

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 May 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, jm
Trim Ref : 05/5392

6 May, 2005



Rainfall and Inflow

Across the Basin, very dry and unusually warm conditions were experienced again this week, and inflows to the River Murray System remain very low.

River Murray Operation

The release from Hume Reservoir was reduced from 11 000 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day this week, in response to the closure of two of the major NSW irrigation offtakes, the Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal, on 1 May 2005. The major Victorian irrigation offtakes remain open and are planned to be closed on 15 May.

The release from the Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 6 000 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day as river losses and downstream demands have gradually eased. Without significant rain, the release from Yarrawonga Weir will be further reduced in coming weeks to conserve water in the MDBC's upper storages.

The storage level in Lake Victoria has been gradually declining since early March, as releases have been made to supplement the flow to South Australia. The storage level fell by 17 GL this week, and is currently 410 GL (24.64 m AHD or about 60% of capacity).

Irrigation demands and river losses remained relatively strong during April as a result of the warm, dry weather and the total volume of water in MDBC storages fell by 260 GL, to 2 536 GL (active storage). The volume in active storage is 460 GL more than at the same time last year, but more than 1 800 GL less than the average storage level for this time of year. Total Commission storage levels have now been well below average for the last three years (*see attached plot*).

Summary for April 2005

Like March, April 2005 was exceptionally warm and dry across the Murray-Darling Basin. Bureau of Meteorology figures indicate that Australia experienced its warmest April in at least 50 years, and the mean temperature was nearly 3 degrees C above average. Most of the Basin received below average rainfall in April. Over the two months of March and April rainfall was *very much below average* for most of the Basin - with rainfalls in some areas being the *lowest on record* (*see attached map*).

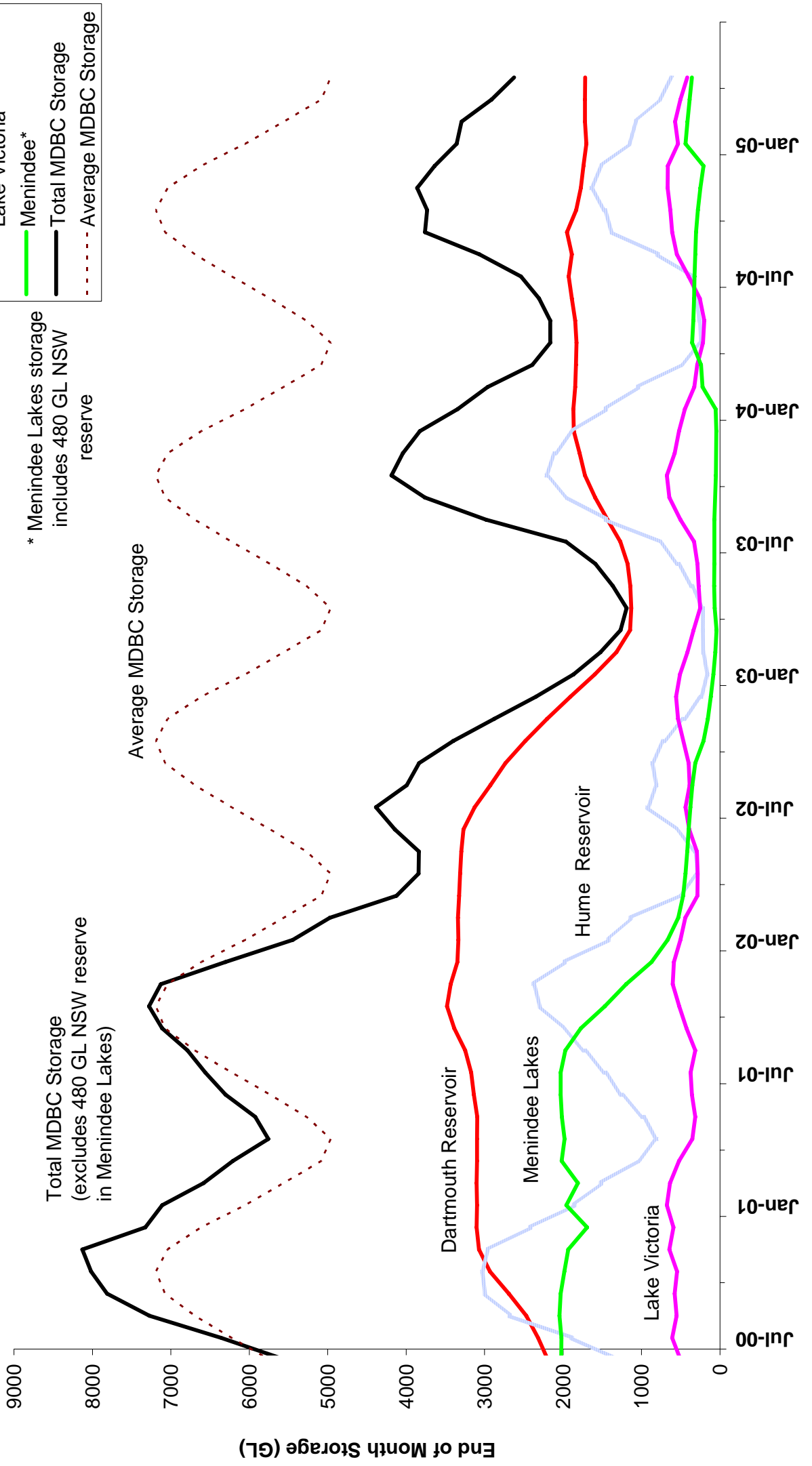
Inflow to Hume Reservoir in April (excluding releases from the Snowy System and Dartmouth Dam) was *extremely low* and would be expected to be higher in 96 years out of 100. Over the two months of March and April, inflow would have been higher in 94 years out of 100.

