

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 May 2005

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20 May, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

Over 25 mm of rain fell in the north of the Basin early this week (*see attached map*), however due to the very dry condition of the catchment, only very minor and localised rises in stream flows have occurred in response. Very little rain fell across the southern part of the Basin, and inflows to the River Murray remain low.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), in its recent three month rainfall outlook for the period June to August 2005, has indicated a moderate shift in odds towards below average winter rainfall across parts of southern Australia (including the River Murray System). The BOM also indicates that it is more likely to be warmer this winter across most of the country.

Models indicate that there is an increased chance of an El Niño occurring this year. However the BOM cautions that model forecast skill is at its lowest across the March to June period – a period known as the “predictability barrier”.

River Murray Operation

On Sunday 15 May the major Victorian irrigation offtakes (the Yarrawonga Main Channel and the National Channel) were closed, two weeks after the closure of the major NSW irrigation offtakes. This marks the end of the 2004/2005 irrigation season for gravity irrigators along the Murray, however some private diverters are continuing to pump from the river.

Following the closure of the main irrigation offtakes, the releases from both Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir were further reduced. The release from Hume was reduced from 2 500 ML/day to about 1 000 ML/day, to target the minimum flow of 1 200 ML/day at Doctors Point (located just downstream of the junction of the Kiewa and Murray Rivers). The release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced slightly from 2 500 ML/day to 2 300 ML/day. Depending on river losses and tributary inflows, the release from Yarrawonga Weir may be further reduced to the minimum flow of 1 800 ML/day over winter.

Darling River

On the Darling River, the flow at Bourke remains extremely low (at 30 ML/day) and no flow has been recorded at Wilcannia (upstream of Menindee Lakes) since late March. Storage in Menindee Lakes is slowly declining and is currently at 340 GL (or 21% of capacity). During the week, the release from Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 was reduced by NSW State Water from about 300 ML/day (in the preceding week) to about 100 ML/day in order to conserve water resources (*see attached State Water Media Release*). The release will be adjusted over winter to target a flow at Burtundy Weir (located upstream of the junction of the Lower Darling with the River Murray) of 20 ML/day.

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Media Release State water

6 May 2005

RELEASE FROM MENINDEE LAKES TO BE REDUCED

State Water today announced that release rates from Menindee Lakes would be reduced commencing Sunday, 8 May 2005.

South Area Customer Service Manager Lindsay Beck, said that releases from Menindee Lakes was being reduced from the current rate of 300 ML/day (1.42 m gauge height) to about 100 ML/day (1.24 m gauge height) at Weir 32.

"Following water quality advice from the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), it is now possible to reduce release requirements from Menindee Lakes in order to conserve water resources.

"The reduction is expected to be welcome news to irrigators as the water savings will improve available water resources next season," Mr Beck said.

Mr Beck also said that releases from Menindee Lakes will be adjusted over the winter period in order to target a passing flow of about 20 ML/day (0.72 m gauge height) at Burtundy Weir.

Currently, flow over Burtundy Weir is about 110 ML/day (0.72 m gauge height).

River users should take into account these changes when planning their activities.

