

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 27 July 2005

*Our Ref : M2005/00066/hap, jm*  
*Trim Ref : 05/12182*

28 July, 2005



## ***Rainfall and Temperature***

Strong westerly winds brought light showers to the southern part of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Up to 25 mm fell over the ranges in the Upper Murray catchment, and a similar amount fell over the Adelaide hills. In the Basin to the north of the River Murray, a high pressure system has produced dry conditions and warmer than average daytime temperatures.

## ***River Murray Operation***

The combined storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs increased by 75 GL this week, due to the combined effects of renewed but minor inflows from the recent rainfall and inflows from the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Unregulated inflow to Dartmouth and Hume peaked at about 3 500 ML/day and 9 500 ML/day respectively, whilst inflows from the Snowy Mountains Scheme averaged about 2 000 ML/day this week. The total release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme since the 1 May 2005 is 313 GL, which is significantly higher than the total release at the same time last year (242 GL).

The release from Hume Reservoir was increased this week, from the minimum flow of 600 ML/day, to about 2 400 ML/day. The increase was undertaken as part of plans to begin transferring water resources from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria in preparation for the coming irrigation season. To facilitate these transfers, the release from Yarrowonga Weir will be increased over the coming week from 6 000 ML/day to 10 000 ML/day (near to channel capacity in the Barmah-Millewa Forest).

## ***Darling River System***

The flow in the Darling River peaked at about 13 700 ML/day at Bourke on Friday 22 July. Further downstream the flow at Wilcannia has increased close to 8 000 ML/day and is expected to peak in the next couple of days. Storage in Menindee Lakes increased by about 23 GL this week and is currently at 354 GL (22% of total capacity).

## ***Lower Lakes and Barrages***

A small number of barrage gates were opened this week, as recent local rains have boosted the level of the Lower Lakes in South Australia (*see attached Media Release*). Ten bays distributed across the Goolwa Barrage were partially opened on Wednesday 27 July to reduce salinity levels in the Goolwa channel. In addition, the two 'fish ladders' in Tauwitchere Barrage were opened on Thursday 21 July, along with one gate adjacent to each of the fish ladders.

The current water average level in Lake Alexandrina remains high, at about 0.84 m AHD, which is above the full supply level of 0.75 m AHD. The lake level is marginally greater than at the same time last year (when the lake level was 0.79 m AHD and rising) and releases from the barrages have commenced about three weeks earlier than last season.

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Friday, 22 July 2005

### **BARRAGE RELEASES PROVIDE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS**

Water will be released across the Goolwa and Tauwitchere barrages in coming weeks, reaping small but positive ecological impacts from heavy rainfall across the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and the Lower Lakes in recent weeks.

Minister for the River Murray, Karlene Maywald said the heavy localised rain had raised water levels in the Lower Lakes, allowing the release of small amounts of water over the coming weeks.

“This will provide some ecological benefits for the Coorong and the estuary, but the water releases will not be significant enough to have an impact on removing sand at the Mouth, so dredging will continue during this time,” Minister Maywald said.

“Water releases over the barrages will also assist in lowering salinity levels in the lakes as some salt will be flushed out of the system.

“The inflows will also provide an opportunity to open the fishways in the Tauwitchere Barrage, which we hope we will be able to keep open for up to three months,” she said.

Minister Maywald said the potential ecological benefits that could be achieved through flows through the fishways at this time were significant, as it would allow the upstream migration of a range of fish species of high conservation and ecological value, such as congolli that spawned in the estuary.

“SARDI fish scientists tell us that this is the best time of year for upstream migration of lampreys and short-finned eels as this is their peak migration period and these species need access to fresh water in order to complete their life cycle.

“It will also help attract other species, including the commercially and recreationally important species such as Mulloway, into the Coorong nurseries providing significant benefits to the fishery. It is anticipated that the barrage releases will continue for three to four weeks, depending on further localised rainfall.”