The statistics for March and April are significant, as past River Murray flow records reveal that low autumn streamflows might mean an increased chance of low inflows to the River Murray in the following winter/spring. It is still quite possible that wetter conditions might prevail this coming winter/spring. However should May and June remain relatively dry, there is an increased chance of receiving low inflows to the upper River Murray this season.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

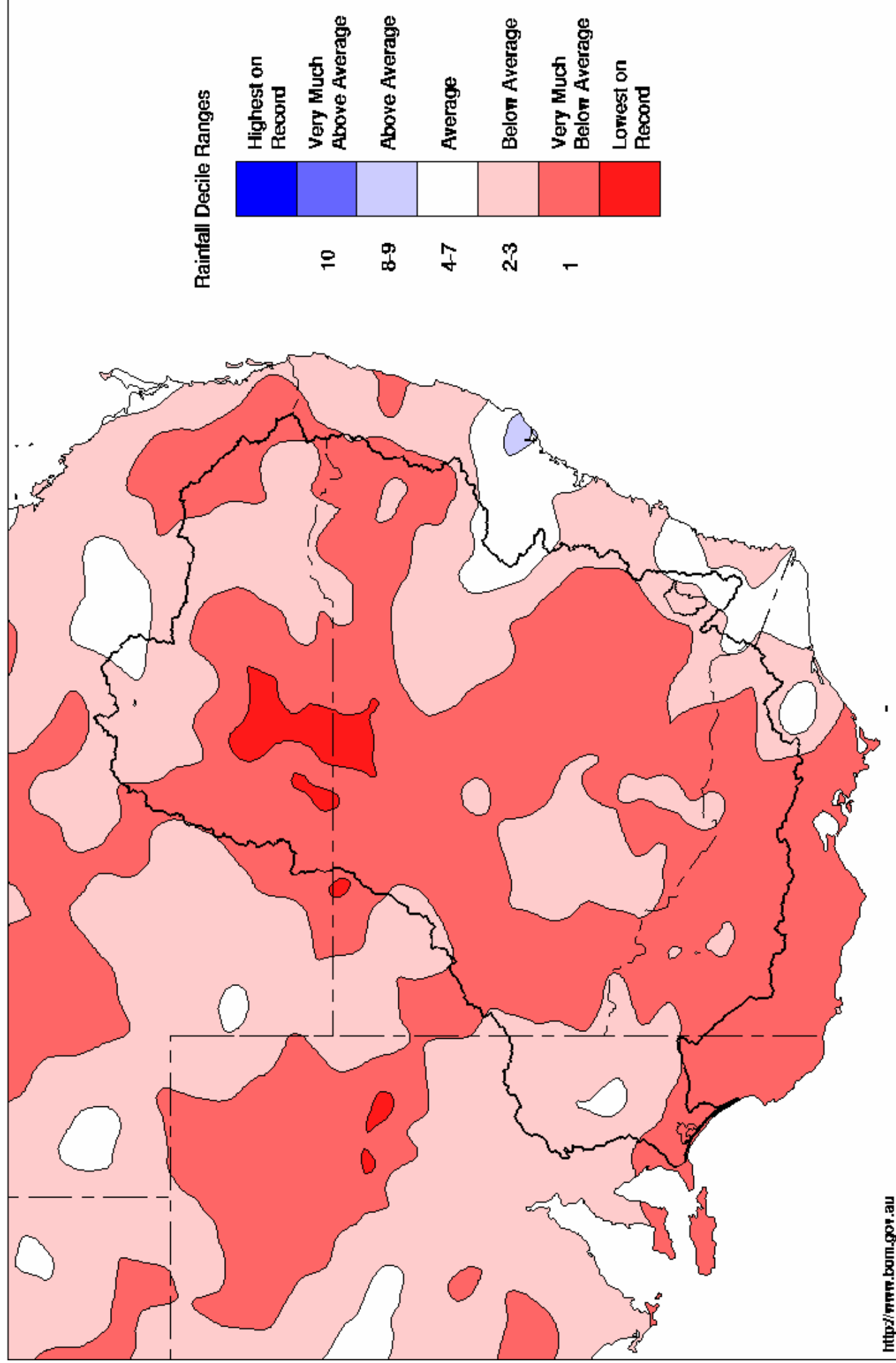
River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

