

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 March 2005

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18 March, 2005



Rainfall and outlook

Very little rain was recorded throughout the Basin this week (*see attached map*) and maximum daily temperatures were generally 2°C to 6°C higher than average for this time of year. Consequently, the inflow from the major tributaries to the River Murray generally declined. For the coming three months (March – May), the Bureau of Meteorology estimates that the chances of accumulating at least average rainfall are close to 50% across the Basin, indicating there is no strong swing in the odds towards either wetter or drier conditions during autumn 2005.

River Murray Operation

In response to the warmer conditions and increased irrigation demand, the release from Hume Dam was gradually increased this week to 16 000 ML/day. Subsequently, the storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 55 GL to 941 GL (31% capacity). Although storage in Dartmouth Reservoir remained relatively steady this week at 44% capacity, the total active MDBC storage decreased by 81 GL and is currently 36% capacity (3 027 GL). At the same time last year, the total active MDBC storage was 32% capacity.

Flow in the River Murray downstream of Yarrawonga Weir was maintained at 8 000 ML/day this week, but will be increased to about 9 000 ML/day over the coming week in response to higher irrigation demand.

Along the central parts of the River Murray, the flow rate is gradually receding with the flow downstream of Euston and Wentworth Weirs currently at 3 600 ML/day and 2 800 ML/day respectively. Unless there is further rain, these flow rates are expected to reduce further over the coming week. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 300 ML/day, but will be increased to about 500 ML/day over the coming week.

Inflow to Lake Victoria declined this week and the release rate was increased to maintain the entitlement flow to South Australia. Consequently, Lake Victoria storage fell by 19 GL and is currently 572 GL (85% capacity). At Lake Alexandrina, the average lake level fell slightly this week and is currently 0.63m (AHD).

Emergency River Red Gum watering

Water is currently being pumped into dry creek beds and onto small areas of the floodplain at Chowilla (SA/NSW) and at Lindsay and Wallpolla Islands (Victoria). This will provide a welcome 'drink' for River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation which is suffering from the absence of flooding due to the extended drought. The additional water used on the floodplain is being sourced from current environmental water allocations managed by each state.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

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	444.67	1 724	44%	80	1 644	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.06	941	31%	30	911	-55
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.12	572	85%	100	472	-19
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		403	23%	(- -) #	0	-7
Total		9 352		3 640	39%	--	3 027	-81

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **36%**

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		248	24%	3	245	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		275	17%	24	251	-29
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 179	35%	100	1 079	-28

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Mar-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 399	-27	Snowy-Murray	+35	532
Snowy-Murray Component	1 146	-32	Tooma-Tumut	+3	278
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	31.5	254
			Murray 1 Release	+38	887

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	37.4	622.5
Wakool System loss	0.9	14.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	26.8
Licensed Pumps	8.6	223.0
Lower Darling	0.3	23.8
TOTAL	48.0	910.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.9	287
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	26.0	484
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.8	134
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	30
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.2	215
TOTAL	51.4	1 151

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	42.8	(6 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	97	
Flow last month	197	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	110	120	110
Euston	120	110	120
Red Cliffs	170	170	120
Merbein	170	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	640	680	530
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	310	310	360
Morgan	320	330	380
Mannum	410	400	470
Murray Bridge	360	350	510
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 450	1 410	1 320
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 280	1 350	1 070
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 200	2 190	2 120
Goolwa Barrages	2 160	2 150	1 950



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	-	-	-	6 480	R	5 590	5 330
Jingellic	4.0	1.94	208.46	6 890	R	6 270	6 280
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.52	218.41	950	R	900	980
Heywoods	5.5	3.18	156.81	16 270	R	14 030	13 520
Doctors Point	5.5	3.22	151.69	16 700	R	14 330	13 910
Albury	4.3	2.28	149.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.94	128.96	14 700	R	14 300	14 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.47	116.51	7 950	S	7 990	8 090
Tocumwal	6.4	1.98	105.82	8 100	S	8 100	8 110
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.50	80.05	3 980	R	4 000	4 430
Swan Hill	4.5	0.84	63.76	3 310	S	3 470	4 640
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.95	51.07	3 820	F	4 480	7 250
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.84	42.68	3 580	F	4 570	7 580
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.85	3 760	F	5 090	8 890
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	2 820	F	4 530	7 790
Rufus Junction	-	3.39	20.32	6 100	R	5 740	5 620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 550	S	3 550	3 700
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	153.98	330	S	460	630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.98	145.66	744	F	830	890
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.97	93.39	1 761	R	1 690	1 440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	290	S	320	400
Edward at Liewah	-	0.80	56.18	378	F	490	1 390
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.46	54.95	390	F	450	630
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	185	F	200	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	60	F	80	110
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	92	S	110	170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	277	S	220	120

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 970	1 850
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.07
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.52
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.05	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.01	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.60	0.11	61.41	236

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.63

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.66	All closed



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