
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	5 000	R	4 450	3 720
Tocumwal	6.4	1.33	105.17	4 370	R	4 090	3 450
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.34	79.89	3 380	F	3 100	2 360
Swan Hill	4.5	0.76	63.68	3 060	R	2 720	2 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.59	50.71	2 790	R	2 480	2 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.44	42.28	1 870	R	2 000	1 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 850	F	1 560	1 460
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.71	27.47	770	R	810	1 060
Rufus Junction	-	2.80	19.73	2 260	S	2 150	1 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.21	-	990	F	1 260	1 540
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.38	154.61	1 154	R	940	1 150
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.90	145.58	624	R	710	1 000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	400	R	380	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.44	80.22	200	F	200	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.43	55.81	179	S	200	230
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.05	54.54	18	S	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.43	56.39	172	R	160	170
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	15	S	30	40
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	25	F	50	220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.58	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 290	4 020
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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	-0.70	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.11	+0.49
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.27	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.45	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.07	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	-0.36	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.42	-0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.54

<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	-1.37	0.49	69.84	204
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.76	0.102	61.402	228



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.13

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.21	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.10	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.14	All closed	Closed	Closed

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