MDBC Storages : July 2000 to May 2005 (Prepared by River Murray Water)



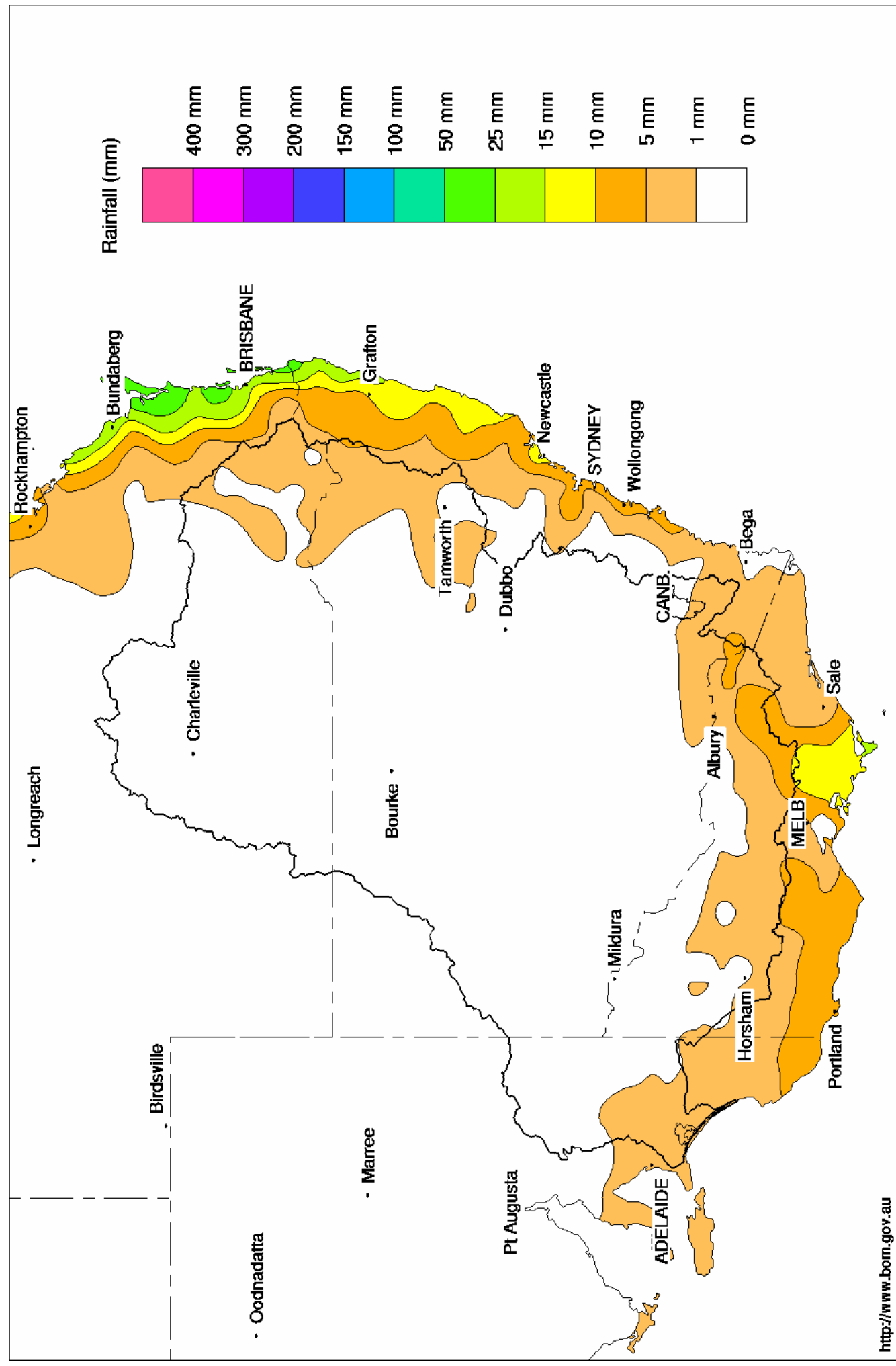
Murray-Darling Basin Rainfall Deciles 1 March to 30 April 2005

