

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 November 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, dwg
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25 November, 2005



Rainfall and Inflows

Although in excess of 50 mm fell in parts of northern NSW, it was very warm and dry in the south of the Basin. As a consequence, inflow to the River Murray System declined further this week. The inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir has fallen to 1 500 ML/day, while the inflow to Hume Reservoir is now about 7 500 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has also steadily fallen to 2 756 GL (91% capacity) after reaching a peak volume of 2 810 GL (93% capacity) in mid November.

River Murray Operations

The warm dry conditions have increased irrigation demand and evaporative losses along the river system. In response, the release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to 16 500 ML/day, of which approximately 7 000 ML/day is from the Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Account (B-M EWA) to assist waterbird breeding, fish spawning and watering floodplain vegetation throughout the forest wetlands. Following the advice of NSW and Victorian natural resource agencies, the B-M EWA is being released to target a flow of 15 000 ML/day downstream of Yarrawonga Weir until the end of November. If conditions remain dry, then the flow will be gradually reduced to regulated flow levels of about 10 000 ML/day during December. However, some regulators within the forest will remain open for an extended period to continue watering important wetlands and enable colonial nesting waterbirds to finish their breeding cycle.

During the week, the flow in the River Murray at Barmah peaked at about 13 500 ML/day, while the flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir reached 6 300 ML/day. These were the highest flow rates recorded at these sites since September 2003. At Euston Weir, the downstream flow peaked at about 17 300 ML/day and the upstream pool level has now been increased to the full supply level (FSL) of 47.6 m after being held between 10 and 30 cm below FSL for the majority of the spring. The flow peak is currently passing Wentworth Weir at about 13 000 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently 652 GL (96% capacity). To maximise water resource availability, the inlet regulator to Lake Victoria has been fully opened and the upstream level of Lock 9 Weir has been increased to assist in filling the lake as this current flow peak passes. This operation will result in reduction to the flow downstream of Lock 9 and it will also reduce the flow to South Australia. However, above entitlement flows to South Australia are expected to continue until early December.

As indicated last week, a large portion of the B-M EWA has spilled from Lake Victoria and as such has been released from the Barrages into the internationally significant wetlands of the Coorong and Murray Mouth. To date, it is estimated that the B-M EWA has contributed greater than 150 GL to the release from the Barrages, which since July 2005 has been in excess of 600 GL. In response to high evaporative losses and a falling level of the Lakes Alexandrina and Albert over the past week, the release from the Barrages has been reduced to about 3 000 ML/day, with several gates remaining open at Goolwa, Tauwichee, Boundary Creek and Mundoo Barrages.

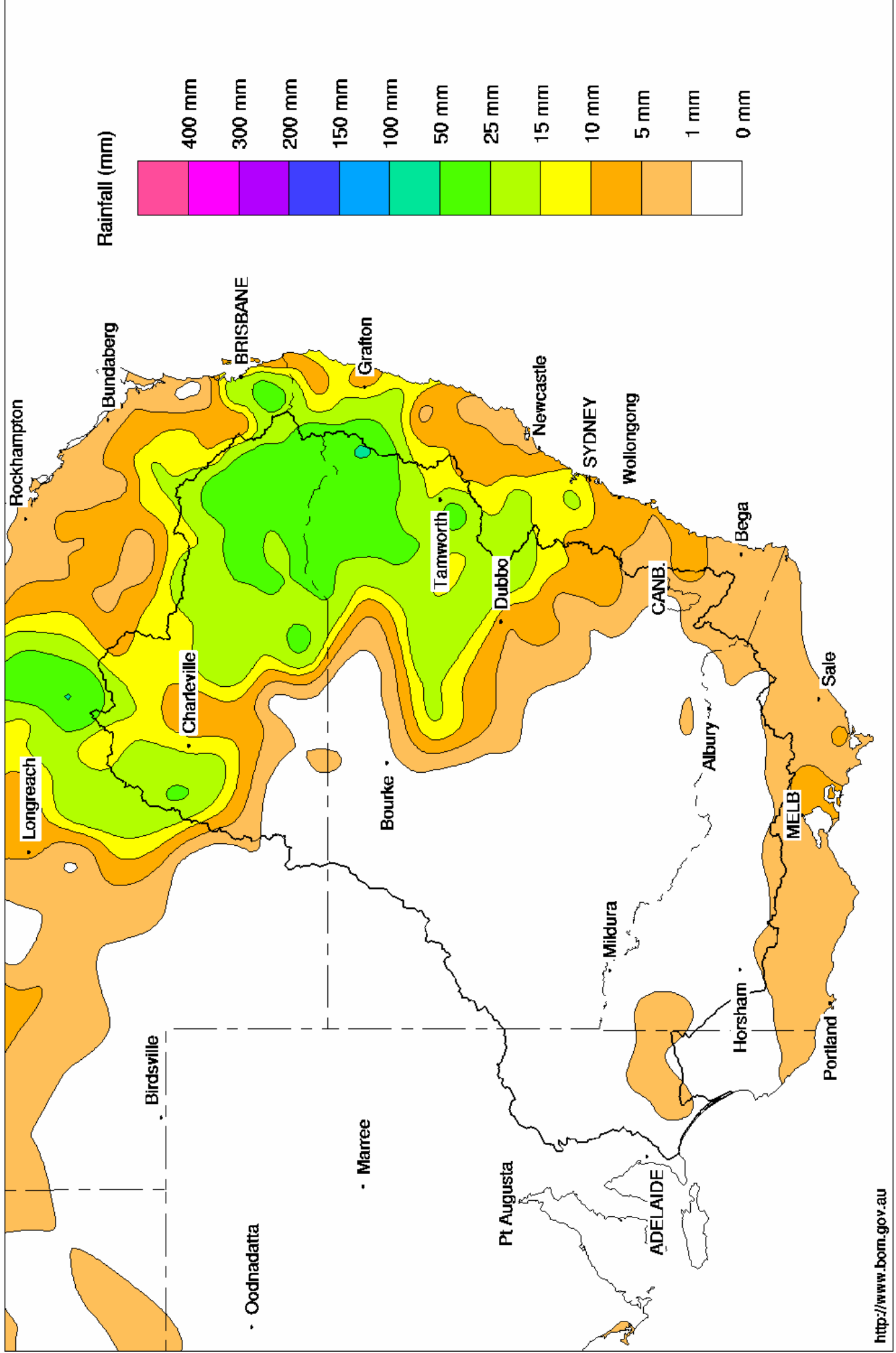
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd November 2005