- ENDS -

***Media enquiries and interviews:
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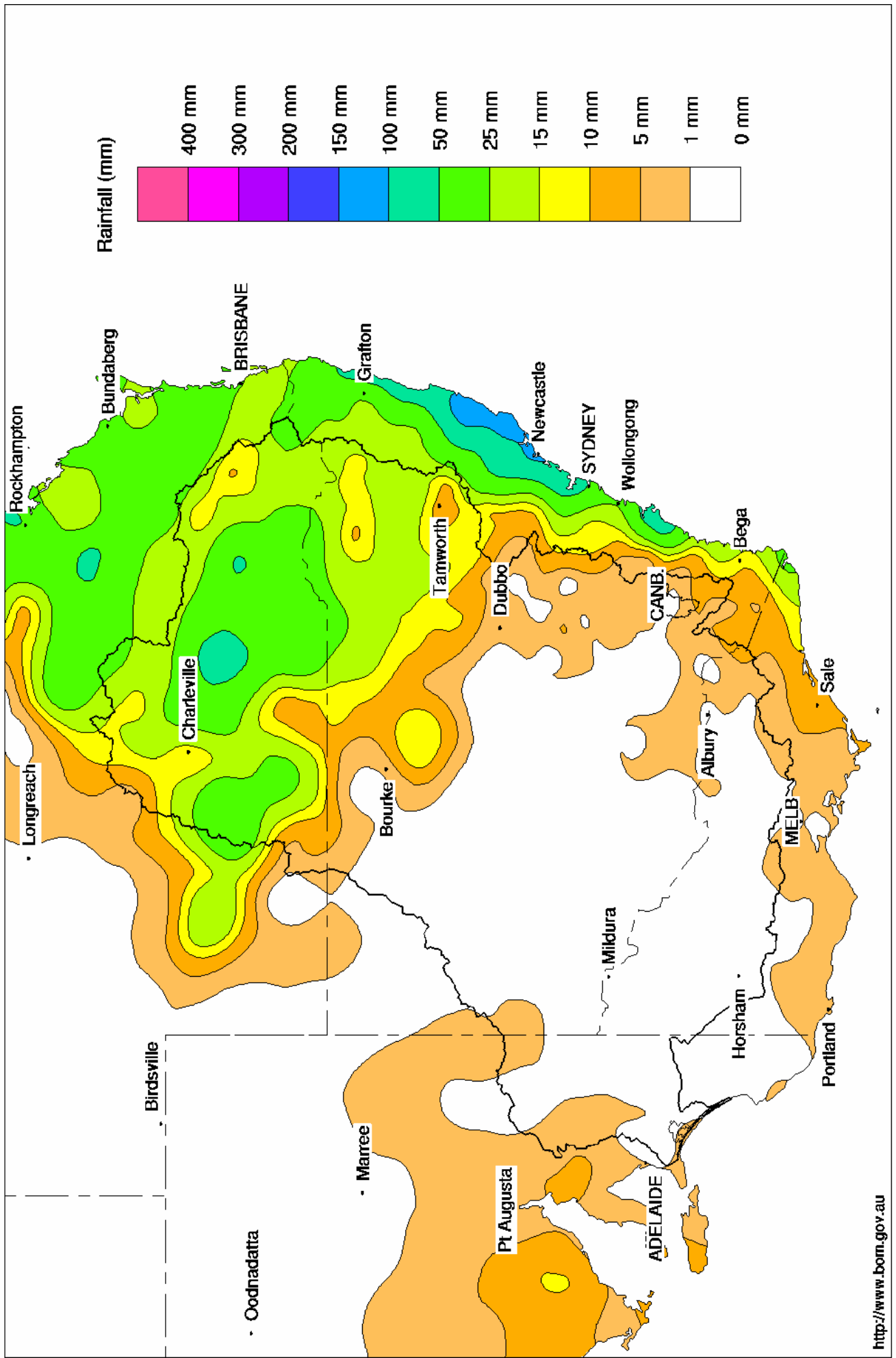
For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:
http://statewater.com.au/whats_new

For **Available Water Determinations** and DIPNR Media Releases go to:
<http://dipnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel>

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th 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	444.49	1 717	44%	80	1 637	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.01	645	21%	30	615	+34
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.42	387	57%	100	287	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		344	20%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		3 093	33%	--	2 539	+16

* 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		241	23%	3	238	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		149	9%	24	125	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		894	26%	100	794	-6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-May-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 006	-68	Snowy-Murray	+44	73
Snowy-Murray Component	888	-43	Tooma-Tumut	+1	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	42.3	70
			Murray 1 Release	+45	78

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .4	843.6
Wakool System loss	1.8	26.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	30.9
Licensed Pumps	6.5	333.5
Lower Darling	0.3	35.5
TOTAL	8.4	1 269.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.3	388
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.1	635
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	158
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	40
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.7	250
TOTAL	14.6	1 472

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.9	
Flow so far this month	54	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	140	110	110
Euston	120	130	120
Red Cliffs	170	180	140
Merbein	160	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	560	560	540
Lock 9	190	190	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	260	250	240
Waikerie	-	-	360
Morgan	390	380	380
Mannum	390	390	460
Murray Bridge	370	370	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 470	1 480	1 350
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 100	1 060	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 300	2 310	2 160
Goolwa Barrages	2 160	2 180	1 990



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	-	-	-	7 500	S	7 080	4 220
Jingellic	4.0	2.06	208.58	7 660	R	7 270	3 850
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	620	S	620	660
Heywoods	5.5	1.39	155.02	1 150	F	1 740	3 280
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 210	F	1 940	3 570
Albury	4.3	0.69	148.13	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.80	126.82	2 150	F	2 660	4 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.50	115.54	2 370	R	2 410	3 940
Tocumwal	6.4	0.96	104.80	2 390	F	2 610	4 340
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.19	79.74	2 870	F	2 930	3 840
Swan Hill	4.5	0.77	63.69	3 050	S	3 160	3 350
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.86	50.98	3 500	R	3 650	3 310
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.76	42.60	3 230	S	3 500	2 790
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.91	3 480	F	2 610	2 340
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 130	R	2 280	1 990
Rufus Junction	-	2.74	19.67	2 450	F	2 490	2 460
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 650	R	1 430	1 650
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	300	F	310	390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.85	145.53	483	S	630	780
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	92.78	685	R	460	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	400	S	480	710
Edward at Liewah	-	0.88	56.26	422	R	330	310
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.39	54.88	331	S	320	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.50	56.46	214	R	210	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.10	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	32	S	40	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	F	60	100

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	160	560
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.11	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.26
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	-0.17

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.04	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.12	0.12	61.42	244

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.55

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	0.56	All closed

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

