

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 8 June 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, jm
Trim Ref : 05/6833

9 June, 2005



Rainfall and Temperature

A high pressure system has maintained dry weather (*see attached map*) and above average temperatures across the Basin during the week. However, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting falling temperatures and widespread rainfall in the southern part of the Basin over the next few days. It is hoped that this rainfall will commence wetting up the parched catchments and ease river losses. Significant increases in tributary inflows are not expected due to the very dry condition of the catchment.

River Murray Operation

The release from Hume Reservoir is currently about 1 000 ML/day, and is being adjusted to target the minimum flow of 1 200 ML/day at Doctors Point. The flow has been maintained at about this level since the end of the gravity irrigation season in mid May. Although it is common for releases to be reduced to these levels over the winter period, the flows did not reach such low levels last year as an early start was made to transfer water resources from Hume to Lake Victoria in view of the low levels in Lake Victoria at that time.

The level of Lake Mulwala has been falling very gradually since late May, and is currently about 124.75 m (about 0.15 m below normal Full Supply Level). Given the low inflows to the River Murray this autumn, RMW advised last week that the level of Lake Mulwala may be temporarily drawn down over coming weeks to conserve water in Hume Reservoir (*see attached media release*). If conditions remain dry, the level may be drawn down to 124.6 m (0.3 m below normal Full Supply Level). The pool will be raised to normal levels by mid August in time for the commencement of the irrigation season.

On the Edward River, the gates have now been removed from the Stevens Weir and the regulators at the Edward River and Gulpa Creek off-takes from the River Murray. This will allow unimpeded fish movement between the River Murray and the Edward River over the winter months. The flow through the Edward-Wakool system has now returned to 'run-of-river', and will vary according the flow in the Murray and inflow from the Billabong Creek.

River Salinities

There has been a slight increase in the salinity at Morgan from about 300 EC at the start of May 2005, to the average of about 430 EC over the last week. This small rise followed the reduction in the entitlement flow to South Australia from 4 500 ML/day to 3 000 ML/day, and the reduced dilution of saline inflows to the river. However, overall, River Murray salinities remain relatively low, and the level at Morgan is well below the 800 EC target.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 3 June 2005

TEMPORARY PARTIAL LOWERING OF LAKE MULWALA



River Murray Water advised today that the level of Lake Mulwala may be temporarily drawn down over the coming weeks to conserve precious water in Hume Reservoir.

“Inflows to the River Murray in autumn 2005 were extremely low and the outlook for the coming season points to continuing dry conditions” said River Murray Water’s General Manager David Dreverman.

“The imperative to conserve water is stronger than ever and the minor drawdown of Lake Mulwala will help save water”

Lake Mulwala is currently at about 124.8 m or about 0.1 m below normal Full Supply Level. If conditions remain the level may be drawn down over coming weeks to about 124.6 m, or 0.3 below normal Full Supply Level.

The water level in Lake Mulwala will be raised to normal levels by mid August in preparation for the coming irrigation season. The timing and rate of refilling will depend mainly on river flow conditions at the time.

Recreational users of Lake Mulwala are advised to take these changed water level conditions into account.