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	461.33	2 477	63%	80	2 397	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	190.57	2 756	91%	30	2 726	-50
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.80	652	96%	100	552	+0
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		441	26%	(- -) #	0	-13
Total		9 352		6 327	68%	--	5 676	-54

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 67%

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	754	74%	3	751	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 084	66%	24	1 060	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 647	49%	100	1 547	-3

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Nov-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 304	-2	Snowy-Murray	+13	434
Snowy-Murray Component	1 141	+1	Tooma-Tumut	+3	220
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	9.6	214
			Murray 1 Release	+17	708

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	31.5	306.7
Wakool System loss	0.0	7.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	4.3
Licensed Pumps	5.3	85.5
Lower Darling	1.5	19.9
TOTAL	39.1	423.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.6	63
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.2	203
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.8	24
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	8
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.7	87
TOTAL	52.6	385

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	
Flow this week	85.0	(12 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	275	
Flow last month	300	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	170	160	110
Euston	130	120	130
Red Cliffs	130	140	140
Merbein	130	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	550	550	530
Lock 9	130	130	140
Lake Victoria	190	180	190
Berri	180	170	230
Waikerie	-	-	380
Morgan	240	250	360
Mannum	290	290	410
Murray Bridge	300	310	420
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 320	1 350
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	810	880	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 070	2 100	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	1 470	1 520	1 820



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	-	-	-	1 290	F	2 680	4 760
Jingellic	4.0	1.75	208.27	5 080	F	6 280	8 090
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.69	218.58	1 480	S	1 560	1 940
Heywoods	5.5	3.06	156.69	16 270	S	15 450	7 410
Doctors Point	5.5	3.29	151.76	17 700	S	17 610	12 430
Albury	4.3	2.32	149.76	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.44	129.46	19 200	F	17 260	14 700
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.42	117.46	15 500	F	17 060	24 840
Tocumwal	6.4	3.13	106.97	17 480	F	19 720	25 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.49	82.04	11 560	R	12 330	14 050
Swan Hill	4.5	2.03	64.95	11 230	F	12 820	12 710
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.79	53.91	17 260	F	17 810	16 650
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.86	44.70	16 780	F	16 880	15 740
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.54	15 950	F	15 450	15 280
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.46	28.22	13 000	R	11 970	12 000
Rufus Junction	-	4.04	20.97	10 050	F	11 610	13 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	9 930	F	11 330	13 360
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.70	154.93	1 790	R	2 360	6 240
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.11	146.79	3 953	F	4 950	9 830
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.80	93.22	1 420	F	1 690	3 190
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 930	F	5 830	5 770
Edward at Liewah	-	3.33	58.71	3 230	F	3 220	3 100
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.09	55.58	2 600	S	2 590	2 360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	F	310	370
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	60	S	80	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	F	90	140
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.74	-	102	F	100	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 520	10 960
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+1.74
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.12	+0.72
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.44	+0.65
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.74	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.30	+1.12
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.82	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.47
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	+0.76	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.50
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.62	+0.57	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	+0.32

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.25	0.61	69.96	305
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.17	61.47	287

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	2
Mundoo	26 openings	0.90	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.87	6

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