REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 December 2005

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, dan **23 December, 2005**
Trim Ref : *05/24499*

Rainfall and Inflows

The Hume and Dartmouth catchments received some scattered light showers over the past week. There were no significant changes to the observed inflows to Dartmouth Dam however the estimated "unregulated inflow" to Hume Dam increased from 2,400 ML/day to 7,800 ML/day as a result of rain. Hume storage fell by 70 GL this week and is currently at 84 % of capacity while Dartmouth storage increased by 7 GL and is currently at 65 % of capacity.

River Operations

Releases from Hume Dam at Doctors Point averaged 17,300 ML/day compared with 16,300 ML/day for the previous week. Releases are expected to be around 16,500 ML/day for the first part of next week with increases likely towards the end on the week.

The gradual reduction in release from Yarrawonga Weir continued over the past week, with releases scheduled to be around regulated channel capacity on Friday 23 December. Flows are expected to be maintained around this level for the short term as forest requirements and the need for water transfer to Lake Victoria over the remainder of the season are re-assessed.

Regulators controlling flows into the Barmah-Millewa Forests have been progressively closed as the releases from Yarrawonga Weir have been reducing. Diversions to the Gulpa Creek will be maintained at 800 ML/day to maintain water levels in bird breeding areas. The Edward and Gulpa offtake gates have been returned into the water allowing automated control of diversions at both sites from the River Murray.

Lowering of the Lock 8 upstream weir pool commenced on Wednesday 21 December (refer to attached media release). Raising the Lock 8 pool commenced on the 16th of September and the pool has been held 0.6 m above normal supply level since 8 October.

Flows to South Australia returned to regulated conditions this week. The entitlement flow to South Australia for December and January is 7,000 ML/day which will be maintained utilising as necessary water currently stored in Lake Victoria.

The Commission, River Murray Water and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish you a safe and happy festive season.

Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 28 December 2005. The next report will cover the two week period ending 4 January 2006.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 23 December 2005

Flooding of River Red Gums at Lock 8 comes to a successful close

The Lock 8 Weir Pool level is now gradually being lowered to the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 24.6 m AHD after being held up to 60 cm above FSL over the past three months to water drought stressed River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation.

According to River Murray Water General Manager David Dreverman, in September the Lock 8 Weir Pool, located on the River Murray about 60 km west of Wentworth, was gradually raised to 60 cm above FSL in an effort to boost river levels so water flowed into creeks and onto drought stressed parts of the floodplain. “In some areas it had not been flooded for up to 9 years,” Mr Dreverman said..

“This was a collaborative project with the NSW and Victorian Government agencies and Catchment Management Authorities, who also arranged for water to be pumped and siphoned onto areas of the floodplain that could not be reached by the higher pool level of Lock 8,” he said.

The local coordinators of the project Mike Erny (NSW Department of Natural Resources) and Clare Mason (Victorian Mallee Catchment Management Authority) agreed that “the project has been a great success with about 400 Ha of stressed and dying floodplain vegetation being watered, including River Red Gums hundreds of years old”.

Mr Dreverman said the water used on this part of the floodplain was sourced from existing environmental water and surplus flow that could not be regulated in Lake Victoria. It has not affected irrigation allocations and is an example of using the Locks and weirs to provide water for the environment without reducing water availability to existing water users in NSW and Victoria.

The lowering of the Lock 8 Weir pool commenced on 21 December, and further reductions in the weir pool level will be gradual (about 3 cm/day) so that it is close to FSL by mid January 2006.

“Landowners, river diverters, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changes in river levels into account when planning their river activities,” Mr Dreverman said.

