

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 May 2005

*Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs*

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13 May, 2005



## ***Rainfall and inflow***

Over the last few days rain has fallen in the north of the Basin, with over 50 mm recorded so far in parts of the Warrego and Maranoa catchments in southern Queensland. There have been some stream rises but indications at this stage are that unless there is further follow up rain it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the flow in the Darling River. In the southern part of the Basin, the unseasonably dry and warm conditions continued, which has kept inflows to the River Murray System very low.

## ***River Murray Operation***

The major Victorian irrigation diversion points, the Yarrawonga Main Channel and the National Channel, will be closed on 15 May 2005. Consequently, the release from both Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir were reduced to 2 500 ML/day, which is near the minimum flow level for these reaches.

Recent reductions in diversions and the draining of irrigation channels will result in a slightly higher flow along the River Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir over the coming week. The flow at Swan Hill is expected to peak at about 3 800 ML/day, while at downstream of Euston Weir it is expected to peak at 3 500 ML/day. However, unless there is significant inflow to the River Murray System over the coming weeks, the flow will be reduced to minimum levels as soon as possible to conserve resources for future years.

In the Edward-Wakool System, the flow through the Edward and Gulpa offtake regulators has been reduced to the minimum levels of 100 ML/day and 80 ML/day respectively and the regulator gates will be fully opened next week. In addition, Stevens Weir pool is gradually being lowered prior to the full removal of the weir pool gates. These actions will improve fish migration opportunities between the Edward River and the Murray River over the winter months.

Additional water will be released downstream of Stevens Weir during the weir pool drawdown, which will result in a slightly higher flow along the Edward River over the coming week. However, water has now stopped flowing into the Wakool River, Yallakool Creek and Colligen Creek as the Stevens Weir pool level is now below the offtake level of these streams.

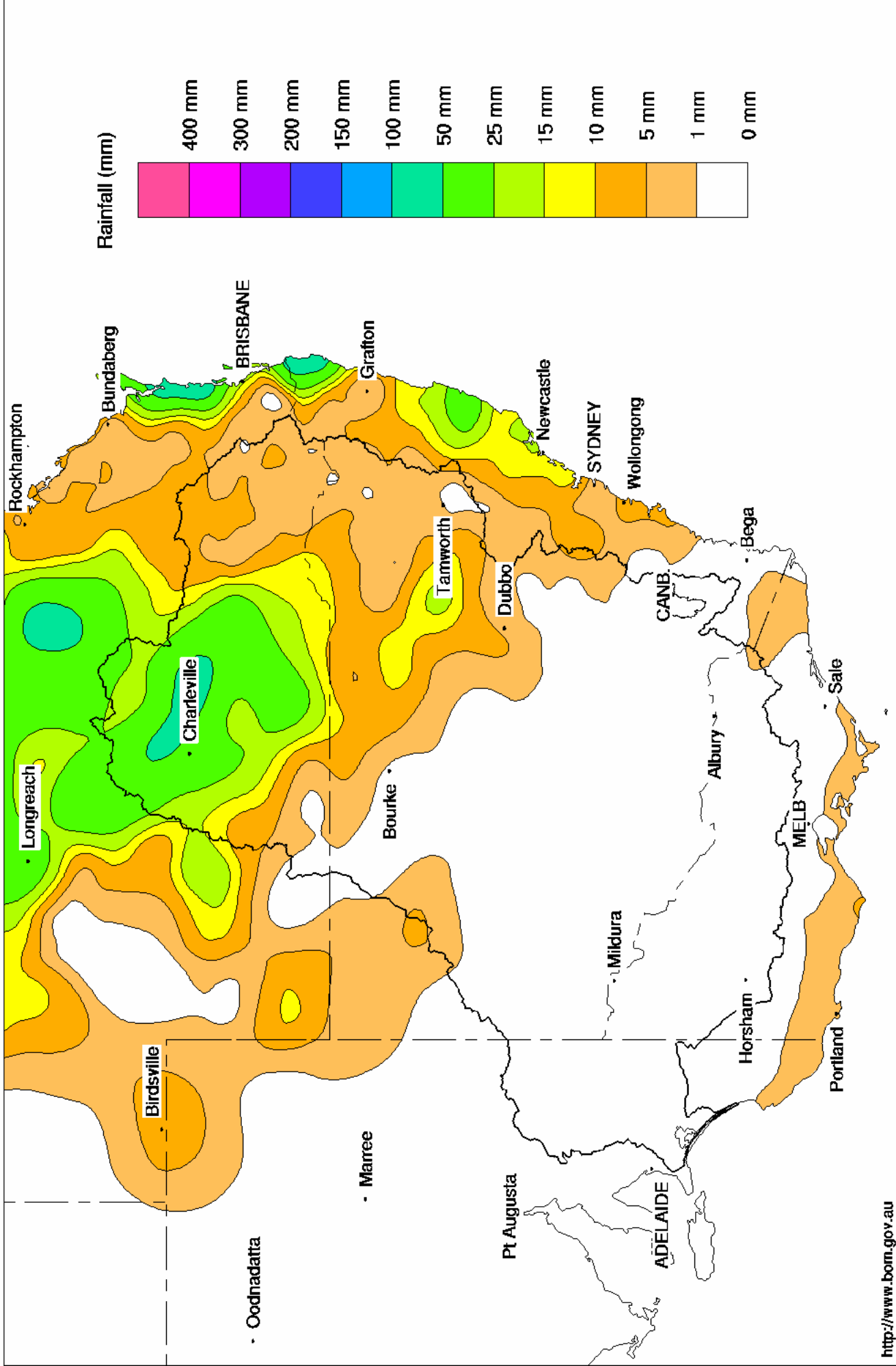
## ***Emergency watering of wetlands along Lower Murray continues***