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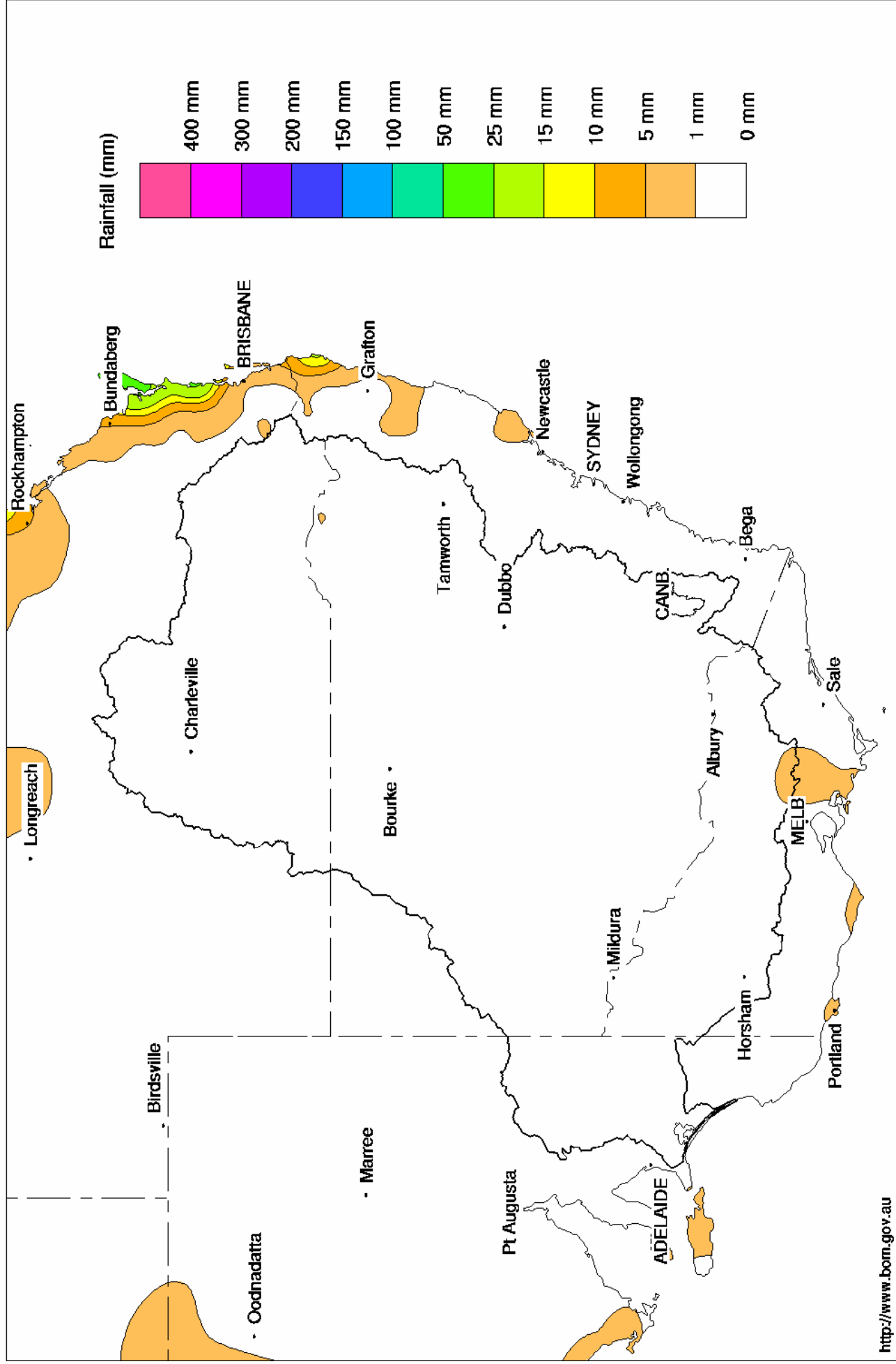
E-mail: sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au

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

TRIM Ref:05/6672

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th June 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	444.42	1 714	44%	80	1 634	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.09	744	24%	30	714	+25
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.22	367	54%	100	267	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		334	19%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 159	34%	--	2 615	+13

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **31%**

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		238	23%	3	235	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		185	11%	24	161	+27
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		895	26%	100	795	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-Jun-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 845	-38	Snowy-Murray	+18	156
Snowy-Murray Component	812	-16	Tooma-Tumut	+1	6
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	16.7	150
			Murray 1 Release	+19	157

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	843.2
Wakool System loss	-0.3	25.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	31.7
Licensed Pumps	4.7	334.5
Lower Darling	0.2	36.2
TOTAL	4.8	1 271.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	389
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	637
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.4	163
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	49
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	256
TOTAL	4.4	1 494

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90	
Flow this week	21.1	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	24	
Flow last month	93	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	270	160	110
Euston	130	120	120
Red Cliffs	150	160	140
Merbein	130	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	540	540	540
Lock 9	190	190	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	290	280	240
Waikerie	-	410	360
Morgan	430	430	380
Mannum	400	400	450
Murray Bridge	400	370	470
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 510	1 500	1 360
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	2 170
Goolwa Barrages	2 370	2 350	2 010



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	-	-	-	2 150	R	2 450	4 640
Jingellic	4.0	1.36	207.88	2 220	F	3 620	4 990
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	620	R	620	640
Heywoods	5.5	1.39	155.02	1 050	S	1 050	1 050
Doctors Point	5.5	1.52	149.99	1 240	S	1 280	1 260
Albury	4.3	0.71	148.15	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.55	126.57	1 450	F	1 500	1 520
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.46	115.50	2 190	S	2 190	2 130
Tocumwal	6.4	0.91	104.75	2 190	S	2 170	2 100
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.03	79.58	2 310	F	2 340	2 610
Swan Hill	4.5	0.65	63.57	2 290	R	2 350	2 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.55	50.67	2 490	F	2 680	3 320
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.60	42.44	2 480	F	2 750	3 500
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	2 490	F	2 660	3 160
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	2 300	R	2 470	2 930
Rufus Junction	-	2.85	19.78	2 570	S	2 480	2 520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 130	F	2 110	1 720
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.74	153.97	310	F	370	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.75	145.43	331	S	390	570
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	368	S	380	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	220	F	210	250
Edward at Liewah	-	0.67	56.05	306	F	320	380
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.15	54.64	60	F	70	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	178	S	180	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	S	10	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	26	F	40	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 140	1 070
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.54
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.12	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.24

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.19	0.58	69.93	278
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.29	0.14	61.44	261

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.56

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed

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