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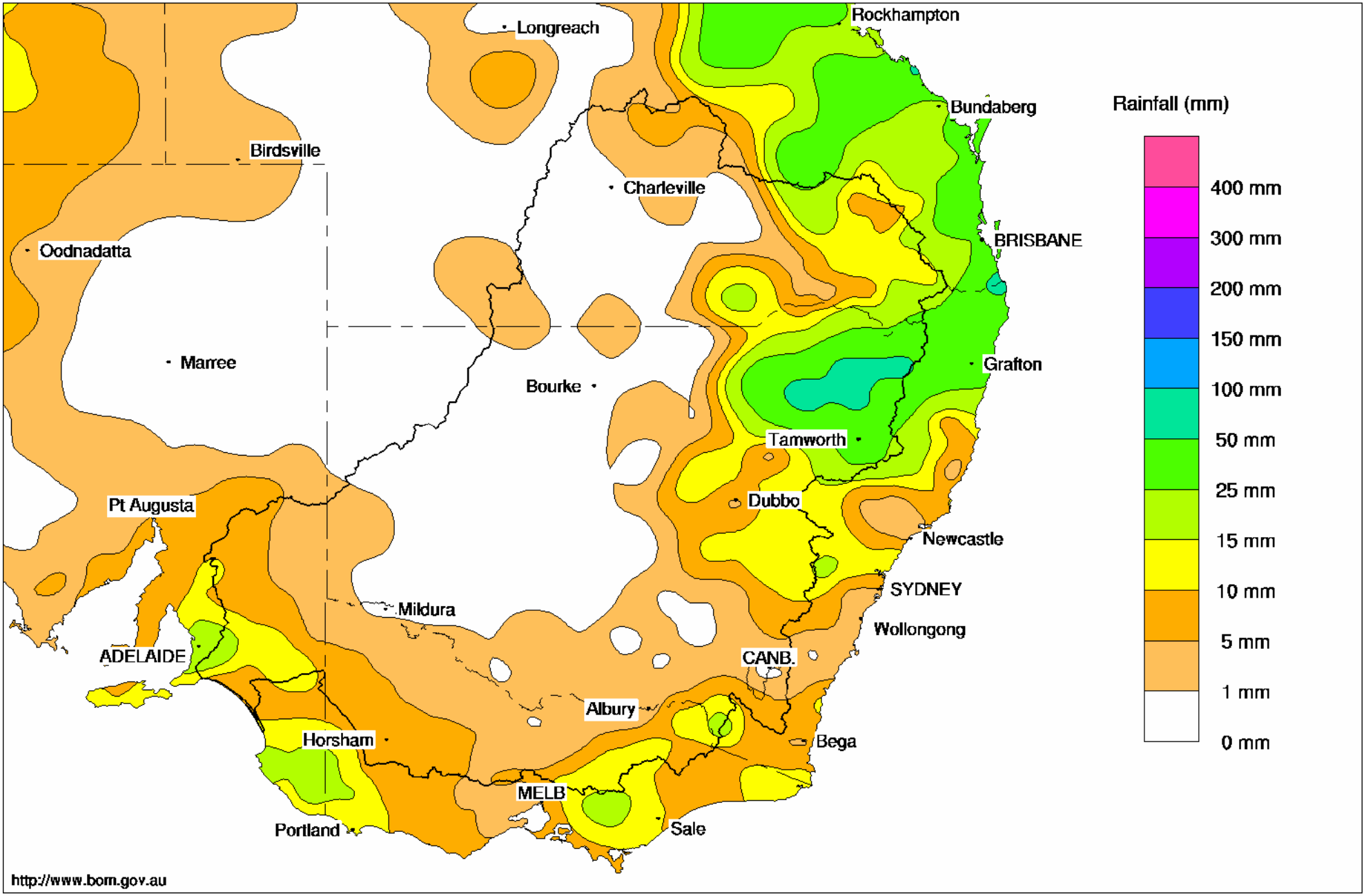
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st December 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 21/12/2005

Week ending Wednesday 21 Dec 2005

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	462.31	2 527	65%	80	2 447	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	189.45	2 549	84%	30	2 519	-71
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.96	672	99%	100	572	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		394	23%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		**9 352**		**6 141**	**66%**	**- -**	**5 537**	**-75**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **65%**

\# 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		718	70%	3	715	-28
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		1 017	62%	24	993	-16
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 614	48%	100	1 514	-22

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Dec-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 231	-21	Snowy-Murray	+18	502
Snowy-Murray Component	1 123	-11	Tooma-Tumut	+2	236
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	15.5	266
			Murray 1 Release	+21	796

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	43.2	448.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	7.2
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	9.0
Licensed Pumps	10.1	118.5
Lower Darling	2.5	27.9
TOTAL	**57.1**	**610.6**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.6	119
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.6	269
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.4	49
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.8	14
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.8	114
TOTAL	**50.2**	**565**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	51.1	(7 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	207	
Flow last month	339	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	120	100	110
Euston	110	110	130
Red Cliffs	140	140	140
Merbein	120	120	120
Burtundy (Darling)	540	580	550
Lock 9	130	130	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	180	170	220
Waikerie	220	220	370
Morgan	240	250	330
Mannum	270	270	390
Murray Bridge	310	310	400
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 170	1 330
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	990	860	900
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 110	2 140	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 860	1 800	1 780

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River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 040	F	3 840	5 220
Jingellic	4.0	1.76	208.28	5 150	F	5 840	8 510
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.50	218.39	860	S	900	1 000
Heywoods	5.5	3.15	156.78	16 700	R	16 080	14 630
Doctors Point	5.5	3.31	151.78	18 000	S	17 300	16 340
Albury	4.3	2.34	149.78	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.30	129.32	17 900	R	17 800	16 030
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.85	116.89	10 700	S	11 300	13 230
Tocumwal	6.4	2.44	106.28	11 820	F	12 590	14 800
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.14	80.69	6 240	F	7 020	8 810
Swan Hill	4.5	1.30	64.22	6 320	F	7 150	8 880
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.46	52.58	10 200	F	11 390	13 530
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.02	43.86	10 390	F	11 000	13 170
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	31.08	9 370	F	9 890	12 540
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.10	27.86	8 020	F	8 350	10 430
Rufus Junction	-	3.50	20.43	6 450	F	6 820	10 460
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	5 030	F	6 670	10 140
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.19	154.42	890	S	1 100	1 870
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.41	146.09	1 859	R	2 010	2 770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.24	92.66	490	S	590	780
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 960	F	2 570	3 400
Edward at Liewah	-	2.66	58.04	2 130	F	2 280	2 580
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.81	55.30	1 460	F	1 640	1 900
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.64	56.60	286	F	610	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.55	-	900	R	850	840
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	586	R	350	160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.73	-	88	S	80	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 110	8 190

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+1.20
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.38
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.26	+0.46
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.30	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.46	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.61	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.03	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.60	+0.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	+0.10

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.18	1.35	70.7	1500
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.19	0.2	61.5	314

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.88

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.76	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.77	2

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

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