The declining health of floodplain vegetation on the lower Murray floodplain is now understood to be an extremely significant ecological issue, with a recent survey showing 75% of trees surveyed to be stressed. In an effort to assist the survival of some River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation during the current drought, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia are undertaking emergency watering of small areas of floodplain at Chowilla, Lindsay Island, Wallpolla Island and Mulcra Island using either pumping or higher weir pool levels. The latest area to be watered includes Chalka Creek in the Hattah Lakes area, which has not been flooded since 2000.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th May 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	444.52	1 718	44%	80	1 638	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.61	611	20%	30	581	+1
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.54	400	59%	100	300	-10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		348	20%	(- -) #	0	-6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 077</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 518</b>	<b>-17</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 30%

# 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		242	24%	3	239	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		134	8%	24	110	-13
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		901	27%	100	801	-7

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-May-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 074	-45	Snowy-Murray	+23	29
Snowy-Murray Component	928	-27	Tooma-Tumut	+1	2
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	22.0	28
			Murray 1 Release	+31	33

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- 1.1	844.1
Wakool System loss	1.2	24.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	30.6
Licensed Pumps	7.4	327.0
Lower Darling	2.7	35.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>1 261.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.0	383
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.7	630
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.2	157
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	40
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.7	248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>1 457</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	93	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.7	
Flow so far this month	33	
Flow last month	135	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	90	90	110
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	180	180	130
Merbein	160	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	570	570	540
Lock 9	180	180	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	180
Berri	250	250	240
Waikerie	380	370	360
Morgan	370	370	380
Mannum	390	380	460
Murray Bridge	370	370	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 480	1 480	1 340
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 040	1 070	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 170	2 270	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	2 170	2 170	1 980



**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	-	-	-	7 100	R	4 220	3 290
Jingellic	4.0	1.98	208.50	6 990	R	3 850	4 640
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.40	218.29	670	R	660	640
Heywoods	5.5	1.76	155.39	2 570	R	3 280	6 570
Doctors Point	5.5	1.87	150.34	3 090	S	3 570	6 960
Albury	4.3	0.99	148.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.06	127.08	3 090	F	4 200	8 870
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.53	115.57	2 510	F	3 940	5 190
Tocumwal	6.4	1.17	105.01	3 340	F	4 340	5 390
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.42	79.97	3 700	F	3 840	3 100
Swan Hill	4.5	0.86	63.78	3 550	F	3 350	2 840
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.93	51.05	3 750	R	3 310	3 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.68	42.52	2 860	R	2 790	2 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.81	2 320	F	2 340	2 250
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	27.53	1 990	R	1 990	1 940
Rufus Junction	-	2.72	19.65	2 350	F	2 460	3 270
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	900	F	1 650	2 500
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.76	153.99	340	S	390	650
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.00	145.68	790	R	780	790
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	349	F	380	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	760	F	710	420
Edward at Liewah	-	0.57	55.95	252	F	310	340
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	315	F	380	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	F	220	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.07	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	S	20	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	76	F	100	130

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	250	1 710
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.43
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.13	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.25

<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	-1.88	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.04	0.12	61.42	244

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.57

**Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.57	All closed

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