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th 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	444.54	1 719	44%	80	1 639	-0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.61	610	20%	30	580	-11
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.64	410	61%	100	310	-17
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		354	20%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		3 093	33%	--	2 529	-34

* 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		243	24%	3	240	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		147	9%	24	123	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		907	27%	100	807	-25

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-May-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A *	N/A *	Snowy-Murray	N/A *	N/A *
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A *	N/A *	Tooma-Tumut	N/A *	N/A *
Target Storage	N/A *	N/A *	Nett Diversion	N/A *	N/A *
			Murray 1 Release	N/A *	N/A *

* Data Not supplied by Snowyhydro Ltd

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	16.6	845.2
Wakool System loss	1.0	23.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	30.1
Licensed Pumps	11.3	319.5
Lower Darling	3.1	32.6
TOTAL	32.6	1 250.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	9.1	373
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.3	622
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.6	155
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	39
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.9	245
TOTAL	32.6	1 434

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	26.0	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	12	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	100	90	110
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	180	170	130
Merbein	150	160	130
Burtundy (Darling)	570	570	540
Lock 9	170	170	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	180
Berri	250	250	240
Waikerie	360	350	360
Morgan	360	360	380
Mannum	380	380	460
Murray Bridge	380	380	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 440	1 440	1 340
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 080	1 130	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 350	2 340	2 150
Goolwa Barrages	2 130	2 140	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 210	F	3 610	4 020
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 290	F	4 640	4 070
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	620	F	640	630
Heywoods	5.5	2.00	155.63	4 570	F	6 570	11 850
Doctors Point	5.5	2.09	150.56	4 640	F	6 960	12 110
Albury	4.3	1.18	148.62	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.52	127.54	5 220	F	8 870	12 310
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	4 980	S	5 190	6 610
Tocumwal	6.4	1.47	105.31	4 940	F	5 390	6 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.22	79.77	2 950	F	3 100	3 270
Swan Hill	4.5	0.76	63.68	2 990	R	2 840	3 060
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.73	50.85	3 060	R	3 020	3 160
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.65	42.49	2 710	F	2 750	3 000
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.83	2 280	F	2 250	2 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	2 090	R	1 940	2 090
Rufus Junction	-	2.73	19.66	2 400	S	3 270	3 900
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 000	F	2 500	2 610
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.78	154.01	370	F	650	480
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.01	145.69	812	R	790	790
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	368	S	390	470
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	490	F	420	300
Edward at Liewah	-	0.77	56.15	361	R	340	290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.46	54.95	390	S	380	360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.55	56.51	239	R	230	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.10	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	S	10	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	92	S	130	230

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 710	1 460
---	-------	-------

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	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.42
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.20
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.14	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.27

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.84	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.82	0.12	61.42	244

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.58

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.62	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.54	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	All closed

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