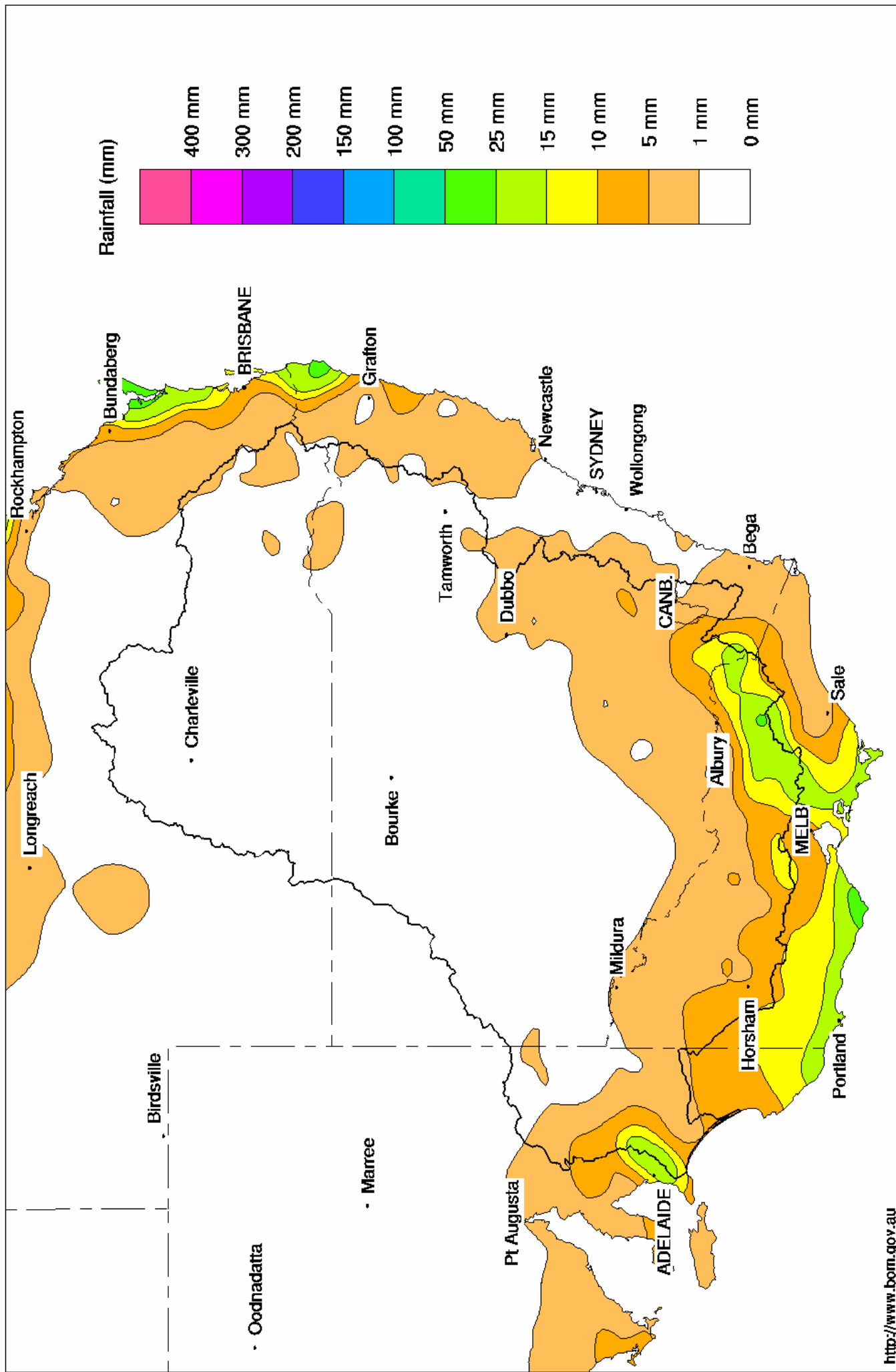
Minister Maywald said that while local rains in the eastern Mount Lofty and Lower Lake districts had contributed to elevated water levels, river inflows higher up the Murray-Darling system had been at historically low levels so there was still a long way to go before the pressure on the river system eased.

“Obviously we are monitoring this situation very closely and will review allocations to irrigators when we have the end of July figures available from the Murray Darling Basin Commission.”

Minister Maywald said that, as with previous releases of water from the barrages, a 150-metre exclusion zone would apply to recreational and commercial fishing, in line with the *Fisheries (General) Regulations, 2000*.

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 27th July 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



### 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	446.91	1 816	46%	80	1 736	+13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.29	1 192	39%	30	1 162	+63
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.58	404	60%	100	304	+21
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		354	20%	(- -) #	0	+23
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 766</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3 201</b>	<b>+119</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **38%**

# 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	373	36%	3	370	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	459	28%	24	435	+35
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	996	29%	100	896	+16

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-Jul-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 798	+1	Snowy-Murray	+8	267
Snowy-Murray Component	793	+12	Tooma-Tumut	+5	51
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	2.8	216
			Murray 1 Release	+15	313

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	8.2	8.8	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Wakool System loss	0.5	4.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	1
Licensed Pumps	0.7	2.5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Lower Darling	0.1	.2	Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>8</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	
Flow this week	24.7	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	95	
Flow last month	91	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	150	170	120
Euston	110	130	120
Red Cliffs	180	160	140
Merbein	110	100	130
Burtundy (Darling)	530	520	540
Lock 9	200	190	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	320	340	250
Waikerie	-	-	380
Morgan	470	460	390
Mannum	450	450	450
Murray Bridge	440	410	460
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 360	1 360
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	970	890	1 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 160	2 120	2 150
Goolwa Barrages	2 710	2 700	2 180

## 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	-	-	-	3 020	S	3 070	5 140
Jingellic	4.0	2.01	208.53	7 250	R	6 990	9 780
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.87	218.76	2 200	R	1 890	1 610
Heywoods	5.5	1.69	155.32	2 430	R	1 000	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.01	150.48	4 090	R	2 170	2 520
Albury	4.3	1.06	148.50	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.68	126.70	1 780	F	2 170	2 590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.15	116.19	5 930	S	6 380	6 000
Tocumwal	6.4	1.63	105.47	5 850	F	6 260	5 900
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.11	80.66	6 170	R	5 720	5 750
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	5 480	R	5 460	6 160
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.80	51.92	7 180	S	7 370	7 530
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.56	43.40	7 750	S	7 920	7 650
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.05	7 970	F	8 040	7 530
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	27.82	7 300	S	7 270	6 990
Rufus Junction	-	2.91	19.84	2 900	R	3 040	2 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 980	S	4 030	4 930
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.63	154.86	1 650	R	1 480	2 360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.14	146.82	4 053	R	3 580	4 060
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.32	92.74	639	F	850	600
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	980	F	1 140	1 480
Edward at Liewah	-	2.37	57.75	1 790	F	1 790	1 650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.25	54.74	143	S	150	170
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.66	57.62	1 070	R	610	330
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	-	190	F	310	710
Darling at Bourke	-	4.85	-	6 947	F	11 080	10 770
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	76	F	90	70

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 380	12 930
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.63
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.40	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.25	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.42	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.82	71.17	2470
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.05	1.24	62.54	1550

## Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

## Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.88	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.83	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.87	2

